



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2026 Volume IV: Resistance from Aristotle to Star Wars

Far Far Away and Close to Home: Fascism and Resistance Through Star Wars

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Pop culture can be a powerful learning tool to convey complex ideas. This unit uses scenes from *Star Wars* to teach students about fascism, tyranny, and resistance. Through an analysis of various scenes from both the *Star Wars* movies and the streaming show *Andor*, students will discover multiple definitions of tyranny and resistance. They will interact with primary sources to draw comparisons with historical examples from Nazi Germany and gain a stronger understanding of the many nuances of resistance. Activities will include fictional-historical scene analysis and comparison, analysis of primary documents, Socratic seminars, and creative writing exercises focused on the definition of fascism, tyranny, and resistance.

(Developed for Virginia and U.S. History, grade 11; recommended for World History II, grade 10; U.S. History, grade 11; and U.S. Government, grade 12)

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