

On August 11, 2025, sitting President Donald Trump ordered the deployment of National Guard troops to Washington, D.C. He purported that an emergency was underway, listing three attacks from earlier in the year against government officials ¹. In a second Executive Order, the President amended the wording of the original order to state a National Guard force shall be readied, "...in the Nation's capital that can be deployed whenever the circumstances necessitate, and that could be deployed, subject to applicable law, in other cities where public safety and order has been lost." ² The President went on to mention cities like Chicago ³, saying, "Chicago's a mess, you have an incompetent mayor, grossly incompetent," Trump told reporters on Friday, referring to Johnson, who is Democratic and a vocal Trump critic. "And we'll straighten that one out probably next," the president said.

Let's take a look at some of the crime statistics from large cities in the United States of America.

We can start with Chicago, where murders are at their lowest rate in five years ⁴. Governor JB Pritzker of Illinois stated, "The safety of the people of Illinois is always my top priority. There is no emergency that warrants the President of the United States federalizing the Illinois National Guard, deploying the National Guard from other states, or sending active duty military within our own borders." ⁵

¹ (Memoranda, Restoring Law And Order In The District Of Columbia, 2025)

² (Memoranda, Additional Measures To Address The Crime Emergency In The District Of Columbia, 2025)

³ (Sheth, 2025)

⁴ (Department, 2024)

⁵ (Stanton, 2025)

In New York City, the NYPD reports that crime overall is trending downward.⁶ In Washington, DC, the original site of the National Guard deployments, crime is also reported to be trending downward.⁷

The original Executive Order stated that Washington was suffering from “violent, menacing street crime”.⁸ As evidenced by the crime stats report from the Metropolitan Police of Washington, DC, crime is down overall. Violent crime is down 27%, while property crime is down 5%. Overall, the total of crimes is down 8%.⁹ It begs the question, what menacing street crimes is the President referring to?

That answer is within the Executive Order: “The local government of the District of Columbia has lost control of public order and safety in the city, as evidenced by the two embassy staffers who were murdered in May, the Congressional intern who was fatally shot a short distance from the White House in June, and the Administration staffer who was mercilessly beaten by a violent mob days ago.”¹⁰ He further states within the same paragraph that citizens, tourists, and government officials are unable to live peacefully in the Capital, which is under siege from violent crime.

⁶ (NYPD, 2025)

⁷ (Columbia, 2025)

⁸ (Memoranda Restoring...2025)

⁹ (Department, 2024)

¹⁰ (Memoranda, Restoring ... 2025)

The crime statistics would point in the opposite direction. The same can be said of many of the places the President has mentioned in passing. He attempted to deploy National Guard troops to Los Angeles, but Governor Gavin Newsom filed a lawsuit to prevent it from happening.¹¹ The National Guard have also now been authorized to carry their weapons, though only to be used in cases of self defense.¹²

At what point do we decide to start calling this a police state? Let's look at police states from the past. Likely, the most well known happened in Nazi Germany. Kristallnacht was a pivotal event in the lives of many, finally showing that the Nazis were not going to stop at slurs. But it did not begin with Kristallnacht. In a book titled *What We Knew*, written by Eric Johnson and KarlHeinz Reuben, we are able to read the words of survivors. They interviewed Jewish people and German people, and their words are powerful and important.

The Jewish people interviewed told us about SS guards standing outside of Jewish shops to tell Germans not to shop there. They told us about the Hitler Youth and how cruel it could be. Interestingly, the Jewish people relied on the German Polizei to defend them from the Nazis.

The Germans, some of whom were in the Hitler Youth, recall the times virtually the same, but also with caveats. Most will say they knew nothing of the internment camps, while the Jewish people will claim everyone knew but did not believe.

In these interviews we see a gradual rise of a police state. People were pulled from their homes and sent away, never to return. Today, immigration forces are rounding up people from

¹¹ (Stanton, 2025)

¹² (Jonathon Cooper, 2025)

work sites, court rooms, and even their homes. The administration is saying they are arresting murderers and violent criminals, but according to NPR, most arrested have no criminal background.¹³ We call these immigration officers ICE today. In Nazi Germany, they were named the Gestapo.

With the threat of ongoing National Guard deployments to cities who have not requested them, we are seeing a fall of democracy. Our beloved country is running towards a police state and oligarchy, and if we do not stand up now, we will be witness to the collapse and we will be liable for all the abuses that will occur.

Some claim the President's notion of sending National Guard to Democrat controlled areas is an act of political retribution.¹⁴ While the President maintains that blue cities are the most crime ridden, the statistics point elsewhere. My own state of Ohio has four cities which are dangerously overridden with crime, but the President is not looking at Akron at the moment. He has, however, threatened to deploy troops to nineteen additional states, Ohio included.¹⁵

Ironically, during the January 6, 2021 insurrection, there was no call for the National Guard until some hours had passed. The riots ended with five dead, including one Capital Police Officer.¹⁶ A time ripe for the National Guard to step in was largely ignored by the sitting President, Donald Trump, and yet he is calling for their deployment into cities where crime has gone down.

¹³ (Garsd, 2025)

¹⁴ (Olmsted, 2025)

¹⁵ (Rahman, 2025)

¹⁶ (Oversight, 2023)

The flagrant lies about crime serve to create the National Emergency President Trump called into place in Washington, DC. The same tactics were used in Nazi Germany. “To present the invasion as a morally justifiable, defensive action, the German press played up “Polish atrocities,” referring to real or alleged discrimination and physical violence directed against ethnic Germans living in Poland.”¹⁷ Hitler’s government used propaganda to enflame the tempers of the German people and pull support for the invasion of Poland.

We can see President Trump doing the same now. “Immigrants are criminals.” “We have a national emergency for crime.” The words are propaganda specifically selected to fuel discontent and divide among Americans.

And it’s working.

In a study, Gallup polls found that an astonishing eighty percent of Americans believe we stand divided on key issues facing our nation.¹⁸ Interestingly, the Republicans polled saw greater unity under Republican Presidents, and the Democrats polled saw greater under President Obama. No matter what side of the spectrum we stand on today, the truth of our division is plain to see.

With both sides creating “others”, each seeks to dehumanize their opponents. This method of “others” was deployed in Nazi Germany. Propaganda spread wide and far spoke of Jewish people, as well as disabled and Roma peoples, as roaches, foxes, or vultures.¹⁹ While the

¹⁷ (Museum, n.d.)

¹⁸ (Jones, 2025)

¹⁹ (Criado, 2022)

Republicans have been repeatedly on record decrying Democrats as evil ²⁰, Democrats themselves are infighting and saying the party rolls over too much. ²¹

Both of these views are problematic, as they only create more division both between and within parties. Now would be a good time to reflect on the words of former President Barack Obama:

“There is not a liberal America and a conservative America – there is the United States of America. There is not a black America and a white America and Latino America and Asian America ... there’s the United States of America.”

These words are powerful. They speak of a united America, and the importance of being united. My neighbor is my neighbor, no matter where they stand on the political spectrum. I will defend his rights, just as I hope he would defend mine.

We need to be defending our rights, and those around us. If we are in a protest about the National Guard deployments, are we to stand by while those around us are arrested? Are we to fight back, and risk ourselves being put in jail?

I beg of my fellow Americans to stand up for those repressed people we see, and the ones we don’t. If we rise as a country, we can take back our politics from these extreme factions on either side. Make America Great Again is President Trump’s motto.

²⁰ (Nnamdi Egwuonwu, 2024)

²¹ (Steve Peoples, 2025)

But what greatness are we now trying to achieve? One with inequalities for minorities, disabled, and women? Or one where our politicians could work together to make policies for all Americans?

I fear the answer.

Bibliography

- Columbia, M. P. (2025, 08 26). *District Crime Data At A Glance*. Retrieved from Metropolitan Police Washington DC: <https://mpdc.dc.gov/dailycrime>
- Criado, M. A. (2022, 12 03). *How Nazi propaganda dehumanized Jews to facilitate the Holocaust*. Retrieved from El Pais: <https://english.elpais.com/society/2022-12-04/hownazi-propaganda-dehumanized-jews-to-facilitate-the-holocaust.html>
- Department, C. P. (2024). *City Wide Comp Stat*. Retrieved from Chicago Police Department: <https://www.chicagopolice.org/wp-content/uploads/CompStat-Public-2024-Year-End.pdf>
- Flaherty, A. (2025, 08 25). *Trump's Plan to Create Guard Units to Quell Civil Unrest Alarms Experts*. Retrieved from ABC News: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trumpscallsguardunits-tasked-quell-civil-unrest/story?id=124962350>
- Garsd, J. (2025, 07 03). *Immigrants with no criminal convictions represent sharpest growth in ICE detention population*. Retrieved from NPR: <https://www.npr.org/2025/07/03/nx-s1-5456246/immigrants-no-criminal-convictions-growth-ice-detention-population>
- Jonathon Cooper, L. A. (2025, 08 25). *Some National Guard in Washington Are Now Carrying Firearms in Escalation of Trump Deployment*. Retrieved from AP News: <https://apnews.com/article/trump-wes-moore-baltimore-sharpton-national-guard-6cdfd82a1a0dc14e85518c750e8bcc48>
- Jones, J. M. (2025, 08). *Americans Agree Nation is Divided on Key Values*. Retrieved from Gallup: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/650828/americans-agree-nationdividedkeyvalues.aspx>
- Memoranda, P. (2025, 08 25). *Additional Measures To Address The Crime Emergency In The District Of Columbia*. Retrieved from The White House: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/08/additional-measures-toaddress-the-crime-emergency-in-the-district-of-columbia/>
- Memoranda, P. (2025, 08 11). *Restoring Law And Order In The District Of Columbia*. Retrieved from The White House: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidentialactions/2025/08/restoring-law-and-order-in-the-district-of-columbia/>
- Museum, U. H. (n.d.). *Deceiving The Public*. Retrieved from Holocaust Encyclopedia: <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/deceiving-the-public>
- Nnamdi Egwuonwu, R. C. (2024, 10 15). *'So evil' and 'dangerous': Trump doubles down on calling Democrats 'enemies from within'*. Retrieved from NBC News: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2024-election/trump-democrats-enemies-withinrcna175628>

- NYPD. (2025, 08). *Police Department City of New York*. Retrieved from NYPD:
https://www.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/crime_statistics/cs-en-us-city.pdf
- Olmsted, E. (2025, 08 25). *Trump Finally Admits the Truth About His Takeover of Blue Cities*. Retrieved from Yahoo News:
https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/trumpfinallyadmitstruth-takeover-210139157.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAEyeRTf_UDjPUiifZLc9uIYAbxZLYK8WAUlpmcktWtM5uO5vfEVQbkJzTkuDCK2SROkCyd1lpAM8rh8trdNfwyK
- Ordonez, F. (2025, 08 25). *Trump Says National Guard is at The Ready But Hedges on Chicago Plans*. Retrieved from NPR: <https://www.npr.org/2025/08/25/nx-s1-5515615/trumpnational-guard-chicago-executive-order>
- Oversight, A. (2023). *The January 6th Attack on The US Capitol*. Retrieved from American Oversight: <https://americanoversight.org/investigation/the-january-6-attack-on-theuscapitol/>
- Rahman, K. (2025, 08 25). *National Guard Mobilization Across States: What We Know*. Retrieved from Newsweek: <https://www.newsweek.com/nationalguardmobilizationplans-2118224>
- Sheth, S. (2025, 08 22). *Donald Trump Says Chicago Is 'Probably Next' After Washington, DC crackdown*. Retrieved from Newsweek: <https://www.newsweek.com/donaldtrumpchicago-probably-next-federal-troopstakeover-2117934>
- Stanton, A. (2025, 08 25). *Can Trump's National Guard Deployments Be Stopped*. Retrieved from Newsweek: <https://www.newsweek.com/can-donald-trumpnationalguarddeployment-stopped-2118990>
- Steve Peoples, L. S. (2025, 08 03). *'They roll right over': Many Democrats think their party is weak, AP-NORC poll finds*. Retrieved from PBS News: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/they-roll-right-over-many-democrats-think-theirparty-is-weak-ap-norc-poll-finds>
- Zachary Cohen, H. B. (2025, 08 25). *Trump Signs Executive Order Establishing 'Specialized' National Guard Units to Address Crime in Cities*. Retrieved from CNN Politics: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/08/25/politics/trump-executive-order-national-guard-unitscrime>