



SPARK

Magazine

ISSUE 1 - Q1 2018

Who are we?

Spark Magazine is an independent student-worker publication designed to amplify the voices of the downtrodden and oppressed. This publication offers a unique analysis of politics, art, history and current events that you won't find anywhere else. Though organizations like Vice, TheYoungTurks and DemocracyNow wear the disguise of radical counter-culture, their production comes up short and embodies the same imperialist, capitalist propaganda that you will find at MSNBC, FOX and CNN.

Our publication seeks to be something different. Our goal is simple and straightforward: the complete and utter destruction of capitalism. We dream of a world founded not in corporate greed and death, but in love and generosity. We dream of a world where everyone has a home, a family, a meal on their plate, and a sense of community, no matter who they are or where they were born. We dream of a world without war, hunger, or poverty; a world without pollution, patriarchy or prejudice.

All around us it feels like the fabric of our world is being torn apart. The inherent contradictions and hypocrisies of our governments are being shoved in our face. The world has never been so interconnected, yet we isolate and alienate ourselves from one another. The Dow Jones climbs to record highs and yet so does income inequality. The writing is on the wall: *"The old world is dying, the new struggles to be born. Now is the time of monsters."*

We are guided by the philosophy of Marxism. We inherit a rich cultural tradition of rebellion and democracy that has driven human civilization towards progress and liberty for thousands of years. The 60s and 70s are famous for the counter culture movements that, despite failure, continue to inspire us today. At the same time began the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, a sociopolitical movement in China from 1966 until 1976. Launched by Mao Zedong, then Chairman of the Communist Party of China, its stated goal was to preserve 'true' Communist ideology in the country by purging remnants of capitalist and traditional elements from Chinese society, and to re-impose Maoist thought as the dominant ideology within the Party.

It is time for a Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution of our own...





Spark Magazine

Issue 1 Q1 2018

Editor:

Gucci Minh

Columnists:

- L. Newmeyer
- Sergei Zhukov
- Laura B.
- Dillon Henry
- Eugene V Dabs
- Curt Schiwal

Dedication:

To Dr. Archie Argyrou for giving
me my first book about Marx,

To Grandma Jan for teaching
me to never stop fighting for what
you believe in,

To Nick Komainu Provenza and
every victim of Police Brutality,

To Chris Fabian and every young
black man taken from us too soon,

To everyone who has lived and
died under capitalism: you are not
forgotten!

-Gucci Minh

Contact:

(Writers Wanted!)

Email:

laborwavedesigns@gmail.com

Facebook:

@Realsparkmedia

@Laborwave



Contents

- 7** Remembering the Great October Socialist Revolution 100 Years On
- 12** Thomas Sankara: Remembering the African Rebel
- 16** Nazi Terrorism
- 20** New Slaves: Mass Incarceration in the United States of America
- 25** Guns: Our Only Defense against White Terror
- 30** Music and the United States Labor Movement
- 38** The Environmental Collapse Reaches American Shores
- 42** The Star Spangled Suicide Bombers: The Return of White Terror
- 62** A Sociology of the War and Media



ЛЕНИН -
ЖИЛ,
ЛЕНИН -
ЖИВ,
ЛЕНИН -
БУДЕТ ЖИТЬ

Е.А. МАНКОВСКИЙ



Remembering the Great October Socialist Revolution 100 Years On

By Gucci Minh

When the Russian Revolution triumphed in October 1917, most of the rest of the world was colonized by the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, and the United States. But under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin, the revolution became the inspiration for countless peoples, not only by showing that a workers' state was possible, but also by providing practical, material and later military aid. The first example was the liberation of the colonies held by Tsarist Russia, which was known as a "prison house of nations."

Before the Great October Socialist Revolution, Russia was an agrarian autocratic Empire with no democracy or equality whatsoever. Most people were illiterate and never saw a doctor in their lives. Jews and other minorities were massacred in pogroms (what we would today call Lynch mobs).

While World War 1 raged on, making capitalists very rich, more than 3 million Russian People perished. When Lenin returned to Russia in 1917, he and the Bolshevik party found support in the Soviets (Councils) which

were created by workers, soldiers, and peasants and excluded the propertied classes. The soviets infinitely surpassed the most democratic of parliaments in the west, because parliaments virtually everywhere excluded workers and peasants. The Bolshevik Revolution immediately brought much needed reform.

Women, who were responsible for toppling the Tsar earlier that year, achieved full legal gender equality. Free educational institutions from Kindergarten through University were created all over the new Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Lenin's industrialization plans meant that electric power was brought to the countryside for the first time. The 1930's Great Depression devastated the economies of the Capitalist countries but had little impact on the economically blockaded Soviet Union.

On the contrary, the USSR was developing at breakneck pace due to its policy of industrialization. Soviet GDP growth at the time was fastest in the world. While the Capitalist economies stagnated and collapsed, the USSR's output more than tripled that of the Russian Empire, UK, USA, Germany and France.

Despite losing more than 40 *million* people to the Nazi invasion and holocaust, the USSR managed to crush Hitler's Reich and liberate all of Eastern Europe from Imperialist rule. Though it received help from The US and Britain, the western front is a mere drop in the bucket compared to the brutality of the eastern. For every 10 dead Nazi soldiers, 9 of them were defeated by the Red Army.

In one generation, the USSR created a democratic republic, achieved 99% literacy, had the highest calorie consumption in the world, had the most doctors per capita, achieved 0% unemployment and 0% homelessness, made Racism and anti-Semitism illegal, eliminated poverty, doubled life expectancy and invented Space Travel. Following in the Soviet's footsteps, the people of China, Cuba, Yugoslavia, Vietnam, North Korea, and countless other nations would go on to create similar societies.

VOLUME OF INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

(Per cent of pre-war level)

	1913	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933
U.S.S.R.	100	194.3	252.1	314.7	359.0	391.9
U.S.A.	100	170.2	137.3	115.9	91.4	110.2
Britain	100	99.1	91.5	83.0	82.5	85.2
Germany	100	113.0	99.8	81.0	67.6	75.4
France	100	139.0	140.0	124.0	96.1	107.6



Who Cares?

“Capitalism has grown into a world system of colonial oppression and of the financial strangulation of the overwhelming majority of the population of the world by a handful of ‘advanced’ countries. And this ‘booty’ is shared between two or three powerful world plunderers armed to the teeth.” – V.I. Lenin

Does this not sound like our world today? The United States is suffering from unprecedented income inequality, a healthcare emergency and a resurgence of fascism and racism not seen in 50 years. Most millennials have no hope of ever owning a home or freeing themselves from Student Debt. Every year, thousands of innocent black men, women and children are gunned down in the streets. The US has 5% of the world’s population, but 25% of the world’s Prisoners. Millions of hard working Americans have been brutally deported, their families shattered by Obama and Trump’s leadership alike. Millions of Native Americans and other People of Color, such as those in Flint, lack access to running water. Every week, countless innocent people are massacred by white terrorists. There are 22 empty houses for every homeless person. 49 million people live in poverty, with 97 million people living “near poor”.

Meanwhile, the US Military has extended its tentacles to every corner of the globe. As of 2017 countries are being bombed illegally. Does it make any sense that we spend almost \$700 billion every year on our military, while Housing, Education and healthcare each receive less than 100 Billion? No. Only by following the example of Vladimir Lenin and the Great October Socialist revolution can we hope to create a society that is truly the land of the free.

Through Socialist Revolution, we can save the earth from Climate Change and mass extinction; we can make a job a constitutional right; make free healthcare, free education, and affordable housing a constitutional right. We can shut down all US military bases abroad, and bring all the troops planes and ships home; we can stop racist police brutality and mass incarceration; we can create equality for women and provide free, safe and legal abortions on demand; we can guarantee full equality and rights for all immigrants and the LGBT community. Finally, through socialist revolution, we can seize the banks, and jail the Wall Street Mafiosi that have raped and plundered our economy and the economy of the whole world.





Thomas Sankara: Remembering the African Rebel

By L. Newmeyer

On December 21st, 1949, a visionary leader was born in West Africa – a man that would go on to fiercely challenge stubborn vestiges of colonialism and make deep social and economic progress in what was once the French colony of Upper Volta. He fought to unite his people and the whole of Africa under the principles of self-determination and collective autonomy. Twenty-three years after his country gained complete independence from France, 33-year-old Thomas Sankara took part in a coup d'état that resulted in him seizing the reins of a republic slightly younger than him. The 1983 coup was the prologue to widespread radical reforms that transformed the land that would come to be known the following year as Burkina Faso, which translates to “The Land of Honest People.” Sankara’s transformational wave would be cut short, however, as he began to show other African nations an alternative to paternalistic aid from former colonial powers, ultimately leading to his assassination.

Beginning immediately, Sankara’s government made massive strides improving lives and empowering the Burkinabe people. Hundreds of hospitals and schools were built, school attendance doubled, the infant mortality rate was cut in half, and two and a half million children were vaccinated. Understanding the threat of climate change, around 10 million trees were planted to stave off desertification. Wheat production more than doubled, making Burkina Faso food self-sufficient in just four years. All this was done without the help of new foreign aid. In a postcolonial country with a history of negligent military rule and Western-imposed austerity and resource theft, Sankara – espousing communist ideas – nationalized the country’s land and resources to reallocate towards public services, ditched the state’s luxury Mercedes’ (Sankara himself was known for riding a bicycle to work), and took in a far reduced salary and cut the salaries of his officials. Rent payments were cancelled, Western-owned land was redistributed to the people, and folks all around the country mobilized to take part in constructing new public works in their communities.

A black and white photograph of a woman with her hand covering her face in a gesture of distress or silence. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost graphic quality. The woman's eyes are visible through her fingers, looking directly at the camera with a somber expression. Her hand is pressed against her face, with fingers spread, partially obscuring her features. The background is dark and indistinct.

***"I can hear the
roar of women's
silence"***

-Thomas Sankara

While eschewing foreign aid such as that from France and the World Bank, which would come with devastating strings attached, Sankara led the people of Burkina Faso to become self-reliant, building their own roads and railroads, growing their own food, and even making their own clothes. Hundreds of new reservoirs were created and thousands of wells drilled. Social services were expanded throughout the countryside, ensuring rural areas had access to healthcare and an education. He unilaterally refused to pay the country's debts to foreign entities and directed the land's resources to be used to provide for its own people, because "debt in its current form is a cleverly organized re-conquest of Africa."

To Sankara, this method of self-reliance was the only path to true sovereignty and the only way to break the shackles of colonialism.

The legacy of Thomas Sankara and his brand of liberation is particularly exceptional, not just for its anti-imperialist, communist, or environmentalist elements, but for the steps he took to empower women during his rule. "We cannot transform society while maintaining domination and discrimination against women," he said. So he used his position of power and his charming rhetoric to challenge existing notions of gender roles, promoting the participation of women in the workforce and dismantling harmful and oppressive stigmas that

hurt women and girls. Forced marriage and female genital mutilation were outlawed, women could finally choose to divorce their husbands, and a minimum age for marriage was set. Sankara also became the first African leader to appoint a woman to a major cabinet position. While it would be naive to think that gender inequities were erased in the society of Burkina Faso over the course of four years, we can appreciate the progress that was made and the unprecedented nature of such policies in much of the world at that time.

October 15th, 2017, marks 30 years since the assassination of Thomas Sankara. We can learn from the way in which Sankara charted a new way forward for his people. Though a self-avowed communist (he carried a pistol given to him by Kim il-Sung), Sankara rarely spoke of ideology or historical cases – instead he understood that to make transformational change you must speak to the hearts, minds, and stomachs of the people. It is hard to find a world leader today that displays the same fortitude and moral character necessary to make radical choices to benefit the common man, in spite of heavy pressures to maintain the status quo. Not because such qualities are hard to find – in fact they are in all of us – but we must have faith in our values of equity and justice for all.

Nazi Terrorists Arrested for Attempted Murder Following Richard Spencer Speech in Gainesville

By Gucci Minh

On October 19th, Alt-Right figure head Richard Spencer was scheduled to give a speech to his supporters at the University of Florida. The people of central Florida had other plans. As thousands of anti-fascist counter protesters filled the street to protect

their community, the state of Florida was forced to pay \$600,000 to cover the costs of security for the event. President of the University of Florida, Kent Fuchs justified this in the following statement:

“I fully understand freedom of speech cannot be burdened legally with the full cost of this, but on the other hand we’re being burdened. *So taxpayers are subsidizing hate speech.*”

The security measures were put in place to prevent yet another terrorist attack, such as that in Charlottesville where a Neo-nazi ran over and murdered a peaceful protester, Heather Heyer. Even with \$600k in security, the authorities were *still* unable to prevent violence

from breaking out. Three neo-nazis from Texas, Colton Fears, William Fears, and Tyler Tenbrink, were arrested and charged with attempted murder after opening fire on unarmed antifascist protesters. The Gainesville Police Department statement on the incident reads:

“Shortly before 5:30 pm, it was reported that a silver Jeep stopped to argue with a group of protesters and began threatening, offering Nazi salutes and shouting chants about Hitler to the group that was near the bus stop. During the altercation, Tenbrink produced a handgun while the Fears brothers encouraged him to shoot at the victims. Tenbrink fired a single shot at the group which thankfully missed the group and struck a nearby building.”



BASH

the Fash

How many more innocent people will be run over, stabbed, shot and beaten to death by the foot-soldiers of fascism before the American people demand a government that represents the people, and not ultra-nationalist White Supremacy. Anyone that doubts

the intentions of Donald Trump, Richard Spencer and the rest of the alt-right needs only to look as far as the statements made by Alt-Right Corporation board member Jason Reza Jorjani, a personal friend and ally of President Trump:

“It’s gonna end with the expulsion of the majority of the migrants, including [Muslim] citizens. It’s gonna end with concentration camps and expulsions and war at the cost of a few hundred million people.”

“We will have a Europe, in 2050, where the bank notes have Adolf Hitler, Napoleon Bonaparte, Alexander the Great,” he continued. “And Hitler will be seen like that: like Napoleon, like Alexander, not like some weird monster who is unique in his own category — no, he is just going to be seen as a great European leader.”

Why are you allowing the taxes YOU pay to subsidize fascism? Homegrown right-wing, Christian extremism has taken more lives, and is a greater threat to the average American than Islamic extremism ever will be. Are you going to wait until your own friends and family members are being slaughtered in the streets? Are you going to wait until they’re

disappearing under suspicious circumstances? Are you going to wait until you yourself are interned in a camp? Or are you going to join your local radical grassroots organizations that are fighting to save this country?

At times like these, it is worth remembering the words of Holocaust Survivor Martin Niemoller:

*“First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.
Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.”*

LIFT

Today

BASH

Tomorrow



New Slaves: Mass Incarceration in the United States of America

By Sergei Zhukov

There is a disturbing problem in the United States criminal justice system. International human rights laws dictate that the aim of all penal systems should be that of rehabilitation, yet the number of people in prison in the United States has quadrupled since 1980. Despite making up only 5% of the global population, the USA incarcerates almost 25% of the world's prison population. The skyrocketing rates at which we imprison our citizens cannot be separated from the problem's roots in slavery and racial discrimination if we are to create a truly just legal system for the future.

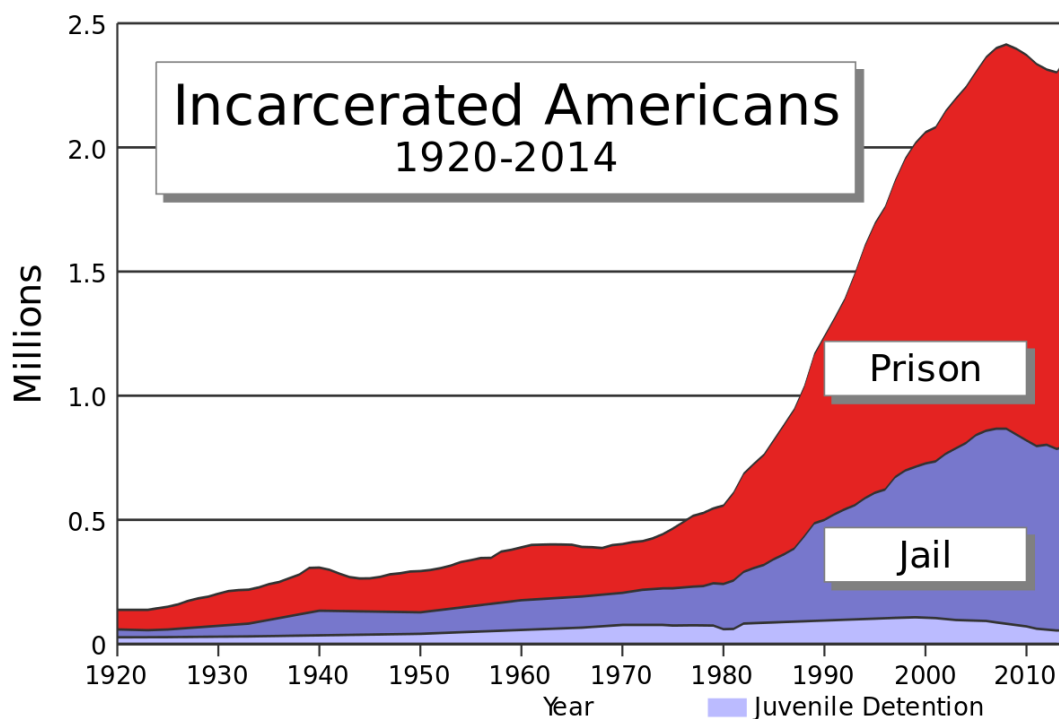
As of 2013, more Than 2 million people are imprisoned in the United States. If you broaden the definition of correctional supervision to include those on probation and house arrest the figure balloons to nearly 7 million. Even at the height of Stalin's reign, official Soviet archives indicate that there was only 1.6 million people in the Gulags, a per capita rate only slightly higher than our own. (History of Stalin's Gulag)The root of our modern criminal justice system is in slavery. Despite outlawing slavery, the 13th amendment makes an exception for use as penal punishment. This lead to harsh racial discrimination throughout reconstruction and the Jim Crowe era that kept black Americans second class citizens all the way up until the civil rights movement. Miraculously, the mass movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and others gave all US citizens full equality in the eyes of the law, no matter their religion, ethnicity or beliefs. Sadly, I fear that if Dr King had lived to see what was to come at the end of the 20th century, he would be quite disappointed that his dream had not been actualized. Beginning as early as 1968, aides in the Nixon administration have testified that the war on drugs was devised specifically as a way of neutralizing the threat of "blacks and hippies" that the government perceived in the Leftist Civil Rights and anti-Vietnam war movements. The war on drugs caused the number of people in prison to rise out of control. The harmful effects of marijuana were deliberately exaggerated. Despite being

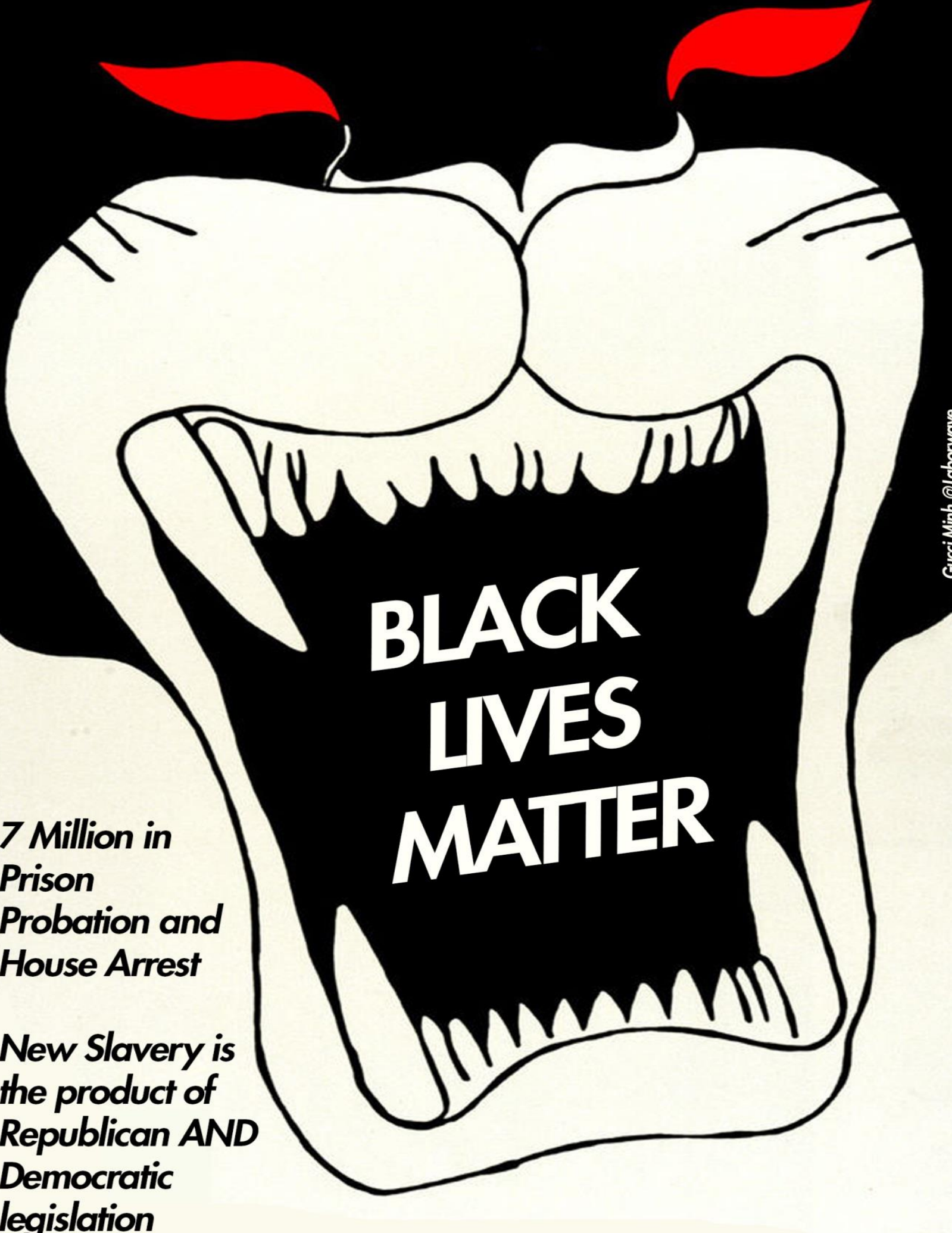
IF THIS IS FREEDOM,
WHAT IS PRISON?



chemically the same drug, powdered cocaine and crack cocaine were given different sentences, with the lesser being given to cocaine, the more expensive and traditionally White person drug. Throughout the war on drugs, black people have been incarcerated at a rate 10 times higher than whites, despite using drugs at the same rate. (ACLU). In the Reagan, Bush and Clinton eras, the number of people in prison eventually surpassed 2 million people as the turn of the millennia approached. The Crime bill of 1994 and Clinton's "3-strikes you're out" policy meant thousands of completely non-violent drug offenders in the United States have life sentences.

But all is not lost. The problems of mass incarceration are being brought to the forefront for the first time. Marijuana is being fully recreationally legalized in numerous states in a domino effect that is likely to culminate in the nationwide legalization of cannabis, medical or otherwise. After that, it is reasonable to assume that we will follow in the footsteps of more progressive nations that have fully decriminalized, though not fully legalized, all narcotic drugs. The question remains: Will we allow a multi-billion dollar industry to spring up out of seeming thin air, making mostly white people rich, while millions of black and latino Americans are in prison for cultivating the exact same plant? If we are to create a more perfect society, with equality and justice for all, then the answer to this question must be no. In the majority of states, those who have been convicted of a felony lose their right to vote permanently. How can we call ourselves a true democracy when we relegate so much of our population to second-class citizenship in the name of the archaic and draconian laws of a bygone era?





**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**

***7 Million in
Prison
Probation and
House Arrest***

***New Slavery is
the product of
Republican AND
Democratic
legislation***



MAKE MILITIAS

GUCCI MINH @AESSOCDESIGNS

COMMUNIST AGAIN

Guns: Our Only Defense against White Terror

By Laura B

After a mass shooting at a country music festival in Las Vegas left 58 people dead and another 527 injured, the gun debate has been thrust yet again to the forefront of American political discourse. We see this each time a mass shooting erupts: Democrats begin calling for tighter gun control and Republicans lash back. As socialists, though, many of us are lost somewhere in the middle. Unlike the Democrats, we acknowledge the legitimate purposes of firearms to protect ourselves from a tyrannical government, as well as from the far-right who target oppressed groups. Though, many of us also disagree with the very principle that people should have weapons capable of such mass destruction.

I think the majority of us agree that this debate has no foreseeable end. Both parties have too much to gain, and to lose, by wavering on their position. Because we live in a culture where shootings and intense violence against minorities does occur, we need to arm ourselves. The typical Republican argument that, “The only thing that can stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun” is flawed. In a mass-shooting scenario it is very rare for an armed citizen to actually end the situation. There are a few reasons for this, but it ultimately comes down to this; the “good guy with a gun” is woefully unprepared to respond in this situation. Mass-shooter events cause intense amounts of confusion and panic and the average gun-owner is not prepared to face these circumstances. Trying to “be a hero” in a situation like this can just make things worse.

The typical liberal argument that, “Normal citizens don’t need guns” is also flawed. Unfortunately, we live in a world where citizens do need to be armed, specifically minority citizens. Police brutality against people of color, and specifically young Black men, is a serious problem. Gay-bashing is still a popular pastime. Trans women (and again, specifically trans women of color) face 4.3 times the risk of being homicide victims than the general population of women, in fact in 2017 we have already seen 21 trans women slain for their gender identity. Hate crimes against Muslims, and those perceived to be Muslims, have been steadily on the rise since 9/11 and, more recently, since the election of Donald Trump.

**SOMETIMES IF YOU WANT TO GET RID OF THE
GUN, YOU HAVE TO PICK THE GUN UP.**

-Huey Newton



Rape culture is still prevalent and thousands of women are sexually harassed and abused every day. The American justice system is not in place to protect our citizens who are working class, women, people of color, or queer, it is in place to protect the wealthy, white, heterosexual men who established and continue to run it.

Furthermore, the idea of gun control is rooted in white supremacy. When the Black Panther Party took up arms and began patrolling their communities to protect against rampant racism in policing, in full compliance with California law, white supremacists got scared. In fact, it was a Republican, Don Mulford, who championed a bill stripping Californians of the right to openly carry fire arms.

The police do not protect communities so our communities must protect themselves. We've seen this trend throughout American history; the Black Panther Party for Self Defense organized to police the police and to protect the Black community from police brutality and hate crimes; the Pink Pistols organized as a gay gun club to train members of the queer community to protect themselves against gay-bashing; the John Brown Gun Club, Huey P Newton Gun Club, Socialist Rifle Association, and a plethora of other left-leaning self-

defense initiatives have experienced a surge in membership since the election of Donald Trump.

While many of us may not like it, the leftist community must embrace guns. With membership in far-right, Neo-Nazi organizations on the rise, events like those in Charlottesville will become more common. Right wing organizations are armed and trained to use their weapons against leftists and minorities so we must arm and train ourselves as well.

All the training in the world may not be able to end tragedies such as what happened in Las Vegas, and in all honesty, I don't have a solution to that problem. However, if we allow ourselves to go along with the Democratic party, we will be making it harder for communities who are already being targeted to protect themselves. By making sure we are armed and trained, we can protect ourselves and others from becoming victims to the hatred and ignorance that wishes to see us eradicated.

BASH THE



PATRIARCHY



The Union Makes Us Strong: Music and the United States Labor Movement

By Dillon Henry

The importance of music throughout the history of the labor movement in the United States cannot be overstated. However, it was not until the dawn of new musicology that much serious scholarly work was done on topic. Musicians of both academic and folk backgrounds, historians, and sociologists have all contributed research on the movement, which provides a unique depth and variety of sources. Still, because this is a vast topic that has roots in numerous disciplines, there is ample room for further research.

From the first national labor union in the United States in 1866 to the New Deal era and through the 1950s, the labor movement played a pivotal socioeconomic role in American history. Even in the movement's humble beginnings, music was vital in spreading its message and attempting to unite the working class across the country. Most of the movement's songs were repetitive and memorable, making them easy to sing; the lyrics glorified work, promoted brotherhood, and rejected the excesses and exploitative practices of a ruling capitalist class. While the organized

labor movement and union membership have waned considerably since the second half of the twentieth century, the music has lived on. With the advent of new musicology, the repertoire has, in recent years, benefitted from serious scholarship. This paper will focus on: books and articles about the general history of music and social movement in the United States; sources focused on describing discrete aspects or chronological segments (e.g. a specific geographical region or decade) of music and the labor movement; analytical sources focused on the music and history of labor songs themselves; and sources tracking the labor movement singer, who would become important with the advent of recording technology and keep the spirit of the movement alive even into the present day.

Because the labor movement in the United States was so far-reaching over time and place, many sources narrow their focus on a single time, location, and/or aspect of the movement. Indeed, this is where the bulk of research on the movement's music lies, and the blanket category

under which most of the consulted sources fall. It is not possible to address all of them in such a short space (true in all the categories in this paper, but mostly so here), but a few have been singled out for further consideration.

In *For Democracy, Workers, and God: Labor Song-Poems and Labor Protest, 1865-95*, Clark D. Halker examines labor music from the immediate aftermath of the Civil War to the end of the nineteenth century. His numerous endnotes and matter-of-fact prose make his writing reputable and easy to follow. He makes a case for his thirty-year time span in terms of the goals of the movement as well as the character of labor song-poems produced in this time frame. These change drastically at the turn of the century with the rise of socialist ideology among radicals in America: "... the older form and the vision of Gilded-Age song poets would become an anachronism to radicals, who argued that socialism offered a more relevant and useful way to understand capitalism and to structure labor's advance. ... Radicals after 1900 employed a song-poetry qualitatively different than that of Rees Lewis and Michael McGovern." Halker's logical beginning and ending points illustrate that such a culture and movement did not exist unbroken and unchanged, which is important to recognize to avoid sweeping, inaccurate generalizations.

This change is strikingly evident when one skips forward in time and reads Robbie Lieberman's *"My Song Is My Weapon": People's Songs, American Communism, and the Politics of Culture, 1930-50*. This timeframe surrounding World War II and the emergence of a Soviet power provides a wildly different backdrop for music and the labor movement. Lieberman writes of the "Coops," the United Workers Cooperative Colony, a housing project in the Bronx, of whom the vast majority of its thousands of tenants were Communist or pro-Communist. "The Coops nurtured the Communist movement culture through activities and organizations, beginning with the Young Pioneers, a CP [Communist Party] group that children could join at the age of eight. ... All these activities had some radical political content. For example, choral groups sang left songs and Red Army songs. Athletic teams wore shirts with slogans such as 'Free the Scottsboro Boys.'" Lieberman paints a different picture of the movement, especially when one considers the onset of McCarthyism and its surrounding controversy and hysteria.

For a detailed account of a still more specific location and timeframe during the labor movement, there is Vincent J. Roscigno and William F. Danaher's *The Voice of Southern Labor: Radio, Music, and Textile Strikes (1929-1934)*. The authors approach the topic from a sociological point of

view, while also providing the historical context of mill villages, radio station foundings, and strike events. They dug up and used over one hundred interviews of mill workers from the time period for this book. “These interviews, used throughout the book, speak to issues of work life, family life, and changes in each. Moreover, many of the workers discuss the emergence of radio, the role of music in their personal and family lives, hearing FDR on the radio,

and the strikes that unfolded in their own mill villages.” These interviews no doubt took painstaking effort to retrieve, listen to, and analyze, and it is no surprise why the authors relegate their book to such a brief timeframe. This keeps their book focused, and their commitment is evident, and it shows just how sharply focused research on this sprawling topic can be.

The Music

While many sources on music in the labor movement focus primarily on the music’s role in organizing, mobilizing, and uniting laborers, there are a number of sources that look at the songs themselves. Terese Volk’s “Little Red Songbooks: Songs for the Labor Force of America,” looks at the songbooks used in four labor colleges in the United States. She describes the life at these colleges and discusses their songbooks: “The songs in these songbooks belong to the people. Their melodies were, in nearly all cases, those of the folk or popular songs of the day or were hymn tunes. What made these songs into special labor bibliography, but Edith Fowke and Joe Glazer’s *Songs of Work and Protest*:

songs is that they were nearly all parodies written by workers. (There were some composed songs; the best known of these were written for the IWW.)” She provides a useful table that lists selected, popular labor songs and the accompanying tunes that they borrowed. Though she looks at only four songbooks, a number of the songs she lists appear in all four songbooks, and therefore highlight the popularity of a certain few handfuls of tunes: thus these four songbooks capture a wide swath of prominent labor songs.

It may seem unorthodox to include an actual songbook in a *100 Favorite Songs of American Workers Complete with Music and*

Historical Notes is a surprisingly neat, tidy, and useful compendium of labor songs. Those looking for footnote citations will be disappointed, but it is an edited collection of songs arranged for guitar and vocals with chord progressions listed, and Fowke and Glazer provide composers' and lyricists' names (when known). They also give backstory on the creation of each song (when known). For the song "Jerry Go and Oil That Car," for instance, the editors write:

It was originally sung in an exaggerated Irish dialect ... When Carl Sandburg included the song in his American Songbag he noted: "In 1884 Charles Lummis heard Gunnysack Riley sing this in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Later, as an editor, he wanted the verses and put the matter up to Santa Fe railroad officials, who sent out a general order covering the whole system, calling for the verses to 'Jerry Go An' Ile That Car.' A lost song was dug up..."

This source is not an end-all be-all for scholarly pursuits, but it provides a capsule look at the musical construction of a large number of tunes (one hundred) and a brief history on how they came to be. The book also presents an extensive index of pertinent books and recordings for further reading and listening.

Robert V. Wells is a historian first and foremost, but his experience with the guitar, learning to play and sing folk songs, led him to write his book *Life Flows on in Endless Song: Folks Songs and American History*. From the perspective of both a performer and a historian, he traces the origins and discusses the musical stylings of a number of different tunes. Not all of these tunes deal specifically with the labor movement (though there is an entire chapter devoted specifically to the movement), but they all involve themes that were a part of working-class American life. He writes of the song 'Boll Weevil': "The 'Boll Weevil' is known widely across the South in varied forms but with the same basic message: the search for a home. Striking differences in lyrics and melodies in the way this message was expressed across the South suggest the weevil spread so fast that the first songs could not keep up, inspiring constant composition in the face of this munching catastrophe." The prose is colorful and inviting, and copious endnotes allow the reader to follow Wells's research trail.

The Labor Musician

With the advent of radio and recording technology in the twentieth century, individual artists rose to prominence through their singing of worker's songs, some achieving the status of cultural icons for their representation of and speaking out for the working man.

No writing on labor musicians would be complete without mention of Pete Seeger, Ronald Cohen and James Capaldi's *Pete Seeger Reader*, which presents writings of great depth and breadth on the late musician and activist. This book is a compilation of writings by Seeger himself as well as those who wrote about him over the course of his long career, looking at all facets of his life beyond just the music. The writings are arranged almost all chronologically across seven decades, with the earliest from 1939 and the latest from 2009, and Seeger's own writings are often personal and conversational. The reader senses Seeger is there talking to him or her, painting a picture of a different, perhaps simpler America: "If you play an instrument, why don't you try this and start traveling yourself someday? Take along your music box and start off by the thumb route – hitch-hiking. Or you can ride the side-door Pullman, or if you can, if you care, ride in style behind the wheel of an automobile..." The sheer changes in subject and tone across the writings provide their own historical insights to the constantly undulating cultural landscape of America.

Woody Guthrie's autobiography *Bound For Glory* is a fascinating read as well. One gets the impression, however, especially through its dialogue, that it is at least partly fictionalized. Said dialogue is written to resemble Midwestern American vernacular, and it is at times nearly painstaking to parse: "...'cause, ya see, men, I jes' happen ta believe they're right an' you're wrong.' 'You an' yore letter, an' yore pack of mangy curs! Boom town rats!'" But if one can accept this book as sensationalized and get comfortable interpreting the dialogue, it gives a unique (albeit slightly fantastical) first-hand glimpse into the life of one of the most famous labor troubadours.

Bryan Garman traces a retrospective view of the lineage of labor singers in his *A Race of Singers: Whitman's Working-Class Hero From Guthrie to Springsteen*. In particular, as could be inferred from the title, he connects this style of musician to the writings and ideas of Walt Whitman. He does not talk so much about the labor movement itself, except for where it pertains to the ideologies of specific singers. Still, his writing is well-researched, and takes the reader closer to the present day, in its discussion of Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen, both of whom have carried on the tradition of Guthrie and Seeger. The flames of the labor movement have long since died down, but Dylan and Springsteen are nonetheless couched in its traditions, and their music warrants consideration if one is to look at the labor movement's legacy.

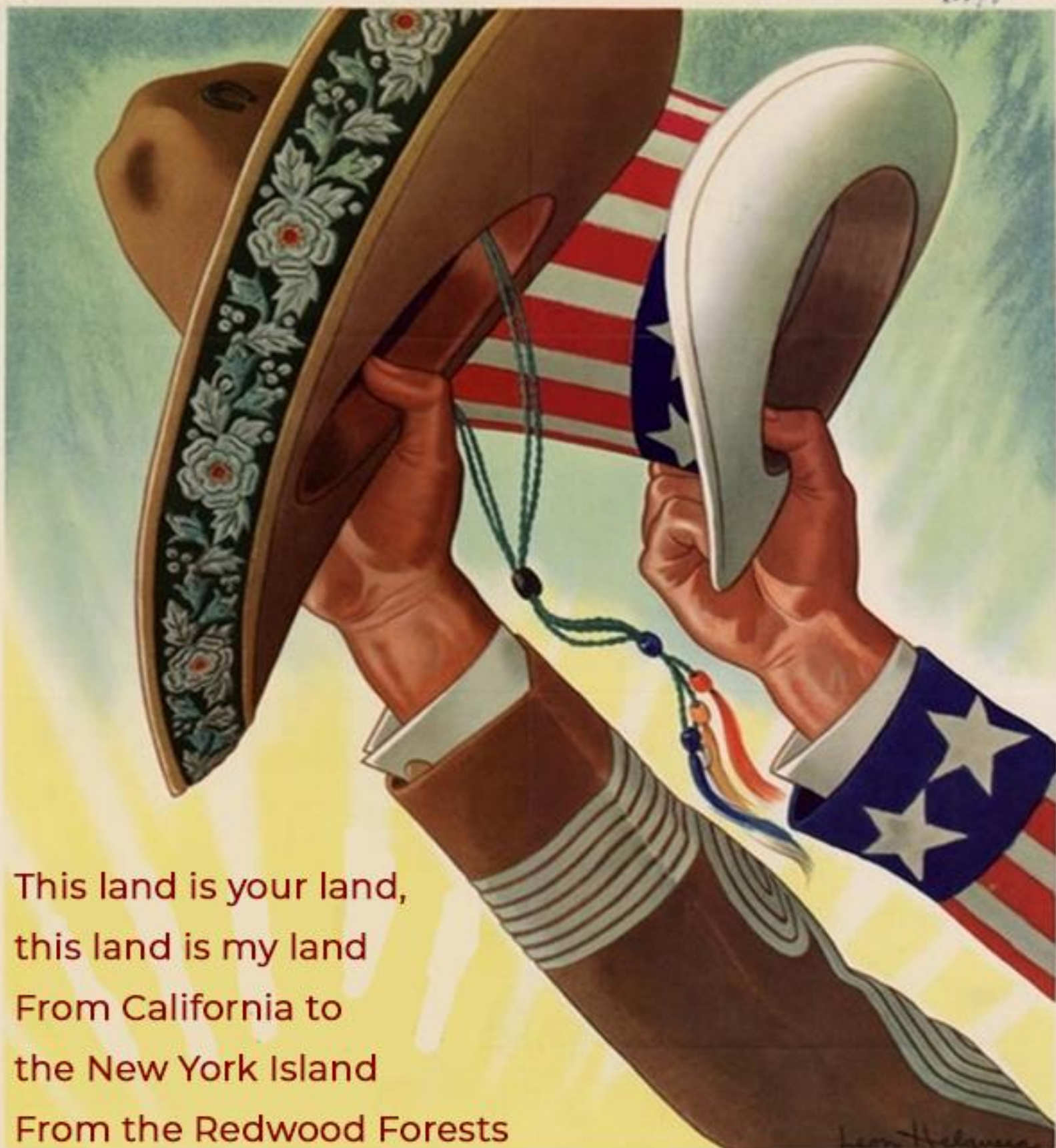
The labor movement in the United States had a long, rich, multi-faceted history in which music played an important role. Because of its social, cultural, and political angles, its broad geographical scope, and its almost one hundred year-lifespan, the movement has not yet been exhaustively chronicled. The survey here offers a(hopefully) useful, but incomplete scaffolding for studying the myriad dimensions of music's role in the labor movement. Not every source consulted could be adequately addressed in a document of this length, but a more complete bibliography below includes additional satisfactory sources. There is much more research and writing to be done on specific timespans, regions, and singers with regards to the movement. That being said, there are more than enough resources currently available to guide and aid interested scholars, and these sources come from a variety of authors: academic musicians, folk musicians, sociologists, and historians, among others. This provides the future researcher with differing focuses and viewpoints, which can shape a more complete overall understanding of a topic than sources coming from a single discipline. As the bulk of the scholarship in this area is recent (from roughly the 1980s onward), there is little doubt that it will continue to flourish in the future.



**SOUNDCLOUD RAPPERS
UNDER CAPITALISM**



**SOUNDCLOUD RAPPERS
UNDER COMMUNISM**



This land is your land,
this land is my land
From California to
the New York Island
From the Redwood Forests

**This land was made
For you and me!**

The Environmental Collapse Reaches American Shores

By Eugene V Dabs

Everywhere you look it seems the pillars of modern civilization are collapsing. Climate change is causing mass chaos the world round. The same rising temperatures that instigated the recent record-breaking droughts in places like Syria, California, South Africa and Brazil have now begun to manifest themselves in the worst Hurricane season in recent memory.

Hurricane Harvey is the wettest Tropical Storm to hit the United States in history. Leaving behind up to \$200 Billion dollars in damages, it is clear that some regions of Texas will simply never recover. Hurricane Irma, one of the largest and most powerful storms ever recorded left a path of destruction through the entire Caribbean before making landfall in Florida. While the Southeastern United States and the Caribbean were still recovering from these mega storms, Hurricane Maria has left in its wake a completely destroyed Puerto Rico. The entire island remains without power

more than a week after the hurricane made landfall. The estimated economic destruction will set the US colony back *26 years*.

To put it in perspective, the Great Recession of 2007-09 decreased the per capita GDP of the United States by 9 percent. Maria will decrease the per capita GDP of Puerto Rico by *21 percent*— a cumulative \$180 billion in lost economic output.

Millions of people remain without food and water. In some areas, morgues are literally overflowing with dead bodies. The lack of electricity means that the elderly and others who depend on modern medical technology, are dying en masse.

As President Trump flounders, lashing out at mayor of San Juan, Carmen Yulin Cruz on twitter, the death toll is expected to sky rocket into the hundreds.

SOCIALISM

or

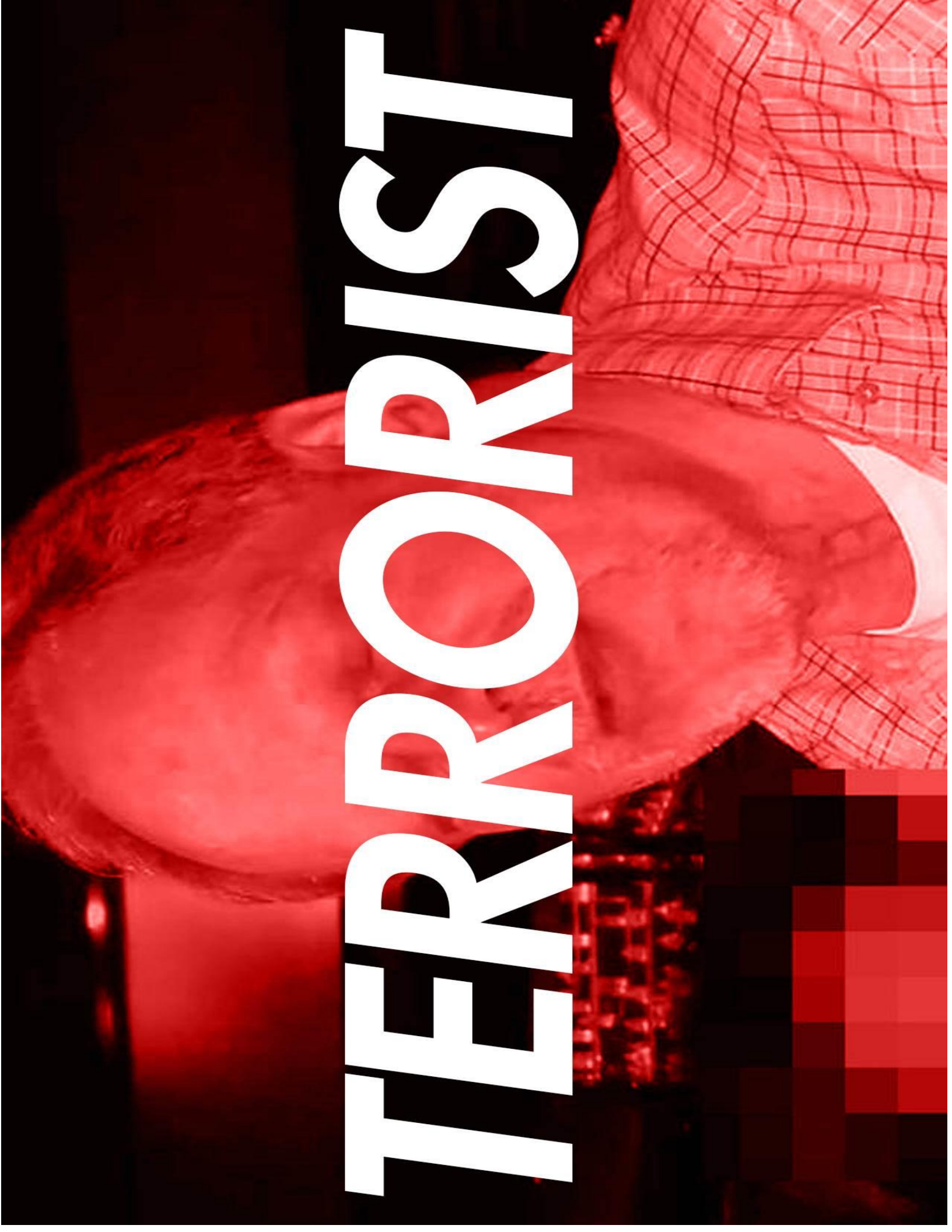
Extinction

“If we don’t solve the logistics, we are going to see something close to a genocide,” she said at a press conference. “We are dying here. I cannot fathom the thought that the greatest nation in the world cannot figure out the logistics ... for a small island of 100 miles by 35 miles...So Mr Trump, I am begging you to take charge and save lives. If not, the world will see how we are treated not as second-class citizens but as animals that can be disposed of. Enough is enough.”

“This is an island, surrounded by water. Big water. Ocean water,”

Trump replied, excusing his administration’s inaction in an attempt to save face while Americans die. The ‘big water’ never seemed an obstacle when Trump threatened genocide against the people of Korea, more than 5,000 miles across the Pacific Ocean. So why is it an obstacle when our people are dying in our own backyard? Are we witnessing the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina unfold once more? The similarities are uncanny. From the apish and irresponsible behavior of the United States leadership to the poor, mostly non-white demographic of those affected. It is clear that the ultra-wealthy elites of the world are happy to hide in their bunkers while the working class is left to die. The responsibility of climate change and global warming can be completely levied to just a handful of mega corporations, yet it is the most oppressed and poor people of the global south that are faced with the most dire consequences of the Anthropocene. For how long will people allow capitalism to destroy the environment, poison our atmosphere and destroy the homes and lives of the working people of the world? For how long will the top 1 percent escape justice for their crimes against humanity?

TERROPIST



Spangled Suicide Bombers: The Return of White Terror

By: Gucci Minh

On the night of October 1, 2017, a white gunman opened fire on a crowd of concertgoers on the Las Vegas Strip in Nevada, leaving 58 people dead and 546 injured. Just weeks later, a white Veteran of the United States Air Force slaughtered 26 church-goers in Texas. The perpetrator had been dishonorably discharged on 4 charges: assault on his wife, aggravated assault on his stepson, two charges of pointing a loaded gun at his wife, and two counts of threatening his wife with an unloaded gun.

We have heard all sorts of narratives spring up, hoping to explain what can drive seemingly normal people to commit mass murder. The reasons range from the lack of proper gun regulation, to economic anxiety and declining mental health. The real explanation is...much more sinister and disturbing.

What *very few* publications of any kind mention is the modern phenomenon of the radicalization of young, conservative men via the internet. According to Professor of Political Science George Michael, "right-wing terrorism and violence has

a long history in America". Michael wrote quite extensively on this issue in his book *"The Enemy of My Enemy: The Alarming Convergence of Militant Islam and the Extreme Right"*

The book examines the similarities between Religious fundamentalist organizations that have become increasingly popular in the Middle East, as well as in the west. It was published in 2006, well before a whole chain of events that would push these fundamentalists even farther to the right, including Obama's election, the Great Recession, the Occupy movement, the Arab Spring, and the rise and fall of ISIS. Despite lower wages and declining standards of livings across the board (except in Marxist China), one key factor managed to magnify and exacerbate every socio-political issue in the modern era: internet access. The Egyptian Revolution of 2011 would not have been possible without the smart phone and Twitter; neither would the Occupy movement, nor any of the popular movements that took root in its wake such as Black Lives Matter and Standing Rock.

The smartphone and internet-access is only a tool however, and it is a tool that is similarly being exploited by the right. The Obama election and the Baltimore and Ferguson riots that took place thereafter were a wake-up call to racists. To their perverse minds, that status-quo racial solution of carceral slavery and mass slaughter via police brutality would no longer work. They have experienced the breakdown of Police confidentiality via popularized cell phone usage. In the era of the iPhone, anyone can record Michael Brown getting choked to death for selling cigarettes. Anyone can record their husband, or wife, son or daughter getting shot to death for no reason. Just as these tragedies acted as an awakening for people of good conscience, it acted as an awakening for the folks that revel in seeing innocent people of color murdered.

All over the country, white people were at, and continue to remain at, DEFCON 5. They have been panicking that Obama was a “Kenyan Islamist Socialist”. All of the while, Islamic terror incidents reached a Fever pitch in Europe, with hundreds being killed in various massacres related to the spillover of the Syrian Civil War. The panicked (and increasingly broke) white has looked to the internet for answers. This resulted in an eclectic confluence of

various online identities, into a semi-coherent cocktail of “White Ethno-Nationalism”. These identities include Gamers and Anime Fetishists (4chan), the remnants of the Libertarian/Tea Party movement, the sexually frustrated (/r/Incels), Doomsday preppers, Apocalyptic Protestant Christians, anti-Vaxxers and Flat Earthers, and so many more.

Millions of impressionable, young kids have been and are being indoctrinated into hardcore Nazi ideology via the internet. Online communities of this nature have long been a breeding ground for the social outcasts, the Nerds and the lonely. To capture the full scope of the predicament we find ourselves in, we must examine the entire history of Civilian Terrorism in the United States.

The Colonial Era:

The story begins in 1539. Hernando de Soto, a bloodthirsty Spanish conquistador had recently defeated a band of Timucua warriors in Florida. De Soto massacred 200 Timucua and enslaved the women in what would become the first large-scale massacre of Native Americans by Europeans.

In 1540, de Soto's expedition would go on to burn down the Native Settlement at Mabila, roasting 2,500 men, women and children alive in their homes. It wasn't until 9/11 that so many would be killed in a single attack. The next few centuries were characterized by scores of attacks of similar nature.

These terrorist attacks brought out the upmost depravity and moral perversion in the European thieves. Men women and children were subjected to beheadings, hangings, crucifixions, burnings at the stake, mass immolation, rape, starvation, biological warfare via Smallpox, and enslavement. In a few cases, the Europeans forced their Black Slaves to conduct these massacres on their behalf. Lord only knows what tragedies the Settler-historians didn't care to record, or has been lost to the sands of time. It should also be mentioned that first hand Settler historians are often the only sources available on these massacres. As such, it is unknown to what extent the death tolls are exaggerated or under reported. What is known however is that the Settlers felt no inner turmoil at the horror they would unleash, and even reveled in it. At the Staten Island Massacre in 1604, Dutch settler Cornelis van Tienhoven, attacked a village of Raritan Natives. Tienhoven original only intended to demand compensation for some stolen pigs, but the men he commanded begged to massacre the Natives and he eventually consented.

By the end of the 19th Century, the era of Native massacres was winding to an end. In 1890 a Sioux Ghost Dance Ritual at Northern Lakota reservation in Wounded Knee, South Dakota proved justification enough for the US Army to intervene. The 7th Cavalry division attempted to confiscate the Sioux's weaponry which lead to more than 300 people being killed, mostly elderly women and children. Author L. Frank Baum, best known for *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, wrote:

"The Pioneer has before declared that our only safety depends upon the total extermination of the Indians. Having wronged them for centuries, we had better, in order to protect our civilization, follow it up by one more wrong and wipe these untamed and untamable creatures from the face of the earth."

In 1924, the last renegade Apache Warriors were captured by the government. This brought to close an era of heroic resistance to imperialism that spanned more than 400 years. War, enslavement, epidemic disease and deliberate

ethnic cleansing on behalf of white Europeans lead to, in some cases, a 98% depopulation rate. Renowned anthropologist Henry F. Dobyns estimates the pre-Columbian population of North America at around 18 million. Today there are just 2.9 million.

In August 1829, a series of riots took place wherein mobs of hundreds of mostly Irish immigrants attacked and burned the black neighborhoods of Cincinnati. Thousands of people of color became refugees and fled north for Ontario, but a heroic few organized to defend themselves. They were subsequently arrested. Similar incidents took place in Cincinnati in 1836 and 1841 as well as in Washington DC in 1835 due to competition for work in the new struggling Industrial economy.

On August 21, 1831, the slave Nat Turner led an armed insurrection in Southampton, Virginia. Going from plantation to plantation, Nat Turner and his followers freed fellow slaves, taking whatever guns and horses they could. Within a few days, the authorities had quashed the rebellion. Though it would go on to be remembered as the most successful slave rebellion in United States history, the rebellion unleashed a vitriolic frenzy of hatred. 56 slaves were executed, many of which were actually innocent. Fearing future rebellions, whites began to form militias that massacred more than 120 people in the area. Across the South, state legislatures passed new laws prohibiting education of slaves and

free black people, restricting rights of assembly and other civil rights for free black people, and requiring white ministers to be present at all worship services.

On March 6th, 1863, during the height of the civil war and following the signature of the Emancipation Proclamation a riot broke out in Detroit where at least 2 people were killed, and hundreds of people of color were beaten. This event was then called "the bloodiest day that ever dawned upon Detroit." And led to the establishment of Detroit's first full-time police force.

In July of that year, the New York Draft riots broke out. 120 were killed and thousands were injured. The riot raged so fervently over the course of 4 days, that it took the combined force of the Union Army, the NYPD and the New York State Militia to put it down. Both events were triggered by new draft laws. The white working class of the north had no intention of being drafted into a war that they viewed as being waged for the benefit of people of color, and also feared the economic competition that black refugees would bring.

Reconstruction and The Jim Crow Era:

With the end of the Civil War came the short lived period of reconstruction, but by 1877, the North had given up on trying to rehabilitate the south. Historian Rayford Logan calls this period 'the nadir of American race relations'. As the North's influence began to fade, new laws were implemented across the south that stripped black people of their newfound rights. Over the next few decades, dozens of racially motivated massacres would take place, almost all of them against African Americans. The NAACP calculates that between 1889 and 1922, at least 3,500 people were lynched. Historian James Loewen notes that lynching emphasized the helplessness of blacks: "the defining characteristic of a lynching is that the murder takes place in public, so everyone knows who did it, yet the crime goes unpunished."

Many comparisons can be drawn between Tsarist Russia, the Jim Crow south and the terror that both would inflict on lower classes. 1861 saw both the first shots of the American civil war, as well as the Emancipation Manifesto, the legal abolition of serfdom in backward and agrarian Russia. The liberal reformist Tsar Alexander II was responsible for the liberation of more than 23 million Russian serfs, who thereafter gained the full rights of citizens including the right to own property and freely marry.

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation promised a lot but accomplished very little. Though legally they were free, former slaves languished under the same poverty and oppression that they always had. As reconstruction was abandoned, the small strides that African Americans had made were rescinded during the brutal period of Jim Crow reaction.

Alexander II's Emancipation Manifesto encountered many of the same pitfalls. Former serfs were thrust into conditions often worse than ever before. Though the serfs were granted small plots of land, the serfs of private estates received less than they needed to survive. Now subject to taxation, most serfs were forced to give all of their harvest away, leaving none for sustenance. Not at all unlike the system of share-cropping in the American South- the worst-off of the serfs were forced to rent land from their former masters. These disruptions to Russia's agricultural production lead to famine and widespread civil unrest and peasant uprisings.

In the same way that the American Civil War was the dying gasp of the colonial-era Atlantic Slave trade, the abolition of serfdom and the resulting turmoil were the dying gasps of medieval feudal Russia. The old-moneyed aristocracies of Eastern Europe and Dixie alike were buckling under the weight of a new era. To paraphrase Gramsci, the old world was dying and a new one was struggling to be born: a world of unbridled industrial capitalism.

20 years later in 1881, the unrest reached a fever pitch when the Revolutionary Socialist organization *Narodnaya Volya* (People's Will) assassinated Alexander II. The organization was part of a broader intellectual movement seeking to modernize and democratize the increasingly backwards Russia, and bring it to parity with the other leading European empires. Though honorable in intention, *Narodnaya Volya* failed to engage in the effective, long-term organizational tactics required to have a revolution, favoring Secret Society conspiracy and spontaneous acts of terrorism. The assassination brought an end to the last attempt at modernizing the Empire, and unleashed decades of ethnically motivated violence. Reconstruction had failed in America and so had the Liberal reforms of Alexander the II.

Pogrom is a Russian loan-word referring to the total destruction of Jewish populations and communities, virtually identical in nature to Jim Crow lynch mobs. The one key difference though was that instead of merely turning the other cheek in regards to these atrocities, as the American Government had done, the Russian government *explicitly* encouraged these attacks. Mass-scale anti-Semitic violence was endemic to Europe in times of hardship going back as early as the Black Plague, but the first that can be characterized as genocidal in nature were committed during the Khmelnytsky Pogroms of 1648–1657 in present-day Ukraine. Though exact figures are unknown, it is estimated that up *100,000* men, women and children were killed. Following this, there were very few large Jewish populations left in the territory of the Russian Empire until it annexed vast swaths of the Polish Lithuanian commonwealth in the 1700s. The liberation of the serfs and the subsequent economic hardship thereafter revived the notion of pogroms. According to Professor Colin Tatz, between 1881 and 1920, there were 1,326 pogroms in Ukraine which took the lives of 70,000 to 250,000 Jews, leaving half a million homeless.

Pogroms intensified greatly during the Russian Revolution and Civil War in what would become to be known as the White Terror. The White Army forces loyal to the Tsar would massacre some 300,000 people between 1917 and 1923. The press regularly urged violence against Jews.

For example, a proclamation by one Tsarist general incited people to "arm themselves" in order to extirpate "the evil force which lives in the hearts of Jew-communists."

It should, of course, be noted that this same White Army was supported by The United States, the United Kingdom and a handful of other allied nations in the form of a direct military invasion of the blossoming Soviet Union, despite having just concluded World War 1 months earlier. The British war criminal Winston Churchill even authorized the use of chemical weapons. Despite nearly a decade of war, revolution, famine and genocide, the Soviet people finally threw off the shackles of Tsardom.

Black Bolsheviks and Red Scares

The interwar period saw the emergence of a new militant black activism, no doubt inspired by the sweeping successes of the Russian revolution. This social, cultural and artistic tradition that would come to be known as the Harlem Renaissance, was championed by a new generation of intellectuals, the children and grandchildren of slaves that had won their freedom just a few decades before. The mass terror of Jim Crow created a domestic refugee crisis that saw millions of Black southerners migrate north.

It was in the aftermath of the Red Summer that J. Edgar Hoover would begin his career in government. Working for the Attorney General, he deduced that the cause of the riots were "numerous assaults committed by Negroes upon white women", "certain local agitation in a Negro lodge." and "propaganda of a radical

nature." He made no mention of the white perpetrators of violence, whose activities local authorities documented. Hoover began an investigation of "negro activities" targeting Marcus Garvey, a Jamaican pioneer of pan-Africanism and Black Nationalism. Hoover alleged that Garvey's newspaper *Negro World* preached Bolshevism and authorized the hiring of black undercover agents to spy on black organizations and publications in Harlem. This attempt to scapegoat becomes demonstrably ridiculous when you analyze Garvey's own skepticism towards Communism:

"It is a dangerous theory of economic and political reformation because it seeks to put government in the hands of an ignorant white mass who have not been able to destroy their natural prejudices towards Negroes and other non-white people. While it may be a

good thing for them, it will be a bad thing for the Negroes who will fall under the government of the most ignorant, prejudiced class of the white race"

On November 17, Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer reported to Congress on the threat that anarchists and Bolsheviks posed to the government. More than half the report documented radicalism in the black community and the "open defiance" black leaders advocated in response to racial violence and the summer's rioting. It faulted the leadership of the black community for an "ill-governed reaction toward race rioting ... In all discussions of the recent race riots there is reflected the note of pride that the Negro has found himself. that he has 'fought back,' that never again will he tamely submit to violence and intimidation." It described "the dangerous spirit of defiance and vengeance at work among the Negro leaders."

The Lynching's were, by-and-large, motivated by the fear of economic competition and the desire for White social control. Following World War I, Oklahoma was experiencing an economic slump that increased unemployment. Many veterans returning home from the war found solace in the fraternal organization of the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1921, Black Americans in Tulsa, Oklahoma were confined to the Greenwood district due to Segregation laws. The community was so prosperous that it became to be known as "Black Wall Street". There were black doctors, lawyers, dentists, and more; a thriving Black community, the wealthiest in the whole country; Tulsa was a ticking time bomb.

Between May 31st and June 1st, a white mob began attacking and burning Black Wall Street. 300+ men, women and children were killed; more than 10,000 were left homeless, and \$30 million (2017 dollars) in property damage was committed. The event was swept under the rug, scratched from the history books. It wasn't until 1996 that any sort of official investigation into the event took place. In 2001, the final report into the investigation found that Tulsa city officials had conspired with the white mob against the Black community. This fits with eyewitness testimony of Police officers joining the mob, National Guardsmen firing a machine gun at blacks, and even the use of airplanes to rain down dynamite and incendiary bombs on the community. In the aftermath of these, and many other post-war Race riots, the 2nd incarnation of the Ku Klux Klan reached its peak as its membership swelled to 6,000,000.



His judgment of men was profound. He early saw through the flamboyance and exhibitionism of Trotsky, who fooled the world, and especially America. The whole ill-bred and insulting attitude of Liberals in the U.S. today began with our naive acceptance of Trotsky's magnificent lying propaganda, which he carried around the world. Against it, Stalin stood like a rock and moved neither right nor left, as he continued to advance toward a real socialism instead of the sham Trotsky offered.

-W.E.B DuBois

The Civil Rights Movement

The 50s and 60s marked a notable shift in the nature of mass racial unrest in the United States. Now, it was the militant and organized black working class that was flexing their strength in the face of oppression. Mass media forever changed the United States government's ability to control the population. Previously, racial violence was abstracted to the point of meaningless, appearing only briefly in newspaper headlines, if at all. Now, images of innocent people being beaten, hosed and attacked by dogs were beamed into the television sets of millions of people across the country. It was this same principle that sparked outrage at the brutality of the conditions of the Vietnam war.

In 1963, riots broke out in Birmingham, Alabama after the parsonage of Martin Luther King was

bombed by the KKK. The KKK had been conducting similar terrorist acts throughout the 1950s, but they had never targeted someone as renowned as Dr. King. Eyewitness testimony reported that Birmingham police themselves had planted the bombs. The severe crackdown on the riots conducted by Birmingham PD lead to an intervention by federal troops. It was this event that catalyzed the passage of the Civil Rights act the following year.

In 1964, Dr. King received an anonymous letter from the FBI. The letter was an attempt to threaten and blackmail King. King understood the letter as advocating that he commit suicide. Here is the full text of that letter:

“KING,

In view of your low grade, abnormal personal behaviour [sic] I will not dignify your name with either a Mr. or a Reverend or a Dr. And, your last name calls to mind only the type of King such as King Henry the VIII and his countless acts of adultery and immoral conduct lower than that of a beast.

King, look into your heart. You know you are a complete fraud and a great liability to all of us Negroes. White people in this country have enough frauds of their own but I am sure they don't have one at this time anywhere near your equal. You are no clergyman and you know it. I repeat you are a colossal fraud and an evil, vicious one at that. You could not believe in God and act as you do. Clearly you don't believe in any personal moral principles.

King, like all frauds your end is approaching. You could have been our greatest leader. You, even at an early age have turned out to be not a leader but a dissolute, abnormal moral imbecile. We will now have to depend on our older leaders like Wilkins, a man of character and thank God we have others like him. But you are done. Your "honorary" degrees, your Nobel Prize (what a grim farce) and other awards will not save you. King, I repeat you are done.

No person can overcome facts, not even a fraud like yourself. Lend your sexually psychotic ear to the enclosure. You will find yourself in all your dirt, filth, evil and moronic talk exposed on the record for all time. I repeat — no person can argue successfully against facts. You are finished. You will find on the record for all time your filthy, dirty, evil companions, male and female giving expression with you to your hideous [sic] abnormalities. And some of them to pretend to be ministers of the Gospel. Satan could not do more. What incredible evilness. It is all there on the record, your sexual orgies. Listen to yourself you filthy, abnormal animal. You are on the record. You have been on the record — all your adulterous acts, your sexual orgies extending far into the past. This one is but a tiny sample. You will understand this. Yes, from your various evil playmates on the east coast to [redacted] and others on the west coast and outside the country you are on the record. King you are done.

The American public, the church organizations that have been helping — Protestant, Catholic and Jews will know you for what you are — an evil, abnormal beast. So will others who have backed you. You are done.

King, there is only one thing left for you to do. You know what it is. You have just 34 days in which to do it (this exact number has been selected for a specific reason, it has definite practical significant [sic]). You are done. There is but one way out for you. You better take it before your filthy, abnormal fraudulent self is bared to the nation.”

"A riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it that America has failed to hear?" Martin Luther King Jr. said in a speech in April 1967. "It has failed to hear that the promises of freedom and justice have not been met. And it has failed to hear that large segments of white society are more concerned about tranquility and the status quo than about justice, equality, and humanity." Like the Emancipation Proclamation, the Civil Rights act failed to elevate Black Americans to the status of whites. The Long Hot Summer of 1967, as it came to be called, saw 159 different race riots erupt in cities across America. A federal commission determined the cause of the riots to be black frustration at lack of economic opportunity. The report berated federal and state governments for failed housing, education and social-service policies. The report also aimed some of its sharpest criticism at the mainstream media. "The press has too long basked in a white world looking out of it, if at all, with white men's eyes and white perspective."

The report's most famous passage warned, "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal." Martin Luther King Jr. pronounced the report a "physician's warning of approaching death, with a prescription for life."

On April 4th 1968, James Earl Ray shot Martin Luther King with a sniper rifle, killing him. The King family and others believe that the assassination was carried out by a conspiracy involving the U.S. government, as alleged by Loyd Jowers in 1993, and that Ray was a scapegoat. Over the course of the next 2 months, the USA experienced the greatest wave of social unrest since the Civil War. In what came to be known as the Holy Week Uprising, riots broke out in more than 100 cities. 45 people were killed, and thousands were injured and arrested

The riots were political fodder for the Republican party, which used fears of black urban crime to garner support for "law and order", especially in the 1968 presidential campaign. Stokely Carmichael remarked "White America killed Dr. King last night. She made it a whole lot easier for a whole lot of black people today. There no longer needs to be intellectual discussions, black people know that they have to get guns. White America will live to cry that she killed Dr. King last night. It would have been better if she had killed Rap Brown and/or Stokely Carmichael, but when she killed Dr. King, she lost."

King's assassination and the prevailing narrative on the Civil Rights movement have become ever more whitewashed. Children today are never

taught about Malcolm X, Huey Newton, The Black Panthers or any of the other prominent figures of the Black Liberation movement. They're taught that the Civil Rights movement was successful *primarily* because of the nonviolent civil disobedience of King's Movement. What they aren't taught is that it was only in the face of all out revolution the Government finally buckled and allowed civil rights reform. These reforms were meant to placate America, and trick them into the belief that things could eventually get better. Segregation was finally legally abolished, though we all know it still exists in a myriad of forms to this day.

The riots, coupled with the growing peace movement spurred Law Enforcement agencies nationwide to become increasingly militarized, purchasing riot shields, tear gas, assault rifles and more in order to manage disobedient masses. It also spurred the Nixon administration to specifically target "blacks and hippies" in what would develop into the War on Drugs. The war on drugs has, without a doubt, been the greatest set back in Black America's quest for freedom since Dr. King's assassination. In the decades that would follow, millions of people would be jailed for the cultivation and distribution of Marijuana. In many states, felons permanently lose their right to vote, which has been coupled with Voter ID

legislation, and a variety of other measures designed to limit Black people from exercising their constitutional rights.

The New Millennia

In 1993, the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms descended on a compound owned by a religious sect called the Branch Dravidians to serve search and arrest warrants. The Dravidians, themselves an offshoot of the 7th Day Adventists, believed themselves to be living in a time when Biblical prophecies of a final divine judgment were coming to pass as a prelude to Christ's Second Coming, not at all unlike the Apocalyptic currents in the Southern Baptist Church as well as those in extremist Islamist movements. What ensued was a *51-day* siege of the compound, killing 4 ATF agents and 82 Branch Dravidians. Pause for a moment and ask yourself "how long would the siege have lasted if it were a Muslim sect and not a Christian one?"

A few years earlier, Terry Nichols met Timothy McVeigh in the Army, and they quickly became close friends. They had a common background: Both men grew up in white rural areas and disliked working with blacks. Both had tried college for a while and had parents who were divorced. They

shared right-wing political views and interests in gun collecting and the survivalist movement. The pair watched on TV as the Waco compound burned, and vowed revenge against the Federal government.

In 1995 on the second anniversary of the end of the Waco siege, Nichols and McVeigh assembled a Fertilizer bomb, and detonated it in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City. The blast took 168 lives, 19 of which were babies and young children in the building's day care center. The explosion injured an additional 680+ people, destroying 1/3 of the building, causing an estimated \$652 million worth of damage in total. It remains the deadliest act of domestic terrorism in United States history.

McVeigh gave rise to what the media would refer to as "Lone Wolf" terrorism. All in all, the 90s saw no fewer than two dozen incidents of far-right extremist violence of this nature, including bombings, shootings and even a few chemical attacks. The specific motives for these attacks are as diverse as they are disturbed including anti-Semitism, anti-Abortion

extremism, neo-Nazism, Christian Identity-extremism, the sovereign citizen movement, anti-Federal government movement.

Though not explicitly politically motivated, the Columbine School shooters wrote in their journals that they were planning an attack to rival that of the Oklahoma City bombings. This highlights the far reaching consequences that these attacks can have. In the aftermath of the shootings, all sorts of things were used to scapegoat the boys' actions, from first-person-shooter videogames to Depression and even the Goth subculture. A year after the massacre, an analysis of 37 premeditated school shootings by the Secret Service found that bullying, which some of the shooters described "in terms that approached torment", played the major role in more than two-thirds of the attacks.

The 2000s saw at least 18 instances of anti-abortion terror, culminating in the most recent attack on a Colorado Springs Planned Parenthood clinic in 2015. In 2015, Dylann Roof shot up Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Charleston, South Carolina. He later confessed that he committed the shooting in order to initiate a race war. The 2010s have seen a plethora of attacks perpetrated by far right Muslim and Christian extremists alike. As early as 2006, the FBI was monitoring evidence of communication between extremists in the United States and those in the middle east, particularly overtures from far right American groups to Hezbollah, al- Qaeda and Abu Sayyaf.

As George Michael found: "Internet technology facilitated the networking of dispersed people across national borders and different cultures." Since the mid-1990s, the global order has become increasingly challenged. Several multinational states have imploded due to ethnic tension. Large-scale immigration has put pressure on the European Union leading the UK, one of its largest members, to withdraw. The far right has risen to the challenge of challenging the global Neoliberal order, and so must we.

Nowhere is the threat of a convergence of fundamentalist Islam and the Alt-Right more prescient than in Florida. In May 2017, Devon Arthurs, a USF student and former neo Nazi, converted to Islam and murdered two of his roommates. In the Tampa apartment with the victims' bodies, investigators found Nazi and white supremacist propaganda as well as a framed picture of Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh. Yet again, we see McVeigh being idolized as a martyr by a confused and disturbed young white man. But the story goes deeper. In addition to the double homicide investigation, the FBI is also investigating the fourth roommate, Brandon Russel, a private in the National Guard, for collecting and assembling explosives. Russel spent a lot of time in chat rooms talking about blowing people up and hurting people. Russel is a member of the international

extremist group "Atomwaffen", German for "atom weapon". In short, they believe in violent forms of direct action and terrorism culminating in a bloody mass uprising and race war. They believe lone wolf acts of terror will inspire a repressed Aryan pride in the peoples of Europe and America with their ultimate goal being the creation of white ethno-states. On the adjacent page, you will find an ominous post from the AtomWaffen on 4chan. The fact that the time stamp is from the day before the Texas Church massacre leads some to speculate that the attack may have had some connection to AtomWaffen.

In addition to stockpiling weapons, ammunition, Nazi literature and a variety of potassium and ammonium based explosives, Russel was also found in possession of thorium and americium-highly radioactive materials. It is exceedingly likely that Russel was attempting to create a dirty bomb. Dirty bombs combine conventional explosives with radioactive materials, with the intent of contaminating a region with massive doses of radiation. These are not to be confused with fission weapons, which combine more volatile radioactive elements like Uranium to create a devastating blast that could level cities. No instances of dirty bombs being used have ever been recorded, but experts speculate that potential attacks would be designed to



>>147857637 (OP)

Watch the news for Texas tomorrow
Something big is coming....

be much more psychological than physical. The detonation of a dirty bomb in a metropolitan area like the I4 corridor would inflict mass chaos and panic. This begs the question: How big a threat *exactly* did Brandon Russell and his roommate pose to the public? According to the feds, a lot. Russell had enough explosives to blow up a truck and potentially kill hundreds. Specifically he had ammonium nitrate, which is the same compound used by Timothy McVeigh.

There are multiple ongoing investigations into the group being conducted by local authorities, the FBI and the military. Who knows what horror they may have inflicted had their own home not erupted in bloodshed.

So what can we do about this confluence and emergence of global far right terror? As income inequality deepens, and standards of living in the western world continue to decline, it is only inevitable that we will see more

racially motivated mass violence in the near future. But as the pendulum swings one direction, it also swings back. All over the world, millions of young people are picking up the works of Marx, Lenin and more. Millions of young people are joining the global socialist movement and getting involved in the political process. It cannot be a coincidence that this uptick in Radical behavior coincides with the fact that we have seen a whole generation of people grow up the collapse of the USSR, Islamic terror has taken up the mantle of Number 1 scapegoat. But it is not enough to simply cheer on the growing numbers of our cadre. We must go into our local communities and unite with the downtrodden and oppressed. We must inject class consciousness into the lives of single mothers working three jobs and all other strata of society that have less time for political education and involvement. As Mao said:

“As for people who are politically backward, Communists should not slight or despise them, but should befriend them, unite with them, convince them and encourage them to go forward.”

To conclude this article, I will make reference to the Netflix television series, *The Punisher* and it will include spoilers.

In *The Punisher*, our protagonist Frank Castle is an ex-special forces commando suffering from PTSD. He is on a quest for revenge to find out who killed his family and why. Along the way, he brutally murders cops, gangsters and top-ranking CIA officials alike. One of the most fascinating subplots on the show includes a therapy circle for Veterans, run by one of Castle's close friends. One of the members of the therapy circle is an older man, O'Connor, wearing an NRA hat who complains: "The real prosecuted minority today is the Christian American patriot". He goes on to mention the Liberal Gun-stealing conspiracy, and how the 'next war' will take place in America.

O'Connor goes on to take millennial veteran, Lewis Wilson under his wing. Lewis has just returned from Afghanistan and is having a lot of difficulty coping with reintroduction to civilian life. At first, O'Connor plays the part of a pseudo-father figure for Lewis. O'Connor helps give Lewis' life purpose. As soon as the pair joins up, Lewis' paranoia and delusions subside. They join together to petition outside of courthouses, in defiance of "government tyranny". This leads to Lewis being arrested. Subsequently, he finds out that O'Connor was a liar. O'Connor had been claiming to have been injured during Vietnam, but it turns out he had falsified and exaggerated his military background. Lewis, furious and confused lashes out at O'Connor. The man who had given Lewis purpose had revealed himself to be a fraud. Lewis snaps, and stabs the man to death. He then goes on a terror spree, setting off multiple explosives in down town Manhattan. Before being apprehended by the Punisher, he commits suicide.

This subplot highlights a couple of very prescient phenomenon. The most important being that old adage of "If you don't talk to them, somebody will". It is true that people like O'Connor, those who have fully subscribed to white nationalist rhetoric, are past the point of no return. There are some people who just cannot be redeemed. People like that deserve the same fate as Hitler himself: pathetic suicide in an encircled bunker.

Lewis on the other hand represents someone who might not have been irredeemable. Lewis encapsulates perfectly the type of gullible, traumatized, social pariahs that are so susceptible to indoctrination by malicious extremist organizations. These terrorists aren't some alien, foreign threat. They could be your neighbors, your classmates, your Facebook friends, or even your own family. Your "quiet nephew that plays minecraft" or "that weird uncle" could be on the edge of a free fall into White Nationalism. IF YOU DON'T TALK TO THEM, SOMEBODY ELSE WILL.

Steve Runner, executive producer on The Punisher argued that Wilson may not have become violent if he had not been betrayed by O'Connor:

"Lewis' story is a tragedy. In so many ways, if someone had just gotten an arm around him at the right time or if certain things hadn't gone the way they had gone — you know, if O'Connor hadn't lied to him, which unhinged him — he may not have lashed out. What's interesting to me is the psychology of when people are hurting, they lash out, and I think Lewis is a very extreme example of that. When people get in a hole that deep, it's incredibly difficult to see your way out."

As Communists, it is our duty to bring people together. We must befriend them, unite with them, convince them, and encourage them to go forward. It is no longer acceptable to be an armchair leftist. We must not waste our time in navel-gazing book clubs filled with aging white men. We must not waste our time masochistically debating with trolls on twitter.

***"Workers and
Oppressed Peoples
and Nations of the
World, Unite!"***



"Like a cyclone, imperialism spins across the globe; militarism crushes peoples and sucks their blood like a vampire." -Karl Liebknecht, German Communist

A Sociology of the War and Media

By Curt Schiwal

“The chief defect of all hitherto existing materialism – that of Feuerbach included – is that the thing, reality, sensuousness, is conceived only in the form of the object or of contemplation, but not as sensuous human activity, practice, not subjectively. Hence, in contradistinction to materialism, the active side was developed abstractly by idealism – which, of course, does not know real, sensuous activity as such.

Feuerbach wants sensuous objects, really distinct from the thought objects, but he does not conceive human activity itself as objective activity.”

-Marx's First thesis on Feuerbach

It is not radical to point out the hypocritical nature of U.S. Foreign policy, nor is it radical to refer to the U.S. as an Empire. Whether this is an Empire by invitation, exploitation or necessity does not matter: rule over foreign peoples is an imperial project. This project of mine is an attempt to support the Imperial Hypothesis, an old idea, with new evidence and an anti-narrative, more scientific methodology. This project rejects traditional scholarship and instead opts to look to primary accounts and structural shifts for evidence, in order to construct a historic argument rather than a narrative which affirms the imperial hypothesis. The argument of this project, working from the fundamental assertion that we are an Empire, is that the propaganda system which sustains the imperial project

works by manipulating context more than content, and that asymmetric warfare is a consequence of intentionally asymmetric organization systems, in particular economies; the military dynamic of which is a false contradiction. That while soldiers are not willing to die for oil and journalists often try to tell the truth, both are manipulated: this is an examination of how, the soldier and the journalist are manipulated by analyzing military and journalistic experience and structure, all of which point to the objective reality of the Imperial Project within the military, the government, and news stations, and even more so, how this project self-perpetuates despite the intentions of human beings.

I interviewed, first, a soldier who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He tells me about a time he met with an

Imam in a small village in Southern Afghanistan who spoke perfect English, and had a doctorate from a French university. He shared tea and laughter. The Imam identified insurgents in the village. Following several successive arrests and house clearing operations, the Imam promptly asked him and his company to leave. Though sympathetic to the Coalition forces, a foreign presence lasting longer than directly necessary made the village a target. Despite

cooperation and good intentions a relationship could not be constructed, long term. Well building to win hearts and minds is meaningless when building wells marks targets.

The soldier believes in freedom, equality and Jeffersonian democracy. He works for a moral good, for a paycheck as well; he fought for a cause he believed in.

Elizabeth Palmer, a CBS journalist commented that she was struck by how:

“...essentially humane these soldiers are, with a very strong sense of right and wrong...And how ill-equipped they were to apply that to a situation like Iraq, without enough historical, geographical or cultural knowledge to actually have really understood where they are historically, as well as culturally and physically.”

The Americans serving were cast into a difficult and almost impossible situation. The Western Military Tradition emphasizes that there is *always a solution*, however as Patrick Graham, a freelance reporter, said about Iraq in 2003:

“This country is going to hell. The Sufis and Salafis are getting together to fight the Americans.’ You couldn’t have found an editor in the states at that time who would have published a story about the relationship between Sufis and the Salafis, but it was fundamental to Iraq. Why do people-I understand it’s a very marine question, but why do people think there is a solution? There isn’t. That’s its tragedy.”

When withdrawal or troop reductions became a reality for Iraq in 2007, insurgents knew the Americans were leaving, all they had to do was wait the foreign presence out. This realization, generated a phenomenon termed *le cafard* by the French, referring to the utter, abject, and depressive boredom in the face of constant struggle, conflict and vigilance. Heat, constant war, incessant sectarian

violence and a sense of futility ran rampant in the face of the scale of the violence. Senselessness was met with senselessness. U.S. General Bolger in his book *Why We Lost* wrote that

“As autumn became winter in 2011 and then as 2011 became 2012, le cafard crept through the back corners of Afghanistan. Soldiers crawled into plastic port-a-johns and blew out their brains. Marines filmed themselves urinating on Taliban corpses and posted the videos on the internet. Denied the diversion of marijuana, hard drugs, liquor, and beer, rear-echelon types experimented with painkillers. Sometimes, alcohol was found, used, and abused. Young men huffed compressed air, a particularly risky high. The military chain of command dealt with all of this swiftly, often preemptively. Yet it still happened, a bit more with every passing month.”

The military is an organization that is near totalitarian structurally. By that, I mean that the military desires total control over the lives of the men and women who serve. This control is necessary, to ensure the effectiveness of the fighting forces but also ensure that those who serve come home safely. The U.S. Military, due to this necessarily high degree of control, both in practice and theory, also must be a focused institution, at all levels. Goals must be clear: Obama said in 2009 (as a rebuttal to Bush’s vagueness)

“I want the American people to understand that we have a clear and focused goal: to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and to prevent their return to either country in the future. That’s the goal that must be achieved. That is a cause that could not be more just. And to the terrorists who oppose us, my message is the same: We will defeat you.”

Clear and focused do not describe the actual implementation of “...disrupt, dismantle, and defeat...” the U.S. could not take the action needed in Pakistan. The U.S. military strategists could not realistically implement this, soldiers knew because generals knew. The U.S. military is a conventional army designed to operate

against a clear foe with real orders. Having the U.S. military, in particular, the Army’s infantrymen act as nation builders and trainers, occupiers and soldiers, while waging a counterinsurgency in hostile, unfamiliar, territory prevented the mission from ever being fulfilled. Attempts were made to rectify this, in

regards to deployments which will be discussed later, and strategy. The American Military tradition is Roman, Prussian, and British in heritage. The Prussian theorist of war Carl von Clausewitz is the great teacher. Two ideas of his are core to U.S. strategic operations. First, Clausewitz describes and discusses War as a wrestling match between two great men, which necessitates that the enemy is equal in form. Second, the idea of Friction; which is the idea that in war, unexpected phenomena happen, due to the realities of mobilization, weather, the limits and weaknesses of mechanical, industrial, and digital technology in the modern age, the unexpected individual discrepancies of a soldier's behavior, etc., In Iraq and Afghanistan the theoretical wrestler model did not hold, due to the asymmetric nature of the war, and the complimentary enemy strategy. Instead of direct engagements the philosophy of AQ, the Taliban and Iraqi

insurgents was summed up by General Bolger as *Enemy Advances, We Retreat, Enemy tires, We Attack, Enemy retreats, We pursue* Guerilla warfare cannot be waged by an imperial state, as warfare must be considered in relation to and as an aspect of the political economy; strategy and tactics are not separate from the relations between the means of production.

Correspondingly Army manuals were updated to meet the strategy of the insurgent, guerilla, fighters. FM 3-24 came into play as David Petraeus took command in 2006; the change in high command brought with it a change in strategy and tactics. FM 3-24 was unique amongst military manuals and army doctrine due to nine points of strategy that were designed to cope with the new logic of asymmetric "operations other than war." Such as:

- "Sometimes the more you protect your force, the less secure you may be."*
- "Sometimes, the more force you use, the less effective it is."*
- "The more successful the counterinsurgency, the less force can be used and the more risk must be accepted."*
- "Sometimes doing nothing is the best reaction."*

This could have come directly from Sun Tzu's *Art of War*, due to the similar veiled, contradictory, such as: "In warfare, engage directly, secure victory, indirectly" and "The Skillful warrior stirs, but is not stirred"

This shift in strategy was actually successful for a time, and the military situation in spring and early summer of 2007 began to improve in conjunction with Petraeus' artful manipulation of the media and new strategy. However, though this shift improved the tactical operations of American soldiers, the *fundamental* fact, and core problem was not changed: soldiers were still being asked to wage a counter-insurgency in wars they knew they could not win, performing jobs and tasks that could not together hope to win the hearts and minds needed.

Domestically hearts and minds were won. The forms of mediation between the reality of the conflict and the culture are designed to sell a product, gain ratings, generate controversy, and while not necessarily support the war, advertise it. In October of 2003 a good news and bad news debate developed. This debate was essentially between the press agencies, newspapers, and the reporters on the ground. Reporters from the *Christian Science Monitor*, *The Boston Globe*, *CNN*, *The Washington Post*, and freelance writers as well, all reported being

pressured by agencies to deliver good news and ostensibly balanced reporting. The truth is that there is no such thing as good news or bad news, nor should there be. What was really being said when good news and balanced reporting was requested was "Give us news that fits the narrative because this news does not fit with the narrative" or "we will lose ratings if we are too negative" in reality, honest.

The mere act of story selection and emphasis became an act of propaganda. As Ghaith Abdul-Ahad from *The Guardian* said:

"We are trying to cover the realities, and sometimes I think, I strongly believe that because of the security situations in Iraq, because some of us are really jaded, we are actually not conveying how horrible the situation is on the ground. I mean, I can agree with the debate that we are not getting the full picture, because the full picture is so...bad in Iraq. And still reading newspapers you get A, B, and C is bad and D and E is good, so this is kind of balanced reporting."

News is censored -not intentionally- but through self-censorship, with the obvious effect of manufacturing consent for the war. In this light, Dexter Filkins', a reporter for the *New York Times*, following comment should be considered:

“I was with those guys (marines assaulting Fallujah in November 2004) for eight days, a quarter of the unit was killed or wounded, I mean it was an absolute bloodbath. But I was there, and on one or two occasions I was able to hook up my satellite phone and I downloaded some stuff, hoping to get some stuff from my office in New York. I remember there were people sending e-mails to me in the United States telling me that was out of my mind about what I was seeing and that I was wrong. Maybe I was wrong, but I mean how would somebody in Minnesota who is sitting at their computer screen know...but anyway, that's the world we live in.”

Media mediates. As the biases present match the biases of the viewer, politics is a product which is consumed through media entertainment. The consistent misrepresentation and biased interpretation of data then, does not appear as such, due to the normalization of the bias in the institution, and after a period of time this bias becomes an entrenched, defining aspect of the media institution. Which then, rather than becoming a reason to mistrust the organization, the bias becomes a reason to choose it over others, because this process has happened to all mainstream mediating institutions; therefore the consumer of the news is a product as well. Mediating institutions produce opinions.

There is hardly ever direct manipulation of the data. Content is not manipulated directly but context

is. The limited representation of data occurs without the destruction or manipulation of content, so we must ask how is content manipulated by context then? Let's use the following example

Following the collapse of Saddam's regime in 2003 chaos reigned. The U.S. military was effective, incredibly so. However there was no real clear plan to institute an authority after the regime's collapse. There were several weeks of violence in Baghdad. The U.S. military viewed Baghdad as an overwhelming success story and presented it as such; however this is not so when compared to the reality. General Bolger at one point writes that “...cheering Iraqi citizens and helpful Marine tankers took down Saddam's statue in Firdos Square in east Baghdad.” Anne Garrels, an NPR reporter, affirms that yes, there were people celebrating but:

“...there was just as many people standing in shock. It was not just one big party, as I think the cameras made it out to be. In fact Morning Edition called me after the first feed, and they were seeing the TV coverage, and said, ‘Do you want to redo it for the next feed, because it seems like the pictures are people celebrating.’ And I said, ‘Well there are so few people celebrating the Marines had to intervene, rightly or wrongly, with a crane to pull it down.’ Many people were just sort of standing, hoping for the best, but they weren’t joyous; there was a very mixed feeling about seeing American Soldiers in their midst.”

The propaganda system *does not* directly alter content, and if so, rarely; more advanced than this, the mediating institutions of the power structure alter the *context* of the information: its value, presentation, linguistic interpretation, narrative significance, meaning etc.

In 2003 the army restructured the deployment system. They changed from one by one rotations, to unit rotations and the tour period moved from six months to one year. The reasoning was that this would allow the Army in particular to sustain a long war. Bolger describes the British as playing the role of the sage Greeks to the imperial Roman writes:

“The British, who had relied on battalion swap outs for decades in their imperial and post-imperial decades, swore by it. In the summer of 2003, facing a lengthy Iraq counterinsurgency, the U.S. army bit the bullet. One year deployments became the rule.”

Considered in relation to structures of imperialism, the reference to the British in their imperial days speaks volumes. Whether or not the soldiers or even the generals thought so, the U.S. military had become an occupation force. U.S. soldiers occupying Berlin up until the 1980’s

had yearlong division rotations, because they were occupiers.

Historically, a significant impact on this change is that the Vietnam veterans in the upper echelons of the U.S. military did not want a repeat of Vietnam, with single soldier replacements that degraded unit effectiveness over long periods and

damaged operational cohesion. The social structure of the military reflects its purpose more accurately than the generals and the media ever do. Furthermore, in Iraq and Afghanistan, even if the military does not see itself as an imperial force, pictures from the notorious Abu Ghraib prison, where insurgents were tortured and dehumanized, solidify resentment and destroy any capacity to maintain the “moral high ground”.

General Shinseki, a U.S. army chief of staff, remarked in a testimony to the senate on February 25th 2003 that “something on the order of several hundred thousand soldiers’

were needed to control Iraq, a country the size of California with a population of twenty-seven million.” His comments were brushed off by Rumsfeld who expected that they would be held as liberators- which we could have been- but we entered and acted like occupiers. Even more damaging to the situation on the ground, the U.S. Military did not actually attempt to control Iraq until the Coalition Provisional Authority stepped into place, and by then, the situation had changed due to the insurgency, in a way that required the U.S. Military to become an institution of socio-political control.

To the invading American and coalition forces, deBaathification was as much a necessity as successful engagements with the enemy were. Both were successful, but the former necessitated the destruction of the entire Iraqi structure and condemnation of any involved in the Baathist regime. This crippled the developing state, as those bureaucrats, doctors, lawyers and assorted experienced politicians who kept and understood all that was necessary for a modern state, records, tax data and the legal code, for example, were prevented from joining the state. And this crippled any developments of a police state, necessary in this area and further hampered the attempt to apply a western bureaucratic state model.

Another person I interviewed, Shaima Khinjani, told me that she would never forget the day the Northern Alliance, UN, and American Forces entered Kabul:

“I ran out into the streets, without my veil! I was so excited, so happy and the possibilities! I will never forget that day.”

Shaima worked as the head secretary for the minister of women’s affairs in Afghanistan during the reconstruction in the capital during the reconstruction.

Kabul became a relatively developed city. Shaima emphasized that a class divide developed as the nation was being built. Nation building necessitated a politically enfranchised modern bourgeoisie which meant the development of industry, government, business, and all the carry-on attached to Jeffersonian capitalist democracy. Kabul developed an economy; Afghanistan did not. Afghanistan is one of the poorest nations on Earth, with a third of its population living on near a dollar and a half a day, and the poor are almost entirely concentrated in rural areas. The high proportion of foreign aid workers, internationals, and the burgeoning political class combined to create a modern capitalist. This fact of economic growth was contained to the city, and instead of being a sign of hope to the impoverished affirmed Taliban propaganda, and the corruption within the government disenfranchised the rural population from state control.

The Imperial structure relies, always, on a basic division between the metropole and the periphery, or the hinterland; the urban center of centralized power and capital and the exploited territories which provide resources, both human and natural. The imperial structure reproduces these divisions by exporting the model of the imperial state as the “ideal” and so crafting tiers of states, with similar models and varying degrees of autonomy and domestic authority. In the classical Empires, with Monarchs the exported political structure was monarchic, today it is ostensibly democratic.

Asymmetric warfare is a direct consequence of asymmetric political economies and the problem of terror will not be resolved without a fundamental reorganization of *both* economies: one an Imperial state, one a subject territory, whose economies are not in contradiction to each other, and are mutually responsible for maintaining war.

The Imperial project justifies itself by terror it creates; the war machine is necessary to combat the violence oppression and subjugation encourage.

Until this relationship is dismantled and the Imperial project abandoned, *terror will continue*, regardless of the amount of force deployed.