

# DIAGNOSING FASCISM

Applying Eco's 14 Points to Contemporary Voices

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Block: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** For each quote, identify **2-3 Eco points** that apply. Then explain *how* the quote demonstrates those points. Use specific words or phrases from the quote as evidence.

## ECO'S 14 POINTS (Reference)

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Cult of tradition                 | 8. Enemy is both strong and weak            |
| 2. Rejection of modernism            | 9. Life is permanent warfare                |
| 3. Cult of action for action's sake  | 10. Contempt for the weak (popular elitism) |
| 4. Disagreement is treason           | 11. Cult of death (everyone a hero)         |
| 5. Fear of difference                | 12. Machismo                                |
| 6. Appeal to frustrated middle class | 13. Selective populism                      |
| 7. Obsession with a plot             | 14. Newspeak                                |

## ANALYSIS

### Quote 1 (Orbán)

"We [Hungarians] are not a mixed race, and we do not want to become a mixed race."

Eco points present (2-3): \_\_\_\_\_

How does the quote demonstrate these points? (Use specific words/phrases)

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### Quote 2 (Meloni)

"There is a plan for ethnic substitution of European citizens, desired by big capital and international speculators."

"Yes to natural families, no to the LGBT lobby! Yes to sexual identity, no to gender ideology! Yes to the culture of life, no to the abyss of death!"

Eco points present (2-3): \_\_\_\_\_

How does the quote demonstrate these points? (Use specific words/phrases)

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### Quote 3 (Modi)

"They will redistribute your wealth to those who have more children. They will calculate how much gold your mothers and sisters have, to give it to the infiltrators. I guarantee: as long as I am alive, I will not let this happen."

Eco points present (2-3): \_\_\_\_\_

How does the quote demonstrate these points? (Use specific words/phrases)

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#### **Quote 4 (Trump)**

*"They let, I think the real number is 15, 16 million people into our country. When they do that, we got a lot of work to do. They're poisoning the blood of our country. That's what they've done. They're coming into our country from Africa, from Asia, all over the world."*

**Eco points present (2-3):** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does the quote demonstrate these points? (Use specific words/phrases)**

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#### **Quote 5 (Musk)**

*Response to a claim that Jewish communities push "hatred against whites" and support "hordes of minorities" flooding Western countries:*

*"You have said the actual truth."*

**Eco points present (2-3):** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does the quote demonstrate these points? (Use specific words/phrases)**

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#### **Quote 6 (Tate)**

*"I'm not saying women are property. I am saying they are given to the man and belong to the man. The Bible says it. Everything says it. It's not my opinion. It's the way the world has been for thousands of years."*

**Eco points present (2-3):** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does the quote demonstrate these points? (Use specific words/phrases)**

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#### **Quote 7 (Clinton)**

*Reaction to news of Gaddafi's death in a television interview, October 2011:*

*[Laughing] "We came, we saw, he died."*

**Eco points present (2-3):** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does the quote demonstrate these points? (Use specific words/phrases)**

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### **Quote 8 (Biden)**

*"I agree with the Israeli position on this. If we have evidence that they are building a missile defense, a missile system, an offensive system with a nuclear capacity and they will not negotiate with us, I would support a unilateral strike to take them out. That to me is a hell of a lot less risky way to deal with my grandchildren's future than to engage in an overall arms race."*

**Eco points present (2-3):** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does the quote demonstrate these points? (Use specific words/phrases)**

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### **Quote 9 (Robinson)**

*"The truth is, [Palestine] was a crappy piece of land with nothing on it. It was a place that hadn't really figured out quite what they were going to do with themselves. So when the opportunity came to take it, of course they took it."*

**Eco points present (2-3):** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does the quote demonstrate these points? (Use specific words/phrases)**

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## **REFLECTION**

Some quotes didn't fit neatly into Eco's framework. Clinton (Quote 7), Biden (Quote 8), and Robinson (Quote 9) describe violent, imperial, or dehumanising politics, but they may not be *fascist* in the specific sense Eco means.

**1. What do Quotes 7-9 share with the others?**

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**2. What makes Quotes 7-9 different from Quotes 1-6? (Which Eco points are missing?)**

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**3. Why does it matter whether we call something "fascist" or just "violent" or "harmful"? What's at stake in being precise?**

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