

A Comparative Analysis of White Nationalism in the United Kingdom and the United States

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“Choosing ONE key contemporary social issue, political controversy or social problem, explore the extent to which this is different in Scotland (or the UK) compared with the USA.”

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One of the most pressing and important issues in our contemporary world, especially in the wake of increased globalization, is nationalism as a whole and the problems such ideals can bring. Neither the United Kingdom nor the United States are strangers to this complex and often harmful ideology, and both nations have a significant issue in regard to specifically white nationalist groups which are often violent and/or hateful in nature. In this essay, I will analyse and explore the motives, ideology and nature of 2 different self-proclaimed white nationalist organizations from both the United States and the United Kingdom, these being the American Nazi Party and Patriotic Alternative. Through this analysis, I will provide evidence for the similarities and differences in framing, tactics, constituency, ideals and more which contribute to both the general similarities and differences of white nationalism and white nationalist groups in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Beginning with the United States, there exists a general state of unrest as far as white nationalism is concerned, and this is not a new phenomenon by any means. Groups such as the Ku Klux Klan have been around for over a century, and still exist in contemporary forms. One such group is known as the American Nazi Party. The American Nazi Party, shortened to ANP, was formed in March of 1959 by George Lincoln Rockwell as a self-described “Political-Educational Association, dedicated to the 14 WORDS.” These 14 words, found on their website, are as follows: “We must secure the existence of our people and a future for White [sic] children.”¹ Their principles are in accordance with a wide array of other white nationalist parties, including (but not limited to) limited citizenship in the United States only to those with Aryan blood, exclusionary Aryan communities, the extermination of rap music, and a litany of other demands. Their concern is primarily with the identity of the United States as an inherently

¹ "American Nazi Party," <https://www.americannaziparty.com>.

white nation, one which is being threatened constantly by foreign “intrusions” and influences by other cultures. One main vehicle for this so-called intrusion is immigration, and another is globalization, or the general further interconnectedness of our contemporary world. In essence, the ANP wants to secure the United States as a white nation, and believes it is being hindered from its true potential as such due to globalization and governmental priority being given to non-white individuals, worldwide.

The UK is also no stranger to white nationalist and supremacist groups, with perhaps the most famous neo-Nazi subgroup, that being skinheads and/or boneheads, being born from the young English working class of the 1970s, specifically the punk, ska, and “oi” underground music scene at the time. But as the world has evolved since then, so too have the prejudices, and a modern incarnate of white nationalism in the UK, especially England, is known as Patriotic Alternative, or simply, PA. PA, founded by Mark Collett, is mainly built on the “white genocide” conspiracy theory. The “white genocide” theory is an antisemitic idea which posits that there is a Jewish-orchestrated plot to destroy “indigenous” white Brits through demographic changes, and at that mainly through the introduction and acceptance of different or foreign cultures into Britain. Previous supporters of Tommy Robinson have been found by Hope Not Hate to follow this new incarnate of neo-Nazi ideology, and they “have managed to begin to unite elements of the notoriously splintered and fractured UK fascist scene” through the perpetuation of these ideologies.² PA has a myriad of beliefs in regard to the UK and the people living within its borders, some of which include egregious racism against anyone who is not white, pro-Nazi and specifically pro-Hitler ideology and speak, Holocaust denial, antisemitism, homophobia, and

² HOPE not hate, *Patriotic Alternative: An Investigation into the UK's Newest Far-right Group* (2020)

more. Central to their cause, however, is the preservation of a so-called “true” British population, and the extermination or removal of those who they deem to not belong in Britain.

Some similarities between these two groups are extremely loud in nature. Their objectionable belief systems and overt hatefulness are probably the most clear, and do not require much analysis to elucidate. Other topics of interest, however, bubble just below the surface. One such sinister similarity is a focus on the “great replacement theory,” an erroneous conspiracy theory that falsely posits that white populations in Western countries, such as the US and UK, are being deliberately replaced by non-white immigrants, often with the complicity of so-called “globalist elites.” As Henry Maher states, “Proponents of the neoliberal Great Replacement theory argue that global socialist elites are conspiring to encourage mass migration to entrench support for the expansion of the welfare state and other left-wing policies, thereby undermining the cultural homogeneity necessary to maintain the functioning of free market societies in the west.”³ This theory is essentially just a broader version of PA’s “white genocide” theory, as both are equally objectionable and erroneous in nature. Another similar core tenet which plays into these theories is the idea that culture is a product of race, and that the US and UK are both inherently white nations. The idea that both countries should bar entry to anyone not British or “Aryan” (depending on the group/verbiage) is consistent throughout both groups, as well as white nationalist ideology in general.

Finally, one last similarity is the intense appeal to working-class citizens in their constituencies. The ANP website even bolsters merchandise aimed at targeting working class individuals who feel snubbed by their government. “WORKING CLASS! WHO IS LOOKING OUT FOR YOU?”⁴ one yard sign reads. The “Facts” page on their website consolidates this idea,

³ Henry Maher, “The Neoliberal Great Replacement Theory,” 2025.

⁴ “American Nazi Party,” <https://www.americannaziparty.com>.

reading, “If you are fed up with a government that is more concerned about everyone and everything on this planet – EXCEPT the well-being of the people who FOUNDED and BUILT America – the WHITE WORKING CLASS population, and are intelligent and clear-sighted enough to see REALITY when it stares you in the face – JOIN WITH US.”⁵ This appeal to struggling, working class individuals is manipulative in nature and attempts to shift the blame from a failing government to immigrants, and this tactic is not unique to the United States. As aforementioned, much of the UK’s modern incarnation of neo-Nazism and white nationalism is built upon the “oi” movements of the young and working class white Brits in the 1970s, making these ties extremely clear.

Though these two nation-rooted ideologies do share many things, they do also differ in several ways. One is that, in these two precise examples, one is far older than the other. The ANP is exactly 60 years older than the PA, and while it still exists, it is nowhere near the extent of the Patriotic Alternative in terms of relevancy or numbers. Though, it should be stated, the ANP was also never able to marshal an adequate or even remotely intimidating amount of support from anyone, either, even in their most peak years - scholars estimate it around 60 persons.⁶ Another defining difference in specifically these two examples is that it seems as though PA is attempting to charade itself as a sort of legitimate political party, one with conferences and meet-ups and “faces” of the organization. The ANP also did and does this, but it seems as though on the whole the United States’ white nationalist groups lean more toward the persuasions of groups like the Proud Boys these days, relying on street brawling, overt objectionable language and actions, and counterprotest to further their agenda. Taken together, these differences show how white nationalist groups in the United States and the United Kingdom, though based in many of the

⁵ "American Nazi Party," <https://www.americannaziparty.com>.

⁶ Frederick Simonelli, *The American Nazi Party, 1958-1967* (New York: Twayne Publishers, 1999).

same conspiratorial and exclusionary ideas, ultimately adapt their methods and presentation to the specific social and political climates in which they are born and in which they operate within.

In examining the American Nazi Party and Patriotic Alternative, it becomes clear that white nationalism in the United States and the United Kingdom both rely on exclusionary and racist beliefs, conspiracy theories, and appeals to working-class populations that may feel snubbed by their ineffective governments. Both of the aforementioned groups rely heavily on a narrative of demographic displacement and cultural threat, and both frame their nation as inherently white places under attack from immigration, globalization, and overall multiculturalism. Differences in historical development and relevance today, though, show the differing national contexts in which both groups were founded. Ultimately, this comparison shows that while white nationalism comes to be in different forms across the United States and the United Kingdom, it is sustained across borders by common myths and grievances.

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