

# Richard B. Spencer

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## Richard B. Spencer



<b>Born</b>	Richard Bertrand Spencer May 11, 1978 Boston, Massachusetts, U.S. <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Residence</b>	Whitefish, Montana, U.S.
<b>Nationality</b>	American
<b>Citizenship</b>	United States
<b>Education</b>	St. Mark's School of Texas
<b>Alma mater</b>	University of Virginia University of Chicago
<b>Occupation</b>	Author

	Publisher
<b>Known for</b>	President & Director The National Policy Institute Executive Director Washington Summit Publishers
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	Nina Kouprianova (separated)
<b>Parent(s)</b>	William B. Spencer Sherry Spencer

**Richard Bertrand Spencer** (born May 11, 1978) is an American white nationalist, known for promoting white supremacist views.<sup>[2][3][4]</sup> He is president of the National Policy Institute, a white nationalist think-tank, and Washington Summit Publishers, an independent publishing firm. Spencer has stated that he rejects the description of white supremacist, and describes himself as an

identitarian.<sup>[5][6]</sup> He advocates for a white homeland for a "dispossessed white race" and calls for "peaceful ethnic cleansing" to halt the "deconstruction" of European culture.

Spencer and others have said that he created the term "alt-right",<sup>[7]</sup> a term he considers a movement about white identity.<sup>[8][9][10]</sup>

Spencer has repeatedly quoted from Nazi propaganda and spoken critically of the Jewish people,<sup>[10][11]</sup> although he has denied being a neo-Nazi.<sup>[12]</sup> Spencer and his organization drew considerable media attention in the weeks following the 2016 presidential election, where, in response to his cry "Hail Trump, hail our people, hail victory!", a number of his supporters gave the Nazi salute similar to the Sieg Heil chant used at the Nazis' mass rallies. Spencer has defended their conduct, stating that the Nazi salute was given in a

spirit of "irony and exuberance".<sup>[13]</sup>

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## Early life

Spencer grew up in Dallas, Texas. He was born to William B. Spencer, an ophthalmologist, and Sherry Spencer.<sup>[14]</sup> In 1997, Spencer graduated from St. Mark's School of Texas. In 2001, he

received a B.A. with High Distinction in English Literature and Music from the University of Virginia and, in 2003, an M.A. in the Humanities from the University of Chicago. He spent the summer of 2005 and 2006 at the Vienna International Summer University.<sup>[15]</sup> From 2005 to 2007, he was a doctoral student at Duke University studying modern European intellectual history, where he was a member of the Duke Conservative Union. He left Duke "to pursue a life of thought-crime."<sup>[14][16]</sup>

## Career

From March 2007 to December 2007, Spencer was an Assistant Editor at *The American Conservative* magazine. According to founding editor Scott McConnell, Spencer was fired from *The American Conservative* because his views were considered too extreme.<sup>[14]</sup> From

January 2008 to December 2009, he was executive editor of *Taki's Magazine*.<sup>[17]</sup>

In March 2010, Spencer founded AlternativeRight.com, a website he edited until 2012. He says he created the term alt-right.<sup>[10][18]</sup>

In January 2011, Spencer became Executive Director of Washington Summit Publishers. In 2012, Spencer founded *Radix Journal* as a biannual publication of Washington Summit Publishers. Contributors have included Kevin B. MacDonald, Alex Kurtagić, Samuel T. Francis, and Derek Turner. He also hosts a weekly podcast, Vanguard Radio (a successor to AltRight Radio).

In January 2011, Spencer also became President and Director of The National Policy Institute, a think tank previously based in Virginia and Montana.<sup>[19]</sup>

Spencer has been published at *Right Now!*, *American Renaissance*, Peter Brimelow's VDare.com, *The Occidental Observer*, and other publications.

Groups and events Spencer has spoken to include the Property and Freedom Society,<sup>[20]</sup> the American Renaissance conference,<sup>[21]</sup> and the HL Mencken Club.<sup>[22]</sup> In November 2016, an online petition was signed by "thousands of students, employees, and alumni" to prevent Spencer from speaking at Texas A&M University on December 6, 2016.<sup>[23]</sup> A protest and "a large counter-event" were held to coincide with Spencer's event.<sup>[24]</sup>

On January 20, 2017, Spencer attended the inauguration of Donald Trump, and appeared in the surrounding streets where protests were taking place. While giving an impromptu interview on a street corner, protesters came up, one of whom punched Spencer in the face, then ran

off.[25][26]

## Views

Spencer advocates for a white homeland for a "dispossessed white race" and calls for "peaceful ethnic cleansing" to halt the "deconstruction" of European culture.

[17][27][28] According to a 2010 article by Alex Knepper on David Frum's FrumForum.com, Spencer is an admirer of Friedrich Nietzsche, based upon "a hideously poor reading" of his works.[29]

In 2013, the Anti-Defamation League recognized Spencer as a leader in white supremacist circles, saying that since his time at *The American Conservative*, he has rejected conservatism, because according to Spencer, its adherents "can't or won't represent explicitly white interests." [30]

In a 2016 interview for *Time* magazine,



Spencer said that he rejected white supremacy and slavery of nonwhites, preferring to establish America as a white ethnostate.<sup>[10][31]</sup>

Spencer opposes same-sex marriage,<sup>[32]</sup> which he described as "unnatural", a "non-issue," and that "very few gay men will find the idea of monogamy to their liking".<sup>[33]</sup> Matthew Heimbach of the Traditionalist Youth Network (TYN) was reportedly disinvited from an NPI event for his anti-gay views, while Jack Donovan, an openly gay alt-right author, was a key speaker.<sup>[34]</sup>

Spencer openly supports American president-elect Donald Trump and called Trump's presidential victory "the victory of will", a phrase echoing the title of Leni Riefenstahl's *Triumph of the Will*, a Nazi-era propaganda film.<sup>[10]</sup> Upon Trump's appointment of Steve Bannon as his chief of staff, Spencer said Bannon

would be in "the best possible position" to influence policy. This echoed similar remarks from David Duke, former Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, who said Bannon's appointment was "excellent" and had created "the ideological aspects of where we're going."<sup>[35]</sup>

## Controversies

In 2014, Spencer was deported from Budapest, Hungary, and via the Schengen Agreement, is banned from 26 countries in Europe for three years, after trying to organize National Policy Institute Conference, a conference for white nationalists.<sup>[4][36]</sup>

In mid-November 2016, excerpts of Spencer giving a speech at an alt-right conference attended by approximately 200 people in Washington, D.C., showed audience members cheering and making

the Nazi salute when he said, “Hail Trump, hail our people, hail victory!”  
[10][37]

On the day of President Donald J. Trump's inauguration on January 20, 2017 Spencer was giving a television interview on a street in D.C. when an apparent black bloc protester suckerpunched him in the side of the head. The video clip and gifs of the video have since been widely shared. [38].

## **Montana**

In January 2013, according to multiple news outlets, as well as an accounting of the event himself,<sup>[39]</sup> Spencer got into an unpleasant exchange with Randy Scheunemann, John McCain's former foreign policy aide, during McCain's 2008 bid for the presidency. The two men were on a ski lift at a private ski resort called The Big Mountain Club. Then months later, at the club's New Year's Eve Party

that next winter, the two men again exchanged heated words. Scheunemann complained about Spencer and wanted him kicked out of the club. The club decided that instead Scheuneman would lose his membership privileges. Spencer eventually resigned his membership. The event, because it was covered widely in the American press, increased local public awareness of Spencer, that he and his work were at least partially based in Whitefish some of the year. This resulted in rallies and local anti-racist efforts against Spencer and his company.<sup>[40]</sup>

The National Policy Institute think tank has a mailing address in Whitefish, Montana, which shares an address with the Alternative Right/Radix online forum. In 2013, Rachel Maddow reported a link between the Montana-based National Policy Institute and The Heritage Foundation's report, written by their Senior Policy Analyst, Jason Richwine, that

was critical of the U.S. Senate's 2013 Immigration Act.<sup>[41]</sup>

Spencer had published the same report on his AltRight website, and defended both reports as it related to his views on nationalism.<sup>[42]</sup> Spencer responded by seeing the Maddow segment as helping to raise his and his organization's profile.<sup>[43][44]</sup>

In 2014, local residents in Missoula, Montana, through the Whitefish City Council, initiated a non-discrimination resolution, and an organization called Love Lives Here, which is part of the Montana Human Rights Network, held rallies against Richard Spencer and National Policy Institute because the organization and Spencer was located there.<sup>[45][46]</sup>

In December 2016, Republican Representatives Ryan Zinke and Steve

Daines, Democratic Representative Jon Tester, Democratic Governor Steve Bullock and Republican Attorney General Tim Fox condemned the "anti-Semitic views" held by neo-Nazis planning a march in support of Spencer in Whitefish in January 2017.<sup>[47]</sup>

## Personal life

In 2010, Spencer moved to Whitefish, Montana. He says he splits his time between Whitefish and Arlington, Virginia,<sup>[27][48]</sup> although he has said he has lived in Whitefish for over 10 years, and considers it home.<sup>[39]</sup>

He was married to Russian American writer Nina Kouprianova, also known as Nina Byzantina.<sup>[49]</sup> As of October 2016, the couple is separated.<sup>[14]</sup>

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# External links

- [RichardBSpencer.com](http://richardbspencer.com)  
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