Lies about antifa.

BLM and riots in the summer v. that at the Capitol: After protestors attending the “Stop the Steal” rally in Washington D.C. on January 6, 2021 were told to march to the Capitol building, some large number of protestors decided to siege the Capitol. Some of these rioters had zip ties, ostensibly to restrain Members of Congress to prevent them from certifying Joe Biden as President. Much of the Capitol was desecrated during the raid, including windows broken, documents stolen, and one police officer was murdered, while a number of others were injured or died due to the violence. Afterward, commentary on right-wing media and even members of Congress suggested it was Antifa and not Trump’s supporters who stormed the Capitol.[[1]](#footnote-1) Though the claims made are widely disputed, one the floor of the House, Matt Gaetz, said that he had heard that a facial recognition identified rioters as members of antifa. This type of misinformation relies on the public’s misconception of such technology, and pries on their fears about the use of the technology by the government as a way of limiting their freedoms. By linking the Capitol riot to antifa, a left-wing group with a militant bent, they sought to connect it to violence over the summer that was used widely in pro-Trump ads perpetuated by left-wing radicals. While there is plenty of evidence that those involved in the January 6th Capitol attack had planned in advance their actions and that antifa was not present, they have tried to equivocate the event to those Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests, suggesting that they are the same. We argue that this logic is flawed, since, although violence may always be frowned on, only one of these attacks sought to overturn the election results, or potentially initiate a coup de ta or an autogolpe.[[2]](#footnote-2) Moreover, while the BLM protestors who committed acts of violence against businesses, those at the Capitol did so against the federal government, which has led to the Department of Homeland Security issuing a warning that “false narratives” are leading some to commit acts of domestic terrorism.[[3]](#footnote-3)

**Link between insurrection and campaign fraud claims**

Correlation is not causation. <- IF WE DECIDE TO GO BEYOND CLAIMS OF FRAUD, WE COULD ALSO TALK ABOUT THIS FALLACY. AN EXAMPLE WOULD BE THAT THE RIOT ON THE CAPITOL WAS PERPETUATED BY WHITE NATIONALISTS, BUT IT COULD BE THAT WHITE NATIONALISM IS CORRELATED WITH THOSE WHO BELIEVE THEIR WAS FRAUD.

TO CUT - People are quick to dismiss claims of massive voter fraud because the probability that these claims are correct are low; but the probability is not zero. Karl Popper's "critical rationalism" requires that a scientific inquiry requires a theory to be falsifiable. When it comes to voter fraud, the theory is "there is no voter fraud in the 2020 election". To falsify, we need to only find a case of voter fraud, which there are at least one). The scope of the fraud is what is controversial. First, many of the claims are not testable, since the evidence require either does not exist (votes were changed by election administrators).

1. Tio Armus, “Rep. Matt Gaetz and other GOP politicians baselessly suggest antifa is to blame for pro-Trump mob rioting into Capitol”, January 7, 2021, The Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/01/07/antifa-capitol-gaetz-trump-riot/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Nicole Narea, “3 scholars say Trump isn’t staging a coup — but he still poses a threat to democracy”, November 14, 2020, Vox, <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2020/11/14/21561952/trump-coup-2020-election-biden-president>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Mike Levin, “DHS uses federal alert system for 1st time in a year to warn of domestic terrorist threat”, January 27, 2021, *ABC News*, https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/dhs-federal-alert-system-1st-time-year-warn/story?id=75517886. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)