

Studying Fascist Propaganda by Day, Watching Trump's Coronavirus Updates by Night | The New Yorker

By Andrew Marantz

April 20, 2020

In 2018, Jason Stanley, a philosophy professor at Yale, published "[How Fascism Works](#)." Although it was a slim volume, it ranged broadly, citing experimental psychology, legal theory, and neo-Nazi blogs; although it was by an academic philosopher, it was a popular book that prioritized current events over syllogisms. [Viktor Orbán](#) is mentioned more times in the book than [Hannah Arendt](#). [Donald Trump](#) shows up dozens of times, and he is portrayed not as a distractible bozo but as a concerted aspiring strongman. "Fascist politics can dehumanize minority groups even when an explicitly fascist state does not arise," Stanley writes. Elsewhere, in a chapter called "Sodom and Gomorrah," he argues that Trump's habit of extolling the heartland while decrying urban squalor "makes sense in the context of a more general fascist politics, in which cities are seen as centers of disease and pestilence." Stanley couldn't have known that many American cities were, in fact, about to become centers of disease, but he could have predicted that Trump would use such a development to his rhetorical advantage. "Some people would like to see New York quarantined because it's a hot spot," Trump said, late last month. "Heavily infected."

[...]

Source: [Studying Fascist Propaganda by Day, Watching Trump's Coronavirus Updates by Night | The New Yorker](#)