

The Discerning Gentleman's Guide to 21st Century Attire

By Brent Baldwin

From city streets to campus sidewalks, this guide will help you choose the gear you need to look stylish in the boardroom and stay safe on your commute.

A Classic Suit

The navy suit is a timeless classic, inspired by the military, tailored to the modern gentleman. With options from pinstripes to broken windowpanes, ten-to-twelve-ounce worsted wool makes a perfect all-season suit that will keep you warm and comfortable, rain or shine. We like a peak lapel with a two-button jacket, if only to help your wife or daughter spot you in a crowd of similarly-dressed gentlemen.

Charcoal is always a second option, but we caution against lighter colors this year.

Silk Tie

No synthetics here. All-natural silk is renewable, looks great, and lasts practically forever. From fascist red to socialist blue, a loosely woven grenadine's gauze-like texture will draw the envy of CEOs and doctors alike. Keep it tied or remove it entirely; anything less will make the gentleman look like an inebriated Florida congressman.

Footwear

It's the shoes that really make a man, and we have no shortage of options this year. In past editions of this guide we've recommended a variety of wingtips and oxfords, all hand-crafted by the city's finest cobblers. This year we're going more radical and presenting the discerning gentleman two choices: a blood-red oxford, handcrafted by a cobbler who can no longer afford his rent, or a pair of reliable, union-made boots suitable for all conditions. The oxfords will look great until the first water cannon cuts loose, but these boots were made for

walking, not licking, and you will soon be doing plenty of walking. They'll keep your feet warm when you join the crowd of women marching at your daughter's campus.

Dress Shirt

Plain white is so 20th Century. Unoriginal, unimaginative, and impossible to hide tear gas residue and bloodstains. A cornflower blue shirt with a white contrast collar offers a complementary shade with our recommended navy and charcoal suits while also helping the discerning gentleman maintain an obvious profile to distract the riot police goose-stepping down the block. If a gentleman is to be kettled, he should be kettled with style.

Backpack

Along with austerity and trickle-down economics, the briefcase is another relic we recommend consigning to the dustbin of history. The discerning gentleman needs both hands free, and a sleek, portable backpack makes for a perfect commuter accessory that is suitable for the conference room, the concourse, and the Student Union.

Stock it with all the necessities. With extra face masks and a bottle of water, you're covered for everything from a train breakdown to an all-night daughter-hunt through a protest that's rapidly evolved into a riot. Don't forget to add a handful of high-powered laser pointers. They're ideal for conference room presentations or fouling the cameras on the paramilitary surveillance drone buzzing overhead.

Cell Phone

The latest iPhone is always in style, but a simple Android will work fine for recording the police behind their riot shields. Keep it in airplane mode except for brief calls to your daughter, oh god where is she. Remember: do not unlock it for any uniformed personnel, no matter how much they threaten.

Umbrella

Perfect protection from snow, rain, and hails of teargas canisters, a sturdy umbrella is a symbol of style and sensibility that stands out among a forest of placards. When inverted, the carved walnut handle works as a makeshift golfclub, well-suited for smashing still-spewing chemical weapons away from a crowd of terrified civilians.

Bike Helmet

Safety is important, and head safety is paramount. From madmen in SUVs to flying gas grenades, a well-fitted bicycle helmet will protect the discerning gentleman's most valuable asset. Brand and style are secondary to fit, but do take the safety helmet as an opportunity to accessorize and match one's face mask.

Bicycle optional. The students need it more.

Attitude

A gentleman's most-important asset may be his wits, but his second-most-important asset is his attitude. Stand tall in front of the crowd. Be a target while the real victims flee the brutality marching toward you. If your suit doesn't protect you, your bike helmet will stop the first baton strike. Curl up around your phone and let your backpack take the worst of the beating. Your tie will make a perfect tourniquet for the inevitable bloodshed.

Maybe you don't find your daughter, but rest assured she'll find you when your live-streamed video starts trending. Your battered face may be in a police lineup come dawn, but you knew that when you joined the protest. Your body, your choice. It should have never come to this.

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