

In Webisode 57DHYAFQ 1 Connecticut Rhode Island Massachusetts New York Virginia Democratic Governors Are Fighting the Trump War on Wind Energy 2 New York Stephen Colbert Is Finally Free 3 Australia India Youth Hostels Blood Banks Yoga How One Far Right Network Spread Across the World RAWSEP View This article is by an Australian author about a Hindu far right Sangh movement that began in India 4 United Kingdom in 2006 and United States in 2008 About Biofuel Watch 2025 Annual Report 5 Germany In Berlin I took an evening class on fascism and found out how to stop the AfD With the far right party ahead in the polls I discovered that a novel set during the rise of the Nazis provides a timely warning 6 and 7 Headlines Main Content

**1** Connecticut Rhode Island Massachusetts New York Virginia Democratic Governors Are Fighting the Trump War on Wind Energy **RAWSEP View** It does not sound very rational for Trump to fight a war on Wind Energy Wind Energy is clean energy and cheaper than other forms of energy generation in 2025 This Trump fight against Wind energy is part of Trump Flooding the Zone with distractions and setbacks to policies that protect human health and protect the planet from accelerating Climate Change The actions of Democratic Governors in support of the Clean Energy of Wind Energy are a no brainer and we need all the brains we can muster since our government is run by fools or worse But I waste my breath since any rational person already knows this And human breath is precious and sustains our lives until we are felled by air pollution from dirty energy sources including of course the unnecessary do it yourself primitive and lifespan stunting indoor residential wood burning for home heating or home cooking and the dirty renewable industrial wood burning among other sources of dirty energy such as coal burning which Trump is trying to revive All this is covered in this webisode along with an excerpt from the Year End an organization that is part of the movement to stop irrational subsidies for industrial wood burning called **Divestment from large scale wood bioenergy led by 10 main entities including portions from the Annual Report from one called Biofuel watch** **From the article headline** Leaders in Connecticut Massachusetts New York and Rhode Island are racing to save offshore wind farms targeted by the president **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times December 23 2025 Less than 24 hours after President Trump dealt a catastrophic blow to five major offshore wind farms on Monday the **Democratic governors of several Northeastern states began plotting a strategy to save them** In a hastily arranged conference call on Tuesday morning the governors started to craft a **two pronged plan** They discussed suing the Trump administration over its pause on leases for the five wind farms under construction off the East Coast while **simultaneously negotiating with the White House on a possible deal to let the projects proceed** We will be exercising our rights and doing everything we can to keep these projects going Governor Ned Lamont a Democrat of Connecticut who participated in the discussion said in an interview on Tuesday At the same time Dominion Energy the developer of the largest offshore wind farm that has been targeted Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind brought the first legal challenge The complaint filed Tuesday in federal court in Virginia argued that the Trump actions were causing the company immediate irreparable harm and 5 million dollars in losses per day At stake overall is about 25 billion dollars of investment in the five wind farms which were expected to create 10 thousand jobs and to power more than 2 point 5 million homes and businesses In addition to **Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind** the projects targeted on Monday were **Vineyard Wind 1 off Massachusetts Sunrise Wind and Empire Wind off New York and Revolution Wind off Rhode Island and Connecticut** In addition to Governor Lamont the call included governors or their staff members in Massachusetts New York and Rhode Island Lamont said that Democratic attorneys general in these states would probably file a complaint that argued that the pause on leases was arbitrary and illegal But he also suggested that he was open to approving new natural gas pipelines in the Northeast a top priority for the president in exchange for the administration allowing the wind farms

to move forward. There appears to be precedent for such a deal. In April the Trump administration ordered construction to stop on the 5 billion dollar Empire Wind project a huge wind farm off the coast of Long Island. After weeks of negotiations with Governor Kathy Hochul Democrat of New York the administration allowed construction to resume. White House officials suggested they had relented only after Hochul agreed to approve new gas pipelines in the state. She has denied that any such agreement was made saying her recent approval of a gas pipeline was part of a broader effort to bring more energy to the state. In an interview on Tuesday Hochul said she was infuriated that the Trump administration had moved again to stop Empire Wind. She said she doubted the claim by the administration that wind farms posed an unspecified national security threat. I think the underlying premise that this is based on national security concerns is BS Ms Hochul said. If you have any evidence that there are national security threats along our coasts of our states you better tell me what it is because my job is to protect my state. Absent from the Tuesday conference call was Governor Glenn Youngkin Republican of Virginia who has been a rare conservative champion of offshore wind power and Abigail Spanberger a moderate Democrat who last month won the race for Virginia governor to succeed Youngkin. Hochul noted that the governors of the affected states would all be Democrats once Ms Spanberger was sworn in. Is it a coincidence? she said. I do not think so. The Trump move on Monday left intact just two operational wind farms in US coastal waters one small project off Rhode Island that began running in 2016 and a larger project off New York that has been fully operational since 2023. In an unusual warning the operator of the regional electric grid in New England said on Monday that it was counting on the Vineyard Wind power to provide heat and electricity to customers this winter. Any delays to that wind farm or to Revolution Wind which is more than 80 percent completed will increase costs and risks to reliability in our region it said. The Trump approach has faced significant legal setbacks. Earlier this month a federal judge struck down the executive order that halted permits for new wind projects saying it was arbitrary and capricious in violation of federal law. The director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia Law School said he thought a legal challenge to the pause would likely succeed. I think there is no reason to believe the Trump case is any stronger than it was before. He noted that the administration has also raised national security concerns in the past that did not hold up in court as when a judge ruled in September that work on the Revolution Wind project could restart after the Trump administration tried to stop it. If they had really strong evidence they would come out with it. No final decision was made on Friday and discussions continued over the weekend the two people said. Many lobbyists and workers in the offshore wind industry said they were shocked by the announcement on Monday. Who does this right before Christmas? said the general secretary treasurer of the Laborers International Union of North America which represents about 300 of the nearly 12 hundred workers at Revolution Wind. A 23 year old man who is an apprentice electrician who has been working on the Revolution Wind project for the past year was on board a work boat the first time Trump stopped his project. This time he was home in Fall River Massachusetts waiting for his next four week shift which was to begin after Christmas. I do not know if I am getting back on the boat he said. He said working on a wind farm appealed to him because it felt like cutting edge technology. But seeing Revolution Wind be stopped twice so near completion had made him wonder if there was a future in the industry. It is like running a marathon and getting tripped 100 feet from the finish line he said. Another worker said I do not want to get too deep into politics but it is very disrespectful to the working class in general. It is thousands of jobs at a standstill.

2 New York Stephen Colbert Is Finally Free Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization

The New York Times December 24 2025 When The Late Show With Stephen Colbert won the Emmy for outstanding talk series in September the host gave thanks with a short mission statement. When he first conceived his iteration of the CBS franchise Colbert had in mind a late night comedy show that was about love. At a certain point and you can guess what that point was I realized that in some ways we were doing a late night comedy show about loss. And that is related to love because

sometimes you can only truly know how much you love something when you get a sense that you might be losing it Colbert has turned the last hurrah of his show into a torrid victory lap and he has done it by manifesting the show he had always envisioned: a show about love and a show about loss. He is putting his powers as a public entertainer one who lives his private faith openly and fearlessly to great use for the country he loves so desperately It is a remarkable thing to witness and appointment viewing for the next five months After that once this remarkable run is over the mourning period begins

3 Australia India Youth Hostels Blood Banks Yoga How One Far Right Network Spread Across the World RAWSEP View This article is by an Australian author about a Hindu far right Sangh movement that began in India Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization The New York Times December 23 2025 Drive for an hour north of Mumbai and find in India a complex known as Keshav Srushti or loosely the Creation of Keshav Doctor Keshav Baliram Hedgewar was the founder of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh or the Sangh an organization widely credited as the incubator of the Hindu far right He started the group better known as the RSS in 1925 as a martial arts gymnasium for angry young men The RSS focus on Hindu man making emerged out of an anxiety over a perceived Hindu disunity and the organization spread rapidly in India in the 1930s and 1940s He and his followers believed the India Muslim minority in India posed a dire threat to the Hindu majority a belief that 100 years later is alive and well in Hindu far right circles Today the RSS has grown into what is arguably the biggest and least understood far right movement in the world condemned for complicity in mass violence against religious minorities of India criticized for trying to rewrite Indian history by vilifying medieval Muslim rule and noted for its close relationship with the right wing Bharatiya Janata Party which has governed India for more than a decade For the past six years I have been part of a team that has mapped thousands of organizations in 40 countries with links to the RSS Our research published this month by The Caravan in India shows that the RSS sits at the center of an international web of schools charities temples and think tanks that have worked in concert to embed Hindu nationalism into the fabric of the daily life society and politics of Indians whether at home or in the diaspora The Sangh has understood through trial and error that it must build public consent for the project of Hindu supremacy Periods of naked antiminority violence and hate speech have at times resulted in bans on the RSS a US visa freeze for Modi and the breakdown of coalition governments in which the Bharatiya Janata Party took part In this context the RSS civil society network allows it to offer contrasting messages to differing constituencies giving the far right a flexibility breadth and penetrating power that greatly exceeds what it could build if it were just a set of sword wielding militias This is a pattern other far right movements have embraced In Myanmar networks of Buddhist monasteries have served as key vectors for Buddhist supremacist mobilizations The civil society networks of the Viktor Orban Fidesz party in Hungary helped lay the foundation for its electoral support In the United States the organizations that coalesced around the Heritage Foundation Project 2025 have played key roles in advancing the MAGA movement Across the globe far right organizing threatens democratic norms The struggle for democratic values is not a fight between progressive civil society and some nameless shapeless far right force that spreads as an invisible pathogen Often it is precisely through visible largely legal and contestable far right civil society organizing that antidemocratic forces mobilize If we grasp this we can also take in an important corollary that if the far right has organized itself into power it can be organized out of it too

4 United Kingdom in 2006 and United States in 2008 About Biofuel Watch 2025 Annual Report Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization Our Mission Biofuel Watch provides systemic analysis based on secondary and occasionally primary research and undertakes advocacy and campaigning in relation to the climate environmental human rights and public health impacts of large scale industrial bioenergy History Biofuel Watch was founded in the UK in 2006 and expanded to the US in 2008 The organization began with a dedicated campaign against EU biofuel targets followed by opposition to proposed US biofuel policies We worked as part of an international network of

organizations challenging these targets due to their anticipated and now evident [negative impacts on RAWSEP interjects](#) that Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates is primarily concerned with the impacts of wood burning on human health and the immediate impact of indoor residential wood burning on near neighbors including negative impacts on health and shortening of the lives of near neighbors but [RAWSEP acknowledges](#) that collateral damage also occurs as Biofuel Watch lists in its annual report the collateral negative effects are unnecessary and predictable negative impacts on forests climate land rights and food sovereignty [Back to the article excerpt](#) From the outset we Biofuel Watch raised the alarm about the consequences of creating an unprecedented additional demand for crops and [wood for energy](#) While we were unable to prevent these policies from being implemented we helped set in motion a [sustained resistance that has continued for over 15 years](#) Within our first two years we evolved from a purely volunteer run UK group to a UK and US organization welcoming our first funded staff member [Since 2010 our focus has increasingly turned to the expansion of largescale wood bioenergy](#) while we have continued to work on liquid biofuels and other bioenergy technologies

RAWSEP interjection Burning solid fuels causes emission of more PM 2 point 5 particulate matter of 2 point 5 micrometer size the perfect size to infiltrate the human lung setting off a cascade of human health problems and early deaths so it is rational for Biofuel Watch to turn to stopping the expansion of use of wood burning How has Biofuel Watch been successful up to now? [Back to the article excerpt](#)

Between 2008 and 2012 we led a highly successful UK campaign against burning palm oil and other liquid biofuels for heat and power Today no palm oil is burned for energy in the UK This campaign combined community outreach and resistance to proposed biofuel power and heat plants with national advocacy against subsidies for this form of energy [It became a blueprint for our subsequent work opposing biomass plants in the UK and across Europe](#) Who we are and what we do Biofuel Watch is a small but highly effective team of staff and volunteers based in the UK and the USA Despite our size we have a significant impact thanks to our global network of longstanding and trusted partnerships with other organizations and individuals We understand that meaningful change requires [engagement at every level from local communities to policymakers](#) Our aim is to ensure that [concerns about bioenergy](#) are fully integrated into broader climate and energy discussions rather than treated in isolation [RAWSEP View](#) Wood burning is allowed to be treated in isolation because Wood burning is designated as a renewable although it is a dirty renewable and often Wood Burning is lumped with the truly clean renewables of Wind Solar and Geothermal and so Wood Burning is wrongly given subsidies and used to replace the fossil fuel Coal Burning and Wood Burning emissions are ignored when calculating if each country in the world is meeting its Climate Goals This is wrong because if wood burning is ignored then it can continue or even is encouraged to continue and burning wood only brings us closer to clogging the air with pollution that shortens and ends human lives and makes Climate Change happen even faster Wood burning emits 2 point 8 times the PM 2 point 5 and CO2 as the fossil fuel Coal Burning and Wood burning emits 450 times the PM 2 point 5 as natural gas burning [Back to the article excerpt](#)

Collaboration is central to our mission opposing industrial bioenergy successfully depends on working closely with climate and energy activists who are driving the transition away from fossil fuels [RAWSEP Interjection](#) This Annual Report has and will do on to refer to fossil fuels alone as a Climate Change culprit when it would be much more realistic and helpful to refer to solid fuel burning which includes solid fuel fossil fuels and wood burning as the first culprit to address in order to protect human health and slow climate change However the first sentence of the following article excerpt brings us back to reality It is vital that bioenergy is not presented as a replacement for fossil fuel [RAWSEP likes that language](#) because it preserves human life and it is [vital](#) that bioenergy is not presented as a replacement for fossil fuels [Back to the article excerpt](#) It is vital that bioenergy is not presented as a replacement for fossil fuels We conduct rigorous research into bioenergy technologies and policies [produce accessible educational materials support community activists affected by biomass](#) and biofuel developments and help strengthen the capacity of [other organizations](#) We actively participate in government and agency consultations coordinate national and international networks and engage with

global processes such as the UNFCCC and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity We have also served as reviewers for IPCC reports Biofuel Watch is recognized internationally as a key resource for critical analysis on bioenergy Our well referenced briefings and reports provide a solid foundation for campaigning helping policymakers the public and campaigners understand the environmental and [human rights implications](#) of large scale bioenergy Our Areas of Work UK EU USA International UK biomass electricity Advanced biofuels including for [aviation Wood bioenergy](#) across Europe

[RAWSEP View](#) Aviation wood bioenergy sound uniquely threatening to human health and hastening climate change because of the large amounts of fuel required for aviation [Back to the article excerpt](#) Genetic engineering GE of Trees [Divestment from large scale wood bioenergy](#) New bioenergy technologies [Wood bioenergy in the USA](#) BECCS and Biochar [UK Campaign Against Subsidies For Biomass Power Stations By Drax](#) And Other Companies This has been an exceptionally busy year for the UK campaign team following the announcement in February by Energy Minister Michael Shanks that [the Government intended to extend subsidies for Drax](#) As soon as the proposed subsidy extension was announced the UK bioenergy team mobilized rapidly We launched an e action calling on supporters to urge Ed Miliband not to extend subsidies for Drax alongside a second action encouraging people to contact their MPs to oppose the subsidies in Parliament write directly to the Secretary of State and sign the Stop Burning Trees MP Pledge Later that week we organized an emergency demonstration outside the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero DESNZ as part of the [Stop Burning Trees Dump Drax Day of Action](#) with protests taking place across the country In March we organized a webinar with Global Action Plan aimed at staff working within environmental NGOs exploring [why biomass is neither renewable nor sustainable and highlighting the serious environmental and climate harms caused by burning trees for energy](#) In April we [collaborated with Dogwood Alliance Fuel Poverty Action and Stop Burning Trees](#) on a second webinar ahead of the Drax AGM focused on [how to protect people](#) and the planet from the Drax tree burning A recording of this webinar is available online In May we partnered with groups including XR Edinburgh XR York Fuel Poverty Action [Protest in Harmony and Stop Burning Trees to organize demonstrations outside the Drax AGMs in Edinburgh and York](#) These actions featured [Disc obedience dancers dressed as trees](#) and were intended to show solidarity with communities around the world facing [severe health impacts](#) and forest destruction as a result of the Drax operations The demonstrations received both local media coverage and [national coverage in The Canary](#) We also joined [Stop Burning Trees](#) Natalie Bennett and frontline community representatives from Gloucester Mississippi Doctor Krystal Martin and Katherine Eglund for [a demonstration outside the Drax AGM in London](#) which was covered by The Guardian Despite traveling from the United States Doctor Martin and Ms Eglund were refused permission by Drax to speak inside the AGM Instead they gave powerful testimonies outside describing the [devastating health impacts](#) of the Drax wood pellet mill on their community A video of the AGM and interviews with Doctor Martin and Ms Eglund are available online Alongside public campaigning [we worked to challenge the legislation required to enable the subsidy extension](#) This involved the [Government reversing](#) stricter sustainability rules introduced in 2018 which had set lower limits on supply chain CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for electricity sources receiving [renewable](#) energy subsidies The emissions threshold was raised specifically to allow Drax to qualify for further support We [launched an e action urging supporters to ask their MPs to call](#) on the Government to withdraw the legislation and [encouraged direct contact with members of the Delegated Legislation Committee](#) responsible for voting on it At the committee vote [in June one Conservative and one Liberal Democrat MP spoke strongly against extending the Drax subsidies](#) and [four opposition MPs voted against the legislation](#) However with all eleven Labor MPs voting in favor the legislation was passed Our engagement with the House of Lords Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee led to the issue being drawn to the special attention of the House in a formal report This resulted in a late night debate in the House of Lords in June We produced a detailed briefing for peers and speakers from across the House raised serious concerns about renewing the Drax subsidies A recording of the debate is available online Drax debate starts at 21 minutes 21 seconds approximately We are extremely grateful to everyone who

contacted their MPs members of the House of Lords and members of the Delegated Legislation Committee to oppose the subsidy extension **Germany** The wood burned for energy in Germany will need to be imported by 2030 Finally although modelling by the Federal Environment Agency suggests that biomass imports could decline in the coming years under current scenarios new biomass power plants continue to be promoted across the country on the basis of claimed climate neutrality Over the past year our work in Germany has focused on strengthening networks supporting local resistance and shaping public and political debate We established **contact with climate and environmental groups in cities where new biomass plants or coal to biomass conversions are proposed** including delivering presentations at local meetings We coordinated the national **activist network Ausgebrannt Burned Out** which brings together local campaigners and national NGOs through monthly online meetings We also supported joint campaigns by providing research based briefings and assisting with the development of shared materials We worked closely with the Bützfleth citizens initiative in Stade Bützfleth **opposing a planned waste wood power plant** and continued to **update a publicly available map** of pellet plants and medium and large scale biomass combined heat and power facilities across Germany Throughout the year we issued multiple joint press releases on the Berlin proposed heat transition plans alongside NABU **ROBIN WOOD** Deutsche Umwelthilfe BUND Berlin PowerShift BürgerBegehren Klimaschutz and Greenpeace Berlin In January 2025 we organized with others a public information event titled Heat transition in Berlin and what the forest has to do with it with NABU and the Friedrichshain Kreuzberg City Library This was followed by a series of strategy meetings with the Berlin Renewable Energy Group to coordinate **campaigning against the Reuter West and Klingenberg projects** In February we supported an **open letter** from environmental groups in Cuxhaven to the city council and in March we took part in a **large NGO action** outside the Bundestag on International Forest Day under the slogan Strengthen forests do not burn them A joint press release followed the next day Further actions throughout the year included joint **press work around the RWE Annual General Meeting** open letters **calling for the rapid implementation of new EU rules on wood energy into German law** and public appeals urging the city of Stade to abandon plans for a waste wood power plant in Bützfleth In September we cohosted an information event in Stade examining the impacts of biomass energy using the Bützfleth project as a case study On the **International Day Against Large Scale Biomass Combustion** in October coordinated **Netherlands RWE** In the Netherlands large quantities of imported wood pellets continue to be burned in coal power stations Three energy companies RWE Uniper and Onyx hold **subsidy contracts for co firing wood pellets with coal** and RWE has fully converted one of its two coal power stations to wood pellets During 2024 RWE was the **only company that actually burned wood pellets using just over 1 point 4 million tons** Most of these pellets came from the United States followed by Canada but **for the first time RWE also imported pellets from Malaysia and Vietnam** Although RWE maintains strict secrecy around its wood sourcing Biofuel Watch was able to trace some pellet suppliers by analyzing trade data and reviewing pellet plants certified under Dutch sustainability standards including two Malaysian producers that exported to the Netherlands last year Desktop research uncovered evidence linking timber concessions supplying one of these plants to rainforest and peatland destruction **actions took place across Germany including rallies banner drops poster campaigns and joint press work** in cities such as Stade Leipzig Chemnitz and Berlin We also continued to **monitor permitting developments around major biomass projects in Berlin** including the Reuter West plant issuing joint statements with a broad alliance of environmental climate and civil society organizations in Borneo as well as serious concerns regarding wood sourcing by the other company in Pahang Province With the support of the German Federation of Critical Shareholders we were able to raise these findings and questions about the RWE sourcing of Malaysian wood pellets at the RWE AGM in late April Together with the **Clean Air Committee in the Netherlands** we submitted our findings to the Dutch Emissions Authority in June alongside a formal enforcement request for apparent violations of Dutch sustainability standards This enforcement request **attracted media coverage in the Netherlands** and at the time of writing we are still awaiting a decision While awaiting the response of the authority we identified a significant issue in a report by CE

Delft on compliance with Dutch sustainability criteria The report revealed that none of the pellets burned in the Netherlands in 2024 nor in 2023 had been assessed against the Dutch biomass sustainability standards which on paper are stricter than those applied across the EU or in the UK This is because all pellets were classified as being made from wastes and industry residues specifically sawmill residues even though pellet plants known to supply RWE openly state that they also use substantial quantities of whole trees Since the current Dutch biomass subsidy scheme began the vast majority of wood has been classified as sawmill residues and thereby exempted from the main sustainability criteria This prompted further investigation into the certification scheme used by RWE known as the Green Gold Label This scheme was established by the Dutch energy company Essent which previously operated the coal plants now burning biomass and was acquired by RWE in 2009 Together with the Clean Air Committee we published a report on the Green Gold Label which certifies biomass in the Netherlands and Japan and has been proposed for approval as an EU wide certification scheme The scheme allows pellet plants using wood from forests and plantations as well as sawmill residues to receive certification only for the sawmill residue component of their feedstock Responsibility is then passed to power companies such as RWE to declare that all pellets purchased are derived solely from residues with no independent verification Audit reports are treated as confidential and are not made public As a result a certification scheme founded by Essent and linked to RWE continues to enable the company to avoid scrutiny of its wood sourcing Together with our Dutch partners we will continue to challenge this system and call for the immediate suspension of The RWE subsidies which rely on this deeply flawed certification approach Baltic States Southern Europe In January the Croatian NGO Green Squad published a report documenting recent clearcutting and habitat destruction within Natura 2000 protected areas which are intended to receive the highest level of conservation protection Biofuel Watch was able to support and fund this important work thanks to a grant from the Threshold which we continue to maintain and update as Foundation The report has since prompted and new information becomes available an investigation by the European Commission In 2026 we look forward to strengthening joint work with partners across the region In October we published a map of biomass particularly to challenge actions which hasten climate change and to challenge wood pellet plants in the West Balkans Development finance for biomass energy Biomass investments by the pulp and paper industry in Europe Together with the Environmental Paper Network Traditionally pulp mills have burned residues bark and black liquor to meet their published own energy needs However renewable reports show energy subsidies for biomass have driven developed investment in much larger biomass plants throughout that burn forest wood with several facilities in 2024 and 2025 now exporting heat and electricity Our early 2025 analysis found that pulp producing titled Beaten companies are the dominant force in biomass to a pulp electricity generation in four of the five largest How the EU pulp producing countries in the EU and are forests are responsible for over a fifth of the primary being burned woody biomass burned for energy in those for energy by the pulp and paper industry List of countries These findings were presented Case studies of biomass plants operated by through a joint webinar and press release The sector in Sweden Finland Germany Spain and Portugal were co published with national NGOs

5 Germany In Berlin I took an evening class on fascism and found out how to stop the AfD With the far right party ahead in the polls I discovered that a novel set during the rise of the Nazis provides a timely warning RAWSEP View Excerpt from Amazon dot com review of Effingers by Gabrielle Tergit Capturing a Germany now lost to time Effingers by Gabriele Tergit is a novel about the lives and fates of three generations of a German Jewish family Beginning in 1878 and ending in 1948 we follow the Effingers a family of modest craftsmen from southern Germany who are joined through marriage to two families of high society financiers in Berlin the Goldschmidts and the Oppners The Effingers soon rise to prominence as one of the most important German industrialist families in Berlin but with the outbreak of World War I they fall on hard times and must navigate the tumultuous changes of the Weimar Republic Featuring a kaleidoscopic cast of characters Effingers now in English Translation is a keenly observed

account of German Jewish life Effingers first appeared in 1951 **RAWSEP View** The article writer asks that Friedrich Merz maintain the firewall against AfD in Germany **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The Guardian December 24 2025 The Effingers by Gabriele Tergit review A vivid portrait of Berlin before the Nazis **RAWSEP Excerpt from the ending summation of the article** Discourse on fascism is ubiquitous at the moment Here in Germany it is being debated in articles books exhibitions and public lecture series There are **arguments about whether the politics of the Alternative für Deutschland AfD can be called fascism** or whether this 21st century form of rightwing authoritarianism is qualitatively different In an attempt to better understand these historical precedents and our own times I enrolled in **an evening seminar on fascism entitled Monsters of Fascism Yesterday Today and Tomorrow at the leftwing Berthold Brecht Literary Forum in Berlin** The central idea was the lecturer explained that **being able to define fascism is the first step in increasing our resilience to it** Despite some challenges in determining a definition we arrived at a few markers we could agree on some attempt to create an **ethnically pure** nation the engagement of a **paramilitary force** and use of excessive violence **anti liberal and anti democratic** sentiments and the involvement of **wealthy backers** from the economic elite When the discussion turned to the AfD and where we might position them on the spectrum a depressing air hung over the seminar room We were moving from the theoretical realm to the **political reality of Germany in 2025** and while the AfD does not have its own paramilitary force or use excessive violence there are reasonable concerns about the other criteria This is a party for whom well over 30 percent of blue collar workers and unemployed Germans voted in the February 2025 federal elections The AfD came in second overall nationally winning 20 point 8 percent of the vote with the CDU taking 28 point 5 percent The latest polling has the AfD leading by 26 percent to the CDU 24 percent The AfD is a party that has been deemed **rightwing extremist** by our own Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution One delusion from history that the establishment in Germany is **in danger of repeating** is **the idea that the old elites can maintain control** over newly emerging powers on the extreme right A few weeks before the 2025 election the Christian Democrat CDU chancellor **Friedrich Merz broke the so called firewall the agreement among all democratic parties not to partner with the AfD in parliamentary votes** Merz got a proposal to crack down on illegal migration through parliament with the support of the AfD **Since then several CDU members have called on Merz to end the firewall altogether** When Germany commemorated the victims of the Nazi pogroms of November 1938 last month **Frank Walter Steinmeier our symbolic head of state gave a speech in which he warned about the AfD in all but name** He called on the Merz government to **maintain the firewall** and even urged that legal options to **ban anti democratic political parties** be considered The prospect of banning the AfD has been debated extensively but seems unlikely to happen it also sidesteps tackling the roots of its support The bitter moral lesson of Tergit is novel comes in the final letter written by the elder Effinger on the way to the concentration camp **I believed in the good in people that was the gravest error of my misguided life** We should not stop believing in the good in people but **we should also heed the warnings of history** What The Effingers teaches us is **not to underestimate the danger of the fascist menace and to fight on all fronts against it before it is no longer possible** **RAWSEP Excerpt from the beginning of the article which is about the Tergit Novel itself** In 1932 the Berlin born writer Gabriele Tergit set out to memorialize what she saw as a disappearing world the lives and fates of the Jews of the City of Berlin By 1945 after fleeing the Nazis first to Czechoslovakia then Palestine then Britain Tergit had finished her novel but it took until 1951 for The Effingers to be published Even then only a few German booksellers wanted it in their shops It was too strange a piece of work for a German public that had watched if not participated in the Holocaust Though overlooked at the time it has been rediscovered as a classic in Germany and has now been published in English for the first time It is a chronicle of three affluent Jewish families in Berlin between 1878 and 1942 with an epilogue set in 1948 based on Tergit return visit to her destroyed city Tergit understood how dangerous the Nazis were She was a court reporter and covered Adolf Hitler and Joseph Goebbels on trial in the 1920s this also made her a target and she fled Berlin after narrowly

escaping an SA Brownshirts raid in March 1933 It is eerie reading The Effingers in 2025 that the Nazi rise to power is something that happens largely on the periphery of the lives of the protagonists There is a sense that while they recognize the Nazis as bad actors they nevertheless feel themselves insulated from the Nazis in their extravagant villas in Tiergarten with their good dresses and connections A similar atmosphere of overhanging political danger is apparent in Cabaret the 1972 film based on the Berlin novels of Christopher Isherwood The Weimar republic is portrayed as a hedonistic time and the Nazis only emerge slowly from the background One character even says The Nazis are just a gang of stupid hooligans but they do serve a purpose let them get rid of the communists and later we will be able to control them The sense of looming but **underappreciated danger** struck me as something contemporary

**6 Headlines The New York Times December 24 2025** Affordability 100 dollars for a Cab to the Airport It May Soon Get Worse The New York Times Australia Gun Control One Australian State Passes Extraordinary Gun and Protest Laws After Bondi Attack The New York Times  
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