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### Beckman 202

This research examines the reasons why queer individuals participate in fashion subcultures using military design elements. The research includes an analysis of the fashion industry as well as case studies of queer fashion icons David Bowie, Rozz Williams, and drag queens of the International Court System in North America. The causes of military style's prevalence in queer fashion subculture align with social identity theory's three mental processes. Queer fashion participants use military design elements to align themselves with society's privileged group of cisgender heterosexuals, to seek empowerment, and to make political commentary on the modern military, the government, or on the very concept of social norms.