

# YOU CAN KILL EACH OTHER AFTER I LEAVE

Refugees, Fascism, and Bloodshed in Greece

Patrick Strickland

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“ This is one of the best books written about our current political crisis, and it never loses sight of the real struggle for justice happening on the border and in the streets.”

—Shane Burley, co-author of *Safety Through Solidarity*

“ Veteran journalist Patrick Strickland provides a rigorous, thrillingly written look at how Greece became Europe's ground zero for resurgent fascism—and at the activists fighting back.”

—Molly Crabapple, author of *Drawing Blood*

## NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

When I first stood on the shores of a Greek island in 2015 and watched refugee boats approach dry land, locals, activists, and humanitarians were waiting nearby to welcome the passengers. I was awestruck by the solidarity. Across the next decade, I followed the surge in far-right, anti-refugee politics in Greece and beyond, always keeping an eye out for those who were fighting back. I thought I was writing a book about a particular moment in time, a book about the country where the events I witnessed were taking place, but as fascism rises across borders, I now know that Greece merely provided a setting. In a sense, it is a book about the shared struggles of the displaced and those who oppose fascism wherever they may be.

— Patrick Strickland

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Greece's neo-Nazi Golden Dawn first entered the Hellenic Parliament after the 2012 elections. What social and political conditions did they exploit to gain electoral support?
2. How did the Greek far right respond to the refugee surge? What was the Greek far right's response and attitude when it came to refugees and migrants?
3. How did anti-fascists and solidarity activists in Greece respond to the refugee crisis? What kind of actions did they take to create an alternative to the difficult living conditions refugees and migrants endured in official camps?
4. What became known as the European refugee crisis began in 2015. What were the causes of the mass migration?

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5. Dozens of Golden Dawn members were arrested in late 2013, then were put on trial starting in 2015. What events led up to the Greek government's crackdown on the neo-Nazi group?
6. In the past, American far-right members and neo-Nazis traveled to Greece to build ties with Golden Dawn and other groups. Who were some of these far-right tourists, and why did they find inspiration in Greece's neo-Nazi movement?
7. How has the refugee journey changed since 2015—the immigration process, the government camps they're placed in, etc.? How has the Greek government's response to people fleeing wars, economic devastation, and climate crises shifted throughout the last decade?
8. A Greek court designated Golden Dawn a criminal organization in 2020. What impact has that ruling had on the country's far right?
9. Pushbacks. How do these extrajudicial expulsions of refugees and migrants on European borders impact migration? What are a few examples of the risks that pushbacks mean for displaced people trying to reach the continent?
10. The United States is now seeing a far-right resurgence. What are the similarities between the rise of the American far right and the recent history of far-right groups in Greece? What are the differences?
11. Politicians in both the United States and Europe have introduced harsh policies on the borders. What are a few examples of these policies, and how do they differ between the US and Greece?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Patrick Strickland** is a journalist and author from Texas who has reported from some fifteen countries across Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, covering immigration, the rise of the far right, humanitarian catastrophes, armed conflict and more. His reportage has appeared in *The New York Review of Books*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *Politico*, *The Guardian*, *Vice*, *In These Times*, and elsewhere. He is the managing editor of Inkstick Media, based in Athens, Greece. His previous books are *Alerta! Alerts! Snapshots of Europe's Anti-Fascist Struggle* and *The Marauders: Standing Up to Vigilantes in the American Borderlands*.

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