A discussion prepared for the book “Trumping Democracy in the United States: From Reagan to Alt-Right by Chip Berlet for Routledge

In recent years many scholars, journalists and activists have revised their spellings of certain words involving identities. In this book the editor has decided to use the terms "antisemitic” and "antisemitism,” which honor the traditional terminology but rejects the erroneous link to an outdated racial categorization. Claims of an actual “racial” identity are based on pseudo-science. Many historic terms are capitalized throughout this book simply as a sign of respect for all peoples.

A compendium of additional information and resource links for this edited collection are available online at this permanent research URL:

https://figshare.com/account/home#/projects/57830

## Terminology and conceptual schemes

Much of the terminology and conceptual schema in this edited collection was developed over more than 30 years at Political Research Associates. Links to the most popular resources are here:https://figshare.com/account/home#/collections/4364165

## Expanded online topical resources

A collection of expanded resources on various topics can be found at the permanent Figshare website. The table of contents is here: https://figshare.com/s/763c6a5b6ed187e916a5.

## Gender and identities

Over the time periods in which these chapters were written there were developments in which different gender identities were claimed and referred to using a variety of terms. All the authors tried to be respectful of the terminology that was current in various progressive movements in the United States at the time the chapter was written.

## White Nationalism and White Supremacy

Over many decades the terms “White Supremacy” and “White Nationalism” have been defined in a variety of ways by different authors. Biologists reject the popular concept of “race.” The perception of biological racial differences, however, plays a central role in historic and current power relationships in our nation.

The term “White Supremacy” is often used by scholars and activists to describe a constellation of racist ideologies and practices. There is no consensus on the use of different terms by scholars and activists who study racist and right-wing politics. For this edited collection we offer following as a guide.

• **White Nationalism** claims that the essence of the United States as a nation is carried exclusively in the social, cultural, economic, and political practices of early European settlers.

• **White Superiority** is the specious idea that White people are a uniquely talented ‘race.’

• **White Supremacist System** refers to the systems, structures, and institutions of a nation that give White people special privileges and powers, whether or not they want these privileges or harbor a dislike of people from other races.

• **Organized White Supremacist Groups** are social and political organizations with the goal of ensuring White people exercise power over people of color. These may work through legal means inside of the democratic system as it exists now to maintain or increase the “White supremacist system”; advocate forming an all-White state; or seek to exterminate or expel people of color. These groups almost always rely on antisemitic conspiracy theories for a theoretical core, and often display intense misogyny.

A lively debate on terminology sparked by this book’s early draft language resulted in a collection of definitions used by progressive researcher and activists in the United States. Thanks to Scot Nakagawa, Loretta Ross, Ruby Sales, Steven Gardiner, and Devin Burghart for their commentaries.In recent years many scholars, journalists and activists have revised their spellings of certain words involving identities. In this book the editor has decided to use the terms "antisemitic” and "antisemitism,” which honor the traditional terminology but rejects the erroneous link to an outdated racial categorization. Claims of an actual “racial” identity are based on pseudo-science. Many historic terms are capitalized throughout this book simply as a sign of respect for all peoples.