

Déjà vu Kent State

“Can’t you just shoot them? Just shoot them in the legs or something?”

Donald Trump to then Defense Secretary Mark Esper as reported in Esper’s book Sacred Oath

On May 4, 1970 members of the Ohio National Guard opened fire on Kent State students who were protesting expansion of the Vietnam War into Cambodia. The volley killed four young people and wounded nine others. A photo of 14-year-old Mary Ann Vecchio crying out beside the body of Jeffrey Miller further galvanized public opinion against the war (and was awarded a Pulitzer Prize). No Guard members were ever charged for the murders.

Donald Trump has been itching for a violent confrontation with the people he calls “enemies of the state” for a long time. Now he has the means to provoke such an incident by sending armed troops into American cities. With his pardon of the violent J6 rioters who viciously attacked law enforcement officers on the steps of our nation’s Capitol Trump has shown that he will quickly pardon anyone accused of violence against protestors.

Trump knows that sending armed troops into cities whose people do not want them there is guaranteed to create confrontations, and inevitably a reprise of the Kent State shootings.

When that happens, Trump will use it as his Reichstag fire. He will declare a national crime emergency, federalize the National Guard, and occupy Democratically controlled cities.

It will be his excuse for “postponing” elections, for finishing the job of weaponizing the Department of Justice, and for targeting his enemies to fill the thousands of new prison beds being constructed pursuant to the Republican’s budget-busting tax cuts for the wealthy.

In 2018 Rick Wilson, cofounder of The Lincoln Project, published a book titled *Everything Trump Touches Dies*.

Trump and the gutless obsequious puppets of his mutated lower case gop are just waiting for, or actively seeking to provoke, their own Reichstag fire to be the excuse they use for planting the kiss of death on the forehead of our democracy.



Kent State 2.0 – Trump’s Reichstag Fire