

Freddy FOX and Friends Fight Fascism

by Matthew Schultz



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by Matthew Schultz
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The 14 Characteristics of Fascism



Freddy Fox, with a curious mind,
saw trouble brewing, the dangerous kind.
The forest was changing, not for the best,
and Freddy felt worry
grow in his chest.

So Freddy searched, and soon he'd see,
a pattern as clear as the tallest tree.
"These signs," he thought,
"aren't random or free."
They are the 14 characteristics of Fascism,
you see!"

With every rule,
the forest grew grim,
but Freddy stayed sharp,
and his light stayed within.

"I'll share what I've learned,
so all understand,
and together we'll fight
for a fairer land."

#1 • The Boaring Chant



King Boar declared,
“This forest’s the best!
Better than all,
forget the rest!”
He made the animals shout each day,
“Our forest rules!” no other way.

Freddy wondered, “Why can’t we see,
other lands with their beauty and trees?”



1. POWERFUL AND CONTINUING NATIONALISM Fascist regimes heavily emphasize nationalism, constantly using patriotic slogans, symbols, songs, and other imagery to foster a sense of unity and pride. Flags are ubiquitous, often displayed on clothing and in public spaces, reinforcing the regime’s power and identity at every turn.

#2 • Silencing the Small



The mice spoke up:
“We’re hungry and cold!”
But King Boar’s guards
grew cruel and bold.
“No one may question, not even squeak,
the forest is strong; you’re just weak!”

Freddy sighed, “This isn’t right.
Why can’t they speak about their plight?”



2. DISDAIN FOR THE RECOGNITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS In fascist regimes, the perceived need for security and the fear of enemies justify the erosion of human rights. The public is often persuaded that such measures are necessary, leading them to overlook or even endorse brutal practices like torture, summary executions, assassinations, and prolonged imprisonment without trial.

#3 • Blame the Owls



When food grew scarce,
King Boar would say,
“The owls take too much;
they must go away!”
Freddy knew owls weren’t the cause,
but the forest cheered without a pause.

Freddy whispered, “Pointing blame
won’t make the forest great again.”



3. IDENTIFICATION OF ENEMIES/SCAPEGOATS Fascist regimes rally the population by manufacturing a common enemy - often racial, ethnic, or religious minorities, as well as political groups like liberals, communists, or socialists. These scapegoats are demonized and portrayed as existential threats, uniting the people in a patriotic frenzy to eliminate them.

#4 • The Marching Claws



Wolves in armor, panthers in line,
patrolled the trees, looking fine.
“Keep the peace!” King Boar roared,
but Freddy saw their sharpened swords.

“Why do we need these claws and might,
when there was really no need for a fight?”



4. SUPREMACY OF THE MILITARY In fascist regimes, the military receives excessive government funding and is glorified in society. Military service is portrayed as an ideal, while the military itself is often deployed against the populace. In many cases, soldiers are allowed to commit atrocities, including torture and war crimes, with little or no accountability.

#5 • The Silent Hens



The hens were told, “Your job’s to lay,
and care for chicks throughout the day.”
Penny the Hen frowned at this,
“I have dreams too!” she said with a hiss.

Freddy thought, “All should choose,
what to do and how to move.”



5. RAMPANT SEXISM Fascist regimes are typically led by male-dominated governments that reinforce rigid traditional gender roles. Opposition to abortion is widespread, and policies often promote homophobia, with anti-gay legislation becoming a central part of national governance.

#6 • The Parrot's Tales



King Boar declared,
“Only parrots shall speak.
They’ll share the news every week.”
But Freddy noticed
their stories were wrong,
and left out voices that should belong.

“The truth,” thought Freddy,
“needs all to share,
not just the parrots on the air.”



6. CONTROLLED MASS MEDIA In fascist regimes, the media is often tightly controlled, either directly by the government or indirectly through regulatory measures and alliances with sympathetic executives and commentators. In the modern era, social media becomes a powerful tool for disseminating propaganda, frequently spreading false or misleading narratives to shape public opinion.

#7 ♦ Fearful Fences



Tall fences rose; guards stood near.
“Outsiders bring danger; stay in fear!”
Freddy peeked through a tiny crack,
and saw no danger looking back.

“Fear controls, but it’s not right,
to cage us all and block our light.”



7. OBSESSION WITH NATIONAL SECURITY Fascist regimes frequently use fear as a means to control the populace. They manufacture or exaggerate threats, creating enemies that are demonized to justify heightened military control and the suppression of civil liberties.

#8 • The Sacred Roar



“The great Sky Lion gave me my crown,
so disobey, and you’ll be struck down!”
King Boar’s voice echoed
through the land,
but Freddy knew this wasn’t planned.

“Faith,” thought Freddy,
“isn’t meant to be,
a tool for ruling over you or me.”



8. RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT ARE INTERTWINED Fascist regimes often exploit the dominant religion as a tool to shape and control public opinion. Government leaders frequently use religious rhetoric and symbols, even when their policies or actions starkly contradict the core principles of the faith they invoke.

#9 • The Tiger's Feast



The tigers owned the berry vines,
they grew so rich on the forest's dimes.
But squirrels and mice could barely eat,
and gathered scraps beneath their feet.

Freddy frowned, "This isn't fair;
the forest's fruit we all should share."



9. CORPORATE POWER IS PROTECTED In fascist regimes, industrial and business elites often play a pivotal role in elevating government leaders to power. This creates a mutually advantageous alliance between corporations and the state, consolidating a power elite that serves their shared interests

#10 ♦ Burrows Closed



The moles dug tunnels, deep and wide,
but dared not rest or step outside.
King Boar's guards kept them in line,
"Work for the forest, you'll be fine!"

Freddy frowned, "The work is shared,
but the king takes more,
and that's not fair."



10. LABOR POWER IS SUPPRESSED Fascist regimes view organized labor as a significant threat to their authority. As a result, labor unions are either completely dismantled or tightly controlled to neutralize their power and prevent collective resistance.

#11 • Silenced Songs



The birds once sang
sweet songs of cheer,
but King Boar said,
“We don’t need that here.
Stop wasting time on your silly tunes;
we need strength, not useless croons!”

Freddy thought, “Without their art,
the forest will lose its caring heart.”



11. DISDAIN FOR INTELLECTUALS AND THE ARTS Fascist regimes often exhibit open hostility toward higher education and academia, frequently censoring or persecuting professors and scholars. Artistic expression faces similar repression, with creative freedom being targeted and public funding for the arts systematically withdrawn or denied.

#12 • The Cages Rise



For stealing a nut,
a chipmunk was caught,
and thrown in a cage.
“Justice,” they thought.
But Freddy saw the punishment’s size,
and tears filled his clever eyes.

“Rules are good, but this is wrong,
the weak are punished, not the strong.”



12. OBSESSION WITH CRIME AND PUNISHMENT Fascist regimes grant law enforcement near-unchecked authority, allowing them to enforce laws with little accountability. Citizens are often willing to tolerate police brutality and the erosion of civil liberties, justifying these abuses as acts of patriotism. A centralized national police force with expansive powers is a hallmark of such governments.

#13 • The Laughing Hyenas



King Boar's friends, the hyenas, were fed
while the rest went hungry
and bowed their heads.
They laughed and snorted,
and enjoying the perks,
while the others toiled with endless work.

Freddy sighed, "This boar's game,
helps only those who share his name."



13. RAMPANT CRONYISM AND CORRUPTION Fascist regimes are often dominated by networks of close friends and allies who appoint one another to key government positions. These leaders exploit their authority to shield each other from accountability while using national resources and assets for personal enrichment, often outright looting the country's wealth for their own gain.

#14 • The Final Chad - Starlink



The forest held a big vote one fall,
but only King Boar's face hung on the wall.
The ballots were tricky, the choices unclear,
and whispering "change" brought
punishments near.

Freddy frowned, "This isn't right.
A true vote gives each voice its light."



14. FRAUDULENT ELECTIONS Sometimes elections in fascist nations are a complete sham. Other times, elections are manipulated by smear campaigns against or even assassination of opposition candidates, use of legislation to control voting numbers or political district boundaries, and manipulation of the media. Fascist nations also typically use their judiciaries to manipulate or control elections.

Freddy's Brave Plan



Freddy Fox, both clever and sly,
gathered his friends,
with a light in his eye.

“The forest is ours;
it’s time to unite,
and show King Boar
the power of right!”

The animals marched
with voices strong,
together they proved
the Boar was wrong.

They sang out loud,
they danced through the trees,
their hopes rising high
like leaves in the breeze.

They tore down fences,
shared their food,
and brought back songs
to lift the mood.

Now the forest thrives,
with joy and light,
thanks to Freddy Fox
who dared to fight.



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