



Masculine Escalation Framework

Mila Davis and Professor Lindsay Asbury
Laguna Beach High School



INTRODUCTION

Masculinity is not a biological constant. It is a social construction, a set of expectations actively shaped and weaponized by institutions across centuries to produce obedience and sustain systems of control. At its psychological core, restrictive masculinity creates a paradox: the traits most demanded of men emotional suppression, dominance, refusal of vulnerability are the same traits that produce insecurity, isolation, and susceptibility to external manipulation. Those in power have always known this. From the Church sending peasants to die in the Holy Land, to nationalist movements converting economic humiliation into racial hatred, to digital media ecosystems monetizing male rage the pipeline serves whoever controls it. The mechanism doesn't change. The beneficiary does. Central Question: How has masculine identity been constructed and weaponized by institutions, leaders, and media ecosystems across distinct historical periods and how does that manipulation normalize dehumanization, genocide, and the erosion of democracy in service of those already in power?

METHODOLOGY

Research began with archaeological evidence establishing that gender roles are socially constructed, not biologically fixed (Lacy & Ocobock, 2024). Then read Foucault's Discipline and Punish, and reviewed psychology and archaeology research. This connected individual psychology to the broader narrative of masculinity used as a tool for mass manipulation. Then I read Primary Ryback's Takeover. With this, I developed an 8 stage Framework called the Masculine Escalation Framework (MEF). Read Tyerman's World of the Crusades, annotated, and sorted information into MEF. Analyzed contemporary Media from day and sorted into MEF framework.

CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS, NEXT STEPS

Masculine insecurity is not a personal failure it is a predictable outcome of a system that punishes authenticity and rewards performance. That system has been deliberately maintained because it is useful. When emotional suppression produces vulnerability, and vulnerability produces a need for belonging, leaders and institutions can redirect that need toward political loyalty. This pipeline has not changed across eight centuries. What has changed is the speed and precision of the amplification infrastructure. Core implication: understanding how masculine identity is constructed and manipulated is a prerequisite for recognizing how democratic systems become vulnerable to authoritarian capture.

DATA AND FINDINGS

Stage 1: Restrictive masculinity socialization.

Boys are taught from childhood that vulnerability is weakness through family, peers, and institutions that punish softness and reward toughness.

Stage 2: Emotional suppression.

Emotional expression gets shut down entirely, with anger as the only acceptable outlet everything else gets buried.

Stage 3: Insecurity and psychological vulnerability.

Suppressed emotions don't disappear. They become insecurity, shame, and a chronic sense of inadequacy that has nowhere to go.

Stage 4: Need for belonging and external validation.

That insecurity creates a hunger for belonging, for validation, for someone to tell you that you matter and that your anger is justified.

Stage 5: Authority-driven identity reframing.

An authority figure steps in and reframes that personal pain as a collective injustice your failure isn't your fault, it's theirs.

Stage 6: Institutional amplification.

Institutions, media, and propaganda amplify that reframe at scale until it feels like shared truth rather than manufactured narrative.

Stage 7: Loyalty structures supersede legality.

Loyalty to the movement replaces loyalty to laws, institutions, or personal ethics the group becomes the only thing that matters.

Stage 8: Normalization of harm.

Violence, exclusion, and authoritarian behavior become normal

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DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

1095–1291 The Crusades

MEF S1	Church defines proper masculine identity through warriors vs. 'effeminate' knights
MEF S2	Secular knights coded as spiritually failed men for wearing silk and styling hair
MEF S3	Men on margins of serfdom with no status and no future
MEF S4	Cross-taking ceremony offers belonging, legal protection, and sacred identity in one ritual
MEF S5	Bernard of Clairvaux: 'The Cross is the sword' — failure becomes sacred urgency
MEF S6	Cistercian monastery network transmits crusading ideology across Europe
MEF S7	Personal bond to lord makes participation feel like devotion, not coercion
MEF S8	-Crusade framework repurposed to suppress heretics and political enemies of papacy

1929–1933 Nazi Germany

MEF S1	Weimar crisis produces national humiliation; democratic institutions fail to provide stable identity
MEF S2	SA culture enforces dominance, shame suppressed into collective rage
MEF S3	Symbols of republic collide with political chaos; belonging vacuum emerges
MEF S4	120,000-person rallies where the rally itself is the message — collective identity at scale
MEF S5	Leipzig court speech: 'We do not accept the guilt for this war' — shame reframed as injustice
MEF S6	Hugenberg's 1,600 newspapers flood public space; Der Angriff doubles down rather than retracts
MEF S7	Political elites rationalize Hitler; 'We will crush them' issued by official press office after election
MEF S8	'We will crush them' becomes normalized political communication; Jewish ancestry ends careers

2015–Present: Contemporary Digital Culture

MEF S1	Fred Trump household: needing equated with humiliation; 'be a killer' as core masculine standard
MEF S2	Anger the only permitted emotion; Freddy destroyed for refusing the standard
MEF S3	Male friendship recession; chronic loneliness and masculine discrepancy stress
MEF S4	Online communities offer belonging through shared enemies and grievance identity
MEF S5	Miller/Goebbels structural parallel: enemies 'produce nothing,' movement represents civilization itself
MEF S6	Algorithmic platforms reward outrage and dominance performance with reach and revenue
MEF S7	Republican Party reorganizes around Trump fiction; institutions normalize rather than check
MEF S8	Opponents dehumanized; democratic norms hollowed from within by accumulated compromise