

On This Site

2022-09-01

"ie. how I'm organizing the organizing."

Ok. This should probably be the first page, chronologically. For right now, that's the idea.

So, what's goin on here? What is this?

Well, this is my site. Potentially you're reading it in a pdf, in which case it would be my book. Best viewed online, though, if you can: <https://www.airandsteel.xyz/> (<https://www.airandsteel.xyz/>).

For the pdf, you can go [here](#)
(https://github.com/aaronsteel/AirAndSteel/blob/main/airandsteel_static_site.pdf)

Why?

This started as an attempt to organize my thoughts and my resources in a central hub. As I progress, it takes shape with influence from the writers I talk about. Other modern writers who are attempting the same sort of thing exist in the team at [RedSails](https://redsails.org/) (<https://redsails.org/>) ([@RedSailsOrg](https://twitter.com/RedSailsOrg) (<https://twitter.com/RedSailsOrg>), [@RodericDay](https://twitter.com/RodericDay) (<https://twitter.com/RodericDay>), [@NiaFrome](https://twitter.com/NiaFrome) (<https://twitter.com/NiaFrome>)) and [Unity-Struggle-Unity](https://unity-struggle-unity.org/) (<https://unity-struggle-unity.org/>) ([@USUMLPRESS](https://twitter.com/USUMLPRESS) (<https://twitter.com/USUMLPRESS>), [@primarycatdad](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad) (<https://twitter.com/primarycatdad>)).

As I refine my purpose, my thoughts, and my writings (ie. this site/book), I'm taking good note from all the authors I speak on. The [contributor's guide](https://unity-struggle-unity.org/submissions/contributors-guide-the-red-clarion/) (<https://unity-struggle-unity.org/submissions/contributors-guide-the-red-clarion/>) for the [Red Clarion](https://unity-struggle-unity.org/clarion/) (<https://unity-struggle-unity.org/clarion/>) has helped shape my focus, and I'm sure it'll continue to shape over time.

I am also trying to use this space as a compilation of the resources I know of. I'm going to compile resource guides for [access](/posts/on-access/) (</posts/on-access/>), for [NY resources](/posts/on-ny-resources/) (</posts/on-ny-resources/>), and for other resource lists as I find them.

Site Layout (ie. Dating System)

I'm not using dates as hard and fast times when things are being written or published. That's not the most effective usage.

These are all dated about Sept-Nov 2022 for right now. The months are just organizational chapters, right now, and they're all placed within the correct era (relatively). The ideas on the site are labelled and organized in the most relevant way possible (and I'll continue iterating and organizing as more content gets added). I'll go through how I'm using these months now:

September

This is sorta the pre-appendix.

This site organization page falls here, the table of contents and index fall here. My [resource access \(/posts/on-access\)](/posts/on-access) guide and helpful tool-tips will probably fall here as well. It'll also hold all my other resource guides, as I compile helpful lists of resources. Stuff that's useful background knowledge, but that you don't need to focus on too hard yet. Come back when it's useful. To get right to the reading, start with October.

October

That's actually right now! This is where we start. The big stuff. Probably the most important month. My goal in writing this site (ie. [On Organizing \(/posts/on-organizing\)](/posts/on-organizing)), my [values] (</posts/on-values>), my thoughts on [uniting \(/posts/on-uniting\)](/posts/on-uniting), and intro to my [philosophical influences \(/posts/on-philosophy\)](/posts/on-philosophy).

I think it'll also have some important overarching thoughts I have. Thoughts [on technology \(/posts/on-technology\)](/posts/on-technology), thoughts [on media \(/posts/on-media\)](/posts/on-media), thoughts [on learning \(/posts/on-learning\)](/posts/on-learning). Thoughts [on food \(/posts/on-food\)](/posts/on-food), [on hobbies \(/posts/on-hobbies\)](/posts/on-hobbies), [on charity and how to do good \(/posts/on-charity-and-charitability\)](/posts/on-charity-and-how-to-do-good), [on religion \(/posts/on-religion\)](/posts/on-religion).

This month paints the picture of who I am right now, what I'm aiming to do with my life. But there will be many, many

November

Right now, November is individual articles, mostly of lists. Some sorted geographically, some by time period, some by topic. These will get linked from my overarching thoughts in October, but you should be able to start at any topic or area of interest and figure things out. I'll try to backlink to relevant parts in October as well as possible, so that we can refresh the big picture. We never wanna miss the forest for the trees.

Some to start are my readings organized by geographic location. The hometown (good ol' [North America \(/posts/on-north-america\)](/posts/on-north-america)), the [rest of America \(/posts/on-latin-america\)](/posts/on-latin-america), [Asia \(/posts/on-asia\)](/posts/on-asia), [Europe \(/posts/on-europe\)](/posts/on-europe), [Africa \(/posts/on-africa\)](/posts/on-africa), [The Middle East \(/posts/on-the-middle-east\)](/posts/on-the-middle-east).

I may separate some of the thoughts on media/technology from October. I'll leave big-picture thoughts and quotes in October, but compile the larger reading lists and resources in November. [On Media \(/posts/on-media\)](/posts/on-media) -> Media List, [On Technology \(/posts/on-technology\)](/posts/on-technology) -> technology-specific reading list, etc. (TODO, as always)

December

December is the place for deep dives on individual leaders and topics. Breaking down from broader thoughts on an overall history to individual thoughts, perspectives, and learnings. Looking at things like how specific individuals lived their lives, how specific people have made progress in specific areas. We'll focus in from Cuba -> Che, from Russia -> Lenin, Feminism -> Porn, North America -> Abolition, etc. I'll still try to interlink the relevant pages as I add them. Gotta get more efficient systems for that. That's a TODO.

January

We may see that after the original few preface months, I may use actual dates to start dating in a stricter chronological fashion. That may allow for better visibility and transparency, clearer output to the reader. But January's far away, so I have no idea what articles put in that bucket may contain. Time will tell.

TODO: outline for philosophy/october, some form of table of contents that's slightly better than this (but also not the super cool automated one on the next page)

TODO: figure out how to make this the homepage maybe

index tags: Site Info, Dates, Organization, Site Map, RedSails, @RedSailsOrg, Unity-Struggle-Unity, Red Clarion, @USUMLP, Roderic Day, @RodericDay, Nia Frome, @NiaFrome, J. Katsfoter, @primarycatdad, Purpose

category tags: Site Info

On Site Contents (By Article)

2022-09-02

"aka the Table of Contents"

Here's the table of contents, sorted by date. It's autogenerated with a script.

TODO: set up the ability to also run it automatically, on commit or build.

September 2022

[On This Site \(/posts/on-this-site\)](/posts/on-this-site) - 2022-09-01 - "ie. how I'm organizing the organizing."

[On Site Contents \(By Article\) \(/posts/on-site-contents-by-article\)](/posts/on-site-contents-by-article) - 2022-09-02 - "aka the Table of Contents"

[On Site Contents \(By Category\) \(/posts/on-site-contents-by-category\)](/posts/on-site-contents-by-category) - 2022-09-03 - "this is just another sorting for the table of contents"

[On Site Contents \(By Topic\) \(/posts/on-site-contents-by-topic\)](/posts/on-site-contents-by-topic) - 2022-09-04 - "aka the Index"

[On Access \(/posts/on-access\)](/posts/on-access) - 2022-09-05 - "aka getting stuff"

October 2022

["Air and Steel" \(/posts/air-and-steel\)](/posts/air-and-steel) - 2022-10-07 - "Why the name?"

[On Organizing \(/posts/on-organizing\)](/posts/on-organizing) - 2022-10-08 - "ie. I'm an engineer and I'm serious about it."

[On Charity and Charitability \(ie. what you can do\) \(/posts/on-charity-and-charitability\)](/posts/on-charity-and-charitability) – 2022-10-09 – "Be the helper."

[On Philosophy \(/posts/on-philosophy\)](/posts/on-philosophy) – 2022-10-09 – "Philosophy 0"

[On Values \(/posts/on-values\)](/posts/on-values) – 2022-10-09 – "My highest placed value is seriousness in organizing. I believe they're one and the same. You should act with a purpose."

[On Food \(/posts/on-food\)](/posts/on-food) – 2022-10-10 – "Keep well stocked and ensure others are getting enough."

[On Siddhartha \(/posts/on-siddhartha\)](/posts/on-siddhartha) – 2022-10-10 – "Philosophy I: Understanding the River"

[On Meditations \(/posts/on-meditations\)](/posts/on-meditations) – 2022-10-11 – "Philosophy II: Understanding Aurelius (ie. Stoicism)"

[On Communists \(/posts/on-communists\)](/posts/on-communists) – 2022-10-12 – "Philosophy III: On getting fucking teargassed."

[On Learning \(/posts/on-learning\)](/posts/on-learning) – 2022-10-14 – "My lifelong passion, I guess, if I had to pick *one* lifelong passion in some arbitrary hypothetical."

[On Technology \(/posts/on-technology\)](/posts/on-technology) – 2022-10-14 – "Hint: it's a weapon"

[On Uniting \(/posts/on-uniting\)](/posts/on-uniting) – 2022-10-15 – "Work together, let's do this."

[On Wikipedia \(/posts/on-wikipedia\)](/posts/on-wikipedia) – 2022-10-16 – "or: using resources for what they are, getting the best out of everything we've got"

[On Astrology and Religion \(/posts/on-astrology-and-religion\)](/posts/on-astrology-and-religion) – 2022-10-18 – "False Prophets, Kindness, Jesus, Muhammad, Brahma, Intifada, etc."

[On Hobbies \(/posts/on-hobbies\)](/posts/on-hobbies) – 2022-10-18 – "I like doin stuff, you should try it"

[On Media \(/posts/on-media\)](/posts/on-media) – 2022-10-19 – "I'm gonna pull this out whenever someone asks me what I'm watching"

[On Sleep, and Death \(/posts/on-sleep-and-death\)](/posts/on-sleep-and-death) – 2022-10-20 – "The times when eyes get to rest closed"

November 2022

[On North American Communists \(and similar\) \(/posts/on-north-america\)](/posts/on-north-america) – 2022-11-01 – "The Hometown. Learnings from my people, all of em."

[On Latin America and the rest of the Americas \(/posts/on-latin-america\)](/posts/on-latin-america) – 2022-11-02 – "As well as all the hard working people, communist and not, fighting for the emancipation of the Latino and indigenous peoples."

[On Asia \(/posts/on-asia\)](/posts/on-asia) – 2022-11-03 – "We may as well address Mao now, since everyone keeps talking about rent these days (and I'd like to maybe own a house someday)."

[On Europe \(/posts/on-europe\)](/posts/on-europe) – 2022-11-04 – "Marx; Lenin; Stalin. If you've been putting it off, you should get to reading em. They're smart folks and they understood how the world works. Listen to what they have to say, and learn from their experiences."

[On Africa \(/posts/on-africa\)](/posts/on-africa) – 2022-11-05 – "Oh man you're gonna see the circle in a second, you're gonna love this"

[On Black Liberation \(/posts/on-black-liberation\)](/posts/on-black-liberation) – 2022-11-06 – "This is the tie-in page between North America and Africa"

[On the Middle East \(/posts/on-the-middle-east\)](/posts/on-the-middle-east) – 2022-11-07 – "Mostly concerning the Apartheid state in Palestine rn."

[On Feminism \(/posts/on-feminism\)](/posts/on-feminism) – 2022-11-08 – "Women's Liberation, Gender Studies, LGBTQ+ Politics and Media, etc."

[On Modern \(Non-Fiction\) Literature \(/posts/on-modern-literature\)](/posts/on-modern-literature) – 2022-11-20 – "There are a bunch of books around. Let's look at a few authors that have materialist perspectives, if not communist ones."

[On Fiction \(/posts/on-fiction\)](/posts/on-fiction) – 2022-11-21 – "Books, articles, short stories, novellas, zines, and other forms of words."

[On Music \(/posts/on-music\)](/posts/on-music) – 2022-11-22 – "Tunes."

[On Audiovisual Media \(/posts/on-audiovisual-media\)](/posts/on-audiovisual-media) – 2022-11-23 – "Movies, shows, videos in the news and on the web."

December 2022

[On Che Guevara \(/posts/on-che\)](/posts/on-che) – 2022-12-01 – "If you tremble with indignation at every injustice then you are a comrade of mine. ~Che Guevara' ~Aaron Steel"

[On Michael Parenti \(/posts/on-parenti\)](/posts/on-parenti) – 2022-12-02 – "Mikey P from New Yawk"

[On Covid \(/posts/on-covid\)](/posts/on-covid) – 2022-12-03 – "The (Ongoing) Pandemic."

[On Einstein \(/posts/on-einstein\)](/posts/on-einstein) – 2022-12-04 – "Another notable communist."

[On Abolition \(/posts/on-abolition\)](/posts/on-abolition) – 2022-12-05 – "Abolition reading list and tweets"

[On Marx \(/posts/on-marx\)](/posts/on-marx) – 2022-12-06 – "and Marxism, and communism, etc."

[On Engels \(/posts/on-engels\)](/posts/on-engels) – 2022-12-07 – "(the second head of Marxism)"

[On Lenin \(/posts/on-lenin\)](/posts/on-lenin) – 2022-12-08 – "Ah, now we get to this 'Marxism-Leninism' stuff."

[On Stalin \(/posts/on-stalin\)](/posts/on-stalin) – 2022-12-09 – "(The synthesizer of aforementioned 'Marxism-Leninism')"

[On Mao \(/posts/on-mao\)](/posts/on-mao) – 2022-12-10 – "...if you got a buncha Marxism-Leninism stewin in a pot, sprinklin in a bit of Mao Zedong Thought can never hurt. adds some full-bodied perspective."

[On Sankara \(/posts/on-sankara\)](/posts/on-sankara) – 2022-12-11 – "Why Sankara next? I like him. I like his discipline and ideals, I like his concrete actions, I like what he stands for to this day. I like his symbolic heart and the material change he affected, and I like how he focused on improving things for those who didn't have the vantage. He's a Robin Hood type, he's a hero in my eyes. I also like that he's a fellow guitar head, that's cool too, plus he was always fitted with the military suit and beret, I mean I could list here all day"

[On Voting \(/posts/on-voting\)](/posts/on-voting) – 2022-12-12 – "Literally just so we don't waste time"

[On Hồ Chí Minh \(/posts/on-ho\)](/posts/on-ho) – 2022-12-13 – "Uncle Ho, "

[On Pornography \(/posts/on-pornography\)](/posts/on-pornography) – 2022-12-14 – "full disclosure: I'm anti"

[On Cops \(/posts/on-cops\)](/posts/on-cops) – 2022-12-15 – "another anti, I'm afraid"

[On George Jackson \(/posts/on-jackson\)](/posts/on-jackson) – 2022-12-16 – "fitting one to come after the cops"

[On IronProle \(/posts/on-ironprole\)](/posts/on-ironprole) – 2022-12-17 – "aka Red, aka Red Army Duck, aka Junkyard Duck, aka a comrade in the Washington area who's been very helpful towards my education."

[On Kids Books \(/posts/on-kids-books\)](/posts/on-kids-books) – 2022-12-18 – "books are cool; kids are cool; what books should we be giving to kids to learn from?"

[On Red Sails \(/posts/on-redsails\)](/posts/on-redsails) – 2022-12-19 – "and Roderic Day, and Nia Frome"

[On All Power Books \(/posts/on-all-power-books\)](/posts/on-all-power-books) – 2022-12-20 – "and LASD Gangs, and @tankiepilld aka @whatsantifa aka coffeenpedagogy"

[On Red Prints Publishing \(/posts/on-red-prints-publishing\)](/posts/on-red-prints-publishing) – 2022-12-21 – "and Marxist-Leninist Reading Hub, and Mount Tai Press, and Comrade Duck aka @DengistDuck"

[On Unity-Struggle-Unity \(/posts/on-unity-struggle-unity\)](/posts/on-unity-struggle-unity) – 2022-12-22 – "and The Red Clarion, and @primarycatdad"

[On The Fall of Twitter \(/posts/on-the-fall-of-twitter\)](/posts/on-the-fall-of-twitter) – 2022-12-23 – "aka all my bookmarks"

[On Trans Rights \(/posts/on-trans-rights\)](/posts/on-trans-rights) – 2022-12-24 – "== Human Rights"

[On Indigenous Resources \(/posts/on-indigenous-resources\)](/posts/on-indigenous-resources) – 2022-12-25 – "Books and Threads"

[On RedSails Twitter and MediaLists \(/posts/on-redsails-twitter\)](/posts/on-redsails-twitter) – 2022-12-26 – "Lots of stuff Nia and Roderic posted"

[On Prole Academy \(/posts/on-prole-academy\)](/posts/on-prole-academy) – 2022-12-27 – "Briefings and Book Reviews for working people in a hurry"

[On Eugene Debs \(/posts/on-debs\)](/posts/on-debs) – 2022-12-28 – "and US Socialism in early 20th century, and the IWW"

[On Homelessness and Homeless Resources \(/posts/on-homelessness-and-resources\)](/posts/on-homelessness-and-resources) – 2022-12-29 – "This is an important topic and I want to convey the seriousness with which I care about it, but also I'm moving really fast to get stuff done. I'll come back later"

[On Unions \(/posts/on-unions\)](/posts/on-unions) – 2022-12-30 – "Why and how we should be working together"

[On Aren LeBrun \(/posts/on-aren-lebrun\)](/posts/on-aren-lebrun) – 2022-12-31 – "aka @ProustMalone"

January 2023

[On Joe Clark \(/posts/on-scottish-commie\)](/posts/on-scottish-commie) – 2023-01-01 – "aka @ScottishCommie"

[On Bail and Criminalization \(/posts/on-bail-and-criminalization\)](/posts/on-bail-and-criminalization) – 2023-01-02 – "More stuff about the Prison Industrial Complex, the psyche of those most at risk of criminalization, etc."

[On Brigid \(/posts/on-brigid\)](#) – 2023-01-03 – "aka ComradeBrigid, of Probably Cancelled Pod"

[On Foreign Languages Press \(/posts/on-foreign-languages-press\)](#) – 2023-01-04 – "an MLM Publishing House, with lots of free pdfs."

[On Yasha Levine \(/posts/on-yasha-levine\)](#) – 2023-01-05 – "a Soviet-American journalist, and historian of technology."

[On Nicky Case \(/posts/on-nicky-case\)](#) – 2023-01-06 – "a digital creator, who's made some neat stuff."

[On Communist Anarchist Society Saboteur \(C.A.S.S.\) \(/posts/on-casswantsrevolt\)](#) – 2023-01-07 – "aka @Casswantsrevolt."

[On TechEmails \(/posts/on-techemails\)](#) – 2023-01-08 – "at techemails.com or @TechEmails"

[On Alec Karakatsanis \(/posts/on-alec-karakatsanis\)](#) – 2023-01-09 – "aka @equalityAlec"

[On Historic.ly \(/posts/on-historicly\)](#) – 2023-01-10 – "at historicly.net, with @eshaLegal and @uncle_authority"

[The Cost of a Watch \(/posts/on-cost-of-a-watch\)](#) – 2023-01-11 – "originally a tumblr post, by user inkskinned"

[The Five-Four Pod \(/posts/on-five-four\)](#) – 2023-01-12 – "with Peter (@The_Law_Boy), Michael (@_FleerUltra), and Rhiannon (@AywaRhiannon)"

[People's Freedom Assembly \(/posts/on-peoples-freedom-assembly\)](#) – 2023-01-13 – "A Greensboro-based, Black (New Afrikan) and Indigenous-led decolonial socialist organization, serving working-class and houseless peoples in Greensboro."

[On Vi Hart \(/posts/on-vihart\)](#) – 2023-01-14 – "A rare middle school throwback I still stand by – and a very early source of inspiration"

[On Dilan \(/posts/on-dilanpcook\)](#) – 2023-01-15 – "idk anything about this dude but he's got some good tweets"

[On Indigenous Rights \(/posts/on-indigenous-rights\)](#) – 2023-01-16 – "and reading lists, topics of note, etc"

[On Palestine \(/posts/on-palestine\)](#) – 2023-01-17 – "From the River to the Sea"

[On Mental Health \(/posts/on-mental-health\)](#) – 2023-01-18 – "Keeping your brain thinking and feeling ok, an important one!"

[On Transit and Cars \(/posts/on-transit-and-cars\)](#) – 2023-01-19 – "and new urbanist memes for transit oriented teens"

[On New York Resources \(/posts/on-ny-resources\)](#) – 2023-01-20 – "aka stuff for those in local Lenapehoking"

[On Matt Korostoff \(/posts/on-mkorostoff\)](#) – 2023-01-21 – "An engineer creating very good visual websites and other interesting stuff"

[On Aaron Thorpe \(/posts/on-aaron-thorpe\)](#) – 2023-01-22 – "A comrade in Atlanta. aka @borgposting, aka @paradoomer, aka @thotteusstevens, aka a bunch of other @s I don't remember"

[On Z-Library \(/posts/on-z-library\)](/posts/on-z-library) – 2023-01-23 – "A useful site that's also crumbled recently"

index tags: Site Info, Table of Contents, Organization, Site Map

category tags: Site Info

On Site Contents (By Category)

2022-09-03

"this is just another sorting for the table of contents"

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[On Site Contents \(By Topic\) \(/posts/on-site-contents-by-topic\)](/posts/on-site-contents-by-topic) – 2022-09-04

["Air and Steel" \(/posts/air-and-steel\)](/posts/air-and-steel) – 2022-10-07

Philosophy:

[On Siddhartha \(/posts/on-siddhartha\)](/posts/on-siddhartha) – 2022-10-10

[On Meditations \(/posts/on-meditations\)](/posts/on-meditations) – 2022-10-11

[On Communists \(/posts/on-communists\)](/posts/on-communists) – 2022-10-12

Resource Lists:

[On Access \(/posts/on-access\)](/posts/on-access) – 2022-09-05

[On Feminism \(/posts/on-feminism\)](/posts/on-feminism) – 2022-11-08

[On Covid \(/posts/on-covid\)](/posts/on-covid) – 2022-12-03

[On Red Sails \(/posts/on-redsails\)](/posts/on-redsails) – 2022-12-19

[On All Power Books \(/posts/on-all-power-books\)](/posts/on-all-power-books) – 2022-12-20

[On Red Prints Publishing \(/posts/on-red-prints-publishing\)](/posts/on-red-prints-publishing) – 2022-12-21

[On Unity-Struggle-Unity \(/posts/on-unity-struggle-unity\)](/posts/on-unity-struggle-unity) – 2022-12-22

[On Trans Rights \(/posts/on-trans-rights\)](/posts/on-trans-rights) – 2022-12-24

[On Indigenous Resources \(/posts/on-indigenous-resources\)](/posts/on-indigenous-resources) – 2022-12-25

[On Prole Academy \(/posts/on-prole-academy\)](/posts/on-prole-academy) – 2022-12-27

[On Homelessness and Homeless Resources \(/posts/on-homelessness-and-resources\)](/posts/on-homelessness-and-resources) – 2022-12-29

[On Joe Clark \(/posts/on-scottish-commie\)](/posts/on-scottish-commie) – 2023-01-01

[On Bail and Criminalization \(/posts/on-bail-and-criminalization\)](/posts/on-bail-and-criminalization) – 2023-01-02

[On Foreign Languages Press \(/posts/on-foreign-languages-press\)](/posts/on-foreign-languages-press) – 2023-01-04

[On New York Resources \(/posts/on-ny-resources\)](/posts/on-ny-resources) – 2023-01-20

[On Z-Library \(/posts/on-z-library\)](/posts/on-z-library) – 2023-01-23

Personal Writings:

[On Organizing \(/posts/on-organizing\)](/posts/on-organizing) – 2022-10-08

[On Charity and Charitability \(ie. what you can do\) \(/posts/on-charity-and-charitability\)](/posts/on-charity-and-charitability) – 2022-10-09

[On Philosophy \(/posts/on-philosophy\)](/posts/on-philosophy) – 2022-10-09

[On Values \(/posts/on-values\)](/posts/on-values) – 2022-10-09

[On Food \(/posts/on-food\)](/posts/on-food) – 2022-10-10

[On Learning \(/posts/on-learning\)](/posts/on-learning) – 2022-10-14

[On Technology \(/posts/on-technology\)](/posts/on-technology) – 2022-10-14

[On Uniting \(/posts/on-uniting\)](/posts/on-uniting) – 2022-10-15

[On Wikipedia \(/posts/on-wikipedia\)](/posts/on-wikipedia) – 2022-10-16

[On Astrology and Religion \(/posts/on-astrology-and-religion\)](/posts/on-astrology-and-religion) – 2022-10-18

[On Hobbies \(/posts/on-hobbies\)](/posts/on-hobbies) – 2022-10-18

[On Media \(/posts/on-media\)](/posts/on-media) – 2022-10-19

[On Sleep, and Death \(/posts/on-sleep-and-death\)](/posts/on-sleep-and-death) – 2022-10-20

[On Voting \(/posts/on-voting\)](/posts/on-voting) – 2022-12-12

[On Pornography \(/posts/on-pornography\)](/posts/on-pornography) – 2022-12-14

[On Mental Health \(/posts/on-mental-health\)](/posts/on-mental-health) – 2023-01-18

[On Transit and Cars \(/posts/on-transit-and-cars\)](/posts/on-transit-and-cars) – 2023-01-19

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index tags: Site Info, Categories, Organization, Site Map

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"aka the Index"

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TODO: set up the ability to also run it automatically, on commit or build.

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index tags: Site Info, Index, Organization, Site Map

category tags: Site Info

On Access

2022-09-05

"aka getting stuff"

[Resources]

- articles
 - RedSails
- books
 - libgen
 - scihub
- academic
 - arxiv
- theory
 - marxists.org
- printed media
 - RedPrintsPub
- news
 - GrayZone

TODO: explanations

TODO: links

TODO: relate with thoughts [On Food \(/posts/on-food\)](/posts/on-food)

TODO: relate with thoughts [On Learning \(/posts/on-learning\)](/posts/on-learning)

TODO: relate with thoughts [On Media \(/posts/on-media\)](/posts/on-media)

TODO: relate with thoughts [On Uniting \(/posts/on-uniting\)](/posts/on-uniting) - sci-hub founder, other cool tech projects that materially help people - link those. personal echo examples maybe, life alert, hackathons, etc.

TODO: relate with thoughts [On Organizing \(/posts/on-organizing\)](/posts/on-organizing)

index tags: Resources, RedSails, RedPrintsPub, LibGen, Sci-Hub, ARXIV, Marxists.org, GrayZone

category tags: Resource Lists

"Air and Steel"

2022-10-07

"Why the name?"

You're tense, I'm calm. You apply excessive force; I control that force through fluid motion. That means relaxing the whole body so it can react instantly without resistance — no, without thought. Do you see now? It means becoming like clear water.

-- Spike Spiegel, Cowboy Bebop – see [this \(https://redsails.org/on-dialectics/\)](https://redsails.org/on-dialectics/)

Communism is not love. Communism is a hammer which we use to crush the enemy.

-- Mao Zedong, China

The fluidity of air, the power of steel. We'll need more quickness than water and more strength than mallets. Time's they are a-changing and, as always, we've gotta adapt to the modern era.

Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee sorta vibe, you get the picture?

And of course, with inspiration from my namesake, [Joey Steel \(https://redsails.org/dialectical-and-historical-materialism/\)](https://redsails.org/dialectical-and-historical-materialism/).

Whatever happens, happens.

~Aaron Steel [~AS], engineer. [email \(mailto:entropicemailaddress@protonmail.com\)](mailto:entropicemailaddress@protonmail.com)

index tags: Air and Steel, Aaron Steel, Name, Spike Spiegel, Mao Zedong, Joseph Stalin

category tags: Site Info

On Organizing

2022-10-08

"ie. I'm an engineer and I'm serious about it."

What are [scientists, engineers, organizers] after?

Perfectly directed effort, optimal placement in the current given scenario. To understand the problem and relevant environment; to exert control over enough relevant elements in order to achieve the desired outcome.

What does this require?

Organization.

- Scientific research and experimentation to determine the nature of a given scenario (ie. science).
 - Problem solving, building, and further experimentation (ie. engineering).
 - Discipline in work, learning, improving; focus on proper efforts and bridge-building; clarity in mind and in work; a virtuous seriousness, in all efforts and endeavors (ie. organization).
-

What is organization?

Organization is seriousness.

It is building. It is maintenance. It is crafting the environment towards desired ends. It is iteration.

It is clarity and thoughtfulness – in understanding, in planning, in communications.

It is analysis towards a full understanding of the forces at play, the problems at hand. It is learning.

It is understanding your role on an ongoing basis; constantly striving towards the optimal trajectory, always course correcting.

It is playing to your strengths while improving your weaknesses.

It is calculated action with perfected timing.

It is knowing who to look towards in a given situation; building strong safety nets; finding worthwhile leaders and role-models.

It is clarity in purpose. It is revolutionary optimism, the optimism of the will despite the pessimism of the intellect.

It is knowing that the only way is forward. It is knowing the only thing to do is buckle down and get to work. It is iteration after iteration after iteration, until you win or until you can't.

What is antithetical to organization?

Sloppiness, flippancy, a lack of direction, doomerism, dogmatism, wasting time, carelessness, listlessness, slowness.

It is giving up. It is throwing away the world we seek to gain.

It is the unseriousness – the lack of discipline – that allows for the destruction and decay of everything that matters.

You say you'd like to get organized? You say you care about the future? Then let's get serious.

Do the reading; do the work; take care of yourself (and your people) in order to fight again tomorrow.

They'll find me drowned or they'll find me thrashing. Head down, working hard – until reality disallows it.

~AS

PS. This is also the purpose of this site. Organization for me (helping organize my thoughts and compile my resources) and organization for you (figuring out your role, helping guide you towards the most effective ways that you can help yourself and your communities).

index tags: Purpose, Organization, Seriousness, Engineering, Science

category tags: Personal Writings

On Charity and Charitability (ie. what you can do)

2022-10-09

"Be the helper."

Rather than looking for a charity to donate to, I've found it useful to rather be charitable in all the situations I find myself in.

Mr. Rogers always said to "Look for the helpers" and I found that advice very meaningful growing up. But it's time to set the example while looking for the role models to emulate; it's time to be an emulatable example yourself. As I've grown into an adult, I've tried to *be* the helper in as many situations as possible.

Or, if you prefer [Marcus Aurelius \(/posts/on-meditations\)](/posts/on-meditations) to Mr. Rogers:

Waste no more time arguing about what a good man should be. Be one.

Generating goodwill is a powerful thing. We should be gaining the masses to our side.

From each according to ability – you should be giving a lot if you have the ability to do so. We should be seeking to provide for everyone who is in need.

I'll share a few stories of ways I've found to be charitable in the recent past here.

Dropped Jacket and Picking Platforms

Oct 05, 2022

Two cool things happened today.

First, at lunch, a couple kids were running past me in midtown. One of em had an open backpack and his jacket fell without him noticing. I yelled, "hey kid, you dropped your jacket!" and luckily I was able to get his attention. And in front of me, a nice lady picked up the jacket to hand back to the dude as he ran back to grab it. It was a nice moment; I'm glad the kid didn't lose the jacket.

Then, after work while waiting on the subway, a lady approached someone for help. The other party was on their phone and unreceptive, but I had glanced up and smiled when she walked to our area. She came to me next, and she asked if I could help. Her accent seemed somewhat French, but I couldn't tell for sure. I assured her I'd give it my best shot. She asked if I knew which side of the platform she had to get on if she was going to Times Square. It was an easy ask – she wanted a Brooklyn-bound train, as opposed to the Queens-bound I was waiting on, and I told her as such. That was a nice moment too; it felt meaningful being able to help her, even in such a small way.

Spotted Lanternflies and Big Macs

Nov 04, 2022

I went out for a walk a few minutes ago. As I exited my apartment, I noticed a spotted lanternfly crawling in between the doorbell and the doorframe, in a crevice too small to thwack with a shoe.

I didn't really look around, the street is always busy, I just thought "I hope nobody thinks I'm some sorta sicko" as I slipped off my right shoe and felt the cold concrete under my right sock.

I waited for a little. I always consider the fact that these creatures are merely fulfilling their design, propagating as imbibed into their nature. I consider that they've done no known wrong as I take their lives and end their ability to invade our shared earth. I rarely watch lanternflies move, I'm always quick to the draw. But I saw it feel the cracks in the brick, I saw it move carefully towards the sky. There's deep and beautiful intricacy to all animal movement, which I sometimes forget to observe in the creatures I've abstracted as dead-on-sight.

When it moved far enough from the doorbell, I swat it once. As it fell to the ground, I double tapped it, harder, at its landing spot.

While I was kneeling over the dead lanternfly, my shoe an inch above it in my hand, a young girl, maybe 12, maybe 14, addresses me: "Hey sir, do you want this Big Mac? I'm just not hungry" as she holds out a familiar cardboard box.

I'm flustered, I hadn't expected human interaction at that moment; I had just inflicted death upon the world. I half laughed and said "no thank you! have a good day though." She had kind eyes, I don't know why she stopped at me specifically. If she stopped a moment later, I probably would've taken the sandwich – I was leaving to forage for sustenance, I'm starving at this very moment.

But she'd have found someone who wants her sandwich in a moment if she asked a bit further down the block, there's enough hunger to go around. It was a nice gesture to see from someone so young; in her way, she was providing what little she had. I appreciate that. I like seeing kids who care about the world, I think she demonstrated some of the great beauty in humanity in what was clearly an awkward and slightly uncomfortable gesture from her. I hope she keeps trying to help others in the future, as should we all aspire to do.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Spotted Lanternflies are an invasive species. I mention them, and kudzu, in [On Uniting \(/posts/on-uniting\)](/posts/on-uniting).

TODO: Subway story, food to lady

TODO: Tipping really well for meaningful purchases

- Guitar story
- art commission story

Being nice

index tags: Charity, Charitability, New York, Subway, Stories, Food, Marcus Aurelius, Meditations, Fred Rogers, Helping, Spotted Lanternflies and Big Macs, Dropped Jacket and Picking Platforms

category tags: Personal Writings

On Philosophy

2022-10-09

"Philosophy 0"

My philosophical influences are spiritual, stoic, and materialist.

[Understanding life from the river \(ie. Siddhartha\) \(/posts/on-siddhartha\)](/posts/on-siddhartha)

[Stoicism \(ie. Aurelius\) \(/posts/on-meditations\)](/posts/on-meditations)

[Materialism \(ie. communists all working to the same conclusions across the globe\) \(/posts/on-communists\)](/posts/on-communists)

By going through those three and understanding them along the way, you'll have worked through my pathway of learning. But, full disclosure, each of those topics goes... deep. They all take time, learning anything requires some dedication.

index tags: Philosophy, Siddhartha, Herman Hesse, Meditations, Stoicism, Marcus Aurelius, Communists, Reading List, Dialectics, Marxism, Marxism-Leninism, Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong

category tags: Personal Writings

On Values

2022-10-09

"My highest placed value is seriousness in organizing. I believe they're one and the same. You should act with a purpose."

My highest placed value is seriousness in organizing. I believe they're one and the same. You should act with a purpose. (See related thoughts in [On Organizing \(/posts/on-organizing\)](/posts/on-organizing))

I work hard to foster respect for myself. I'm personally driven by feeling good about myself and by feeling well-liked by other people I respect. I try to show all others the respect they deserve as well; I think that hard work, good interactions, and positive reinforcement can lead to healthy collaboration and great win-win outcomes.

As an engineer (ie. an applied scientist) I place a heavy emphasis on iteration. Start small and work towards big. Make a hypothesis, run some tests, and figure out learnings. Repeat that ad infinitum.

I try to remember Growth, Cleanliness, Freshness, Decay. These are all healthy things to keep in mind. I strive for freshness and cleanliness, and I'm always looking to grow. Decay is an extent form of life. For more of my philosophy in this vein, you can look towards [Siddhartha \(/posts/on-siddhartha\)](/posts/on-siddhartha).

There are periods of nothingness, and that's helpful to remember as well. Take the phases as they come, work hard to course correct as often as possible (and trust yourself to do so!). "There are decades when nothing happens and weeks where decades happen," someone once said that.

A focus on [learning \(/posts/on-learning\)](/posts/on-learning). A lot, as much as possible. From everywhere you can.

Meet people where they are. Listen. There's useful perspective to be gained from *everything* – that's what makes life beautiful. Notice things, see the beauty.

A good understanding and acceptance of change. Quantitative leads to qualitative my friends, we'll get to that at some point.

Healthy disagreement, honest communication, and internal resolution. There are many forms of power organization, all of which have pros and cons. Find where there are weak points and figure out solutions.

TODO: lady who talked about organizing (ask ---- maybe?). also decent, also party cells, also just workers' councils in general. explanations, compare/contrasts with current US system of power,

Figure out ways to foster transparency and accountability.

Figure out if the big picture things you're doing are good; also figure out if the small picture things you're doing are good.

In both NY and Shenzhen, the cities thrive where people are able to skirt through gray-areas in regulation in order to forge positive change. Via centralization and rich human presence, these places are full of people who understand how to make their cities better and work towards that effort. Try to figure out where outdated rules can be replaced with better ones, and then figure out how to force those changes to be made. Bend the rules when it helps do good; break them too, if you must.

TODO: Koreatown zoning, signs, rich streets

TODO: link Shenzhen doc

index tags: Values, Koreatown, Shenzhen, New York, China, Growth, Cleanliness, Freshness, Decay, Seriousness, Transparency, Accountability, Organizing, Learning, Engineering

category tags: Personal Writings

On Food

2022-10-10

"Keep well stocked and ensure others are getting enough."

I stay well-stocked on food and necessities, to the best of my ability. I keep healthy food around, easily accessible. It helps me build good habits.

It's easier to eat a healthy afternoon snack if there's an apple right in front of you. It's easy to stay happy on the go if you've got a protein bar, a bag of cheez-its, and a banana in your backpack.

And I've found where I am, currently, my backpack has to be resupplied often. Very often, I'm able to give food to people on the [subway \(/posts/on-charity-and-charitability\)](#) or on the street. A bag of clementines is \$2.50 and there are way too many to eat alone, I hand em out if ever someone looks like they could use em. There's something romantic about the smell of peeling an orange, I try to share the moment of peace.

My purpose is simple in most of these posts. I want you to cultivate positive environments for yourself, make it easy for yourself to succeed. And if you're doing well, help others do the same – many are struggling. A spare clementine can be the difference.

index tags: Food, New York, Health(care)

category tags: Personal Writings

On Siddhartha

2022-10-10

"Philosophy I: Understanding the River"

I know my current understanding. I know where I am now. It's easy for me to forget that not everybody has seen everything I have and read everything I have and just in general thought enough of the same thoughts as me to know what the heck I'm talking about.

That's why it's easy to stay quiet. I'm not much of a talker, ask anyone. But here, well, here I can lay it all out for ya. Piece by piece, give you the deets on how the system operates. How my brain processes, how it thinks, how it adapts. Maybe if you see how it started and you see where it's gotten, you'll be able to figure out where it's going next.

And so we're starting with the first life-changing book I read. Thanks to my good friend for introducing me: [Siddhartha \(https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/2500\)](https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/2500), by [Herman Hesse \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermann_Hesse\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermann_Hesse)

The story follows the path taken by Siddhartha, during the Gautama Buddha era. I recommend reading it, it's short and I find great meaning in it (obviously). No apologies for spoiling it, it's been out since 1922 and you've been warned!

I saw parallels in my own life to that of Siddhartha's. He was a successful and obedient child growing up but unsure of what was supposed to come after. He knew he had to become separated from his past, but he didn't know where to go. He attempted spirituality and religion, to varying success. He tasted the riches of professional success and he experienced all the feelings of love and family that come with partnership, children. I may not have been the golden child to the same degree, and I haven't quite achieved riches or love (or kids) to the same level, but I've experienced all those feelings in my own rite. I know what it feels like to have enough to spend, I know what it feels like to pursue a partner. I understand that meaning has to be carved out along with those things, that they alone aren't enough for fulfilment (in themselves).

Basically, your perspective is everything. You'll hear bad things on the news, and you won't know how to feel about it. We'll get to that more in [Philosophy II \(/posts/on-meditations\)](#).

Siddhartha eventually understands life, next to a river, with the help of an old ferryman's perspective.

out of all secrets of the river, he today only saw one, this one touched his soul. He saw: this water ran and ran, incessantly it ran, and was nevertheless always there, was always at all times the same and yet new in every moment! Great be he who would grasp this, understand this! He understood and grasped it not, only felt some idea of it stirring, a distant memory, divine voices.

Eventually, he tries to explain this wisdom to his friend Govinda.

This here,” he said playing with it, “is a stone, and will, after a certain time, perhaps turn into soil, and will turn from soil into a plant or animal or human being. In the past, I would have said: This stone is just a stone, it is worthless, it belongs to the world of the Maya; but because it might be able to become also a human being and a spirit in the cycle of transformations, therefore I also grant it importance. Thus, I would perhaps have thought in the past. But today I think: this stone is a stone, it is also animal, it is also god, it is also Buddha, I do not venerate and love it because it could turn into this or that, but rather because it is already and always everything—and it is this very fact, that it is a stone, that it appears to me now and today as a stone, this is why I love it and see worth and purpose in each of its veins and cavities, in the yellow, in the gray, in the hardness, in the sound it makes when I knock at it, in the dryness or wetness of its surface. There are stones which feel like oil or soap, and others like leaves, others like sand, and every one is special and prays the Om in its own way, each one is Brahman, but simultaneously and just as much it is a stone, is oily or juicy, and this is the very fact which I like and regard as wonderful and worthy of worship.—But let me speak no more of this. The words are not good for the secret meaning, everything always becomes a bit different, as soon as it is put into words, gets distorted a bit, a bit silly—yes, and this is also very good, and I like it a lot, I also very much agree with this, that this what is one man’s treasure and wisdom always sounds like foolishness to another person.

There's always more to be said for this book, it really helped me forge my perspective over the last few years. It was an important start to my journey, a push in the necessary direction.

My takeaway for you is this: if you find an opportunity to bask in the sun, sit under a big tree, or gaze into a running body of water – I encourage you to do it, if only for a few moments – to help understand life, just a little bit better. Take a walk, feel the cool ocean breeze; the crisp mountain air; the grassy smell of wherever you may call home. Take it in, breathe the nature around you. Feel where you are in the universe.

As a child, I saw life in math. In numbers and shapes, in musical chords. I saw life in colorful little folded pieces of paper, in musical instruments carefully crafted (through years of iteration). I saw life in the people all around me, in the animals and plants that were all around – big and small – if you looked around carefully. In statistics, in probability, in the shuffling decks of cards that (probabilistically) landed in a brand new order every day ([52! possible orderings \(!!!\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shuffling#Randomization) (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shuffling#Randomization>)). I saw life in the sand and in the snow and in the trees, in the breeze and the cacti and the scorpions that scared me. I saw it in the flowers, and I often stop to smell them still. I saw life in all my [hobbies \(/posts/on-hobbies\)](#), in every nook and cranny I could observe wherever life takes me.

Remember to notice the little things. Like my hero [Aang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avatar:_The_Last_Airbender) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avatar:_The_Last_Airbender), try to keep a view of everyone's perspective. Remain cool-headed under immense pressure. Always choose nonviolence, but make sure nobody's being bullied. Maintain balance in all wakes of life, and help others achieve the same. Be a master of all the elements (ie. know nature, and know the tools you can use within nature – first to survive, then to help others).

Another reading I like in this vein is the short story [The Egg](http://www.galactanet.com/oneoff/theegg_mod.html) (http://www.galactanet.com/oneoff/theegg_mod.html) by Paul Weir ([wiki](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Egg_(Weir_short_story))) ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Egg_\(Weir_short_story\)\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Egg_(Weir_short_story)))).

I read that one super young and I still like the message it provided me with.

index tags: Philosophy, Siddhartha, Herman Hesse, The Egg, Paul Weir, Religion, Avatar the Last Airbender

category tags: Philosophy

On Meditations

2022-10-11

"Philosophy II: Understanding Aurelius (ie. Stoicism)"

You have power over your mind – not outside events. Realize this, and you will find strength.

Waste no more time arguing about what a good man should be. Be one.

If you are distressed by anything external, the pain is not due to the thing itself, but to your estimate of it; and this you have the power to revoke at any moment.

The best revenge is to be unlike him who performed the injury.

The soul becomes dyed with the colour of its thoughts.

Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it, if you have to, with the same weapons of reason which today arm you against the present.

Our life is what our thoughts make it.

The first rule is to keep an untroubled spirit. The second is to look things in the face and know them for what they are.

How much time he gains who does not look to see what his neighbour says or does or thinks, but only at what he does himself, to make it just and holy.

- Marcus Aurelius

These are all from Meditations. I could keep pasting, I could paste the whole thing. You can pick up the book at any point and read a few lines, and they occasionally contain very useful wisdom.

The principles of stoicism entail 1) understanding your sphere of control. Remembering that you can't control most things in this life, but that you really can control you. Remembering that the changes of the world are all composed of individual people. And, using that, 2) to live virtuously. Be the positive change you wish to see in the world, that's all stoicism is saying.

These tie in to my thoughts on mental health. Most conditions are natural human reactions to their environments and stimuli. ADHD is so prevalent now because everyone's getting very used to shortform media (twitter, tiktok). Depression is on the rise because, Jesus, shit is bad. Anxiety is here because jobs are thin and wages are low and I'm not gonna buy a house soon (even though I'm doing better than like 95/100 people I see on the street). PTSD exists for all the folks who have dealt with traumatic, stressful, difficult situations. If you're mentally unwell because things are tough, yeah, that's your brain trying to handle everything. What can you do to survive, what can you do to end the suffering that you see in the news and on the streets?

Hard to know! I'm trying to figure it out, I'm writing a lil website about it.

Stoicism (ie. Aurelius, but many others as well. I learned a lot from the [subreddit \(https://old.reddit.com/r/Stoicism/\)](https://old.reddit.com/r/Stoicism/) – though I try to avoid reddit nowadays, I still find the wikis/sidebars very helpful for resources) gave me the tools to deal with my past (ie. trauma), depression, and anxiety.

Stoicism posits that I can only control myself in the current moment, and it posits that you should try your best (do right by yourself, and then do right by everyone else). Don't sweat the small stuff, don't worry about the past, and don't worry too much about the future – just enough to set good goals. Focus on the present, focus on doing the best you can. That's it!

It isn't easy, but it gets easier with time and [good practice \(/posts/on-organizing\)](#).

(TODO: add gramscifancam tweet)

Don't get depressed at news that's out of your control (turn it off if it's too much), don't get stressed about what happened in the past. Everyone makes mistakes, has those days, etc, etc. Take time to process trauma and let the past go, so that you can move forward to the best of your ability.

Don't get anxious about the future – like Aurelius said:

Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it, if you have to, with the same weapons of reason which today arm you against the present.

You'll keep trying your best. That's all you can do! Keep at it, we'll get there. [Together, maybe? \(/posts/on-uniting\)](#)

PS. I also loved Gladiator, growing up. Still do, I think, but it's been a while since the last rewatch. Legendary soundtrack. In the words of Maximus Decimus Meridius, student of Marcus Aurelius, *"Fratres! Three weeks from now, I will be harvesting my crops. Imagine where you will be, and it will be so. Hold the line! Stay with me! If you find yourself alone, riding in the green fields with the sun on your face, do not be troubled. For you are in Elysium, and you're already dead! Brothers, what we do in life... echoes in eternity."*

index tags: Philosophy, Stoicism, Meditations, Marcus Aurelius, Gladiator, Future, Present, Past, Virtue, Good, Depression, Anxiety, Mental Health

category tags: Philosophy

On Communists

2022-10-12

"Philosophy III: On getting fucking teargassed."

okay I realize now that this is going to become the resource textdump page. because after I started reading communists, well, I haven't stopped. If not communists, then materialists – scientists, engineers, analysts of their crafts. Sure, maybe not everyone I link is a 'communist' technically. Definitely not the ones who are very rich and doing bad things around the globe (ie. bourgeoisie). But they have important perspectives to understand (ie. read what they're saying), and here I'll share some of the ones that have shaped my understanding of the world today.

also worth noting, I still love [art \(/posts/on-media\)](/posts/on-media). I enjoy [engineering \(/posts/on-organizing\)](/posts/on-organizing) and I enjoy all sorts of fun [activities \(/posts/on-hobbies\)](/posts/on-hobbies). I still read fiction, I love books of all sorts. I love music and movies and the visual arts, I tried to make that clear in [Philosophy I \(/posts/on-siddhartha\)](/posts/on-siddhartha). But for serious reading, for where I'm focused, it's all the materialists of their various fields and fashions.

And actually, I'm going to break all of these sections down. Kinda geographically, kinda chronologically, kinda based on difficulty to read. I'm trying to keep things as organized as possible, for all our sake's.

Alright, the picture so far. So I know [river is life \(/posts/on-siddhartha\)](/posts/on-siddhartha), blah blah blah. Also I'm tryna be [stoic \(/posts/on-meditations\)](/posts/on-meditations) about this whole affair we call life. Maybe both of those thoughts aren't full formed yet, but those were the current most prominent influences.

Then we get to 2020. It's a pandemic (ongoing, wear a mask – N95 or better). The George Floyd protests are ongoing, and I live right on the border of [CHAZ \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitol_Hill_Occupied_Protest\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitol_Hill_Occupied_Protest), a block away from the police station. There was teargas coming in the windows, insane videos were being posted on twitter and reddit of footage from a block away.

I geared up, got protected, saw if I could help in any way possible. I handed out umbrellas I bought cheap, I kept em for the next day when they were left laying around. I held one myself while holding a protective line. Those experienced were (mostly) tired of the capsaicin burn that comes from pepper spray, the coconut oil getting on every surface of my apartment while I tried to heal the redness out; those who were new to the protests didn't seem particularly keen on finding out those intimacies firsthand.

I had batteries, helped keep the megaphones going. Spoke a bit, all voices were hoarse, but I try not to take up too much space – I just went with the usual chants, tried to keep energy and morale up.

I let people in to use the restroom or wash up. I was lucky, with an apartment so close, I tried to help those who needed protection. Especially when the chemical weapons came out.

The teargas. Man the fucking teargas. "*There goes Aaron again, talking about the time he got teargassed*" they say. Yeah! I'm not over all the fucking teargas. *WHY*, let's think for a minute, keep up with me, just for a second, *WHY DO THE COPS HAVE SO MUCH FUCKING TEARGAS AND WHY ARE THEY DEPLOYING IT ON CIVILIANS? WHY ARE THEY PEPPER SPRAYING LITTLE CHILDREN? BLINDING PEOPLE WITH RUBBER BULLETS THAT ARE MEANT TO BE SHOT AT FEET?* Unstopped, unchecked, much too often. Funded to the sky.

And people are starting to see the problem more clearly than ever before. The kids are, the ones on twitter and tiktok. They're making attempts to make change when they can.

TODO: link k-pop stan submission thing

TODO: link big cop violence cop thread

TODO: link reporters getting arrested

TODO: link LASD Gangs, s/o Tankiepilled

TODO: twitter shoutout. Aren LeBrun, Roderic Day, IronProle

Okay, where were we, teargas. Yes. At the time, I was working and experiencing protest, power in the street, firsthand. I was experiencing the state repression against that protest at the same exact time. I was like Marx observing the Paris Commune, I was coming to the same natural understanding of history that he had. I was seeing [the river \(/posts/on-siddhartha\)](#) and I was [finding my place \(/posts/on-meditations\)](#).

The first book that really kicked off this journey, during this era of aforementioned teargassing, on recommendation from another good friend, was [Confessions of an Economic Hit Man \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confessions_of_an_Economic_Hit_Man\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confessions_of_an_Economic_Hit_Man) by John Perkins. That book got me thinking about my own role within society, about the parallels I could draw between my life and his explanations of history.

TODO Here: probably outline modern resources that helped the most.

RedSails, Aren LeBrun, useful twitter accounts, TANKIEPILLED, etc.

Link to efforts that they're doing and how they relate to other articles here.

Then, explain that we're starting with the US because that's what I know. That's what I've seen the most of, that's where I've been.

Discuss [access \(/posts/on-access\)](/posts/on-access).

This is a compilation of reading recommendations, organized by topic. I've read all these (sometimes only partially, for works I trust)

If you want to learn:

[Reading (ie. Books and Articles)]

the best, imo:

On Dialectics (many, but esp [NiaFrome \(https://redsails.org/on-dialectics/\)](https://redsails.org/on-dialectics/)). probably need my own, gdi.

probably also need the starter list of lenin/stalin/einstein/engels, maybe link RedPrintsPub/MLRH.

index tags: Philosophy, Communists, Reading List, Dialectics, CHAZ, CHOP, Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-il, Kim Jong-un, Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Zhou Enlai, Xi Jinping, Bhagat Singh, Nia Frome, Roderic Day, Aren LeBrun, IronProle, Tankiepilled, @TANKIEPILLED

category tags: Philosophy

On Learning

2022-10-14

"My lifelong passion, I guess, if I had to pick *one* lifelong passion in some arbitrary hypothetical."

You can pick up learnings from everywhere. Many people are saying the same thing, because they make the same observations of nature.

Dialectics:

"Snowball"

Gibbons quote – wealthy are able to do well due to their abundance of resources, from Parenti (Julius Caesar?)

Engels and Enlai and Castro grew up as members of exploiting classes and nevertheless used their resources to build positive change – at the expense of their personal wealth.

Community:

both the rich and the poor understand "networking" and the importance of human connections [Parasite]

Folks like Matt Levine and Michael Lewis are very good thinkers in their respective fields. Whether or not you see exactly eye-to-eye with them, you can probably learn something from the way they think and describe the world.

Folks like Guevara and Mao give fighters' perspectives, as did Nkrumah and Jackson. Engels that of an every-man, Aurelius that of an emperor, Lundy Bancroft that of a psychologist dedicated to a specific subfield.

Seriousness:

"Stay Hungry"

"Carpe Diem"

"Whatever happens, happens"

"What is to be done?"

"Memento Mori"

"Time is Money"

If you read enough of a variety, you'll find who you tend to agree with the most. They'll probably self-describe their ideology and alignment, and I have an idea [and hope] you'll figure out which group is fighting the hardest, for the most. That exercise is left to the reader.

index tags: Learning, Books

category tags: Personal Writings

On Technology

2022-10-14

"Hint: it's a weapon"

Never forget that technology is a weapon. If you feel the world is not as perfect as it should be, then you must struggle to put the weapon of technology at the service of society. You must rescue society before that can be accomplished, so that technology benefits the greatest number of human beings possible, so that we can build the society of tomorrow-whatever name you choose to give it-the society we dream of and that we call - as it was called by the founder of scientific socialism - communism.

- Che Guevara

There is a weapon in this mural - a U.S.-made M-1 rifle. When it was in the hands of Batista's soldiers that weapon was hideous. But that same weapon became extraordinarily beautiful when it became part of the arsenal of the people's army.

- Che Guevara

Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun.

– Mao Zedong

TODO: write about these (?) for now, readers, just ponder those ^

TODO: link people using guns in texas to help protect homeless encampments

TODO: link encampments being destroyed, vids from twitter? from eg. LA

TODO: talk about experiences with the same in CHAZ

TODO: slum comparison? like, these are slums dudes, please take care of your [neighbors](#)
([/posts/on-charity-and-charitability](#))

TODO: RedSails links: On Crypto

- technology and surveillance state
 - Shoshanna Zuboff
 - Yasha Levine
 - Che – technology is a weapon

Che was working on automation back in the day.

index tags: Technology, Che Guevara, Mao Zedong, Shoshanna Zuboff, Yasha Levine, RedSails, Roderic Day, Guns, Weapons, Surveillance

category tags: Personal Writings

On Uniting

2022–10–15

"Work together, let's do this."

In short, we must unite all those who can be united, so that we can reduce the enemy's numbers to a minimum... For us, the more friends we have, the better, and the fewer enemies we have, the better.

- Mao Zedong [<https://redsails.org/unite-all-the-forces/>]

[Now]

That was 1956 (at a CPC Politburo speech). Let's take a look at the current conditions of nature.

Ah, yes, 2022 (speaking from NY, USA). Pandemic, wildfires, hurricanes, people dying of the heat, and people dying of the cold.

Homelessness and hunger are around. They always are, but look at the prices and look at the people and do some quick addition to draw your own conclusions.

People die preventable deaths due to perverse incentives within the pharmaceutical industry. The disabled have been ignored completely as they struggle to navigate an uncaring society in precarious positions. Racial minorities, the LGBTQ+ community, and women have all long-been oppressed in a variety of harmful, lasting ways.

There's fast-moving and scary technology that nobody understands, with dangerous profit motive and lack of regulation. There's been stark polarization between people, extreme disconnection and isolation; families who can't talk to each other anymore. From my vantage, many seem to be drowning.

Kids are interacting with porn and twitter and tiktok and Disney Avengers media (ie. propaganda) at ages I don't want to think about. The coming generation will be developing their understanding of the world in a very different way than I did, as I developed mine very differently than the generations before me.

Everyone is being shaped by new technology, disease, and conditions that very few people (if any) fully understand.

And of course (for those familiar with history and what happens outside the continental US): the rampant imperialist extraction of labor and natural resources; the expansion of fascist forces (both within the US and globally); the sanctioning and violent sabotage of any anti-imperial or socialist threat (from Fred Hampton to the people of Korea and Vietnam to the po; the settler-colonization of Palestine (with US aid); the propaganda war against China [link – xinjiang atrocity blitz]; the aggression and provocation of Russia; the current unincorporated territories of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa...; the \$800B spent yearly on the DoD, dedicated to a militant defense of International Finance Capital; the long, blood-stained history of profit-driven slavery, settler-colonialism, neocolonialism, and war.

Oh yeah, and back in Cap Hill, Seattle, cops teargassed me in my apartment for 2 months straight a couple years ago. They got me with teargas and pepper spray and a whole lotta flashbangs outside my apartment. Lucky enough to avoid the rubber bullets and lucky enough to avoid the real ones. That whole experience is why I'm here in the first place.

I could list for days and I'm forgetting much, but hopefully I've painted an adequate picture. We are seeing all of the long-predicted ruthless downstream effects of our current economic system and its correlated political superstructure.

[Focus]

So what are we trying to accomplish? What's the focus here?

In the words of a comrade, "I don't know a fuckin thing, my guy" – keep that in mind as I muse on my worldview. [link – RedArmyDuck]

My perspective is that we are (very fucking obviously) observing collapse. The only logical conclusion to be drawn from that is that we must build as hard as possible in order to salvage. Figuring out how to do that is the focus.

[Unity]

How does this tie back in to unity?

Maybe you've got some concept of "left unity"; maybe not. But just for a sec, look at it like this: My perspective is that every person I know (and I have 8 million nearby) would agree with most of my observations.

If they were willing to have the serious conversations (+ maybe do some reading), they would agree with almost all of them. (also, to be clear: not everyone is willing)

I'm looking at this as an "us vs the problem" situation (a healthy relationship technique!)

If the problem is "the earth will exterminate humans", then the "us" is every human on earth. That's who we're uniting.

[Enemy]

I want to be clear about who the enemy is here. I am talking in terms of people.

The enemy is the person in pursuit of individualistic success (ie. personal safety, security, survival) at the expense of societal ruin.

Many people don't understand history well enough to understand the current trajectory we're on. They don't understand what's going on. They don't have a useful understanding of social classes. They just don't know what we have to do. We need to show them, so that they can let go of individualistic ideals and understand that we're on the same team here.

(This is the time to reread that Mao quote up top). We need to turn people away from individualism, towards collective survival. That is how we unite. That is how

Unless you're actively, intentionally working towards the destruction of the planet by actively, intentionally working towards the maintenance of capitalism – well, we probably have something we agree on.

If you don't have effectual power within your current position; if you care about the future; if you have kids and care for their futures – we can easily be allies.

If you think everything's doomed and you've given up, we're enemies right now; but if I can convince you to care, about anything, I think we can be united in an effort towards some end. We can become allies, even if we aren't yet.

[So]

So let's kill the invasive lanternflies and eradicate the invasive kudzu; while remembering that the bees and the spiders and the fruits and the vegetables are all playing a valuable role. Some bad actors have to be cut from the bunch, but we should take care to try to salvage as many good actors as possible. And in the case of humans, we should be working to make as many bad actors into good actors as possible – many of them are well-intentioned but ill-informed and misguided! We must guide them.

[consider moving stuff to On Charity, linking here]

So why don't we talk to our friends and our neighbors and start having those conversations? Maybe just check-in with folks you care about?

Maybe foodprep some stew and go tabling with literature? Give a bag of necessities to the houseless person on your block if you can afford it? Reach out to local groups who share similar ideals as you, see what they're up to?

Maybe take a leaf out of Mr. Rogers' book and look for the helpers around you. Try to follow the lead of the good role-models you find. Look for the folks still masking, if that's rare in your area.

Maybe find the ways you can help throw lifebuoys to the people struggling, before the water fills their lungs. They'll thrash and they'll hold their breath, I see people fighting HARD, but nature will run its course. The lifebuoy is the difference in outcome, and someone needs to throw it. Quickly, accurately! If you miss, don't fret – just try to find the next lifebuoy and the next place to throw.

Maybe join a union. Take training to become an EMT or medic.

Take training to understand how weaponry works, and familiarize yourself with the tools available to you. Understand that power grows from the barrel of a gun, understand what technology ~is~ [On Technology]. Think about all modern tech through that lens, see how you can reclaim our modern resources for good use! [tiktok teens blowing up polls – a great example of a community fighting for good together!]

Volunteer to firefight. Read to the elderly; read to the children. Build safety nets for yourself and your community in every way possible.

Start a mini bookstore [TANKIEPILLED]. Find ways to get books to others cheap [RedPrintsPublishing].

Run errands with your friends. Offer to babysit for the parents who need it, it gives them a break and kids share lots of new, unique perspectives if you're willing to engage with them.

Pay kindness forward. Buy the next person in line a coffee. Generating goodwill is a positive force! Many have said it, you must generate goodwill among the masses if you're to succeed as the vanguard of anything! (Che, Mao) – whether or not you have others to work with yet, generate that goodwill!

If you've got any concept of "mass line work" – what do you think that is, in your current situation?

Maybe try to parse all the possible learnings you can, from every place you can.

- "don't want stupid soldiers or cowardly intellectuals"
- study the enemy [Art of War – Lao Tzu], and remember
- Form reading groups with people you want to learn with? (or just read some books yourself?) [link – resources]

Start small. Find people, converse. Start noticing all the small issues you see day-to-day and start figuring out how to fix em. Just set good examples, if that's all you can do. Hold the door open for someone.

Maybe just try to build better habits. Floss more, stay healthy. Get sleep. Test varying levels of social media usage to figure out what works best for you and your mental health ([On Logging Off and Touching Grass]).

Carry around a reusable bag, tip well. Put your shopping cart all the way back.

Figure out your strengths and leverage them wherever. Identify your weaknesses and work towards improvement.

It won't always work, but that's fine. Iterate. Repeat. Science is research–hypothesis–experimentation–observation–analysis–understanding, all on a tight loop, ever-improving.

[Reach for the Stones to cross the river – Deng]

[Einstein – trying the same thing on repeat is insanity]. So try something different once you've drawn current

Trust yourself. Learn! Grow! Find ways to feel meaningful. If you practice your skills with discipline and seriousness, you will see yourself able to achieve improvement in all facets. Make friends, allies, comrades! Build respect, for yourself and for others. That's the good stuff, that's why we're around.

[End]

And if the end result is that we fail, and we just live through ever-worsening conditions until we can no longer survive, then you may as well at least try to spread some positivity while you're around.

So it goes [kurt vonnegut – slaughterhouse 5]. So fucking what? We're all dying anyway; whatever happens, happens [cowboy bebop].

You're here and you're now, you're the only one who can make it happen. I encourage you to try.

[PS]

Remember, put your oxygen mask on first. Don't overexert, don't burn out. Be responsible, be smart, and prioritize being able to approach the problem again after some much needed shut-eye. You're most helpful healthy, and alive.

If you need help, reach out – I'm looking out for you. My name is Aaron and I speak for the trees; I speak for the kids, and the earth, and the future; I speak for the downtrodden, the dirty, the dispossessed; I speak for what's right, and I speak in the hopes that you will too.

You'll find me here, at entropicemailaddress@protonmail.com or github.com/aaronsteel, and on NYYCL communication channels. Here in NY, you may find me at headquarters here [Communist Party Headquarters] or walking about Astoria, or really anywhere around. Elsewhere, you might find me visiting old friends at VACPUSA or FRISO Seattle.

And if you liked this, maybe check out my thoughts [On Organizing \(/posts/on-organizing\)](https://posts/on-organizing/). ~AS

index tags: Uniting, Mao Zedong

category tags: Personal Writings

On Wikipedia

2022-10-16

"or: using resources for what they are, getting the best out of everything we've got"

TODO: GrayZone articles, analysis

TODO: ecured, prolewiki

TODO: explain that people should remember these incentives, understand the motives, but still use wikipedia and other commonplace resources where they're helpful.

TODO: RedSails links: Virtual Factory

index tags: Media, Wikipedia, GrayZone, EcuRed, ProleWiki, RedSails, Roderic Day

category tags: Personal Writings

On Astrology and Religion

2022-10-18

"False Prophets, Kindness, Jesus, Muhammad, Brahma, Intifada, etc."

TODO: Religion is the opiate of the masses quote, explanation

There are material factors around your time of birth. Those born next to Christmas may have unique experiences around what they do for gifts, maybe they receive fewer gifts. People who enjoy their birthdays in the summer may develop a strong affinity for the beach; those in the fall for halloween or candy apples. There are environmental factors surrounding birth that lend themselves to real, material trends observable in people.

One interesting example of that sorta phenomenon is present with why high schoolers look older in photos from decades past [link Vsauce video].

I'll be frank: most astrology is garbage, imo. But people like it because it gives em some reassurance or hope or guidance or gossip in their lives. It's fun for some.

There are lots of old ancient pieces of wisdom, from the native Americans to the Chinese centuries BC. Eastern cures and herbal remedies, misunderstood by the West. There's meaning in putting positive intentional energy into things! There's a reason placebos work! If it's a placebo at play making things better, then let em have the placebo!

In the same vein, I'm not quite religious. I believe in the material reality we live in, and that's about it. And I think many religious institutions have caused immense harm, there are bad paradigms that crop up in organized religion. But there are many good religious people, there is positive to be found in religion. Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity all posit positive ideals and encourage positive growth. Many people are saved by religion, religion can help people grow into more positive members of society. Islam helps guide fighters in intifada resistance, in uprising against oppression. Many people are able to find community through religion. Try to foster support, reach out to people within these groups. Show them where you agree with them; maybe show them where you disagree too.

Where young men have been indoctrinated by misleading authorities (ie. false prophets) like Ben Shapiro and Jordan Peterson, understand that their willingness to accept those leaders stems from their isolation, loneliness, and depression. They are willing and ready to fight to improve their situation how they know how; we must show them why hating women and minorities isn't the right answer, we must explain the historical perspective of women and demonstrate their analogous struggles. We must connect the young men with women of all generations to correct misled ideals. We must get them to consume better media, stay away from too much Breaking Bad and pornography [Porn - andrea dworkin].

We must do the same with young women. Though I don't have an inherent women's perspective – though I do not personally know what it's like to be a woman – I learn from as many women I can. Young women would do well to find understanding of young men, learn how to handle those situations with care alongside vigilance. [Slave and master are both awkward in each other's presence – author? Kwame Ture? Fanon?] – We must work towards equality, which can only happen by taking conscious steps towards fully understanding the inequalities and finding the right ways to eradicate them. [Women hold half the sky – Mao, Sankara]

We must do the same with the elderly and the middle-aged, we must show them how times have changed; we must demonstrate the changing conditions in our world (look! they're all around). We must teach the old dogs new tricks, because they've got useful wisdom and experience and we want that on our side – we can all learn from each other. Fix their outdated perspectives, and learn history to better understand what you haven't experienced yourself.

We must foster growth with every demographic. Find out how disabled people are struggling. Listen to what kids are troubled about; they're learning from every minor thing around them, they need good guidance. Look at the animals around you – you can't speak to em, but figure out if they're surviving, look at how their lives have changed with the development of society. See what they need too.

If God exists, God exists within every man and woman and person around. within every disabled person, trans person, child. within every convict, within every sinner, within each vice. within every rat and cat and pigeon and worm. If you believe humans are formed in the image of God, you can see God's work in the roads and buildings we build, the churches and the schools and the big tall towers that get higher every day. God is found in the sun, in the rocks, in the water. In the wind, and in ripe tomatoes, in juicy oranges, and rotting mushrooms. In the litter, in the cigarettes, in the microplastics that seep into our bodies. In the music and the laughter and the sobbing. In the smell of chocolate, in the warmth of a hug. If we are all God's creations, then our legacy is God's work; what we do is what God is doing.
[Siddhartha rock quote]

If you believe in God, then grow flowers in the earth and build our reality forward in God's image. And if you don't believe in God, well, try not to be too harsh towards those who find meaning in a different way; you may as well grow the flowers too.

So, sure, I'll let the Astrologists have their fun. We have enough in common. Lmk what Aries are supposed to be up to these days, maybe I'll get some good use out of it.

index tags: Philosophy, Religion, Astrology

category tags: Personal Writings

On Hobbies

2022-10-18

"I like doin stuff, you should try it"

I find immense values in variety. I love trying new things, because each new facet of life provides learnings about nature, about how the world works. Many of the concepts learned in one area are often applicable to others. Do you get why I keep saying learning is great yet?

Some of mine:

Academically, I come from a math and computer science background. Professionally, I've worked as a teacher and a software developer. But all forms of math, science, engineering, and building have always been passions of mine.

I love building stuff. Making robots, writing bots, designing/fabricating musical instruments, woodworking beds and tables.

While I don't consider corporate software development a ~hobby~, per se, I do spend a BUNCH of my time on it every week. So I try to learn all I can, do my best. I've gotten interesting perspectives on the worlds of finance and technology through my professional career, and I've been able to meet and talk to many interesting people through work. I can try to make the environment better at work and via my work, as much as possible. Wherever you find yourself,

I play music. My parents, very thoughtfully, forced me to play piano growing up. I hated it. Didn't practice. (Liked the theory bits, funny enough, most of that is actually just math). Quit when I was a teen. Though I've loved ~listening~ to music my entire life, thoroughly. During the pandemic, I was alone in an apartment for six months and picked up the guitar. Played a lot, got kinda good, then it got fun. Got back into playing the piano, got a bit into recording and writing and even singing occasionally.

Exercising is a recent hobby, one I wish I fostered more growing up, but one I'm glad I'm fostering now. [shame to not see a man at his strongest by socrates or whoever; mao on exercise]. I run, when I can force myself, but I love walking around ny and climbing (rope and bouldering, with an occasional deep water solo when given the opportunity). I ski and I golf occasionally, very bougie and environmentally questionable, I'm sorry, I know. I'll try anything though, from biking to hiking to wrestling.

I try to enjoy food. It's my (and my family's) way of learning and sharing culture, there are so many interesting cuisines to try. I'm not a great chef, but I do make my attempts. I'll get better with time (I must believe).

I've played some video games. I enjoy em. Notably:

- Hearthstone. Probably the only video game I'd really consider myself good at.
- Super Auto Pets. I'm solid at this one as well, but it's hard to know for sure because there's no competitive ladder.
- Similar with Slay the Spire, hard to know if I'm actually good because it's a singleplayer with too many ascensions to finish – but I've spent enough time to have learned from the game. Roguelites in general give a nice sense of learning and improvement. (Hades was fun too!)
- Breath of the Wild.
- Hidden in Plain Sight.
- A short hike.

I do a bunch of (minor expeditions) into visual arts. I've tried my hand at origami, kirigami, painting, sketching, doodling, photography, graphic design, embroidery, fashion (ie. trying to look cool).

I've recently gotten into birdwatching. I used to despise the pigeons, just a few years ago. They don't get out of your way, they're too used to humans. There's a lot of nature in ny, and it's all trying it's hardest to survive in the world we all find ourselves in. We need to foster a good environment for all of it, for all of us.

I guess I also practice writing in various forms. Getting more into it recently. Here, texting, telling stories. Journalling to gain clarity on my own thoughts. Note-taking and list-making to remember things and keep organized. Sending cards and emails to check-in, reach-out, express gratitude, ask questions, ...

index tags: Hobbies, Music, Guitar, Piano Games, Engineering, Science, Math, Exercise, Birdwatching, Food, Building, Woodworking, Robotics, Software, Writing, Art, Health(care)

category tags: Personal Writings

On Media

2022-10-19

"I'm gonna pull this out whenever someone asks me what I'm watching"

Media conveys ideas. You learn things from the things you read and watch and listen to. You change because of what you see on the internet and what you hear in the news. You will probably change whilst reading this very site! (if you're paying any attention, I know focus is difficult sometimes).

I like to consume good media. Media I find useful, that I can gain good knowledge or ideas from. Who doesn't? Everyone likes to connect with a hopeful story or interesting (yet relatable) history. People love a good story.

These are some of my favorites, in many mediums and of many genres. Starting, of course, with my favorite medium: words. Here are my thoughts [on fiction \(/posts/on-fiction\)](/posts/on-fiction), [on music \(/posts/on-music\)](/posts/on-music), and [on audiovisual media \(/posts/on-audiovisual-media\)](/posts/on-audiovisual-media) (eg. movies, shows).

what's the thing about the guy who can pinpoint the exact right moment to do something? is that lies of locke lamora? something else?

TODO: cleanup, asdfaowghrndfspaehgwbfds. always with the organization, this guy.

TODO: disney, pornography

TODO: link non-fic stuff?

index tags: Media, Movies, Shows, Podcasts, YouTube, Fiction, Art, Stories, Books, Pornography

category tags: Personal Writings

On Sleep, and Death

2022-10-20

"The times when eyes get to rest closed"

Sleep

I haven't slept in so fucking long.

I don't mean in the immediate, instant sense. I've had moments of sleep recently enough. I've experienced unconsciousness, I do almost nightly.

But I generally get about 4 hours. Sometimes slightly more, sometimes slightly less. I haven't felt rested in what feels like years.

I know there are ways to get more sleep. I've slept better.

It's been a weakness for a long time, and I've learned to accept it alongside its consequences.

But I do want to sleep. I attempt different strategies, I employ various tactics. I strive to establish the material conditions that allow for sleep. I'm trying, and one day I may get there.

I haven't given up hope for rest.

Death

I'm reminded of the French expression, *la petite mort* == "the little death".

I don't fully understand all it's connotation firsthand, I haven't lived in French-speaking areas enough, but I'll post from the [wiki \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_petite_mort\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_petite_mort):

The first attested use of the expression in English was in 1572 with the meaning of "fainting fit." It later came to mean "nervous spasm" as well. The first attested use with the meaning of "orgasm" was in 1882. In modern usage, this term has generally been interpreted to describe the post-orgasmic state of unconsciousness that some people have after having some sexual experiences.

Anyway, I don't get that, I don't think. But I think of death as "the big sleep" == *le grand sommeil*.

I don't lust after death, but I've never been overly apprehensive. Growing up, I never saw much of a path or reason forward – an experience I share with much of my generation, as opportunity and hope has evaporated in the past few decades.

Now, I'm resolute in my will to live – I'm not committing suicide, I have too much stuff to do and too little time as it is. (DO NOT LET ANYONE ELSE CONVINCE YOU OTHERWISE). I have much to build, I'm spending my time [organizing \(/posts/on-organizing\)](/posts/on-organizing).

But when rest comes to stay, I'll take it as it comes. I'll have played my part; I'll have done my time. I think it'll have been a good life, I consciously endeavor to live with meaning. And I know it'll be good rest, forever after that. No tension in my spine, no weight in my head. Nothing.

~AS

Like Marcus Aurelius, I abstract away the past and future as much as possible. Since I can only control my current self, I try to focus on that one the most. That makes it easy to not worry about death much.

Death smiles at us all, all a man can do is smile back.

Death is a natural, inevitable process that comes for us all. Why be scared of that?

And I think I share [IronProle \(/posts/on-IronProle\)](#)'s attitude towards death:

**Cancer – Aug 23, 2022 ([src](#)
<https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1562148357451030528?s=19>)**

Welllllll folks

I just got some extremely negative Cancer news. Turns out you cant defeat cancer with self confidence.

If you got a spare thought, save one for my Wife.

It is what it is. I have no control over any of this so im going to just live or die. Im gonna kiss my wife and smoke my weed.

My fate was never under my control. Ive always been a War Man, and wars have casualties. They have defeats.

Whatever you do, dont feel sorry for me. Ive seen my foes defeated in combat. Ive been a professional bicyclist. Ive been a husband and mentor and ive lifted up thousands with my work.

Ive lived more lives than many get.

Make art of me. Celebrate, but never be sorry.

I made peace with death a long time ago. You have to when you take up your rifle. Swords, you get it.

I was hoping i would live to get a warriors death. Maybe i still will.

But either way, War Mans live and we die.

**Are you ready to die? – Oct 19, 2022 ([src](#)
[https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1582826297419771904?
t=g7FH7jYD1jsVwR0zjBorzQ&s=19](https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1582826297419771904?t=g7FH7jYD1jsVwR0zjBorzQ&s=19))**

MH counselor asked me if im ready to die. I answer yes without hesitation.

I tell her that life is just a sparrow flying thru a warm house, in one window and out another. We are dead far longer than we are alive, so you gotta be impactful while you are here.

I told her that if you dont wait for life to fill you up but instead fill the world up with as much of you as you have to offer, death is no worry. Ive left my greasy paw prints all over this society.

Everything is as it should be!

index tags: Sleep, Death, Marcus Aurelius, @IronProle, IronProle

category tags: Personal Writings

On North American Communists (and similar)

2022-11-01

"The Hometown. Learnings from my people, all of em."

Well. I hated history class growing up. I went to a history-focused high school and did my best to skirt around the system of forcing you to double up one year. Too many dates, too much old boring stuff. Never piqued my fancy, I didn't see the beauty in it.

2020 sure had some stuff happen though, yeah? And as lots of stuff happened, many of my prior assumptions of reality were ruptured; I saw new sights, I learned new things about how the world worked. I've always been doing that; but I started to see some of the bigger pictures as I grew up a bit. At some point near June of that year I figured "*ok, I actually need to understand the past in order to figure out the present*" (and I needed to figure out the present in order to know how to best work into the future).

So, here are the resources that helped me really understand American history.

American Communists (and, y'know, similar)

Some people, in places like Oakland, had been seeing this problem for a very fucking long time. Those who mostly grow up in affluent suburbs don't see the same as the black kids in the city. Material reality shapes us, we'll get there in a minute. Check out what the [BPP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Panther_Party) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Panther_Party) did – look at this piece by [Sundiata Acoli](http://www.sundiataacoli.org/about) (<http://www.sundiataacoli.org/about>) – [A Brief History of the Black Panther Party and Its Place In the Black Liberation Movement \(2008\)](https://redsails.org/a-brief-history-of-the-black-panther-party/) (<https://redsails.org/a-brief-history-of-the-black-panther-party/>). see what Huey P. Newton [wrote](#)

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolutionary_Suicide), see what Assata [wrote](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assata:_An_Autobiography) ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assata: An Autobiography](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assata:_An_Autobiography)) and [said](https://redsails.org/assata-and-pastors/) (<https://redsails.org/assata-and-pastors/>).

But these thoughts are had worldwide. Those are just some, from black voices in Cali and Cuba. From real Amerikan political prisoners, martyrs, and asylums.

If you want the voice of the hard-working Italian-American working class, grown and raised in East Harlem, [Michael Parenti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Parenti) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Parenti) was very influential for me as I started the next steps of my journey (ie. post-teargas). [Blackshirts and Reds](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/404273.Blackshirts_and_Reds) ([https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/404273.Blackshirts and Reds](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/404273.Blackshirts_and_Reds)) and [Inventing Reality](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/673719.Inventing_Reality) ([https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/673719.Inventing Reality](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/673719.Inventing_Reality)) were the most influential. But even [The Assassination of Julius Caesar](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/37811.The_Assassination_of_Julius_Caesar) ([https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/37811.The Assassination of Julius Caesar](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/37811.The_Assassination_of_Julius_Caesar)) posed thought provoking ideas about information from my old latin classes. For the quick intro on Parenti, [this video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xP8CzIFhc14) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xP8CzIFhc14>) – well-known in some circles as yellow parenti – is a lecture from 1986. It's a great start, it helped me when I was figuring out how to live life.

Other North American perspectives:

TODO: Malcolm X / Martin Luther King Jr

TODO: links to old speeches by Debs and Lenin letters to American workers

TODO: [Zinn](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2767.A_People_s_History_of_the_United_States) -> [Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/20588662-an-indigenous-peoples-history-of-the-united-states) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/20588662-an-indigenous-peoples-history-of-the-united-states>) -> [J. Sakai](https://readsettlers.org/) (<https://readsettlers.org/>) -> [They Were her Property](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40887375-they-were-her-property) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40887375-they-were-her-property>). Think about these when you think intersectionality; think about these when you understand your childhood, as you process trauma.

TODO: Steinbeck

Next: [Cuba \(/posts/on-latin-america/\)](/posts/on-latin-america/)!

PS – come here later if you want, it may not make sense yet.

Eventually, I started realizing all these people who stood the ground I stand were revolutionaries in their own rites.

The abolitionists fought for change. Harriet Tubman was a [guerilla](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6739402-guerilla-warfare) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6739402-guerilla-warfare>) of her time. The US Civil War is arguably [America's greatest left-wing revolution](https://gravelinstitute.org/videos/what-they-didnt-teach-you-about-the-civil-war/) (<https://gravelinstitute.org/videos/what-they-didnt-teach-you-about-the-civil-war/>).

Eventually I realized that [George Jackson](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/489637.Blood_in_My_Eye) ([https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/489637.Blood in My Eye](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/489637.Blood_in_My_Eye)) and the BPP (see above) were the modern followers in those footsteps, continuing to fight for those improperly imprisoned and born into struggle.

Reading all of these different books from different wakes of life allowed me to better understand

the current time period, how life works, my role here on the pale blue dot.

Seeing these people, understanding how they lived their lives, has given me insight into how I want to live my own. Very tied in with my [philosophies \(/posts/on-philosophy\)](/posts/on-philosophy) and [values \(/posts/on-values\)](/posts/on-values), I strive to learn from wherever possible and make the best use possible of every resource at my disposal.

So now, well, I'm a big fan of history. Still a huge fan of [learning \(/posts/on-learning\)](/posts/on-learning). Always looking to bring positive growth to the place I call home, always looking to make life brighter for all of the life here trying to live.

Times they are a-changin'; we'll keep at it, changing with em.

TODO: decolonization

TODO: abolition

index tags: Communists, Reading List, North America, America, USA, BPP, Black Panther Party, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr, Huey P. Newton, Revolutionary Suicide, Assata Shakur, Michael Parenti, Blackshirts and Reds, Inventing Reality, Howard Zinn, George Jackson, Blood in my Eye, J. Sakai, Settlers, Stephanie Jones-Rogers, They Were Her Property, Harriet Tubman, Abolition, Decolonization, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

category tags: World History

On Latin America and the rest of the Americas

2022-11-02

"As well as all the hard working people, communist and not, fighting for the emancipation of the Latino and indigenous peoples."

Coming from the [North Americas \(/posts/on-north-america\)](/posts/on-north-america).

Latin America (with a focus on Cuba)

Branching out from the US, hmm, let's see. For Cuba, there's [Che \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Che_Guevara\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Che_Guevara) and Fidel. I love [Che Guevara Talks to Young People \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/405935.Che_Guevara_Talks_to_Young_People\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/405935.Che_Guevara_Talks_to_Young_People) – I reference it heavily in [On Technology \(/posts/on-technology\)](/posts/on-technology). For a quick Cuban piece, check out [On the Ideology of the Cuban Revolution \(1960\) \(https://redsails.org/la-ideologia-de-la-revolucion-cubana/\)](https://redsails.org/la-ideologia-de-la-revolucion-cubana/) by Che. Or, here are a couple longer interviews by Fidel: [One \(https://redsails.org/fidel-and-gawronski/\)](https://redsails.org/fidel-and-gawronski/), [two \(https://redsails.org/fidel-in-quadalajara/\)](https://redsails.org/fidel-in-quadalajara/). Oh, and when you get there, the most important for me: [Guerilla Warfare \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6739402-querilla-warfare\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6739402-querilla-warfare) by Che. About the real logistics of [organizing \(/posts/on-organizing\)](/posts/on-organizing) his troops, what it took to fight those battles, all the real-life little details that matter.

As they report in Havana, [there's a great friendship between cuba and north korea](https://havanatimes.org/news/the-great-friendship-between-cuba-and-north-korea/) (<https://havanatimes.org/news/the-great-friendship-between-cuba-and-north-korea/>). Their struggles are one and the same, against imperialism. They have fought the same battles. Survived the same attack, steely peoples the both of them. Enjoying life; fighting hard to keep doing that.

Head here for more [On Che Guevara \(/posts/on-che-guevara\)](/posts/on-che-guevara).

US + Latin American History

United States backed coups in Latin America

Copied from a thread of Armani's ([@historyoarmani2](https://twitter.com/historyoarmani2) (<https://twitter.com/historyoarmani2>)'s) [here](https://twitter.com/historyoarmani2/status/1370837690585866244) (<https://twitter.com/historyoarmani2/status/1370837690585866244>):

Guatemala 1954: the USA overthrew Jacobo Arbenz Guzman because he had a land reform program that took over large estates. The CIA believed Guzman was a Communist because he gave more than 200,000 acres of American-owned land to poor people.

Brazil 1964: USA backed military coup overthrew João Goulart because he had ties with communist countries & urged congress to approve land redistribution. The day before he was ousted he proposed a package to congress which would benefit the working class people of Brazil.

Dominican Republic 1965: after getting rid of the dictator Trujillo, Dominicans had their first free election & elected Juan Bosch. His pro castro sentiments, creation of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, & ability to unite all factions of Dominican society threatened the USA.

Chile 1973: the first Marxist president to ever be democratically elected, Salvador Allende was overthrown by the United States and murdered during the coup because he nationalized healthcare, large industries, gave free education and food for children, and redistributed land.

Nicaragua 1980s: Not a coup, but one of the worst cases of US involvement in Latin America by the hands of the cia, which funded Contra death squads against the Popular People's Movement. 50,000+ people were murdered by the US backed Contras

El Salvador 1980s: Not a coup but US funds death squads to destroy the Popular People's Movement, killing 75,000+ people.

Grenada 1980s: The USA invaded Grenada after a People's Revolution took control of the country and started implementing communist policies. The United States wanted to prevent "communism from spreading to other Caribbean countries"

Venezuela 2002: The failed coup backed by the US was an attempt to get Hugo Chavez out of office because he was a self declared socialist who was and had strong ties with Cuba and Fidel Castro.

Haiti 2004: Haiti's first democratically elected President was Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He was overthrown by the US which led to the US occupying the country. He called for former colonizer, France, to pay \$21 billion in restitution

Honduras 2009: Democratically elected president Manuel Zelaya was overthrown by the US when he shifted from his party's center right ideology and began seeking advice from Hugo Chavez to combat poverty, and joined a leftist alliance formed by Cuba and Venezuela

Bolivia 2019: Democratically elected president Evo Morales was overthrown by US backed right wing party when he decided to keep Bolivia's resources in country instead allowing outside businesses to export them

TODO: Bolivia, Venezuela, oh, right, literally all of Latin America other than Cuba.

Speaking of the Cuban–Korean friendship, next up: [Korea \(/posts/on-asia\)](#)!

index tags: Communists, Reading List, South America, Latin America, America, Cuba, Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, Evo Morales, RedSails, @historyoarmani2, United States backed coups in Latin America, Guatemala, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Chile, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Grenada, Venezuela, Haiti, Honduras, Bolivia

category tags: World History

On Asia

2022–11–03

"We may as well address Mao now, since everyone keeps talking about rent these days (and I'd like to maybe own a house someday)."

Asia (with a focus on Korea, China, and Vietnam)

For Korean perspective on Socialism, check out a bunch of Kim Il–Sung's speeches [here](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/60734264-socialist-education-in-korea) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/60734264-socialist-education-in-korea>). There's a reason he's a hero of the people, he has valuable perspective to share as a guerilla leader.

TODO: quote, che, everyone arrives at marxism through observing nature and drawing their own conclusions

TODO: quote, Korean/Cuban about the shared struggle

TODO: Pachinko

TODO: Vietnam / Ho. RedSails, how I arrived at the third international (ie. which was the party that stood against imperialism. eventually understanding Lenin's words. pull quote, also link.)

TODO: Laos

Continuing on from Korea but staying within Asia (and also suffering under the outward expansion of Imperial Japan), China!

- Mao
 - Zhou Enlai
 - Deng
 - Xi
-

China

Xinjiang Atrocity Propaganda Blitz – Feb 25, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/justinpodur/status/1365072793214349317) (<https://twitter.com/justinpodur/status/1365072793214349317>))

Justin Podur ([@justinpodur](https://twitter.com/justinpodur) (<https://twitter.com/justinpodur>)) notes,

It is important that China be presented as genocidal so that if you say "it's possible to eliminate poverty" or "it's possible to contain COVID in 2 months" the reply can be "lol Xinjiang" and the conversation is over.

Many more people died of COVID in long-term care facilities in Canada than died in the whole pandemic in China.

[COVID-19 highlights Canada's care home crisis \(via thelancet.com\)](https://thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)00083-0/fulltext)
([https://thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)00083-0/fulltext](https://thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)00083-0/fulltext))

Roderic Day covers this phenomenon in [The Xinjiang Atrocity Propaganda Blitz \(2021\)](https://redsails.org/the-xinjiang-atrocity-propaganda-blitz/)
(<https://redsails.org/the-xinjiang-atrocity-propaganda-blitz/>).

Laos

Lao news in English at kps.gov.la (kpl.gov.la/En/Default.aspx)

The Lao People's newspaper at pasaxon.org.la (pasaxon.org.la)

The Lao Party's website at pccob.gov.la (pccob.gov.la)

And a twitter thread:

The Secret War: US Terror in Laos [THREAD](https://twitter.com/MLReadingHub/status/1583820492707811328?t=WGucsolce0MGG9CWIRbEYQ&s=19)
(<https://twitter.com/MLReadingHub/status/1583820492707811328?t=WGucsolce0MGG9CWIRbEYQ&s=19>)

In late 1964 the United States unleashed hell upon the people of Laos — the most heavily bombed country in human history.

Full article at MountTaiPress [here](https://www.mounttai.press/articles/the-secret-war-us-terror-in-laos) (<https://www.mounttai.press/articles/the-secret-war-us-terror-in-laos>) if the thread is no longer accessible.

Philippines

- activism
 - [Activist Study \(Araling Aktibista\)](https://foreignlanguages.press/colorful-classics/activist-study-araling-aktibista-arak/) (<https://foreignlanguages.press/colorful-classics/activist-study-araling-aktibista-arak/>) - "*The Activist Study (Araling Aktibista), or ARAK as it's known, is part of the required study for activists in the Filipino revolutionary movement. The study includes Mao Zedong's Five Golden Rays, along with lessons on Revolutionary Study and Analysis, the Mass Line, and Democratic Centralism and the Committee System—all essential texts for studying and forming revolutionary practice.*"

TODO: Anakbayan tie-in

India

TODO: link Bhagat Singh

That isn't even getting to the real starts. For that, we'd have to get Europe, to Marx. Following the Paris Commune, in Germany. Then Lenin, in Russia. Working hard and coming up with the Leninism part of the Marxism–Leninism. His four works are essential. And finally, Stalin, the synthesizer of Marxism–Leninism.

To move forward, we'll go back to the "start": Europe time, let's talk about [Germany and Russia \(/posts/on-europe\)](#)

index tags: Communists, Reading List, Asia, Korea, China, Vietnam, Laos, Philippines, India, Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-il, Kim Jong-un, Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Zhou Enlai, Xi Jinping, Bhagat Singh, ARAK, Anakbayan, Justin Podur, @justinpodur, @RodericDay, Roderic Day, @RedSails, Red Sails, @NiaFrome, Nia Frome, The Xinjiang Atrocity Propaganda Blitz

category tags: World History

On Europe

2022-11-04

"Marx; Lenin; Stalin. If you've been putting it off, you should get to reading em. They're smart folks and they understood how the world works. Listen to what they have to say, and learn from their experiences."

Europe.

It is difficult for me to imagine what 'personal liberty' is enjoyed by an unemployed person, who goes about hungry, and cannot find employment.

Real liberty can exist only where exploitation has been abolished, where there is no oppression of some by others, where there is no unemployment and poverty, where a man is not haunted by the fear of being tomorrow deprived of work, of home and of bread. Only in such a society is real, and not paper, personal and every other liberty possible.

That's Joseph Stalin for ya. That's a personal favorite quote. He was a man who worked hard, during trying times, to provide the best possible for the people of the world.

TODO: links for all

- Marx
- Lenin
- Stalin
- How history works, how nature is, what society's current iteration entails (ie. Marxism):
- Three Sources and Component Parts

- diamat
 - Capital – yeah ok, this is the one I haven't read. getting there.
-

Italy

TODO: Antonio Gramsci

TODO: Domenico Losurdo

Soviet History

the illegal dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 accelerated NATO's aggressive expansion east.

From Armani (@historyoarmani2 (<https://twitter.com/historyoarmani2>)) on [this](https://twitter.com/historyoarmani2/status/1583608471022227456?t=GmLVI26uh4YY6NlrSH7oqA&s=19) (<https://twitter.com/historyoarmani2/status/1583608471022227456?t=GmLVI26uh4YY6NlrSH7oqA&s=19>) thread:

1992: NATO begins to move into Adriatic Sea. By 1993 NATO votes to take military action.

1994: NATO bombs Bosnia and Herzegovina

1995: NATO bombs Bosnia and Herzegovina (again)

Between '95 and '98, NATO began shifting its focus to the Middle East.

1999: Poland, Hungary, and Czech Republic become NATO members

1999: NATO bombs Albanian refugees near Gjakova. 73 Kosovo Albanian civilians were killed. 16 were children.

1999: NATO bombs Yugoslavia, killing over 600 civilians.

After these bombings, countries realized it was time to join the North Atlantic alliance or die.

By 2001 NATO forced North Macedonian UÇK fighters to disarm and initiated Article 5 which led to the illegal invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

For the next decade NATO ravaged the Middle East, funding terror groups and destabilizing an entire region.

2011– NATO orders a No-Fly Zone over Libya which eventually leads to Gaddafis assassination and the complete destruction of Libya.

By 2014, NATO turned back towards Eastern Europe as China and Russia began aligning themselves economically and militarily.

Since the illegal dissolution of the Soviet Union, NATO has been on a vicious campaign to acquire the globe under a veil of western influence and domination.

But somehow the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has convinced y'all it stands for peace.

TODO: Walter Rodney russian rev

Oh wow and actually, Walter Rodney is the perfect segue into [Africa \(/posts/on-africa\)](/posts/on-africa)

index tags: Communists, Reading List, Europe, Germany, Russia, Italy, Georgia, Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Antonio Gramsci, Domenico Losurdo, Soviet History, The illegal dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 accelerated NATOs aggressive expansion east, NATO, @historyoarmani2

category tags: World History

On Africa

2022–11–05

"Oh man you're gonna see the circle in a second, you're gonna love this"

Alright. With Africa, the resource I go back to most heavily (and that I still probably haven't read in-full, cover-to-cover, full disclosure – just being honest) is [How Europe Underdeveloped Africa](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40630.How_Europe_Underdeveloped_Africa) (https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40630.How_Europe_Underdeveloped_Africa)

Another great author is Frantz Fanon. Check out [The Wretched of the Earth](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/66933.The_Wretched_of_the_Earth) (https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/66933.The_Wretched_of_the_Earth)!

Check out [Aimé Césaire](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/86598.Discourse_on_Colonialism) (https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/86598.Discourse_on_Colonialism) – text [here](https://redsails.org/discours-sur-le-colonialisme/) (<https://redsails.org/discours-sur-le-colonialisme/>).

TODO: okay yeah there's a whole bunch more to talk about here! Very much

TODO: Burkina Faso, Thomas Sankara, [Women's Liberation](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3039894-women-s-liberation-and-the-african-freedom-struggle) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3039894-women-s-liberation-and-the-african-freedom-struggle>), tie back in with Mao in Asia, Women hold up half the sky.

TODO: Tie all that back in with [The Woman Question](https://redsails.org/the-woman-question/) (<https://redsails.org/the-woman-question/>), that includes LGBTQ+ folks too!

TODO: [AAPRP](https://aaprp-intl.org/overview-of-essential-aspects-of-nkrumahism-toureism-ideology-of-the-aaprp/) (<https://aaprp-intl.org/overview-of-essential-aspects-of-nkrumahism-toureism-ideology-of-the-aaprp/>) tie in

TODO: figure out what the heck is going on in australia.

TODO: Kwame Ture speeches

But with that, we can kinda move back into the modern era of the [US](/posts/on-north-america) (</posts/on-north-america>), with the slave trade and new learnings in mind. We can now approach works like [Settlers](https://readsettlers.org/) (<https://readsettlers.org/>) and [Black Skin, White Masks](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/274392.Black_Skin_White_Masks) (https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/274392.Black_Skin_White_Masks) with the context necessary.

We can understand the behaviors of our forefathers and their enemies better in order to forge our understanding of the present, into the future. You can pretty much attack any of the articles or works mentioned so far, you've got a bit of modern history from all the continents at least (missing LOTS of details, ha, I kinda apologize and kinda don't).

Continuing on to the next geographic region on my brain: [Palestine](/posts/on-the-middle-east) (</posts/on-the-middle-east>)

index tags: Communists, Reading List, Africa, Frantz Fanon, Walter Rodney, Burkina Faso, Thomas Sankara, Aimé Césaire, Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah, Kwame Nkrumah, Kwame Ture

category tags: World History

On Black Liberation

2022-11-06

"This is the tie-in page between North America and Africa"

This is an article dedicated to the lasting impact of the trans-atlantic slave trade.

For now, I'll link the prior related articles:

- [On North America \(/posts/on-north-america\)](/posts/on-north-america)
- [On Africa \(/posts/on-africa\)](/posts/on-africa)

And I'll link the future related articles:

- [On Abolition \(/posts/on-abolition\)](/posts/on-abolition)
- [On Bail and Criminalization \(/posts/on-bail-and-criminalization\)](/posts/on-bail-and-criminalization)

And I'll link you to these related readings on the topic, for a good curation of authors to check out:

- [articles on RedSails.org \(https://redsails.org/@black-liberation/\)](https://redsails.org/@black-liberation/)
-

All-African People's Revolutionary Party

Pan-Africanism: The Total Liberation and Unification of Africa Under Scientific Socialism

Check out [AAPRP \(https://aaprp-intl.org/\)](https://aaprp-intl.org/) to learn more [about the party \(https://aaprp-intl.org/about-aaprp/\)](https://aaprp-intl.org/about-aaprp/), their [ideology \(https://aaprp-intl.org/ideology-of-the-aaprp/\)](https://aaprp-intl.org/ideology-of-the-aaprp/), and [what they're doing \(https://aaprp-intl.org/programme-activities/\)](https://aaprp-intl.org/programme-activities/). They have a great resource on [Nkrumahism-Touréism \(https://aaprp-intl.org/overview-of-essential-aspects-of-nkrumahism-toureism-ideology-of-the-aaprp/\)](https://aaprp-intl.org/overview-of-essential-aspects-of-nkrumahism-toureism-ideology-of-the-aaprp/)

Continuing on to the next geographic region on my brain: [Palestine \(/posts/on-the-middle-east\)](/posts/on-the-middle-east)

TODO: tags

index tags: Communists, Africa, America, North America, Black Liberation, Black Panther Party, Black Nationalism, Abolition, All-African People's Revolutionary Party, AAPRP, Pan-Africanism, Nkrumahism-Touréism

category tags: World History

On the Middle East

2022-11-07

"Mostly concerning the Apartheid state in Palestine rn."

Palestine

TODO: Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

TODO: Falastiniyat

index tags: Communists, Reading List, Palestine, Israel, Apartheid, Falastiniyat, George Habash, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP

category tags: World History

On Feminism

2022-11-08

"Women's Liberation, Gender Studies, LGBTQ+ Politics and Media, etc."

It is common to say that something is good in theory but not in practice. I always want to say, then it is not such a good theory, is it?

[\(Catharine A. MacKinnon, 1996\) \(https://redsails.org/what-is-a-white-woman-anyway/\)](https://redsails.org/what-is-a-white-woman-anyway/)

Going to change lots as I iterate here, for now:

Some articles that have shaped my perspective:

- [The Woman Question \(https://redsails.org/the-woman-question/\)](https://redsails.org/the-woman-question/) (2016) by [Lori Watson \(https://read.dukeupress.edu/tsq/article-standard/3/1-2/246/91778/The-Woman-Question\)](https://read.dukeupress.edu/tsq/article-standard/3/1-2/246/91778/The-Woman-Question)
- [Men value my opinion \(https://redsails.org/los-hombres-valoran-mi-opinion/\)](https://redsails.org/los-hombres-valoran-mi-opinion/) (2020) by [Sobrina de Alguien \(https://redsails.org/@sobri/\)](https://redsails.org/@sobri/)
- [There Is No Unmarked Woman \(https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=bmlzZC5uZXR8bXJzLWctZW5nbGlzaHxneDo1MTBiMTNkMzc4NWY3Z](https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=bmlzZC5uZXR8bXJzLWctZW5nbGlzaHxneDo1MTBiMTNkMzc4NWY3Z) (1994) by [Deborah Tannen \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deborah_Tannen\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deborah_Tannen)
- [From Practice to Theory, or What is a White Woman Anyway? \(https://redsails.org/what-is-a-white-woman-anyway/\)](https://redsails.org/what-is-a-white-woman-anyway/) (1996) by [Catharine A. MacKinnon \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catharine_A._MacKinnon\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catharine_A._MacKinnon)
- [Stalinists and Feminazis \(https://redsails.org/stalinists-and-feminazis/\)](https://redsails.org/stalinists-and-feminazis/) (2021) by [Roderic Day \(https://redsails.org/@roderic/\)](https://redsails.org/@roderic/)

More articles by more authors:

- [articles on RedSails.org \(https://redsails.org/@feminism/\)](https://redsails.org/@feminism/)

TODO: sub-genre articles: Pornography, Catharine MacKinnon, Andrea Dworkin, Marxist v Liberal views.

TODO: fiction reading list tie-in?

TODO: brief LGBTQ history. Stonewall riots, AIDS epidemic, links to authors/books.

TODO: links to resources/other compilations of resources that can help kids and young lgbtq folks

TODO: resources for abused women and girls

TODO: resource for children in abusive households (?)

TODO: resources for parents/etc of lgbtq+ kids, to help well-meaning adults get on board when possible. always aim for best solution for kid, provide all relevant parties with the proper resources to have successful conversations around these emotionally-sensitive topics.

TODO: Engels

TODO: Lundy Bancroft

TODO: Index tags

index tags: Resource List, Reading List, Feminism, Communists, Marxist Feminism, LGBTQ+, ACAB, Health(care), Trans Rights, Pornography, Prostitution, The Woman Question, Lori Watson, Men Value My Opinion, Sobrina de Alguien, From Practice to Theory: or What is a White Woman Anyway?, Catharine A. MacKinnon, Stalinists and Feminazis, Roderic Day, RedSails

category tags: Resource Lists, Media Lists

On Modern (Non-Fiction) Literature

2022-11-20

"There are a bunch of books around. Let's look at a few authors that have materialist perspectives, if not communist ones."

This is assuming you've gone through most of the stuff in October and the first few days of November, which cover a bunch of prerequisites and a bunch of non-fiction literature, organized by geographic location. This is a bucket of stuff that's less geographically specific and doesn't fall into any other categories better (yet).

Modern

The world is changing! For modern resources on technology, check out [On Technology \(/posts/on-technology\)](/posts/on-technology).

articles

--- RedSails

--- LASD cops [TANKIEPILLED]

bourgeoisie media, in the minds of billionaires

--- Matt Levine Money Stuff
--- Bloomberg articles that are pro- Amazon company towns, link Blair Mountain and other
--- Shoe Dog
--- Snowball
--- Signal and the Noise
--- Principles
--- Michael Lewis – Liar's Poker, The Big Short, Moneyball

also link [fiction recs \(/posts/on-media\)](/posts/on-media)

dialectics and incentives within the household, women's liberation

[Why Does He Do That?: Inside the Minds of Angry and Controlling Men](#)
([https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/224552.Why Does He Do That ?](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/224552.Why_Does_He_Do_That_?))

Engels – History of Private Property and the State

Jennette McCurdy

Mao, Sankara

Trans rights

[The Women Question \(https://redsails.org/the-woman-question/\)](#) by [Lori Watson](#)
(<https://read.dukeupress.edu/tsq/article-standard/3/1-2/246/91778/The-Woman-Question>).

Porn

[Pornography: Men Possessing Women](#)
(<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/163256.Pornography>) by Andrea Dworkin

Linguistics

Because Internet

index tags: Media, Books, Non-Fiction, Articles, LGBTQ+, Trans Rights, Feminism, ACAB, Police, Pornography, Linguistics, Dialectics, Abuse, Matt Levine, Michael Lewis

category tags: Media Lists

On Fiction

2022-11-21

"Books, articles, short stories, novellas, zines, and other forms of words."

This may even include casual uncategorized non-fiction, who knows what these iterations might bring.

fiction (shortest to longest)

[Flash Crash \(https://escapepod.org/2019/06/06/escape-pod-683-flash-crash/\)](https://escapepod.org/2019/06/06/escape-pod-683-flash-crash/) by Louis Evans
[17776 \(https://www.sbnation.com/a/17776-football\)](https://www.sbnation.com/a/17776-football) and [20220](https://www.sbnation.com/c/secret-base/21410129/20020) by [Jon Bois \(https://twitter.com/jon_bois\)](https://twitter.com/jon_bois)

[Siddhartha \(/posts/on-siddhartha\)](#) by Herman Hesse

[Slaughterhouse-Five \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4981.Slaughterhouse_Five\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4981.Slaughterhouse_Five) by Kurt Vonnegut

[Lies of Locke Lamora \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/29588376-the-lies-of-locke-lamora\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/29588376-the-lies-of-locke-lamora) by Scott Lynch

[The Dispossessed \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13651.The_Dispossessed\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13651.The_Dispossessed) by Ursula K. Le Guin

[Pachinko \(/posts/on-asia\)](#) by Lee Min-jin

Poetry

[On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/41880609-on-earth-we-re-briefly-gorgeous\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/41880609-on-earth-we-re-briefly-gorgeous) by Ocean Vuong

Artistic

[House of Leaves \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/24800.House_of_Leaves\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/24800.House_of_Leaves) by Mark Z. Danielewski

[Exercises in Style \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/319790.Exercises_in_Style\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/319790.Exercises_in_Style) by Raymond Queneau (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raymond_Queneau)

[Hopscotch \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/53413.Hopscotch\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/53413.Hopscotch) by Julio Cortázar

To-Read

The following are just books that are on my list to-read. Can't vouch for them, but most come on recommendation:

[A Grain of Wheat \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/836746.A_Grain_of_Wheat\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/836746.A_Grain_of_Wheat) by Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

[One Hundred Years of Solitude \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/320.One_Hundred_Years_of_Solitude\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/320.One_Hundred_Years_of_Solitude) by Gabriel García Márquez

[Parable of the Sower \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/52397.Parable_of_the_Sower\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/52397.Parable_of_the_Sower) by Octavia E. Butler

[Ubik \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/22590.Ubik\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/22590.Ubik) by Philip K. Dick

[The Sorrow Of War: A Novel of North Vietnam \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/780889.The_Sorrow_Of_War\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/780889.The_Sorrow_Of_War) by Bảo Ninh

Some [Émile Zola \(https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4750.mile_Zola\)](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4750.mile_Zola).

[All Systems Red](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/32758901-all-systems-red) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/32758901-all-systems-red>) and the rest of The Murderbot Diaries by Martha Wells

[For Whom the Bell Tolls](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/46170.For_Whom_the_Bell_Tolls)

([https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/46170.For Whom the Bell Tolls](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/46170.For_Whom_the_Bell_Tolls)) and [The Old Man And The Sea](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1256215.The_Old_Man_And_The_Sea) ([https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1256215.The Old Man And The Sea](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1256215.The_Old_Man_And_The_Sea)) by Ernest Hemingway

[Earthlings](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/50269327-earthlings) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/50269327-earthlings>) by Sayaka Murata – I liked [Convenience Store Woman](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/38357895-convenience-store-woman) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/38357895-convenience-store-woman>).

[Vita Nostra](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/38633526-vita-nostra) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/38633526-vita-nostra>) and the rest of the Метаморфозы series by Marina Dyachenko.

[The Fifth Season](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/19161852-the-fifth-season) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/19161852-the-fifth-season>) by N.K. Jemisin.

[Words Are My Matter](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/29363335-words-are-my-matter) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/29363335-words-are-my-matter>) by Ursula K. Le Guin.

[Exhalation](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/41160292-exhalation) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/41160292-exhalation>) by Ted Chiang

[Anxious People](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/53799686-anxious-people) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/53799686-anxious-people>) and [A Man Called Ove](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18774964-a-man-called-ove) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18774964-a-man-called-ove>) by Fredrik Backman

[The Skin](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/138456.The_Skin) ([https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/138456.The Skin](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/138456.The_Skin)) by Curzio Malaparte

index tags: Media List, Reading List, Fiction, Art, Stories, Books

category tags: Media Lists

On Music

2022-11-22

"Tunes."

Music

- Sufjan Stevens
- Lucy Dacus
- Slow Pulp
- Alvays
- Parquet Courts
- Ghais Guevara
- badbadnotgood
- Palm

- Funkadelic
- katy kirby
- Texas Sun/Moon
- Emily Yacina (?)
- Ceres and Calypso
- Alex G
- Waxahatchee
- Frank Ocean
- Whitney
- Mitski
- Anderson .Paak
- Japanese Breakfast
- Laura Stevenson
- Adult Mom
- Phantogram
- Manatree
- Justice
- Vince Staples
- Bleached
- The Strokes
- Slothrust
- DJ Earworm / Girl Talk
- Michael Jackson

index tags: Media List, Music, Art

category tags: Media Lists

On Audiovisual Media

2022-11-23

"Movies, shows, videos in the news and on the web."

Movies

- Sorry to Bother You
- Certain Women
- King of Devil's Island
- The Wind the Shakes the Barley
- Battleship Potempkin
- Come and See
- Beginners
- Parasite
- Okja
- Snowpiercer
- 12 Angry Men

- In Bruges, Seven Psychopaths, 3 Billboards – Martin McDonagh knows how to write a movie
 - The Prestige
 - Shenzhen: The Silicon Valley of Hardware
 - Dog Day Afternoon
 - Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind
 - Grave of the Fireflies
 - Castle in the Sky
 - Kiki's Delivery Service
 - Spirit of the Beehive
 - Shawshank Redemption
 - Short Term 12
 - The Act of Killing
 - Fargo
 - Bacurau
 - Ocean's 11 / Rififi
 - Robin Hood
-

Shows

- Cowboy Bebop
 - The Rehearsal – (check notes)
 - Black Sails
 - Bojack Horseman
-

YouTube

- [Vi Hart \(/posts/on-vihart\)](#)
 - northernlion
-

Podcasts

- [5-4 \(/posts/on-five-four\)](#)
 - blowback
 - revleftradio
-

Kids

- Avatar the Last Airbender

This was a great show for me growing up. I think there's also a somewhat valid interpretation as anti-communist propaganda (ie. there are some amount of [swerves \(https://redsails.org/the-swerve/\)](https://redsails.org/the-swerve/), there are some unsatisfying explanations of incentives involved, there's a bit of anti-authoritarian/[brainwashing \(https://redsails.org/masses-elites-and-rebels/\)](https://redsails.org/masses-elites-and-rebels/) rhetoric, there's not enough decolonialization, they don't abolish the existing power hierarchies that led to vicious imperialism, ...). But especially as a kid, I think the values showcased really helped me. These include:

- Aang's personal perseverance and dedication to others (ie. the survival of humanity)
- Zuko's ability to redeem himself in the eyes of himself and his uncle, despite his earlier personal shortcomings
- Iroh as a general mentor figure, using his experience as an imperial leader to now fight with others across nations against the imperial expansion of the fire nation from his vantage (and always offering helpful advice over a nice cup of tea).
- The overall emphasis on teamwork throughout the show
- the focus on maintaining balance (between the elements, between nations, between the physical and spirit worlds, between La and Tui – spirits of the Sun and Moon, etc.)

I think it's a 70/30 type show, much better than it's bad. I think it promotes positive growth in children, and it should lead them to better ideals – hopefully they'll continue on to better media as they grow. But it's the best show I know for children off the top of my head, still a story of working together to stave off evil and disaster. If you want more, see my list of [kids books \(/posts/on-kids-books\)](#)!

index tags: Media List, Movies, Shows, Podcasts, YouTube

category tags: Media Lists

On Che Guevara

2022-12-01

"If you tremble with indignation at every injustice then you are a comrade of mine. ~Che Guevara' ~Aaron Steel"

If you tremble with indignation at every injustice then you are a comrade of mine.

At the risk of seeming ridiculous, let me say that the true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love. It is impossible to think of a genuine revolutionary lacking this quality.

Never forget that technology is a weapon. If you feel the world is not as perfect as it should be, then you must struggle to put the weapon of technology at the service of society. You must rescue society before that can be accomplished, so that technology benefits the greatest number of human beings possible, so that we can build the society of tomorrow-whatever name you choose to give it-the society we dream of and that we call – as it was called by the founder of scientific socialism – communism.

(see: [On Technology \(/posts/on-technology\)](#))

Che Guevara

I've spoken about Che already in [On Technology \(/posts/on-technology\)](/posts/on-technology) and [On Latin America \(/posts/on-latin-america\)](/posts/on-latin-america). In those, I discuss Che's Speech "[Technology is a Weapon](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/405935.Che_Guevara_Talks_to_Young_People)" ([https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/405935.Che Guevara Talks to Young People](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/405935.Che_Guevara_Talks_to_Young_People)) and give a general run-down of Cuba, respectively.

In this article, I'm going to get into more of my specific notes from some of his texts and speeches.

In "Something new in the Americas", Che discusses the tasks and responsibilities he saw that would fall to the coming generations.

In "Never forget, technology is a weapon", Che discusses the role of technology within society and the corrolary role of technology-builders. This was a speech directed to architecture students, rather than the politically-driven crowds that Che often spoke to. As an engineer, as someone who works to build technology for society, the ideas resonated with me very heavily. The ideas conveyed in this speech have been fundamental towards my growth as an engineer and organizer.

And in Guerilla Warfare, Che goes over his golden rules for combat and outlines the logistics undertaken in order to fight and overthrow the Batista regime. He aims to show that with the support of the people, with inspired troops who serve as faithful compañeros, great success is possible against a powerful enemy. And he outlines the day-to-day details necessary to consider for fighters who wanted to be successful in that fight. In Che's words:

This is not a model but a description of one reality, of how the organization worked in one country where it proved possible to achieve triumph over an army that was fairly well organized and armed.

TODO: also I want to talk more about Che generally, discuss how inspiring he's been worldwide and to me personally. He's December 1st, after all! The first of the specifics.

Something new in the Americas

[Speech \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/405935.Che Guevara Talks to Young People\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/405935.Che_Guevara_Talks_to_Young_People)

- Civilization never made an analysis with the necessary depth, from a scientific viewpoint, of the role of moral and spiritual values over the course of history. That is the most important intellectual challenge that the twentieth century has left to youth.
- Che realized the futility of working alone to achieve something great for humanity (childhood dream of being a revered medical researcher) – revolution requires an entire people who are mobilized, who know how to use arms and practice unity in combat.
- Young people must retain their freshness and enthusiasm and learn to lead those who are older and have lost those. They must stay political, to be apolitical is to turn their back on the movements of the world.
- *"To the powerful masters we represent all that is absurd, negative, irreverent, and disruptive in this America that they so despise and scorn,"* Guevara told the students at the University of Havana in March 1960. But to the great mass of the people of the Americas, *"we represent everything noble, sincere and combative."*
- *"Sin cuota pero sin bota"* – without a quota but without the boot
- *"Although it may seem paradoxical, I would also like to greet today the delegation*

representing the purest of the North American people. [Ovation] I would like to salute them not only because the North American people are not to blame for the barbarity and injustice of their rulers, but also because they are innocent victims of the rage of all the peoples of the world, who sometimes confuse a social system with a people."

Never forget, technology is a weapon

[Speech \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/405935.Che_Guevara_Talks_to_Young_People\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/405935.Che_Guevara_Talks_to_Young_People)

- "Every true man must feel on his own cheek the blow to the cheek of another." ~José Martí
 - Behind technology there is always someone controlling it; and that someone is society. You can either be for or against that society. There are those in the world who think that exploitation is good and there are those who think it is bad and must be ended. And even when there is no discussion of politics, a political being cannot renounce this inherent aspect of the human condition.
 - Never forget that technology is a weapon. If you feel the world is not as perfect as it should be, then you must struggle to put the weapon of technology at the service of society. You must rescue society before that can be accomplished, so that technology benefits the greatest number of human beings possible, so that we can build the society of tomorrow—whatever name you choose to give it—the society we dream of and that we call – as it was called by the founder of scientific socialism – communism.
-

Guerilla Warfare (https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6739402- guerilla-warfare)

Seven Golden Rules:

- Do not engage in a fight that cannot be won.
- Move continuously, hit and run.
- Use the enemy as the main supplier of weapons.
- Hide your movements.
- Make use of the element of surprise in military actions.
- Form new columns once some power has been won.
- In general, proceed through three phases: strategic defense, balance between the possibilities of enemy action and guerrilla action, and finally the total annihilation of the adversary.

Notes:

- Guerillas need land they're thoroughly familiar with (including good maneuverability, hiding, and with the support of the people in semi-populated areas) → this leads them to agrarian revolution, since the main reform in those types of locations is changing the form of land ownership.
- pulls examples of Mao in China, Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam, Algeria, Puerto Rico
- continuous blows to the enemy to create the illusion they're always surrounded
- Heavy flexibility, heavy consideration of resources are required. Attrition is the method of attack until the fields are more equal.
- Important guerilla tactics: perfect knowledge of the area; surveillance and foresight as to the lines of escape; vigilance over all the secondary roads that might bring in reinforcements to the point of attack; intimacy with people in the zone so as to ensure

their help in regard to supplies, transport, and temporary or permanent hiding places if it becomes necessary to leave wounded compañeros behind; numerical superiority at a chosen point of action; total mobility; and the possibility of counting on reserves

- Need to acquire arms and ammunition a via the enemy
- The conditions for a good social living environment are antithetical to favorable guerilla warfare environments
- Urban warfare must be extremely discreet and must not operate with the same large-scale goals as warfare under favorable conditions – urban attacks must focus on specific tactical goals in order to effectively drive the movement forward
- But the guerrilla fighter, as the conscious element of the vanguard of the people, must display the moral conduct of a true priest of the desired reform. To the stoicism forced by the difficult conditions of warfare should be added an austerity born of rigid self-control that prevents a single excess, a single slip, whatever the circumstances. The guerrilla soldier should be an ascetic.
- Guerillas as social reformers: must explain the necessity of change and demonstrate the necessity of armed revolution. They must work towards progressive radicalization.
- Guerilla as a combatant: physical, mental, and moral qualities required. Should ideally be familiar with the environment. They should be vigilant and audacious; ready to risk their lives but unwilling to risk unnecessarily; cautiously optimistic for the best after analyzing and understanding the dangers/possibilities. They must be close-lipped even among comrades due to infiltration attempts.
- The guerrilla fighter must never for any reason leave a wounded compañero at the mercy of the enemy troops, because this means abandoning him or her to an almost certain death. At whatever cost, the wounded must be removed from the combat zone to a secure place. The greatest exertions and the greatest risks must be taken in this task. The guerrilla soldier must be an extraordinary compañero.
- Guerillas must be indefatigable even when exhaustion seems unbearable. They must be able to endure a lack of food, water, clothing, and shelter. They must also be able to cure sickness and wounds by nature alone within the guerilla zone. They must have an iron constitution in order to become part of the landscape in which they fight. Generally between 25–35 (old enough to consciously make the decision) but 16–65 can be useful and accepted in certain cases. They must carry their homes and armaments on their back, which they should do efficiently and meticulously. To do this, they must have an ideal driving them. They should be able to survive on their own if separated
- The normal routine is the long hike. Let us take the example of a mountain guerrilla fighter located in wooded regions under constant enemy harassment. In these conditions the guerrilla band moves during daylight hours, without eating, in order to alter its position; when night arrives, camp is set up in a clearing near a water supply according to a routine, each group assembling in order to eat together; at dusk the fires are lighted with whatever is around.
- Promotions based on courage, ability, and spirit of sacrifice.
- If encircled, guerillas must hold off the enemy until nightfall, find the best path out, and escape in silence under the cover of darkness. It is extremely difficult to prevent this type of escape.
- The man in the attacking vanguard must always fall into ambush – this creates a growing fear of death without escape for the leader of enemy attack to the point that nobody wants to be the vanguard. Without a vanguard, the enemy can no longer move forward.
- In setting up supply lines, guerillas must pay for the things they receive; in times of extreme economic downturn, they must give bonds or promissory notes ("bonds of hope"). Once food can be centralized/organized, the guerilla forced can act as the dotp of a small planned economy in order to help the constituency of the area.
- Essential foods: meat, salt, vegetables, starches, or grains

- Mules are great for transport under night. Waypoint houses are a necessity to prevent daytime visibility of supply movements.
- Maintaining great relationships with the peasants and being smart about sourcing food and other necessities will allow for a lasting supply for the entire troop.
- The council — or central department of justice, revolutionary laws, and administration — is one of the vital features of a guerrilla army fully constituted and with its own territory.
- Use stereotypes to your advantage, eg. women as couriers to avoid interference and evade harsher punishment
- Relied heavily on breaking immediate communications of the enemy -> how is removing competitive advantage possible within modern technology and communications infrastructure?
- Sabotage can target national scale determined objectives (eg. taking out communications/railroads) or local lines of combat.
- Leather work (shoes, knapsacks, cartridge belts) and armories (weapon repair, explosives) are important industries in guerilla warfare. Iron and tin products are useful for construction. Communications are an important internal industry and lives depend on quick comms. Tobacco, salt, and leather are important ingredients to get. Storing beef in the form of dried jerky is great in uncertain circumstances.
- Propaganda comes in two types: propaganda originating outside free territory (from the national civil organization) and propaganda originating within. The functions of both are related and should be organized simultaneously. It is generally preferable to go with truth in the long term and the most captivating methods of disseminating propaganda should be utilized. Propaganda should promote the ideals and truths of the struggle to gain and keep support from the masses.
- Need good intelligence. Get people (especially women) to infiltrate. Correct information is extremely important. Infiltrated groups have infrastructure laid to sow doubt and fear which can be snowballed/controlled into favorable circumstances.
- When there is a large liberated area and recruits do not have to go through the guerilla struggle, schools are necessary to train and prepare soldiers. These should teach combat and recoup supplies and indoctrinate to establish a great ideological foundation within its members.
- *"This is not a model but a description of one reality, of how the organization worked in one country where it proved possible to achieve triumph over an army that was fairly well organized and armed."*
- The participation of the people in politics, that is to say, in the expression of their own desires made into laws, decrees, and resolutions, should be constant. Need to foster community and mutual aid, public support and popular participation.

index tags: Reading Notes, Che Guevara, Never Forget: Technology is a Weapon, Something New in the Americas, Guerilla Warfare, Cuba, Seven Golden Rules, Logistics, José Martí

category tags: Famous Communists

On Michael Parenti

2022-12-02

"Mikey P from New Yawk"

In the United States, for over a hundred years, the ruling interests tirelessly propagated anticommunism among the populace, until it became more like a religious orthodoxy than a political analysis. During the cold war, the anticommunist ideological framework could transform any data about existing communist societies into hostile evidence. If the Soviets refused to negotiate a point, they were intransigent and belligerent; if they appeared willing to make concessions, this was but a skillful ploy to put us off our guard. By opposing arms limitations, they would have demonstrated their aggressive intent; but when in fact they supported most armament treaties, it was because they were mendacious and manipulative. If the churches in the USSR were empty, this demonstrated that religion was suppressed; but if the churches were full, this meant the people were rejecting the regime's atheistic ideology. If the workers went on strike (as happened on infrequent occasions), this was evidence of their alienation from the collectivist system; if they didn't go on strike, this was because they were intimidated and lacked freedom. A scarcity of consumer goods demonstrated the failure of the economic system; an improvement in consumer supplies meant only that the leaders were attempting to placate a restive population and so maintain a firmer hold over them.

The essence of capitalism is to turn nature into commodities and commodities into capital. The live green earth is transformed into dead gold bricks, with luxury items for the few and toxic slag heaps for the many. The glittering mansion overlooks a vast sprawl of shanty towns, wherein a desperate, demoralized humanity is kept in line with drugs, television, and armed force.

In pursuit of counterrevolution and in the name of freedom, U.S. forces or U.S.-supported surrogate forces slaughtered 2,000,000 North Koreans in a three-year war; 3,000,000 Vietnamese; over 500,000 in aerial wars over Laos and Cambodia; over 1,500,000 in Angola; over 1,000,000 in Mozambique; over 500,000 in Afghanistan; 500,000 to 1,000,000 in Indonesia; 200,000 in East Timor; 100,000 in Nicaragua (combining the Somoza and Reagan eras); over 100,000 in Guatemala (plus an additional 40,000 disappeared); over 700,000 in Iraq; 3 over 60,000 in El Salvador; 30,000 in the "dirty war" of Argentina (though the government admits to only 9,000); 35,000 in Taiwan, when the Kuomintang military arrived from China; 20,000 in Chile; and many thousands in Haiti, Panama, Grenada, Brazil, South Africa, Western Sahara, Zaire, Turkey, and dozens of other countries, in what amounts to a free-market world holocaust.

Michael Parenti

There's much to be said for Parenti. His lectures are short and very easily accessible.

And his history books are some of the first that helped shaped my understanding of history as it occurred. He outlines the perspectives of historical forces well; he demonstrates the incentives at play during some brutal periods of history.

I came to Parenti because of twitter user Aren LeBrun ([@proustmalone](https://twitter.com/proustmalone) (<https://twitter.com/proustmalone>)). Aren is well-spoken and cutting, and he mentioned that he got much of his insight into the way the world works from reading Parenti. So I decided to put him on the ever-growing list of books-to-read.

While looking for one to read, his most popular book – [The Assassination of Julius Caesar](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/37811.The_Assassination_of_Julius_Caesar) (https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/37811.The_Assassination_of_Julius_Caesar) – happened to be in an old area of interest. I had a bit of Ancient Rome in the brain already, so I thought it would be a great place to start.

TODO: say stuff about it, Gibbons quote, notes

As I was reading, I searched Parenti online. I think I had watched a lecture (or at least some clips) at this point. Online, many recommended [Blackshirts and Reds](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/404273.Blackshirts_and_Reds) (https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/404273.Blackshirts_and_Reds) as an essential work. I was interested, I've always known my modern history is a weak point, so I read it in a couple hours.

TODO: say stuff about it, USSR quote – compare to today, notes

After that, I decided to check out [Inventing Reality](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/673719.Inventing_Reality) (https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/673719.Inventing_Reality). This was another really great read that helped me gain clarity on how history went down. Parenti does a great job of pulling relevant newspaper clippings while illustrating the events that occurred.

TODO: notes

TODO: link yellow parenti, other lectures

TODO: Gibbons quote – Caesar?

For now, I'll link some works (in a logical order) and post some of my own notes for quick takeaways:

- [Blackshirts and Reds](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/404273.Blackshirts_and_Reds) (https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/404273.Blackshirts_and_Reds) (1997) – A great read on WW2 and Cold War history, fairly short and goes pretty quick.
- [Anticommunism & Wonderland](https://redsails.org/anticommunism-and-wonderland/) (<https://redsails.org/anticommunism-and-wonderland/>) (1997) – These are chapters 3 and 4 of Blackshirts and Reds, which serve as a good standalone work if you want something shorter to start.
- [Inventing Reality](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/673719.Inventing_Reality) (https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/673719.Inventing_Reality) (1986) – A Marxist-Leninist take on news media; similar to Chomsky's Manufacturing Consent, but better and published first.
- [Friendly Feudalism: The Tibet Myth](https://redsails.org/friendly-feudalism/) (<https://redsails.org/friendly-feudalism/>) (2007)

Inventing Reality

(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/673719.Inventing_Reality) (1986)

notes

- Media serves to portray (and normalize) existing power structures and maintain the status quo. Black people are overrepresented in bad news stories. Black people and women are underrepresented in news media.
- The "minimal effect" of media (ie. re-enforcing current stances and world view) is the

intended effect. Media promotes tunnel vision, explaining the small-picture cause and effect without looking at larger causal links between wealth/power/policy.

- "The existing media market of ideas is more like the larger economic market of which it is a part: oligopolistic and accessible mostly to those who possess vast amounts of capital, or who hold views that are pleasing to the possessors of capital."
- Real news is more expensive than canned features and soft stuff is also less offensive (more appealing to advertisers)
- Must follow direct (and implied) orders from bosses/owners; must not offend advertisers; must maintain reader goodwill.
- Discussion of "freedom of press" centers around government influence or limitation, whereas censorship generally occurs in the private sector powered by owners/advertisers who determine what gets shown to the public.
- There is a conditional autonomy that grants power to those who support the ideals of those already in power; editors only become (and stay) editors if the owners support their work. Thus, editors serve as conduits of owner censorship rather than resisters to it. Similarly, reporters are given autonomy so long as their work is satisfactory to their masters.
- "The press does not speak the voice of the nation. It does not even speak the voice of those who write for it." ~Fanny Wright, 1829
- All reporting is influenced by prior biases and current incentives, which serve to promote the status quo. "Total objectivity" doesn't exist (perception is inescapably biased) and in journalism it is used to prevent journalists from injecting their own opinions or asking too many uncomfortable questions. Orthodoxy masks itself as objectivity.
- Cannot ask questions that go against the class interests of the owning class: Why are wealth and power so unequally distributed between classes within nations and between developed and Third World nations? Why do corporations have so much power and citizens so little? Why is there so much underemployment, want, and economic insecurity in so many countries in which capitalism is said to be working so well? Why does the United States need a global network of military bases around the world? And why are US leaders hostile toward any nation that charts an independent course, one that might infringe upon the interests of multinational corporate investors?
- "Objectivity is believing those in power and printing their press releases"
- it is not the laziness that is allowing the manipulation; it is the manipulative control that encourages and rewards the lazy, superficial ("objective") approach.
- Maintain appearances via a) ideological congruity between the working press and media owners, b) limited range of views that don't question the status quo, c) anticipatory self-censorship, d) rewards for conforming to the existing system, e) obvious instances of coercion, censorship, and bias are explained away as outliers or isolated issues, f) suppression is not often felt, so journalists perceive autonomy guided by integrity despite the actual control editors and owners have.
- Lots of CIA propaganda comes in (directly via journalists, indirectly via blowback articles initially published elsewhere).
- Although corporate mishaps may be reported on, the underlying class interests and the rippling out of imperialism are both ignored. Foreign policy and US global interventionism are glistened over at best.
- Washington Post is owned by Jeff Bezos
- Consumer ideology fostered via the 60–80% of print space and 22% of television time dedicated to advertising as well as during the programming that emphasizes spending. The consumer ideology fabricates false needs and panders in a false way to real needs. Media teaches people to define their needs and lifestyles according to the dictates of the commodity market.
- Big business enhances its legitimacy and social hegemony by portraying itself as society's

Grand Provider.

- Advertising shows us our want and frustration are products of our own deficiency. They advertise not only the consumer wares but also the capitalist system and normalize a gluttonous American lifestyle.
- Today, one-third of all corporate advertising is directed at influencing the public on political and ideological issues as opposed to pushing consumer goods.
- Public service announcements are monopolized by the Advertising Council, a nonprofit corporation run by corporate, network, and bank officials. They run with the theme: Personal charity, individual effort, and neighborly good-will can solve any mess. Collectivist, class-oriented, political actions and governmental regulations are not needed in a land of self-reliant volunteers. The goal is to change individual behavior, not social conditions.
- Gulf war spoken about through football euphemisms, abstracts the slaughter of a people to a mere strategic victory by a better player.
- Weather is only spoken about within the smaller context of "what's it like out today?" and the underlying causes are not discussed. Bad trends for the world are ignored while focus is directed to the immediate niceness of warming weather. The usefulness of snow is ignored and low snowfall is lauded despite the lack of snow making it difficult for northern climes to renew themselves.
- News media promotes business perspectives but rarely lend a voice to the labor perspective. The economy is presented as something business and the government attend to while organized labor tags along as a junior partner that occasionally threatens the system.
- Owners and managers are painted as offering concessions patiently and earnestly while strikers are portrayed as violent, crazy, and greedy.
- Worker viewpoints aren't covered, the causes of strikes aren't covered, solidarity between strikers and unions isn't covered.
- The government is portrayed as a neutral arbiter working towards the "national interest" of restarting production.
- This portrayal of organized labor creates a negative view in the eyes of the people, even those with otherwise progressive views. This discourages unionization and creates suspicion around labor organizations.
- There exists not only public opinion but media opinions about public opinion. What the people think is one thing; what is publicized about what they think can be something else. Despite not controlling opinions, the news can control opinion visibility. Protestors are painted in a negative light while ignoring the underlying causes of the protests.
- The news reported a move towards conservatism while ignoring pro-labor, anti-war, anti-corporation, anti-imperialist, and anti-governance protests, strikes, and movements during the 70s and 80s.
- The right generally cannot stir popular support for economic policies that support pentagon funding or corporate tax cuts and therefore relies on non-economic issues such as busing, school prayer, porn, and abortions.
- Centrist media generally favors conservative viewpoints on free-enterprise capitalism, labor unions, protest, etc. even if they don't see eye to eye on all issues.
- Fraudulent claims are repeated until they're accepted as true, such as Russian interference.
- The view on the left that academia generally sides with the corporate-military establishment is ignored while the view on the right that academia is filled with "cultural marxism" and radical political correctness pervades the media.
- Dukakis had popular policy support and an electorate that was ready for change after eight years of Reagan. Low voter turnout was spurned by the ineffectuality of the Democratic candidate and low enthusiasm for either candidate. This led to the Bush

presidency, which was used to signal a turn towards conservatism.

- Accuracy in Media attacks liberal bias while receiving syndicate support and public exposure that no leftist media can reach.
- Conservative christian groups receive millions in funding while leftist Christian groups who support housing and war reforms generally don't have enough financial backing to gain media exposure.
- Protests are covered with a bias against protestors. Intersectional issues are covered as people protesting "various issues" since the press treats political issues as isolated, unrelated events.
- The press: ignores and undercounts leftist protests; favors rightist protests for eg. abortion and anticommunist movements; ignores the underlying issues being protested while covering the events (not lending visibility to chants or speeches given) and scants content through single-issue reductionism (eg. MLK was a good civil rights leader but his criticisms of the US economic system are largely unpublicized, Malcolm X was a militant black separatist whose anti-imperialist views were also uncovered, both got assassinated when they started linking racial issues to class and economic conditions); trivialization and marginalization of protests for their surface-level appearances (anarchists = set things on fire); and exaggeration of protestor violence while ignoring the state violence being protested.
- The media lumps together syndicalism, anarchism, communism, etc into a danger to the American life; opposition to the institutions of the powerful are taken as opposition to America itself.
- Anti-red sentiment was present during Eugene Debs' attempts to improve railway working conditions and increased during the Russian revolution era. In 1919, fourteen nations (including Britain, France, and the US) sent an expeditary force to overthrow the new Russian gov. When this failed, the media picked up stories about Russia wanting war with the US and attacking India.
- Those leading and participating in strikes were denounced and arrested. Socialists who won congress seats were denied them. These efforts killed the strikes, brought wages down, and decimated the ranks of unions.
- At the same time, Mussolini was praised for bringing back the Italian economy and Hitler was reported as "softening down" in 1933. This led to news pleading great takes such as, "let's give Adolf a chance"
- After WW2, cold war propaganda was a way to inculcate the people with want for more government military and defense spending. This was a boon to the corporations that fulfilled such contracts. The anticommunist sentiment led to laws decreasing the efficacy of unions by taking away the right to work, forcing unions to accept corporate spies, and allowing owners to refuse to bargain collectively. CIO had to expell many unions, membership reduced by a quarter, and the union movement lost momentum it never regained. Despite all of this, the press still called the Truman admin "soft on communism"
- McCarthy came around. Reporters knew he was a liar and power manipulator but reported what he said due to "objectivity"; the press played his lies for years despite his claims having been proven false and objectivity was mocked when the story's almost always favored McCarthy. Opposition to McCarthy challenged his methods as "ineffective against communism" but did not challenge the assumption that communists deserved persecution for their political associations and beliefs. His undoing was the eventual targeting of the Republican Eisenhower admin, when conservative publishers decided to stop publishing him.
- Red peril propagated by gov-industrial-media complex because of 1) limiting labor movements/gains, 2) distracting from the crises of capitalism, 3) marshaling public support for defense spending.
- Whether or not fascists and capitalists believe their rhetoric, their ability to mass

distribute it limits political discourse and consciousness.

- Anti-communist and anti-soviet genuflection was commonplace for liberal and leftist intellectuals. This showing worsened anti-communist hysteria around the cold war and reduced the leftist space, rather than lending them credibility. Hardliners who chose to give nuanced pros/cons of the USSR (refusing to take a purely anticommunist stance) were rejected by those on the anticommunist left.
- In the early 80s, the USSR reduced their arms and called on the US to do the same. This was ignored by the press or dismissed as propaganda initiatives, and US News reported a Soviet arms buildup while they were calling for cutbacks. When the Soviets agreed to an arms freeze with the US, this wasn't reported on by major news media.
- The Red Menace image propagated by government and media repeatedly attempted to direct popular discontent away from domestic realities (poverty, riots, strikes due to the effects of capitalism) and toward imaginary foes.
- Lithuania: fascist in 1926; "democratic" in 1990 post-communism but with striking similarities to fascist Lithuania.
- Reformist eastern european governments cut price controls/subsidies for food/housing/transportation/clothing, healthcare, education; they sold lands, factories, and news media to rich westerners; they removed much progress in the ways of women's rights. This led to severe economic recessions, drops in real economic income, increased crime rates, and more corruption in places like Poland and Hungary.
- Homelessness was caused by family quarrels and nether world restlessness. Freed from the restrictions of communism, people now could pursue their preferred life-style, abandoning their domiciles and sleeping on the floors of train stations. Not once did the Times suggest that the new government and the free market itself—with its unemployment, wage cuts, inflation, and a doubling of rents—had anything to do with the homeless families of Hungary
- The major press did not reveal much of the knowledge they held about the Vietnam war and the US atrocities committed; reporters were expected to share the military's view of the war and its progress. Those who did try to share these stories and images found difficulties publishing and were banned from returning by the US-supported South Vietnamese gov. Despite the reporting, the underlying goals of US intervention were rarely questioned – the criticism lay mostly in the effectiveness and necessity of the tactics used. The rationale for the war was avoided by the media, the war was a "blunder" rather than an atrocity, and the post-war state of vietnam was due to "economic failure" rather than destruction of capital by US military forces.
- In Chile, Allende was democratically elected and then couped by a fascist Pinochet. Allende was villainized while Pinochet was portrayed as a hero of the economy (despite the lower classes being far worse off) – The Times advocated for Pinochet's dictatorship over democracy for achieving economic growth but conceded that "left behind [were] large numbers of the urban poor, who live less well today than they did 15 years ago."
- Grenada, 1983: US invaded. Media focused on how we were doing rather than what we were doing. False claim ("rescuing students") used to justify the invasion despite the students denying any threat or inability to leave the island (this was largely ignored by the media). Media exaggerated Cuban presence and went along with Reagan's expansions of scope ("rescuing the Caribbean" as opposed to just students)
- This treatment by the media can be observed in Cuba, Zaire, Guatemala, El Salvador, Indonesia, East Timor, South Africa, Cambodia, Turkey, the Dominican Republic, the entire Arab world, including Palestine, and most other Third World nations and regions. The media 1) accepts the White House narratives, 2) downplays reactionary repression as well as the US' role in it, 3) suppresses the third world's struggle for national independence, economic justice, and revolutionary change, and 4) reduces these struggles to encounters between the virtuous US and it's savage/demonic adversaries.

- Nicaragua: Sandinistas were blamed as totalitarian in the media while the US funded a contra war and embargoed the country. Democracy was criticized when it legitimately elected the Sandinistas in 1984 but was accepted without question when US-backed candidates were elected in 1990 based on promises that the war and embargo would stop. The media blamed the Sandinistas management of the economy more than the contra war or the embargo, but in reality they were voting for an end to war more than they were voting out the Sandinistas.
- Panama: Omar Torrijos (populist-reformist who worked with communist Cuba and extracted money from businesses/banks to fund social programs). Got killed via exploding plane in 1981, likely by the CIA via funding to Manuel Noriega. Noriega was a known drug and weapons runner, but after his allegiance to the US waned he was villainized and the US invaded. The media covered their invasion as liberation, ignored popular working-class support of Noriega, and didn't give info on civilian casualties due to lack of verification (despite citing an insane 80k–100k deaths by communism in Romania at the same time). The demonization of Manuel Noriega continued in full force during the invasion of his country, thereby reversing the roles of aggressor and victim. Deposed officials from Noriega's gov were jailed and kept without trial while crime/poverty/destitution increased under the US-backed Endara gov.
- Iraq: Confirmed Iraq-Kuwait interactions weren't a UN or US concern, went into Kuwait; Bush used this opportunity to claim Saddam Hussein was going to control all oil reserves and destroy Israel. When Iraq attacked Israel in retaliation to massive US aerial attacks, this was used to paint Iraq as engaging in a conflict that the US in fact incited. The media also highlighted the possibility of nuclear arms in Iraq while not discussing why this was more of a threat than the nuclear powers in China, Pakistan, Israel, or South Africa. No questions were asked about why other invaders (Syria on Lebanon, Israel on Lebanon, SA on Angola, Indonesia on East Timor, etc.) were ignored while Iraq's aggression on Kuwait was used to demonize Hussein and go to war with Iraq. Iraq's consistent demonization was used to reverse the roles of victim and victimizer. Iraq went from a rather highly urbanized and mechanized society to relegation to a pre-industrial age with the disabilities of postindustrial dependence on energy and technology. The press gave almost no attention to the real reasons for the war (protect interests/profits of oil cartels, beat Iraq into submission, boost military budget, drive the savings and loan scandal off the news, and bolster Bush's image as a bold leader).
- When the UN criticized the White House line it was ignored in the news; when they went along with WH policy, the media gave great attention to the organization.
- Haiti: Jean-Bertrand Aristides also villainized by media and his call for a minimum wage, land reform, enforcement of taxation were ignored. Replaced by US-supported Jacques Honorat. Same message of "if democracy picks a leftist leader, democracy has to go."
- Any challenge to the privileged class order is portrayed as an attack on all social order and an invitation to "chaos"; any revolutionary or even reformist action is portrayed as "economic mismanagement."
- Focus is put on the "middle-class," generally a privileged petty bourgeoisie, in order to paint discontent at leftist leaders. Those who lose power, privileges, and wealth under populist leaders are given a voice but rarely are peasants interviewed.
- The media thus: 1) doesn't say anything positive about democratic economic reforms of a leftist gov, 2) can only show sympathy for the wealthy and privileged unless a peasant shows disdain for the populist gov, 3) say nothing about devastating wars, embargoes, sanctions, and 4) assume economic adversity is due to mismanagement.
- Most common form of media misrepresentation is omission.
- When we see that news selectivity is likely to be on the side of those who have power, position, and wealth, we move from a liberal complaint about the press's poor performance to a radical analysis of how the press fulfills its system-supporting function

all too well

- Transmitting information at face value without examining its veracity maintains a noncommittal "objectivity" while propagating false information.
- "Both sides" is often two variations on what's essentially the same side.
- Framing and labeling also paint an impression without necessarily providing supporting evidence for the conclusions implied.
- Many stories are "neutralized" so as to not evoke too much emotion; those who complain about social inequities and popular grievances are painted as overwrought.
- Passive voice to avoid saying who did the killing when "killing of civilians has left 75,000 dead"
- Scanting content to only discuss trivialities and surface level news without discussing the underlying issues is used to give a feeling of understanding without presenting the full story.
- It is said that cameras don't lie. But we must remember that liars use cameras.
- Music and images are both used to pain impressions and set the mood.
- The goal of the owning class, as Marx and Engels put it, is to present "a particular interest as general or the 'general interest' as ruling."⁸ This indeed is what the press does, as I have tried to demonstrate throughout this book, treating a wide range of subjects from a ruling-class perspective but presenting this perspective as the objective, general one, as representative of things as they really are
- In providing coverage to maintain credibility, the ruling interests are sometimes left to the back burner. Persistent coverage of the war in Vietnam, given with upbeat predictions and anticommunist rationales, were not enough to outweigh the costly conflict.
- there is an element of struggle and indeterminacy in all our social institutions and political culture.

index tags: Communists, Reading List, Reading Notes North America, America, USA, New York, Michael Parenti, Parenti, Blackshirts and Reds: Rational Fascism and the Overthrow of Communism, Inventing Reality: The Politics of News Media, The Assassination of Julius Caesar: A People's History of Ancient Rome, @proustmalone, Aren LeBrun

category tags: Famous Communists

On Covid

2022-12-03

"The (Ongoing) Pandemic."

Alright. This post is going to be a composite of:

- current world data links
- links to current thoughts from doctors/etc about what people should do (ie. wear an n95 or better mask, especially when you're around other people who may need to be there to survive – they could be immunocompromised or otherwise vulnerable)
- strategies used around the world and results
- personal thoughts re ^

TODO: all that, and maybe more

Tweets

Keep yourself safe – Oct 19, 2022

From Eniko 'cohost.org/eniko (cohost.org/eniko)' Fox (@Enichan (<https://twitter.com/Enichan>)) [here](https://twitter.com/Enichan/status/1582858520101548032) (<https://twitter.com/Enichan/status/1582858520101548032>)

For anyone who needs to hear it: you don't have to be immunocompromised to keep yourself safe from covid, you can do it simply because you don't want to get or pass on the virus that gives people brain and cardiovascular damage. It's ok to not want that

It's especially okay to not listen to anyone who keeps insisting you don't need to mask anymore because frankly anyone who does that does not have your best interests at heart

Covid Denialism – Sep 29, 2022

From [IronProle aka Comrade Red \(/posts/on-ironprole\)](#) (@IronProle (<https://twitter.com/IronProle>)) [here](https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1575596877227380736) (<https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1575596877227380736>):

Mfers need to stop trying to sell me on covid denial because im dying.

I still have comrades and family i want to protect. I still have time i want to spend. I dont want to occupy my last days sicker than i need to be or infecting someone else.

Sickening attitudes.

I still have my values, my principles, that center my larger community and its long term needs.

Im not a coward or a liberal. I dont have a fake outter shell of compassion and consideration that falls away when i have nothing left to worry about personally.

Thats disgusting.

Im going into the grave with a mask on, covid free. Knowing i did my part in life to protect the lives of others in every single way i could muster, large or small.

Im willing to die bleeding on barbed wire for you, why not mask up?

From Dr. Claire Taylor (@drclairetaylor (<https://twitter.com/drclairetaylor>)) [here](https://twitter.com/drclairetaylor/status/1534659652901822465) (<https://twitter.com/drclairetaylor/status/1534659652901822465>):

Covid is a vascular disease . We need to stop thinking of it primarily as a lung disease. I hear lung Doctors say 'we don't see much on the chest X-rays in #longcovid'. The rheumatologists say 'we don't see raised inflammation on the blood tests in #LongCovid'

the cardiologists say 'we don't see much myocarditis in #LongCovid and when we do it's mild'. The GPs say ' we see lots of odd chest pain after Covid but we don't really know what it is'.

the media say 'Covid is mild, long Covid is a mystery and we don't know what causes it or how to treat it'.

I say- Covid is a virus that causes vascular damage and inflammation. I say the 'odd chest pain' is not a mystery and neither is #LongCovid

why do I say that? We now know that the blood tests we do in the NHS only show a tiny % of the immune system. We are testing the wrong markers. In studies Interleukins and cytokines ARE raised. [Clinical characteristics with inflammation profiling of long COVID and association with 1-year recovery following hospitalisation in the UK: a prospective observational study \(via thelancet.com\) \(https://thelancet.com/journals/lanres/article/PIIS2213-2600\(22\)00127-8/fulltext\)](https://thelancet.com/journals/lanres/article/PIIS2213-2600(22)00127-8/fulltext) #Covid_19 causes inflammation. No mystery.

Now to more exciting stuff. Covid causes micro clots with amyloid. Yes amyloid. They block capillaries and reduce oxygenation. Here is a photo of a patient's blood before Covid and afterwards when they got #LongCovid showing new microclots. [Persistent clotting protein pathology in Long COVID/Post-Acute Sequelae of COVID-19 \(PASC\) is accompanied by increased levels of antiplasmin \(via cardiab.biomedcentral.com\) \(https://cardiab.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12933-021-01359-7\)](https://cardiab.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12933-021-01359-7)

Covid is a vascular disease. If you want to learn more this is a brilliant paper. [A central role for amyloid fibrin microclots in long COVID/PASC: origins and therapeutic implications \(via portlandpress.com\) \(https://portlandpress.com/biochemj/article/479/4/537/230829/A-central-role-for-amyloid-fibrin-microclots-in\)](https://portlandpress.com/biochemj/article/479/4/537/230829/A-central-role-for-amyloid-fibrin-microclots-in) @dbkell (<https://twitter.com/dbkell>) @resiapretorius (<https://twitter.com/resiapretorius>)

why is it not on the front pages of the newspapers? Why hasn't our health secretary mentioned it? Why doesn't your Doctor know about it? Why don't they know that 'normal' bloods in Covid don't test the whole immune system and for microclots? These would be good questions

#LongCovid is a post viral illness. Therefore it has not surprised me today to see the pre-print showing the same microclots in #MECFS [The occurrence of hyperactivated platelets and fibrinoid microclots in Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome \(ME/CFS\) \(via researchsquare.com\) \(https://researchsquare.com/article/rs-1727226/v1\)](https://researchsquare.com/article/rs-1727226/v1) This will not show up in blood tests done currently for #MECFS or #LongCovid resulting in 'but your bloods are normal'

Hopefully this thread might convince you Covid is more than a cold. That Covid causes vascular complications. That doing the usual tests won't show you the problem. That when you apply cutting edge science to medicine you find answers.
#MedTwitter #LongCovid #MECFS #TeamClots

Medical science has proven time and again that when the resources are provided, great progress in the treatment, cure, and prevention of disease can occur.
Michael J. Fox

Dr. Taylor also has some resources and information at her website [here](https://www.drclairetaylor.com/) (<https://www.drclairetaylor.com/>).

Things twitter folks know that people on the streets don't – Oct 7–25, 2022

From tern (@1goodtern (<https://twitter.com/1goodtern>)) [here](https://twitter.com/1goodtern/status/1578292619288846336) (<https://twitter.com/1goodtern/status/1578292619288846336>):

Ten things twitter folks know about Covid that people on the streets don't.

- 1 Covid isn't over
- 2 There's no such thing as herd immunity
- 3 Covid is hospitalising thousands each week
- 4 Covid harms kids
- 5 Covid moves like smoke
- 6 Hybrid immunity won't end the pandemic
- 7 Catching Covid does not benefit you in any way
- 8 Covid can cause Long Covid (even if you're vaccinated)
- 9 Covid damages your body leaving you at risk of Covid Induced Delayed Injury (even if you're vaccinated)
- 10 Covid infection can damage your brain (even if you're vaccinated)
- 11 Covid is a systemic infection that harms every part of your body.
- 12 There are new and potentially very nasty variants on the way
- 13 Some of the pharmaceutical tools against covid are failing
- 14 Masks and filtration help remove covid from circulation in the air and provide a layer of protection
- 15 Covid is affecting pregnant women and their developing babies
- 16 The vaccines are generally safe (with specific known medical exceptions)

- 17 Covid is not mild
- 18 Covid is considerably reducing life expectancy
- 19 Covid is harming the economy
- 20 Covid has disabled millions of people
- 21 Covid is harming immune systems
- 22 Covid is harming every system
- 23 Covid is not fully understood yet
- 24 Schools are hotbeds of Covid infection
- 25 You can be infectious for 10+ days
- 26 Plastic screens don't protect against airborne focus
- 27 You can catch Covid in one breath
- 28 Fresh air ventilation reduces concentration of Covid particles.
- 29 Covid particles can hang in indoor air for hours if there is limited ventilation.
- 30 People breathe through both their mouth and nose
- 31 Cloth masks are better than no masks, surgical masks are better than cloth masks, but well fitted ffp2/3 n95/96 masks / respirators are far more effective than either.
- 32 You can catch Covid repeatedly
- 33 Repeat infections are not necessarily more mild
- 34 Damage from repeat infections is cumulative
- 35 Covid infections age you
- 36 Handwashing is a great thing to do anyway, but Covid is mostly caught by breathing in floaty smoke-like covid.
- 37 You can catch Covid from someone more than 2m away
- 38 You can catch Covid outdoors, but it's less likely
- 39 Activities like singing, shouting, and exercise make you produce more viral particles
- 40 You can catch Covid from friends or strangers
- 41 Some people are on their sixth infections already
- 42 The efficiency of your vaccination decreases over time
- 43 An infection is not an immunity top up
- 44 Hospitalisation is not mild

45 More children have died from covid in the UK in 2022 than in 2020 and 2021 put together

46 You can't tell if you're infectious

47 Lateral flow tests are a useful tool, but they're not guaranteed reliable

48 Covid functions similarly in children to adults – there is no "but kids don't..."

49 Swabbing throat and nose is better

50 Many people don't realise their ongoing symptoms are long covid

51 Some people who have had Covid barely remember their infection

52 Coughing spreads covid particles very effectively

53 Boosters are useful in reducing short-term serious illness and death, but you can still develop long term problems from infection after vaccination

54 Mitigations are more effective when used together eg ffp2 masks + ventilation + isolation

55 Masks are not the only mitigation. Some mitigations are invisible

56 No one wants lockdowns

57 Different covid strains have different symptoms and effects, some are more dangerous than others, none are mild

58 Covid can cause problems anywhere in your body, so long term effects can be very different from one person to another

59 There are people who will do anything they can to stop you believing points 1–58.

60 A covid infection does not protect you from future covid infections

61 Covid illness and death has disproportionately affected ethnic minority groups

62 Covid infection can be serious for anyone, not just 'the vulnerable'

63 Covid infection can be exceptionally serious for 'the vulnerable'

64 Sensible proportionate Covid mitigations are good for the economy in both the short and long term

65 Long Covid is not caused by anxiety

66 Covid infections increase your risk of death from other causes

67 Covid brain damage can cause anxiety, depression, memory loss, character change, mania and more

68 One way masking is only partially effective

69 A society with no covid mitigations forces vulnerable people into high risk choices or their own personal lockdown

- 70 Covid infection creates vulnerable people
- 71 Covid is not mysterious. How it moves and spreads is governed by simple and easily understandable science
- 72 The amount of Covid virus you inhale may affect the seriousness of your illness
- 73 The duration of social interactions may affect the amount of Covid virus you inhale
- 74 We don't "all have to get it"
- 75 We don't "all have to get it" repeatedly
- 76 The human brain finds it hard to focus on multiple subjects, so it's easy to forget that there are multiple aspects to the problem of Covid
- 77 Immunity debt is a fiction created by people who told you that covid was over, mild, or beneficial
- 78 High prevalence of Covid causes harm to healthcare systems including both basic and emergency care
- 79 High prevalence of Covid correlates precisely with long delays for ambulances in the UK
- 80 There is no 'cure' for long covid
- 81 Exercise can be detrimental to long covid sufferers
- 82 Long Covid is not just persistent symptoms of covid, new symptoms can occur weeks, months, or even years later
- 83 Many Long Covid sufferers infected in first wave are not improving
- 84 Long Covid has over 200 possible symptoms
- 85 Surviving one covid infection does not guarantee survival of a second or subsequent infection
- 86 You can be reinfected by Covid within days
- 87 Covid virus can persist in viral reservoirs within the body after short term infection is over
- 88 Avoiding an infection is almost* always beneficial.
- *you're creative, you'll be able to think of exceptions
- 89 Masks do not stop children developing language skills
- 90 Viral infections that damage the brain and body affect language skills
- 91 3 years into the covid pandemic we still don't truly know the long term effects of Covid

92 Covid infection seems to be able to make the body vulnerable to other types of infection: bacterial, fungal, viral

93 Covid causes deaths for longer than 28 days, so 28 day stats are an ineffective guide

94 The debate about being hospitalised 'with or from' covid is often a deliberate distraction.

95 Catching Covid while in hospital is not beneficial for inpatients

96 Practising healthcare workers do not necessarily keep up to date with latest research on covid or guidance on protective equipment and mitigations

97 Vaccines on their own are not enough to stop this pandemic

98 Evidenced data on the effects of covid is readily available and can be found with little effort

99 More is being learnt about Covid by serious researchers every minute

100 There was nothing beneficial about a covid infection before vaccination, and there's nothing beneficial about a covid infection now

101 Covid particles can hang in the air, so an empty room is not necessarily a safe room

102 Covid particles can hang in the air, so can move through a building via ventilation ducts

103 Some covid commentators have built their reputation and fanbase on incorrect optimistic predictions and have failed to admit their mistakes or correct them

104 A balance does have to be struck somewhere between total lockdown and absolute freedom, these are not the only two options

105 Pretending covid does not exist has not succeeded as a preventative tactic

106 In a reasonable world 'living with covid' should mean doing something about it rather than ignoring it

107 Covid infections can cause erectile dysfunction

108 Covid infections can damage the placenta

109 Wide spread of Covid can be avoided or reduced

110 'Endemicity' is not a good thing and should certainly not be a goal

111 The eyes are a potential avenue of infection, even if less common than breath or touch

112 Long Covid is not laziness

113 Long Covid sufferers are not snowflakes

114 Long Covid is not imagined

115 Long Covid sufferers are not doing it for attention

116 Covid can be transmitted in classrooms

117 There is no age group that is at no risk from covid

118 Vaccines can reduce the chance of infection and onwards transmission, but they do not prevent them.

119 Covid may spread via poo particles, making communal toilets an area of risk, and toilet air hazardous

120 Some people, for example the immunocompromised, do not respond to vaccination in a way that will mitigate infection, and run a high risk from infection

121 People who are unvaccinated are far more likely to suffer severe illness, hospitalisation, disability, or death than vaccinated

122 Covid is not evolving to become less harmful

123 Some variants may have combinations of mutations that cause different symptoms and preferentially damage different organs.

124 Newborn babies can catch Covid and are not able to be vaccinated

125 Covid infection for newborns can be extremely problematic

126 Babies can spread covid

127 Covid can damage blood consistency and circulatory system causing clotting in every part of body

128 Covid infection can interfere with the immune system allowing other dormant viruses like herpes and Epstein Barr (glandular fever, mono) to reactivate in the body

129 Air filters reduce the risk of transmission overall, but do not prevent close range transmission

130 Covid infection can cause hair loss

131 You cannot tell someone is vulnerable by looking at them

132 You cannot know if you are vulnerable

133 A significant proportion of spread is by people who are not yet displaying any symptoms

134 Covid is just "like a flu" if you think of flu as something that matches all the info in this thread

135 Effects from some viruses are not seen for decades, and can then be devastating, eg polio

136 No one has survived more than three years after catching Covid*

*because it has only been circulating among humans that long

137 A 'mild' initial infection can still lead to serious long term effects

138 Rampant spread of covid has probably allowed the rampant development of mutations

139 Covid can spread in any setting, including hospitals

140

There are no sector of workers, eg healthcare workers, that are immune to covid

141 Everyone who is infected with Covid, whatever age or status, has an increased risk of stroke, thrombosis, heart attack, aneurysm, and more during the initial infection and for a significant time period afterwards

142 Meeting in crowded places, indoor or outdoor, increases risk of infection

143 Covid can be spread in food venues, bars, and cafés

144 Government choices on covid mitigations are often made for popularity and political reasons rather than scientific or public health reasons

145 Catching Covid during pregnancy increases the risk that your child will be born with congenital anomalies, especially central nervous system and genitourinary anomalies

(Covid can mess up the blueprint that guides the assembly of your developing baby)

146 For many Long Covid sufferers, Long Covid is a hideous and long lasting misery

147 The numbers of mechanical ventilation beds occupied are no longer a good indication of the number of seriously ill covid patients in hospitals.

148 Covid isn't only bad if it affects the lungs, but if it does you can be in big trouble very quickly

149 Covid is not a seasonal virus that only comes at one time of year

150 Covid is transmissible in all climates, hot, cold, wet, dry

151 This isn't the last wave

152 Nor is the next one

153 The people who were wrong about Covid in 2020, were also wrong about Covid in 2021, and are still wrong now

154 Vaccines have prevented tens of millions of deaths from covid.

500,000 deaths prevented in the UK alone

155 Hand sanitisation should not be prioritised ahead of air hygiene

But still keep your hands clean

156 It's actually possible to tell how bad covid hospitalisations in the UK are getting *just by listening out for the frequency of ambulance sirens*

157 There have already been more covid hospitalisations in the UK in 2022 with three whole months left and a huge wave to come than in 2020 or 2021

158 Reported covid data lags:

- Symptoms lag behind infection
- Testing lags behind symptoms
- Hospitalisation lags behind symptoms and testing
- Death lags behind symptoms and hospitalisations

"but deaths aren't going up" is meaningless

159 Death is not the only bad outcome

160 A parent dying from covid is bad for the mental health of a school child

161 Covid has orphaned over ten million children worldwide

162 You may not test positive on a lateral flow test for a number of days after you develop symptoms

163 Covid can trigger vast numbers of tiny blood clots in the smallest blood vessels called capillaries, reducing the efficiency of blood flow to any tissue

164 Covid can trick your body into attacking your liver

165 There is no evidence that children are not infectious after three days of symptoms

166 There is plenty of evidence that children can remain infectious as long as adults

167 Plastic see through face shields protect against spit, but do not protect against covid that moves like smoke

168 The next month of statistics of 'within 28 days of Covid' deaths are already fixed by the number of Covid infections that took place in the last month

169

You can't stop covid infections by not reporting them

170 The tools to combat covid are far more readily available to the rich and influential

171 Covid can trigger diabetes

172 Covid can cause your teeth to fall out

173 Covid can trigger epilepsy

174 Covid may lower your body's natural ability to fight cancer

175 Covid damages body tissue

Your body is completely made of body tissue or things made by body tissue

176 Re: 158, You don't find out how bad a wave is until after it is passing, so don't believe anyone who says "this wave is mild"

177 Covid was mostly likely the main cause of that liver damage in kids

178 Society doesn't see the worst long covid sufferers, because they are unable to leave their house, bed, or hospital

179 The end of the pandemic is not in sight

180 Your pets can catch Covid from you

181 People who tell you optimistic things about Covid do not necessarily have your best interests at heart

182 Covid can trigger or make worse POTS.

(POTS, postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome, probably needs its own whole thread.

In a nutshell... no, I don't think I can. But trust me, it's a nightmare)

183 Covid, like many infections, can trigger a type of brain swelling in children called PANS (Pediatric Acute-Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome) that can radically alter a child's personality

184 On average, everyone who has caught covid has given it to more people than gave it to them

185 You can be infected by multiple variants at the same time

186 Children do not need to catch Covid to build immunity

187 Covid infection in children can trigger swelling throughout the body called pediatric inflammatory multisystem syndrome (which means that Covid infection in children can trigger swelling throughout the body)

188 Covid can damage your optic nerve causing loss of sight

189 Covid can damage your olfactory nerve causing loss or distortion of taste and smell

190 Covid can damage your hearing..

One common hearing problem is tinnitus, a ringing, buzzing, or rattling in the ears

191 No wave will ever bring herd immunity

192 Covid is evolving to evade our bodies' biochemical defence systems and the pharmaceutical treatments we use to fight it, but it will never ever be able to evolve to avoid hepa filters

193 It will only take one single new evasive variant to totally escape all the scant immunity that has been acquired from vaccinations and infections

194 Covid infection can have a massive impact on the menstrual cycle

(and vaccines can too to a lesser degree)

195 Women make up 70% of healthcare workers worldwide, a sector that has disproportionately suffered during the pandemic

196 A single covid infection can damage your lungs equivalent to 15 (fifteen) years of aging

197 Covid particles move in the air by diffusion, which means they spread out slowly through still air, decreasing in concentration, and they move by convection, carried on draughts, when they can potentially remain concentrated.

198 Asthma sufferers are at significantly increased risk during and after Covid infections

199 In the UK there has been a significant excess death toll during the pandemic, and it has remained constantly high during 2022, at higher than 10% above expected deaths.

200 The peaks of the excess death graphs in the UK for 2022 coincide with the times of high prevalence of Covid.

201 Time from infection with covid to first symptoms is about two days

202 It can take 8–10days from the start of first symptoms to the onset serious illness.

203 Most of the immediate symptoms of the initial Covid infection are the body's reaction to the virus (temperature, sweating, headache), not necessarily the damage that the virus is causing.

That can come later

204 High prevalence of Covid is a government choice, not an inevitability

205 Engineers, aerosol scientists, and physicists often know more about how Covid spreads than many doctors and healthcare workers do.

206 Vaccines are not causing excess deaths

207 Covid is causing excess deaths

208 One person with a covid infection can infect a whole community if there are no measures in place to reduce spread.

209 Lockdowns do not cause brain damage, Covid causes brain damage

210 Covid brain damage can present in many different ways, but one of the most common is anxiety

211 Compromise after differences of opinion about Covid prevention measures does not have equal impact on the disagreeing parties.
Compromise discomforts minimisers.
Compromise endangers the vulnerable.

212 'One way masking' makes people who want to ignore covid uncomfortable.

213 'One way masking' endangers the vulnerable

214 Symptoms are not an indication of infectivity

215 Covid's main entry method for human cells is a protein on the surface of the cell wall called the 'ACE2 receptor'. Cells throughout the body have these receptors, so Covid can damage any of these cells and cause problems in any organ.

216 People who are concerned about the dangers do not want the pandemic to continue

217 Talking about the pandemic does not make the pandemic continue

218 Mitigations do not make the pandemic continue

219 People who take precautions against catching Covid are not anxious, they are sensible

220 Covid is not 'evolving into a dead end branch of mutation that will end the pandemic'.

221 Doctors often have no idea about how Covid works

222 Doctors often have no idea how Long Covid works

223 The initial symptoms of covid can look radically different from individual to individual

224 The gradual symptoms of Long Covid can look radically different from individual to individual

225 You can be very infectious before displaying symptoms

226 Covid can cause long term damage to your body that you can't see or feel

227 No one knows what multiple covid infections will do in the long term to children

228 No one knows what multiple covid infections will do in the long term to adults

229 Some mitigations to reduce the chance or risk of Covid are more effective than others

230 Having any covid mitigations in place is better than having no covid mitigations in place

231 The negative mental health impacts of a serious covid infection are greater than the negative mental health impacts of simple mitigations

232 Kids can catch Covid

233 Kids can get seriously ill from Covid

234 Kids can die from Covid

235 Kids can spread Covid

236 Kids do not need to catch Covid for their immunity

237

'Immunity by infection' is not better than immunity by vaccine

238 Kids can spread Covid to other kids

239 Kids can spread Covid to adults, including their carers and workers like teachers, nursery carers, and school staff

240 A tiny proportion of a huge number is still a big number:
Covid may only kill a few of the people it infects, but it infects a lot of people

241 A moderate percentage of a huge number is still a large number: Covid may cause Long Covid in about a fifth of cases*. A fifth of a huge number of cases is a large number.

*roughly, depending on definition and methodology

242 Covid has probably killed about 1 in 300 people worldwide

243 Vaccines do not prevent infection

244 Vaccines do not prevent transmission

245 When a vaccinated person infects someone else, the infection is not more mild

246 Covid is not a hoax

247 The vaccines are what they say they are

248 Someone whose covid is presenting as vomiting and diarrhoea can still spread the virus by aerosols.

249 Lateral Flow Tests, also known as Rapid Antigen Tests, are more likely to test positive when someone is infectious, as opposed to when they are just infected.

250 Covid can shrink your brain

251 A Covid infection elevates your risk of multiple diseases for at least a year after infection.

252 Covid vaccines can reduce the length of time you are infectious for during an infection, therefore helping reduce the risk of transmission.

253 Covid vaccines can reduce the amount of virus that you produce while infectious, therefore helping reduce the risk of transmission.

254 Long Covid is not caused by lockdowns, it is caused by Covid

255 Long Covid is not caused by anxiety, it is caused by Covid

256 Covid can cause brain inflammation which can cause many brain dysfunctions including anxiety

On Einstein

2022-12-04

"Another notable communist."

While I started developing an interest in figuring out the path forward into the future, as I stumbled into communist texts, I came across many famous figures whose politics had been previously obscured or unmentioned while learning about them in history classes.

The first of these is Einstein. He put forth good effort into promoting Socialism as an ideology and wrote his summarized thoughts in his article [Why Socialism?](https://monthlyreview.org/2009/05/01/why-socialism/) (<https://monthlyreview.org/2009/05/01/why-socialism/>), published in the [Monthly Review](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monthly_Review) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monthly_Review) originally in May 1949.

Although I don't agree with all of Einstein's views, he was forward thinking and he applied scientific thought to the problems of society to reach his conclusions. It's a short article that I recommend you read in full, but here are a couple quotes that show what he's getting at:

Man is, at one and the same time, a solitary being and a social being. As a solitary being, he attempts to protect his own existence and that of those who are closest to him, to satisfy his personal desires, and to develop his innate abilities. As a social being, he seeks to gain the recognition and affection of his fellow human beings, to share in their pleasures, to comfort them in their sorrows, and to improve their conditions of life. Only the existence of these varied, frequently conflicting, strivings accounts for the special character of a man, and their specific combination determines the extent to which an individual can achieve an inner equilibrium and can contribute to the well-being of society. It is quite possible that the relative strength of these two drives is, in the main, fixed by inheritance. But the personality that finally emerges is largely formed by the environment in which a man happens to find himself during his development, by the structure of the society in which he grows up, by the tradition of that society, and by its appraisal of particular types of behavior. The abstract concept 'society' means to the individual human being the sum total of his direct and indirect relations to his contemporaries and to all the people of earlier generations. The individual is able to think, feel, strive, and work by himself; but he depends so much upon society—in his physical, intellectual, and emotional existence—that it is impossible to think of him, or to understand him, outside the framework of society. It is 'society' which provides man with food, clothing, a home, the tools of work, language, the forms of thought, and most of the content of thought; his life is made possible through the labor and the accomplishments of the many millions past and present who are all hidden behind the small word 'society.' It is evident, therefore, that the dependence of the individual upon society is a fact of nature which cannot be abolished—just as in the case of ants and bees. However, while the whole life process of ants and bees is fixed down to the smallest detail by rigid, hereditary instincts, the social pattern and interrelationships of human beings are very variable and susceptible to change. Memory, the capacity to make new combinations, the gift of oral communication have made possible developments among human being which are not dictated by biological necessities. Such developments manifest themselves in traditions, institutions, and organizations; in literature; in scientific and engineering accomplishments; in works of art. This explains how it happens that, in a certain sense, man can influence his life through his own conduct, and that in this process conscious thinking and wanting can play a part.

The economic anarchy of capitalist society as it exists today is, in my opinion, the real source of the evil. We see before us a huge community of producers the members of which are unceasingly striving to deprive each other of the fruits of their collective labor—not by force, but on the whole in faithful compliance with legally established rules. In this respect, it is important to realize that the means of production—that is to say, the entire productive capacity that is needed for producing consumer goods as well as additional capital goods—may legally be, and for the most part are, the private property of individuals.

I am convinced there is only one way to eliminate these grave evils, namely through the establishment of a socialist economy, accompanied by an educational system which would be oriented toward social goals. In such an economy, the means of production are owned by society itself and are utilized in a planned fashion. A planned economy, which adjusts production to the needs of the community, would distribute the work to be done among all those able to work and would guarantee a livelihood to every man, woman, and child. The education of the individual, in addition to promoting his own innate abilities, would attempt to develop in him a sense of responsibility for his fellow men in place of the glorification of power and success in our present society.

index tags: Communists, Germany, Europe, Socialism, Communism, Capitalism, Why Socialism?, Monthly Review, Society, Einstein, Science

category tags: Famous Communists

On Abolition

2022-12-05

"Abolition reading list and tweets"

First, prerequisite thoughts in [On Black Liberation \(/posts/on-black-liberation\)](/posts/on-black-liberation) and prior articles. Reading those might be helpful prerequisites to the following books about abolition. This page is (so far) only going to contain links to others' work on abolition, in case you'd like to learn more about it. I haven't yet gotten to all these, so this list is also for my sake.

Reading List

If you're new to abolition:

- [We Do This 'Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/56019003-we-do-this-til-we-free-us) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/56019003-we-do-this-til-we-free-us>) by Mariame Kaba

If you need something concise & easy:

- ["Prisons Make Us Safer": And 20 Other Myths about Mass Incarceration](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/54615850-prisons-make-us-safer) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/54615850-prisons-make-us-safer>) by Victoria Law
- [Are Prisons Obsolete?](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/108428.Are_Prisons_Obsolete_) (https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/108428.Are_Prisons_Obsolete_) by Angela Y. Davis

If you're an academia nerd:

- [Abolition Geography: Essays Towards Liberation](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/55566309-abolition-geography) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/55566309-abolition-geography>) by Ruth Wilson Gilmore

If you wanna feel hopeful for the future:

- [Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/90528.Freedom_Dreams) (https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/90528.Freedom_Dreams) by Robin D.G. Kelley

If you wanna understand how we got here:

- [America on Fire: The Untold History of Police Violence and Black Rebellion Since the 1960s](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/55298326-america-on-fire) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/55298326-america-on-fire>) by Elizabeth Hinton
- [Assata: An Autobiography](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/100322.Assata) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/100322.Assata>) by Assata Shakur
- [Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/28007898-blood-in-the-water) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/28007898-blood-in-the-water>) by Heather Ann Thompson

Want to hear from a lot of different voices:

- [Abolition For The People](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/58021042-abolition-for-the-people) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/58021042-abolition-for-the-people>) by Colin Kaepernick

Don't understand what comes after we get rid of the cops?

- [Beyond Survival: Strategies and Stories from the Transformative Justice Movement](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/51778952-beyond-survival) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/51778952-beyond-survival>) edited by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha and Ejeris Dixon
- [Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity in This Crisis \(And the Next\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/54654726-mutual-aid) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/54654726-mutual-aid>) by Dean Spade
- [The Care We Dream of: Liberatory and Transformative Approaches to LGBTQ+ Health](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/58991274-the-care-we-dream-of) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/58991274-the-care-we-dream-of>) edited by Zena Sharman

Thanks to twitter user [@RoomofOnesOwn](https://twitter.com/RoomofOnesOwn) (https://twitter.com/RoomofOnesOwn/status/1555692120849145858?t=qTFC8hdab_x6-hlmzZ_zNQ&s=19) for compiling this list.

Tweets

News citing obvious lies – Oct 27, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/DavidKaib/status/1585764778550562816) (<https://twitter.com/DavidKaib/status/1585764778550562816>))

David Kaib ([@DavidKaib](https://twitter.com/DavidKaib) (<https://twitter.com/DavidKaib>)), who writes [here](https://notesontheory.wordpress.com/) (<https://notesontheory.wordpress.com/>), quotetweets WNYC Reporter Matt Katz ([@mattkatz00](https://twitter.com/mattkatz00) (<https://twitter.com/mattkatz00>)):

This is an obvious lie in service of doing something indefensible. That prison and jail officials lie so blatantly and that journalists treat those lies as true is disgusting.

Citing fentanyl-soaked children's drawings, love letters, prayer schedules, and T-shirts, NYC to ban incarcerated people from getting letters in the mail: [Citing drugs at Rikers, NYC to ban incarcerated people from getting letters in the mail \(via wnyc.org\) \(https://wnyc.org/story/citing-drugs-rikers-nyc-ban-incarcerated-people-getting-letters-mail\)](https://wnyc.org/story/citing-drugs-rikers-nyc-ban-incarcerated-people-getting-letters-mail)

index tags: Reading List, Abolition, Communists, America, North America, Africa, Mass Incarceration, LGBTQ+, ACAB, Health(care), We Do This 'Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice, Mariame Kaba, Prisons Make Us Safer And 20 Other Myths about Mass Incarceration, Victoria Law, Are Prisons Obsolete?, Angela Y. Davis, Abolition Geography: Essays Towards Liberation, Ruth Wilson Gilmore, Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination, Robin D.G. Kelley, America on Fire: The Untold History of Police Violence and Black Rebellion Since the 1960s, Elizabeth Hinton, Assata: An Autobiography, Assata Shakur, Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy, Heather Ann Thompson, Abolition For The People, Colin Kaepernick, Beyond Survival: Strategies and Stories from the Transformative Justice Movement, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, Ejeris Dixon, Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity in This Crisis (And the Next), Dean Spade, The Care We Dream of: Liberatory and Transformative Approaches to LGBTQ+ Health, Zena Sharman, @RoomofOnesOwn, Twitter, Backup, @DavidKaib, @mattkatz00

category tags: Media Lists

On Marx

2022-12-06

"and Marxism, and communism, etc."

Karl Marx

Marx is one of the two co-founders of Marxism (along with [Friedrich Engels \(/posts/on-engels\) – timeline here \(https://en.prolewiki.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Marx_and_Engels\)](https://en.prolewiki.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Marx_and_Engels)).

Why does that matter? Why should I care? Well, what he's getting at is how history shapes our shared material nature. He does a good job analyzing society and the driving forces behind societal change. His analyses lead him to very interesting hypotheses about the future, who others have tried to test and realize; many people continue to work towards Marxian ends based on his worldview.

He's the start of much of this history, and he's worth reading. If his stuff is too intimidating or verbose for you yet, [Engels \(/posts/on-engels\)](/posts/on-engels) or [Lenin \(/posts/on-lenin\)](/posts/on-lenin) are worth checking out first. [Stalin \(/posts/on-stalin\)](/posts/on-stalin) and [Mao \(/posts/on-mao\)](/posts/on-mao) are also worth checking out if you're willing to check out the full ML-MZT spectrum of work. I'm trying to compile easy starting points for all each of these authors.

For now, I'll link some works (in a logical order) and post some of my own notes for quick takeaways:

- [Wage-Labour and Capital \(https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/wage-labour/index.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/wage-labour/index.htm) (1847) is a great starter read for Marx
- [Value, Price and Profit \(https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1865/value-price-profit/\)](https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1865/value-price-profit/)
- [Capital \(https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch01.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch01.htm) (1867) – but don't start here, come back later probably. It's a difficult work, imo.
- [Manifesto of the Communist Party \(https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/\)](https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/) (1848) – This one's overrated. You really don't need to read it. Come back after Capital, it'll be crystal clear what he's getting at.

For physical copies, check out [RedPrintsPublishing \(https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/redprintspublishing\)](https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/redprintspublishing)

index tags: Philosophy, Communists, Reading List, Marxism, Dialectics, Karl Marx, Marx, Friedrich Engels, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Wage-Labour and Capital, Value Price and Profit, Capital, RedPrintsPublishing

category tags: Famous Communists

On Engels

2022-12-07

"(the second head of Marxism)"

Friedrich Engels

[Friedrich Engels \(/posts/on-engels\)](/posts/on-engels) and Karl Marx came up with a lot of the terminology used in forthcoming (including current) discussions about oppression, economics, politics, feminism, history, etc. Their definitions of terms is useful to know, so that you can fully understand many other (including current) authors' perspectives.

Quotes

Everywhere combined action, the complication of processes dependent upon each other, displaces independent action by individuals. But whoever mentions combined action speaks of organisation; now, is it possible to have organisation without authority? [...]

Let us take by way of example a cotton spinning mill. The cotton must pass through at least six successive operations before it is reduced to the state of thread, and these operations take place for the most part in different rooms. Furthermore, keeping the machines going requires an engineer to look after the steam engine, mechanics to make the current repairs, and many other labourers whose business it is to transfer the products from one room to another, and so forth. All these workers, men, women and children, are obliged to begin and finish their work at the hours fixed by the authority of the steam, which cares nothing for individual autonomy. The workers must, therefore, first come to an understanding on the hours of work; and these hours, once they are fixed, must be observed by all, without any exception. Thereafter particular questions arise in each room and at every moment concerning the mode of production, distribution of material, etc., which must be settled by decision of a delegate placed at the head of each branch of labour or, if possible, by a majority vote, the will of the single individual will always have to subordinate itself, which means that questions are settled in an authoritarian way. The automatic machinery of the big factory is much more despotic than the small capitalists who employ workers ever have been. At least with regard to the hours of work one may write upon the portals of these factories: *Lasciate ogni autonomia, voi che entrate!* [Leave, ye that enter in, all autonomy behind!]

If man, by dint of his knowledge and inventive genius, has subdued the forces of nature, the latter avenge themselves upon him by subjecting him, in so far as he employs them, to a veritable despotism independent of all social organisation. Wanting to abolish authority in large-scale industry is tantamount to wanting to abolish industry itself, to destroy the power loom in order to return to the spinning wheel. [...]

We have seen that the material conditions of production and circulation inevitably develop with large-scale industry and large-scale agriculture, and increasingly tend to enlarge the scope of this authority. Hence it is absurd to speak of the principle of authority as being absolutely evil, and of the principle of autonomy as being absolutely good. Authority and autonomy are relative things whose spheres vary with the various phases of the development of society.

-- ["On Authority" \(1872\)](#)

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1872/10/authority.htm>

The English bourgeoisie is charitable out of self-interest; it gives nothing outright, but regards its gifts as a business matter, makes a bargain with the poor, saying: "If I spend this much upon benevolent institutions, I thereby purchase the right not to be troubled any further, and you are bound thereby to stay in your dusky holes and not to irritate my tender nerves by exposing your misery. You shall despair as before, but you shall despair unseen, this I require, this I purchase with my subscription of twenty pounds for the infirmary!" It is infamous, this charity of a Christian bourgeois!

-- "[The Attitude of the Bourgeoisie Towards the Proletariat](https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/condition-working-class/ch13.htm)" (1845)
(<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/condition-working-class/ch13.htm>)

Keep this in mind when you see Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos in the news "doing good for humanity" while their companies keep employees, contractors, and other leveraged laborers working in dubious conditions and financial instability. Maybe they could "do good" by not extracting the surplus value created while providing and maintaining public resources and infrastructure (eg. Amazon, the cloud infra that AWS/Azure provide to run much of the internet, ...). Maybe we can [organize \(/posts/on-organization\)](/posts/on-organization) ourselves in various capacities (eg. [unions \(/posts/on-unions\)](/posts/on-unions)) to show em.

For now, I'll link some works (in a logical order) and post some of my own notes for quick takeaways:

- [The Principles of Communism](https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/11/prin-com.htm) (<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/11/prin-com.htm>) (1847) – the best starter guide to get onboard with all the Communist/Socialist terminology
- [On Authority \(https://redsails.org/on-authority/\)](https://redsails.org/on-authority/) (1872) – explains authority (and it's necessity within society) very concisely.
- [Socialism: Utopian and Scientific](https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1880/soc-utop/index.htm) (<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1880/soc-utop/index.htm>) (1880) – Good to get your feet wet with a bit of dialectics and historical materialism.

For physical copies, check out [RedPrintsPublishing](https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/redprintspublishing) (<https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/redprintspublishing>)

TODO: more of a bio, links to the naturey sciencey stuff

TODO: gotta probably get the temperature quotes in here, and some quantitative -> qualitative stuff. maybe link the vihart vid that's a good example of dialectics in nature.

On Authority notes

[On Authority \(https://redsails.org/on-authority/\)](https://redsails.org/on-authority/) – Friedrich Engels (1872)

- present-day society tends more and more to replace isolated action by combined action of individuals.
- "All these workers, men, women and children, are obliged to begin and finish their work at the hours fixed by the authority of the steam, which cares nothing for individual autonomy... The automatic machinery of the big factory is much more despotic than the small capitalists who employ workers ever have been."

- "Wanting to abolish authority in large-scale industry is tantamount to wanting to abolish industry itself, to destroy the power loom in order to return to the spinning wheel."
 - "A revolution is certainly the most authoritarian thing there is; it is the act whereby one part of the population imposes its will upon the other part by means of rifles, bayonets and cannon — authoritarian means, if such there be at all; and if the victorious party does not want to have fought in vain, it must maintain this rule by means of the terror which its arms inspire in the reactionists... Therefore, either one of two things: either the anti-authoritarians don't know what they're talking about, in which case they are creating nothing but confusion; or they do know, and in that case they are betraying the movement of the proletariat. In either case they serve the reaction."
-

Socialism: Utopian and Scientific notes

[Socialism: Utopian and Scientific \(https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1880/soc-utop/index.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1880/soc-utop/index.htm) – Friedrich Engels (1880)

1. The development of utopian socialism

- France in the 18th century. Utopians (Saint-Simon, Fourier, Owen) focused on equality in order to emancipate everyone. Having found rationality and reason in the idealized understanding of the 18th century bourgeoisie lifestyle, they made this the standard. Oppression by sword turned into oppression by gold.
- "Politics is the science of production, and foretells the complete absorption of politics by economics" ~Saint-Simon, 1816
- Robert Owens formed communism based on a business foundation in order to reconstruct society for the common good. Three obstacles which especially blocked the path to social reform were private property, religion, and the present form of marriage.
- The utopians believed their truth, reason, and justice of their solutions would overtake the world. But these are subjective. To make a science of socialism it must be placed upon a real basis.

2. Dialectics

- Metaphysics discusses ideas and things isolated, whereas dialectic considers both thesis and antithesis (both positive and negative hypotheses) until truth is found.
- Hegelian philosophy was founded on the eternal change observed. The whole world (natural, historical, intellectual) is abstracted as a process. Hegel wanted intellectuals to follow this process and regarded the world as a culmination of ideas.
- Old materialism looked upon history as irrational and violent; new materialism observes in it the evolution of humanity. Instead of seeing production and economic interests as incidental elements in the history of civilization, we now realize history has been composed of class struggle. Earlier socialism critiqued the failings of capitalism but could not explain how the exploitation arose.
- The discovery of surplus-value explains the secret of capitalistic production to constantly heap increasing masses of capital into the hands of the possessing classes.
- The understanding of the materialistic conception of history and of surplus-value explaining the exploitative nature of capitalistic production (thanks Marx) turned socialism into a science.

3. Historical Materialism

- Proposes that production of the means to support human life and the exchange of things produced is the basis of all social structure.

- The capitalist production and its upholder concentrate and enlarge scattered/limited means of production. They transform individual means into social means of production only workable but a collectivity of men. Production turned from individual to social products such that nobody could say "I made that; this is my product."
- The reduction of individual production's relative efficacy showed the incompatibility of socialized production with capitalistic appropriation – it presupposes the private production of individuals who owns his own product and brings it to market. The relative worthlessness of individual production turns almost all workers into wage-labourers for life. The contradiction (of capitalistic appropriation and socialized production) manifested as the antagonism between proletariat and bourgeoisie.
- Now, the contradiction between socialized production and capitalistic appropriation presents itself as an antagonism between the organization of production in the individual workshop and the anarchy of production in society generally.
- The extension of markets cannot keep pace with the extension of production. The collision becomes inevitable, and as they do not break apart the capitalist mode of production they become periodic in the business (boom/bust) cycle.
- When the state becomes a true representation of the whole of society and takes possession of the means of production in the name of society, this is its last independent act as a state. It is not abolished; it dies out
- The oppressive dynamic of production was necessary in times of deficient development due to the division of labor forming a division based on classes. But this historical justification (insufficient production) no longer exists under modern social conditions in the present period.
- Socialization of the means of production does away with the anarchy in social production and the struggle for individual existence, as well as the extravagance and political control of the ruling class.

index tags: Philosophy, Communists, Reading List, Reading Notes, Marxism, Dialectics, Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, Engels, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Principles of Communism, On Authority, Socialism: Utopian and Scientific, RedPrintsPublishing, The Attitude of the Bourgeoisie Towards the Proletariat

category tags: Famous Communists

On Lenin

2022-12-08

"Ah, now we get to this 'Marxism-Leninism' stuff."

There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen.

The representatives of the modern labour movement find that they have plenty to protest against but nothing to despair about. Despair is typical of the classes which are perishing, but the class of wage-workers is growing inevitably, developing and becoming strong in every capitalist society, Russia included. Despair is typical of those who do not understand the causes of evil, see no way out, and are incapable of struggle. The modern industrial proletariat does not belong to the category of such classes.

[\(L. N. Tolstoy and the Modern Labour Movement, 1910\)](#)

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1910/nov/28.htm>

The generation of people who are now at the age of fifty cannot expect to see a communist society. This generation will be gone before then. But the generation of those who are now fifteen will see a communist society, and will itself build this society. This generation should know that the entire purpose of their lives is to build a communist society. In the old society, each family worked separately and labour was not organised by anybody except the landowners and capitalists, who oppressed the masses of the people. We must organise all labour, no matter how toilsome or messy it may be, in such a way that every worker and peasant will be able to say: I am part of the great army of free labour, and shall be able to build up my life without the landowners and capitalists, able to help establish a communist system. The Young Communist League should teach all young people to engage in conscious and disciplined labour from an early age. In this way we can be confident that the problems now confronting us will be solved.

[\(The Tasks of the Youth Leagues, 1920\)](#)

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1920/oct/02.htm>

Can a nation be free if it oppresses other nations? It cannot.

[\(The Right of Nations to Self-Determination, 1914\)](#)

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1914/self-det/ch04.htm>

Three keys to success: read, read, read.

Vladimir Lenin

Vladimir Lenin was a Russian revolutionary leader, covered first in [On Europe \(/posts/on-europe\)](#)

TODO: more of a bio

Quotes

These are mostly sourced from vilenin.substack.com (<https://vilenin.substack.com/>) and [@lenin_tweets](https://twitter.com/lenin_tweets) (https://twitter.com/lenin_tweets) on twitter, run by the folks at [historic.ly](https://posts/on-historicly) ([/posts/on-historicly](https://posts/on-historicly)).

It is far more difficult—and far more precious—to be a revolutionary when the conditions for direct, open, really mass and really revolutionary struggle do not yet exist to be able to champion the interests of the revolution [...] in a non-revolutionary situation

To be able to seek, find and correctly determine the specific path or the particular turn of events that will lead the masses to the real, decisive and final revolutionary struggle—such is the main objective of communism in Western Europe and in America today.

-- ["Left-Wing" Communism: An Infantile Disorder" \(1920\)](#)

[\(https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1920/lwc/ch10.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1920/lwc/ch10.htm)

Under Capitalism, bourgeois democracy always remains, and is bound to remain, restricted, truncated, false and hypocritical: a paradise for the rich and a snare and deception for the exploited and poor.

-- ["The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky" \(1918\)](#)

[\(https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1918/prrk/democracy.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1918/prrk/democracy.htm)

All over the world, wherever there are capitalists, freedom of the press means freedom to buy up newspapers, to buy writers, to bribe, buy and fake “public opinion” for the benefit of the bourgeoisie.

-- ["A Letter To G. Myasnikov" \(1921\)](#)

[\(https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1921/aug/05.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1921/aug/05.htm)

When a liberal is abused, he says: Thank God they didn't beat me. When he is beaten, he thanks God they didn't kill him. When he is killed, he will thank God that his immortal soul has been delivered from its mortal clay.

-- ["The Government's Falsification of the Duma and the Tasks of the Social-Democrats" \(1906\)](#)

[\(https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1906/dec/20c.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1906/dec/20c.htm)

The role of a newspaper is not limited, however, merely to the spreading of ideas, merely to political education and attracting political allies. A newspaper is not only a collective propagandist and collective agitator, but also a collective organiser.

-- ["Where to Begin?" \(1901\)](#)

[\(https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1901/may/04.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1901/may/04.htm)

The idea of building communist society exclusively with the hands of the Communists is childish, absolutely childish. We communists are but a drop in the ocean, a drop in the ocean of the people

-- ["Eleventh Congress Of The R.C.P.\(B.\)" \(1922\)](#)

[\(https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1922/mar/27.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1922/mar/27.htm)

During a reactionary war a revolutionary class cannot but desire the defeat of its government. This is axiomatic, and disputed only by conscious partisans or helpless satellites of the social-chauvinists. [...]

To repudiate the defeat slogan means allowing one's revolutionary ardour to degenerate into an empty phrase, or sheer hypocrisy. What is the substitute proposed for the defeat slogan? It is that of "neither victory nor defeat." [...]

It means shifting the issue to the level of a war between governments (who, according to the content of this slogan, are to keep to their old stand, "retain their positions"), and not to the level of the struggle of the oppressed classes against their governments!

-- ["The Defeat of One's Own Government in the Imperialist War" \(July 26, 1915\)](https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1915/jul/26.htm)
(<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1915/jul/26.htm>)

For now, I'll link some works (in a logical order) and post some of my own notes for quick takeaways:

- [The Three Sources and Three Component Parts of Marxism](https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1913/mar/x01.htm) (<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1913/mar/x01.htm>) (1913) – a very concise (and arguably the best) intro to Marxism.
- [Letter To American Workers](https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1918/aug/20.htm) (<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1918/aug/20.htm>) (1918)
- [The State and Revolution](https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/staterev/) (<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/staterev/>) (1917)
- [Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism](https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/) (<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/>) (1916)
- [What Is To Be Done?](https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1901/witbd/) (<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1901/witbd/>) (1901)
- [articles on RedSails.org](https://redsails.org/@lenin/) (<https://redsails.org/@lenin/>)
- ["Left-Wing" Communism: an Infantile Disorder](https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1920/lwc/) (<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1920/lwc/>) (1920)
- [Freedom to Criticise and Unity of Action](https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1906/may/20c.htm) (<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1906/may/20c.htm>) (1906)

For physical copies, check out [RedPrintsPublishing](https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/redprintspublishing)
(<https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/redprintspublishing>)

[The Three Sources and Three Component Parts of Marxism](https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1913/mar/x01.htm) (<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1913/mar/x01.htm>) (1913) notes

1. Marxism (specifically materialist philosophy) is a continuation on other study and provides answers to prominent questions by great minds. Natural science discoveries support historical materialism where they cause idealists to revise their understanding of how the world works.
- Knowledge reflects nature; so to, social knowledge reflects the economic system of society. Politics are a superstructure on the economic foundation.

2. Marx saw relationships between people, rather than things. He understood the dynamics between the players of the game. The cornerstones here are the labor theory of value and the doctrine of surplus-value.
 - By increasing the dependence on capital, capitalism creates the giant power of united labor.
 3. Utopian socialism has no basis in material reality. The driving force of change has always been class struggle.
 - "People always have been the foolish victims of deception and self-deception in politics, and they always will be until they have learnt to seek out the interests of some class or other behind all moral, religious, political and social phrases, declarations and promises. Champions of reforms and improvements will always be fooled by the defenders of the old order until they realise that every old institution, how ever barbarous and rotten it may appear to be, is kept going by the forces of certain ruling classes."
 - Marx's philosophy and economics demonstrate the true position of the proletariat within capitalism and explain the spiritual slavery within which we exist.
-

The State and Revolution

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/staterev/> (1917)

notes

- The state is a product and a manifestation of the irreconcilability of class antagonisms
- Marx did not indulge in utopias; he expected the experience of the mass movement to provide the reply to the question as to the specific forms this organisation of the proletariat as the ruling class would assume and as to the exact manner in which this organisation would be combined with the most complete, most consistent "winning of the battle of democracy."
- To organize the whole economy on the lines of the postal service so that the technicians, foremen and accountants, as well as all officials, shall receive salaries no higher than "a workman's wage", all under the control and leadership of the armed proletariat--that is our immediate aim. This is what will bring about the abolition of parliamentarism and the preservation of representative institutions. This is what will rid the laboring classes of the bourgeoisie's prostitution of these institutions.
- To prevent the true meaning of his struggle against anarchism from being distorted, Marx expressly emphasized the "revolutionary and transient form" of the state which the proletariat needs. The proletariat needs the state only temporarily. We do not after all differ with the anarchists on the question of the abolition of the state as the aim. We maintain that, to achieve this aim, we must temporarily make use of the instruments, resources, and methods of state power against the exploiters, just as the temporary dictatorship of the oppressed class is necessary for the abolition of classes.
- "Have these gentlemen ever seen a revolution? A revolution is certainly the most authoritarian thing there is; it is an act whereby one part of the population imposes its will upon the other part by means of rifles, bayonets and cannon, all of which are highly authoritarian means. And the victorious party must maintain its rule by means of the terror which its arms inspire in the reactionaries. Would the Paris Commune have lasted more than a day if it had not used the authority of the armed people against the bourgeoisie? Cannot we, on the contrary, blame it for having made too little use of that authority? Therefore, one of two things: either that anti-authoritarians don't know what they are talking about, in which case they are creating nothing but confusion. Or they do

know, and in that case they are betraying the cause of the proletariat. In either case they serve only reaction."

- the bourgeoisie bureaucracy is unfit to carry out orders of the proletarian state.
- "And so, in the first phase of communist society (usually called socialism) "bourgeois law" is not abolished in its entirety, but only in part, only in proportion to the economic revolution so far attained, i.e., only in respect of the means of production. "Bourgeois law" recognizes them as the private property of individuals. Socialism converts them into common property. To that extent--and to that extent alone--"bourgeois law" disappears...The state withers away insofar as there are no longer any capitalists, any classes, and, consequently, no class can be suppressed...But the state has not yet completely withered away, since it still remains the safeguarding of "bourgeois law", which sanctifies actual inequality. For the state to wither away completely, complete communism is necessary."
- "The state will be able to wither away completely when society adopts the rule: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs", i.e., when people have become so accustomed to observing the fundamental rules of social intercourse and when their labor has become so productive that they will voluntarily work according to their ability."
- "From 1852 to 1891, or for 40 years, Marx and Engels taught the proletariat that it must smash the state machine. Yet, in 1899, Kautsky, confronted with the complete betrayal of Marxism by the opportunists on this point, fraudulently substituted for the question whether it is necessary to smash this machine the question for the concrete forms in which it is to be smashed, and then sought refuge behind the "indisputable" (and barren) philistine truth that concrete forms cannot be known in advance!!"
- "All these gentry, who play a tremendous, very often a predominant role in the parliamentary work and the press of their parties, repudiate outright the dictatorship of the proletariat and pursue a policy of undisguised opportunism. In the eyes of these gentry, the "dictatorship" of the proletariat "contradicts" democracy!! There is really no essential distinction between them and the petty-bourgeois democrats."

Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism

(<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/>) (1916)

notes

- Everywhere, capitalism leads to the concentration of production which leads to monopoly, with minor differences in manifestation and form.
- The change from the old type of capitalism, in which free competition predominated, to the new capitalism, in which monopoly reigns, is expressed, among other things, by a decline in the importance of the Stock Exchange. The review, *Die Bank*, writes: "The Stock Exchange has long ceased to be the indispensable medium of circulation that it formerly was when the banks were not yet able to place the bulk of new issues with their clients."
- Thus, the twentieth century marks the turning-point from the old capitalism to the new, from the domination of capital in general to the domination of finance capital.
- "Incidentally," adds Hilferding, "all these reorganisations and reconstructions have a twofold significance for the banks: first, as profitable transactions; and secondly, as opportunities for securing control of the companies in difficulties."
- We at once see standing out in sharp relief four of the richest capitalist countries, each of which holds securities to amounts ranging approximately from 100,000 to 150,000 million francs. Of these four countries, two, Britain and France, are the oldest capitalist countries, and, as we shall see, possess the most colonies; the other two, the United States and Germany, are capitalist countries leading in the rapidity of development and the degree of extension of capitalist monopolies in industry. Together, these four

countries own 479,000 million francs, that is, nearly 80 per cent of the world's finance capital. In one way or another, nearly the whole of the rest of the world is more or less the debtor to and tributary of these international banker countries, these four "pillars" of world finance capital.

- Typical of the old capitalism, when free competition held undivided sway, was the export of goods. Typical of the latest stage of capitalism, when monopolies rule, is the export of capital.
- Monopolist capitalist associations, cartels, syndicates and trusts first divided the home market among themselves and obtained more or less complete possession of the industry of their own country. But under capitalism the home market is inevitably bound up with the foreign market. Capitalism long ago created a world market. As the export of capital increased, and as the foreign and colonial connections and "spheres of influence" of the big monopolist associations expanded in all ways, things "naturally" gravitated towards an international agreement among these associations, and towards the formation of international cartels.
- "It is time our state socialists, who allow themselves to be blinded by a beautiful principle, understood, at last, that in Germany the monopolies have never pursued the aim, nor have they had the result, of benefiting the consumer, or even of handing over to the state part of the promoter's profits; they have served only to facilitate, at the expense of the state, the recovery of private industries which were on the verge of bankruptcy." ~Die Bank (Berlin Review)
- Certain bourgeois writers (now joined by Karl Kautsky, who has completely abandoned the Marxist position he had held, for example, in 1909) have expressed the opinion that international cartels, being one of the most striking expressions of the internationalisation of capital, give the hope of peace among nations under capitalism. Theoretically, this opinion is absolutely absurd, while in practice it is sophistry and a dishonest defence of the worst opportunism. International cartels show to what point capitalist monopolies have developed, and ~the object~ of the struggle between the various capitalist associations.
- The capitalists divide the world, not out of any particular malice, but because the degree of concentration which has been reached forces them to adopt this method in order to obtain profits. And they divide it "in proportion to capital", "in proportion to strength", because there cannot be any other method of division under commodity production and capitalism. But strength varies with the degree of economic and political development. In order to understand what is taking place, it is necessary to know what questions are settled by the changes in strength.
- The epoch of the latest stage of capitalism shows us that certain relations between capitalist associations grow up, based on the economic division of the world; while parallel to and in connection with it, certain relations grow up between political alliances, between states, on the basis of the territorial division of the world, of the struggle for colonies, of the "struggle for spheres of influence".
- Salvation lies in monopoly, echoed the political leaders of the bourgeoisie, hastening to appropriate the parts of the world not yet shared out.
- Definition of imperialism must include: (1) the concentration of production and capital has developed to such a high stage that it has created monopolies which play a decisive role in economic life; (2) the merging of bank capital with industrial capital, and the creation, on the basis of this "finance capital", of a financial oligarchy; (3) the export of capital as distinguished from the export of commodities acquires exceptional importance; (4) the formation of international monopolist capitalist associations which share the world among themselves, and (5) the territorial division of the whole world among the biggest capitalist powers is completed. Imperialism is capitalism at that stage of development at which the dominance of monopolies and finance capital is established; in which the export of capital

has acquired pronounced importance; in which the division of the world among the international trusts has begun, in which the division of all territories of the globe among the biggest capitalist powers has been completed.

- The question is: what means other than war could there be under capitalism to overcome the disparity between the development of productive forces and the accumulation of capital on the one side, and the division of colonies and spheres of influence for finance capital on the other?
- Imperialism has the tendency to create privileged sections also among the workers, and to detach them from the broad masses of the proletariat.
- The distinctive feature of the present situation is the prevalence of such economic and political conditions that are bound to increase the irreconcilability between opportunism and the general and vital interests of the working-class movement: imperialism has grown from an embryo into the predominant system; capitalist monopolies occupy first place in economics and politics; the division of the world has been completed; on the other hand, instead of the undivided monopoly of Great Britain, we see a few imperialist powers contending for the right to share in this monopoly, and this struggle is characteristic of the whole period of the early twentieth century. Opportunism cannot now be completely triumphant in the working-class movement of one country for decades as it was in Britain in the second half of the nineteenth century; but in a number of countries it has grown ripe, overripe, and rotten, and has become completely merged with bourgeois policy in the form of “social-chauvinism”.
- “It is not the business of the proletariat,” writes Hilferding “to contrast the more progressive capitalist policy with that of the now bygone era of free trade and of hostility towards the state. The reply of the proletariat to the economic policy of finance capital, to imperialism, cannot be free trade, but socialism. The aim of proletarian policy cannot today be the ideal of restoring free competition—which has now become a reactionary ideal—but the complete elimination of competition by the abolition of capitalism.”
- Kautsky broke with Marxism by advocating in the epoch of finance capital a “reactionary ideal”, “peaceful democracy”, “the mere operation of economic factors”, for objectively this ideal drags us back from monopoly to non-monopoly capitalism, and is a reformist swindle.
- We have seen that in its economic essence imperialism is monopoly capitalism. This in itself determines its place in history, for monopoly that grows out of the soil of free competition, and precisely out of free competition, is the transition from the capitalist system to a higher socio-economic order.
- Firstly, monopoly arose out of the concentration of production at a very high stage. Secondly, monopolies have stimulated the seizure of the most important sources of raw materials, especially for the basic and most highly cartelised industries in capitalist society: the coal and iron industries. Thirdly, monopoly has sprung from the banks. Fourthly, monopoly has grown out of colonial policy.
- The receipt of high monopoly profits by the capitalists in one of the numerous branches of industry, in one of the numerous countries, etc., makes it economically possible for them to bribe certain sections of the workers, and for a time a fairly considerable minority of them, and win them to the side of the bourgeoisie of a given industry or given nation against all the others. The intensification of antagonisms between imperialist nations for the division of the world increases this urge. And so there is created that bond between imperialism and opportunism.
- From all that has been said in this book on the economic essence of imperialism, it follows that we must define it as capitalism in transition, or, more precisely, as moribund capitalism.
- What then does this catchword “interlocking” express? It merely expresses the most striking feature of the process going on before our eyes. It shows that the observer counts

the separate trees, but cannot see the wood. It slavishly copies the superficial, the fortuitous, the chaotic. It reveals the observer as one who is overwhelmed by the mass of raw material and is utterly incapable of appreciating its meaning and importance. Ownership of shares, the relations between owners of private property “interlock in a haphazard way”. But underlying this interlocking, its very base, are the changing social relations of production. When a big enterprise assumes gigantic proportions, and, on the basis of an exact computation of mass data, organises according to plan the supply of primary raw materials to the extent of two-thirds, or three-fourths, of all that is necessary for tens of millions of people; when the raw materials are transported in a systematic and organised manner to the most suitable places of production, sometimes situated hundreds or thousands of miles from each other; when a single centre directs all the consecutive stages of processing the material right up to the manufacture of numerous varieties of finished articles; when these products are distributed according to a single plan among tens and hundreds of millions of consumers (the marketing of oil in America and Germany by the American oil trust)—then it becomes evident that we have socialisation of production, and not mere “interlocking”, that private economic and private property relations constitute a shell which no longer fits its contents, a shell which must inevitably decay if its removal is artificially delayed, a shell which may remain in a state of decay for a fairly long period (if, at the worst, the cure of the opportunist abscess is protracted), but which will inevitably be removed.

“Left-Wing” Communism: an Infantile Disorder

(<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1920/lwc/>) (1920) notes

Should we participate in bourgeois parliaments?

- Although lefts consider parliamentarianism obsolete, the masses of proletarians are still in favor of it and are often “counter-revolutionary” – this makes it obvious that parliamentarianism is not yet politically obsolete
 - It is important to understand that what is obsolete to the communists is not obsolete to a class. You must follow the actual state of the class-consciousness and preparedness of the entire class (not only of its communist vanguard), and of all the working people (not only of their advanced elements).
 - Participating in bourgeois-democratic parliament helps prove its obsolescence to the masses and facilitate its successful dissolution.
 - Revolutionary tactics will not develop into action without revolutionary mood and the conditions to facilitate the growth of this mood. It will be more difficult to spur revolution in Europe or the US, but it will be more difficult to continue the revolution and bring it to consummation in Russia.
-

index tags: Philosophy, Communists, Reading List, Reading Notes, Marxism, Marxism-Leninism, Dialectics, Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, The Three Sources and Three Component Parts of Marxism, Letter To American Workers, The State and Revolution, Imperialism: the Highest Stage of Capitalism, What Is To Be Done?, RedSails, Left-Wing Communism: an Infantile Disorder, Freedom to Criticise and Unity of Action, Voting, Dialectical Method, Materialist Theory, Historical Materialism, RedPrintsPublishing, Vilenin.substack.com, @lenin_tweets, Historic.ly, The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky, A Letter To G. Myasnikov, The Government’s Falsification of the Duma and the Tasks of the Social-Democrats, Where to Begin?, The Defeat of One’s Own Government in the Imperialist War

On Stalin

2022-12-09

"(The synthesizer of aforementioned 'Marxism-Leninism')"

It is difficult for me to imagine what 'personal liberty' is enjoyed by an unemployed person, who goes about hungry, and cannot find employment. Real liberty can exist only where exploitation has been abolished, where there is no oppression of some by others, where there is no unemployment and poverty, where a man is not haunted by the fear of being tomorrow deprived of work, of home and of bread. Only in such a society is real, and not paper, personal and every other liberty possible.

Joseph Stalin

Joseph Stalin (born Ioseb Besarionis dze Jughashvili) was the democratically-elected leader of the USSR and synthesizer of Marxism-Leninism, covered first in [On Europe \(/posts/on-europe\)](/posts/on-europe).

For W.E.B. Du Bois' thoughts, see his [On Stalin \(https://redsails.org/on-stalin/\)](https://redsails.org/on-stalin/).

TODO: more of a bio

Quotes

These are mostly sourced from [vilenin.substack.com \(https://vilenin.substack.com/\)](https://vilenin.substack.com/) and [@tweets_of_steel \(https://twitter.com/tweets_of_steel\)](https://twitter.com/tweets_of_steel) on twitter, run by the folks at [historic.ly \(/posts/on-historicly\)](/posts/on-historicly).

Marxism is not only the theory of socialism, it is an integral world outlook, a philosophical system, from which Marx's proletarian socialism logically follows. This philosophical system is called dialectical materialism.
-- "[Anarchism Or Socialism?](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1906/12/x01.htm)" (Dec. 1906 - Jan. 1907)
(<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1906/12/x01.htm>)

[I]n order to overcome difficulties it is necessary to exert all efforts, to display firmness and endurance, and since not everybody possesses sufficient firmness and endurance ... it is just here that vacillations and waverings begin to take place ...

There are people in our Party who [...] proclaim a fight against the Right danger in the same way as priests sometimes cry "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" But they will not undertake any practical measures at all to organise the fight against the Right deviation on a firm basis ...

-- ["The Right Danger in the C.P.S.U.\(B.\)" \(Speech Delivered at the Plenum of the Moscow Committee and Moscow Control Commission of the C.P.S.U.\(B.\), October 19, 1928\)](#)
(<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1928/10/19.htm>)

Social-Democracy is objectively the moderate wing of fascism ... They are not antipodes, they are twins. It [is] a mistake to think that "pacifism" signifies the liquidation of fascism ... "pacifism" is the strengthening of fascism with its moderate wing pushed to the forefront.

— ["Concerning the International Situation" 6 January–November 1924](#)
(<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1924/09/20.htm>)

For now, I'll link some works (in a logical order) and post some of my own notes for quick takeaways:

- [Dialectical and Historical Materialism \(https://redsails.org/dialectical-and-historical-materialism/\)](https://redsails.org/dialectical-and-historical-materialism/) (1938) – maybe my favorite text of all-time.
- [The Foundations of Leninism \(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1924/foundations-leninism/index.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1924/foundations-leninism/index.htm) (1924)
- [Anarchism or Socialism? \(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1906/12/x01.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1906/12/x01.htm) (1906)
- [Marxism and the National Question \(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1913/03a.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1913/03a.htm) (1913)
- [Marxism and Problems of Linguistics \(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1950/jun/20.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1950/jun/20.htm) (1950)
- [articles on RedSails.org \(https://redsails.org/@stalin/\)](https://redsails.org/@stalin/)

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[Dialectical and Historical Materialism \(https://redsails.org/dialectical-and-historical-materialism/\)](https://redsails.org/dialectical-and-historical-materialism/) (1938) notes

"In its essence, dialectics is the direct opposite of metaphysics."

I: Marxist Dialectical Method

a) Nature Connected and Determined

- dialectics regards nature as a connected whole → no phenomenon in nature can be understood if taken by itself, isolated from surrounding phenomena

b) Nature is a State of Continuous Motion and Change

- dialectics regards nature as a state of constant movement → requires that phenomena should be considered not only from the standpoint of their interconnection and interdependence, but also from the standpoint of their change and development

c) Natural Quantitative Change Leads to Qualitative Change

- dialectics regards the process of development as passing from insignificant and imperceptible quantitative changes to open 'fundamental changes' to qualitative changes; a development in which the qualitative changes occur not gradually, but rapidly and abruptly, taking the form of a leap from one state to another; they occur not accidentally but as the natural result of an accumulation of imperceptible and gradual quantitative changes.
- eg. ice freezing (abrupt qualitative change) after temperature change (gradual quantitative change) – "What are known as the constants of physics are in most cases nothing but designations for the nodal points at which a quantitative increase or decrease of movement causes a qualitative change in the state of the given body, and at which, consequently, quantity is transformed into quality." (Engels)

d) Contradictions Inherent in Nature

- dialectics holds that internal contradictions are inherent in all things and phenomena of nature, for they all have their negative and positive sides, a past and a future, something dying away and something developing; and that the struggle between these opposites, the struggle between the old and the new, between that which is dying away and that which is being born, between that which is disappearing and that which is developing, constitutes the internal content of the process of development, the internal content of the transformation of quantitative changes into qualitative changes
- thus, the dialectical method holds that the process of development takes place as a disclosure of the contradictions inherent in things and phenomena, as a "struggle" of opposite tendencies which operate on the basis of these contradictions.

If the world is in a state of constant movement and development then it is clear that there can be no "immutable" social systems, no "eternal principles" of private property and exploitation, no "eternal ideas" of the subjugation of the peasant to the landlord, of the worker to the capitalist. Hence, the capitalist system can be replaced by the socialist system, just as at one time the feudal system was replaced by the capitalist system.

Further, if the passing of slow quantitative changes into rapid and abrupt qualitative changes is a law of development, then it is clear that revolutions made by oppressed classes are a quite natural and inevitable phenomenon. Hence, the transition from capitalism to socialism and the liberation of the working class from the yoke of capitalism cannot be effected by slow changes, by reforms, but only by a qualitative change of the capitalist system, by revolution. Hence, in order not to err in policy, one must be a revolutionary, not a reformist.

II: Marxist Philosophical Materialism

III: Historical Materialism

These irreconcilable contradictions between the character of the productive forces and the relations of production make themselves felt in periodical crises of over-production, when the capitalists, finding no effective demand for their goods owing to the ruin of the mass of the population which they themselves have brought about, are compelled to burn products, destroy manufactured goods, suspend production, and destroy productive forces at a time when millions of people are forced to suffer unemployment and starvation, not because there are not enough goods, but because there is an overproduction of goods.

The Foundations of Leninism

(<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1924/foundation-leninism/index.htm>) (1924) notes

I. The Historical Roots of Leninism

Imperialism – moribund capitalism led by three contradictions: between labour and capital, the contradiction among the various financial groups and imperialist Powers in their struggle for sources of raw materials and foreign territory, and the contradiction between the handful of ruling, "civilised" nations and the hundreds of millions of the colonial and dependent peoples of the world.

Due to the combination of tsar rule and capitalist exploitation, Russia was ripe for revolution during the early 1900s.

II. Method

1. test dogma by trying to join theory with practice, 2. test policy by the material effects they have on the masses, 3. reorganize the party along revolutionary lines in preparation for revolutionary struggle, and 4. ruthlessly self-criticize in order to train genuine cadres and leaders of the party.

"The attitude of a political party towards its own mistakes is one of the most important and surest ways of judging how earnest the party is and how it in practice fulfils its obligation towards its class and the toiling masses. Frankly admitting a mistake, ascertaining the reasons for it, analysing the circumstances which gave rise to it, and thoroughly discussing the means of correcting it—that is the earmark of a serious party; that is the way it should perform its duties, that is the way it should educate and train the class, and then the masses"

III. Theory

1. Importance: Theory is the experience of the working-class movement in all countries taken in its general aspect. Of course, theory becomes purposeless if it is not connected with revolutionary practice, just as practice gropes in the dark if its path is not illumined by revolutionary theory.

"Without a revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement"

"The role of vanguard fighter can be fulfilled only by a party that is guided by the most advanced theory"

2. The "theory" of spontaneity is a theory of opportunism, a theory of worshipping the spontaneity of the labour movement, a theory which actually repudiates the leading role of the vanguard of the working class, of the party of the working class.

In practice this theory, which appeared on the scene even before the first revolution in Russia, led its adherents, the so-called "Economists," to deny the need for an independent workers' party in Russia, to oppose the revolutionary struggle of the working class for the overthrow of tsarism, to preach a purely trade-unionist policy in the movement, and, in general, to surrender the labour movement to the hegemony of the liberal bourgeoisie.

Marx said that the materialist theory could not confine itself to explaining the world, that it must also change it.

3. The theory of the proletarian revolution proceeds from three theses:

- i) The domination of finance capital in the advanced capitalist countries; the issue of stocks and bonds as one of the principal operations of finance capital; the export of capital to the sources of raw materials, which is one of the foundations of imperialism; the omnipotence of a financial oligarchy, which is the result of the domination of finance capital—all this reveals the grossly parasitic character of monopolistic capitalism, makes the yoke of the capitalist trusts and syndicates a hundred times more burdensome, intensifies the indignation of the working class with the foundations of capitalism, and brings the masses to the proletarian revolution as their only salvation
HENCE: intensification of the revolutionary crisis within the capitalist countries and growth of the elements of an explosion on the internal, proletarian front in the "metropolises."
- ii) The increase in the export of capital to the colonies and dependent countries; the expansion of "spheres of influence" and colonial possessions until they cover the whole globe; the transformation of capitalism into a world system of financial enslavement and colonial oppression of the vast majority of the population of the world by a handful of "advanced" countries—all this has, on the one hand, converted the separate national economies and national territories into links in a single chain called world economy, and, on the other hand, split the population of the globe into two camps: a handful of "advanced" capitalist countries which exploit and oppress vast colonies and dependencies, and the huge majority consisting of colonial and dependent countries which are compelled to wage a struggle for liberation from the imperialist yoke
HENCE: intensification of the revolutionary crisis in the colonial countries and growth of the elements of revolt against imperialism on the external, colonial front.
- iii) The monopolistic possession of "spheres of influence" and colonies; the uneven development of the capitalist countries, leading to a frenzied struggle for the redivision of the world between the countries which have already seized territories and those claiming their "share"; imperialist wars as the only means of restoring the disturbed "equilibrium"—all this leads to the intensification of the struggle on the third front, the inter-capitalist front, which weakens imperialism and facilitates the union of the first two fronts against imperialism: the front of the revolutionary proletariat and the front of colonial emancipation
HENCE: under imperialism wars cannot be averted, and that a coalition between the proletarian revolution in Europe and the colonial revolution in the East in a united world front of revolution against the world front of imperialism is inevitable.

Anarchism or Socialism?

<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1906/12/x01.htm>
(1906) notes

Contents:

- The Dialectical Method
- The Materialist Theory
- Proletarian Socialism

The Dialectical Method:

- Dialectics tell us everything in the world is changing (in constant motion). We must ask what is being destroyed and what is being created; what grows and what decays?
- Minor, quantitative changes (evolution) lead to major, qualitative changes (revolution)
- Hegel's dialectical method repudiates all immutable ideas and is thus scientific and revolutionary; his philosophical system, which rests on the immutable idea, is metaphysical (and this reliance on the "unknowable" leads to an unscientific, empty theology). Marx thus praised the dialectical method while laying criticism to the Hegel's metaphysical system.
- How can something be good and bad at the same time? Consider a democratic republic. It is neither all good nor all bad. It is good when it destroys the feudal system but bad when it strengthens the bourgeois system. Thus we must fight for it while it is a positive and fight against it while it is negative. Thus the same democratic republic can be "good" and "bad" at the same time – it is both "yes" and "no."
- Cuvier's cataclysms were due to unknown causes, but Marx and Engel's catastrophes are engendered by dialectics; revolution is not caused spontaneously at random, but is brought on by the development of the productive forces. Darwinism repudiates Cuvier's cataclysms and it dialectically understood development, including revolution; it is not accepted uncritically in Marxism, but serves to show both evolution and revolution (quantitative and qualitative changes) are two essential forms of the same motion.
- Anarchists fail to understand the dialectical method of Marx and Engels. They conjure up their own dialectics and fight against them ruthlessly. They fight their own imagination, smashing their own inventions, while heatedly asserting that they are smashing the opponent.

The Materialist Theory:

- "It is not the consciousness of men that determines their being, but, on the contrary, their social being that determines their consciousness." ~Marx
- Both ideal and material phenomena exist in the world – they exist as different forms of the same nature or society. The dualists said they negate each other, which isn't true. The idealists necessitation on a "universal idea" is nonsense as well. Marxism allows us to identify shifts in power (quantifiable evolutions in "nature" eg. in the material world) that lead to and allow for hierarchical shifts (qualitative changes in the hierarchical structure and "social life" eg. in the ideal world).
- A single indivisible nature can be expressed in two different forms (material and ideal); a single and indivisible social life can be expressed in these two forms as well. They develop simultaneously. This is the monism of the materialist theory.
- In the same way that conscious thought held requirements in the structure of an organism and the development of its nervous system, development of the ideal and of consciousness is preceded by development of the material side.
- Hence arose the well-known materialist proposition: in the process of development content precedes form, form lags behind content. eg. Shoemaker who closes his own business due to competition from larger firms then becomes a proletariat worker. His views will not match those of the proletariat until after acclimation to his new placement within the social hierarchy.
- In social life, too, first the external conditions change, first the material conditions

change, and then the ideas of men, their habits, customs and their world outlook change accordingly. In Marx's opinion, economic development is the "material foundation" of social life, its content, while legal-political and religious-philosophical development is the "ideological form" of this content, its "superstructure," Marx draws the conclusion that: "With the change of the economic foundation the entire immense superstructure is more or less rapidly transformed."

- On this point the materialist theory says that our conceptions, our "self," exist only in so far as external conditions exist that give rise to impressions in our "self." Whoever unthinkingly says that nothing exists but our conceptions, is compelled to deny the existence of all external conditions and their effects on the self.
- "When I look at a tree and see it—that only shows that this tree existed even before the conception of a tree arose in my head, that it was this tree that aroused the corresponding conception in my head...."
- "the existing form never fully corresponds to the existing content: the former lags behind the latter, to a certain extent the new content is always clothed in the old form and, as a consequence, there is always a conflict between the old form and the new content."

Proletarian Socialism:

- The economic development of the capitalist system shows that present-day production is assuming a social character, that the social character of production is a fundamental negation of existing capitalist property; consequently, our main task is to help to abolish capitalist property and to establish socialist property.
 - the process of production has assumed a social, collective character but the private character of appropriation does not correspond to the social character of production → since collective labor must lead to collective property, proletarian socialism is inevitable
 - Strikes, boycott, parliamentarism, meetings and demonstrations are all good forms of struggle as means for preparing and organising the proletariat. But not one of these means is capable of abolishing existing inequality. All these means must be concentrated in one principal and decisive means; the proletariat must rise and launch a determined attack upon the bourgeoisie in order to destroy capitalism to its foundations. This principal and decisive means is the socialist revolution.
 - ". . . The first step in the revolution by the working class, is to raise the proletariat to the position of ruling class. . . . The proletariat will use its political supremacy to wrest, by degrees, all capital from the bourgeoisie, to centralise all instruments of production in the hands . . . of the proletariat organised as the ruling class . . ." ~Marx, 1847
 - The socialist dictatorship of the proletariat is needed to enable the proletariat to expropriate the bourgeoisie, to enable it to confiscate the land, forests, factories and mills, machines, railways, etc., from the entire bourgeoisie. The expropriation of the bourgeoisie—this is what the socialist revolution must lead to.
 - But trade unions and co-operatives alone cannot satisfy the organisational needs of the militant proletariat. This is because the organisations mentioned cannot go beyond the limits of capitalism, for their object is to improve the conditions of the workers under the capitalist system. The workers, however, want to free themselves entirely from capitalist slavery, they want to smash these limits, and not merely operate within the limits of capitalism. Hence, in addition, an organisation is needed that will rally around itself the class-conscious elements of the workers of all trades, that will transform the proletariat into a conscious class and make it its chief aim to smash the capitalist system, to prepare for the socialist revolution. Such an organisation is the Social-Democratic Party of the proletariat.
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Marxism and Problems of Linguistics

<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1950/jun/20.htm>
(1950) notes

- Is it true that language is a superstructure on the base? -> No. The base is the economic structure of society (ie. the phase of development; eg. feudalism, capitalism, socialism). A change in base leads to change in the superstructure (ie. its political, legal and other views, and the corresponding institutions). The change in base has little inherent impact on language (new vocabulary enriches the language, but the underlying system does not change). -> Further, the superstructure is created to ensure the elimination of moribund superstructures via active defense of its base. Language changes over the course of history, not established by any one class to protect their class interests. "Hence the functional role of language, as a means of intercourse between people, consists not in serving one class to the detriment of other classes, but in equally serving the entire society, all the classes of society. This in fact explains why a language may equally serve both the old, moribund system and the new, rising system; both the old base and the new base; both the exploiters and the exploited." -> Lastly, the superstructure is not directly connected with production, with man's productive activity. It is connected with production only indirectly, through the economy, through the base. Language, on the contrary, is connected with man's productive activity directly, and not only with man's productive activity, but with all his other activity in all his spheres of work, from production to the base, and from the base to the superstructure. For this reason language reflects changes in production immediately and directly, without waiting for changes in the base. For this reason the sphere of action of language, which embraces all fields of man's activity, is far broader and more comprehensive than the sphere of action of the superstructure. More, it is practically unlimited.
- a) Language, as a means of intercourse, always was and remains the single language of a society, common to all its members; b) The existence of dialects and jargons does not negate but confirms the existence of a language common to the whole of the given people, of which they are offshoots and to which they are subordinate; c) The "class character" of language formula is erroneous and non-Marxist.
- In the forties of the past century when there was no monopoly capitalism as yet, when capitalism was developing more or less smoothly along an ascending line, spreading to new territories it had not yet occupied, and the law of uneven development could not yet fully operate, Marx and Engels concluded that a socialist revolution could not be victorious in one particular country, that it could be victorious only as a result of a joint blow in all, or in most, civilized countries. This conclusion subsequently became a guiding principle for all Marxists...However, at the beginning of the twentieth century, especially in the period of the first world war, when it became clear to everyone that pre-monopoly capitalism had definitely developed into monopoly capitalism, when rising capitalism had become dying capitalism, when the war had revealed the incurable weaknesses of the world imperialist front, and the law of uneven development predetermined that the proletarian revolution would mature in different countries at different times, Lenin, proceeding from Marxist theory, came to the conclusion that in the new conditions of development, the socialist revolution could fully prove victorious in one country taken separately, that the simultaneous victory of the socialist revolution in all countries, or in a majority of civilized countries, was impossible owing to the uneven maturing of the revolution in those countries, that the old formula of Marx and Engels no longer corresponded to the new historical conditions...It is evident that here we have two different conclusions on the question of the victory of socialism, which not only contradict, but exclude each other.

- Marxism is the science of the laws governing the development of nature and society, the science of the revolution of the oppressed and exploited masses, the science of the victory of socialism in all countries, the science of building communist society. As a science, Marxism cannot stand still, it develops and is perfected. In its development, Marxism cannot but be enriched by new experience, new knowledge -- consequently some of its formulas and conclusions cannot but change in the course of time, cannot but be replaced by new formulas and conclusions, corresponding to the new historical tasks. Marxism does not recognize invariable conclusions and formulas, obligatory for all epochs and periods. Marxism is the enemy of all dogmatism.

index tags: Philosophy, Communists, Reading List, Reading Notes, Marxism, Marxism-Leninism, Dialectics, Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, Joseph Stalin, Stalin, Mao Zedong, W.E.B. Du Bois, Dialectical Method, Materialist Theory, Proletarian Socialism, National Question, Historical Materialism, Anarchism, Socialism, Communism, Dialectical and Historical Materialism, Foundations of Leninism, Anarchism or Socialism?, Marxism and the National Question, Marxism and Problems of Linguistics, RedSails, RedPrintsPublishing, Vilenin.substack.com, @tweets_of_steel, Historic.ly, The Right Danger in the C.P.S.U.(B.), Concerning the International Situation

category tags: Famous Communists

On Mao

2022-12-10

"...if you got a buncha Marxism-Leninism stewin in a pot, sprinklin in a bit of Mao Zedong Thought can never hurt. adds some full-bodied perspective."

Women hold up half the sky.

(see: [On Feminism \(/posts/on-feminism\)](/posts/on-feminism))

Political power grows out of the barrel of the gun.

(see: [On Technology \(/posts/on-technology\)](/posts/on-technology))

The people, and the people alone, are the motive force in the making of world history.

(see: [On Organizing \(/posts/on-organizing\)](/posts/on-organizing))

We Communists are like seeds and the people are like the soil. Wherever we go, we must unite with the people, take root and blossom among them.

(see: [On Uniting \(/posts/on-uniting/\)](/posts/on-uniting/))

Mao Zedong

Mao Zedong (first covered in [On Asia \(/posts/on-asia/\)](/posts/on-asia/)) was a Chinese Marxist–Leninist revolutionary who lead the Chinese people to their proletarian revolution in order to found the PRC.

TODO: more of a bio

For now, I'll link some works (in a logical order) and post some of my own notes for quick takeaways:

- [We Must Unite All The Forces That Can Be United \(https://redsails.org/unite-all-the-forces/\)](https://redsails.org/unite-all-the-forces/) (1956)
- [To Be Attacked By The Enemy Is Not A Bad Thing But A Good Thing \(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-6/mswv6_32.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-6/mswv6_32.htm) (1939)
- [Where Do Correct Ideas Come From? \(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-9/mswv9_01.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-9/mswv9_01.htm)
- [Oppose Book Worship \(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-6/mswv6_11.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-6/mswv6_11.htm) (1930)
- [On Practice \(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_16.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_16.htm) (1937)
- [On Contradiction \(https://redsails.org/on-contradiction/\)](https://redsails.org/on-contradiction/) (1937)
- [On Guerilla Warfare \(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/works/1937/querrilla-warfare/\)](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/works/1937/querrilla-warfare/) (1937)
- [On Correcting Mistaken Ideas in the Party \(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_5.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_5.htm) (1929)
- [Combat Liberalism \(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-2/mswv2_03.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-2/mswv2_03.htm) (1937)
- [Talks at the Yan'an Forum on Literature and Art \(https://redsails.org/mao-on-literature-and-art/\)](https://redsails.org/mao-on-literature-and-art/) (1942)
- [In Memory of Norman Bethune \(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-2/mswv2_25.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-2/mswv2_25.htm) (1939)
- [Serve the People \(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-3/mswv3_19.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-3/mswv3_19.htm) (1944)
- [The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountains \(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-3/mswv3_26.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-3/mswv3_26.htm) (1945)
- [articles on RedSails.org \(https://redsails.org/@mao/\)](https://redsails.org/@mao/)
- [Some Questions Concerning Methods of Leadership \(http://www.marx2mao.com/Mao/QCML43.html\)](http://www.marx2mao.com/Mao/QCML43.html) (1943)
- [ARAK aka Araling Aktibista – Activist Study \(https://foreignlanguages.press/colorful-classics/activist-study-araling-aktibista-arak/\)](https://foreignlanguages.press/colorful-classics/activist-study-araling-aktibista-arak/) – required study for activists in the Filipino revolutionary movement, the study includes Mao Zedong's Five Golden Rays and

other essential texts on the Mass Line.

For physical copies, check out [RedPrintsPublishing](https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/redprintspublishing)
(<https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/redprintspublishing>)

Misc quotes

From the Little Red Book, probably seen on twitter.

What is work? Work is struggle. There are difficulties and problems in those places for us to overcome and solve. We go there to work and struggle to overcome these difficulties. A good comrade is one who is more eager to go where the difficulties are greater.

src: ["On the Chungking Negotiations" \(October 17, 1945\), Selected Works, Vol. IV, p. 58.](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/works/red-book/ch21.htm)
(<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/works/red-book/ch21.htm>)

Communists should set an example in being practical as well as far-sighted. For only by being practical can they fulfil the appointed tasks, and only far-sightedness can prevent them from losing their bearings in the march forward.

src: ["The Role of the Communist Party of China in the National War" \(October 1938\), Selected Works, Vol. II, p. 198.](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/works/red-book/ch28.htm)
(<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/works/red-book/ch28.htm>)

Conscientious practice of self-criticism is still another hallmark distinguishing our Party from all other political parties. As we say, dust will accumulate if a room is not cleaned regularly, our faces will get dirty if they are not washed regularly. Our comrades' minds and our Party's work may also collect dust, and also need sweeping and washing. The proverb "Running water is never stale and a door-hinge is never worm-eaten" means that constant motion prevents the inroads of germs and other organisms. To check up regularly on our work and in the process develop a democratic style of work, to fear neither criticism nor self-criticism, and to apply such good popular Chinese maxims as "Say all you know and say it without reserve", "Blame not the speaker but be warned by his words" and "Correct mistakes if you have committed them and guard against them if you have not" – this is the only effective way to prevent all kinds of political dust and germs from contaminating the minds of our comrades and the body of our Party.

src: ["On Coalition Government" \(April 24, 1945\), Selected Works, Vol. III, pp. 316–17.](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/works/red-book/ch27.htm)
(<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/works/red-book/ch27.htm>)

[To Be Attacked By The Enemy Is Not A Bad Thing But A Good Thing](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-6/mswv6_32.htm)
(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-6/mswv6_32.htm) (1939) notes

I hold that it is bad as far as we are concerned if a person, a political party, an army or a school is not attacked by the enemy, for in that case it would definitely mean that we have sunk to the level of the enemy. It is good if we are attacked by the enemy, since it proves that we have drawn a clear line of demarcation between the enemy and ourselves. It is still better if the enemy attacks us wildly and paints us as utterly black and without a single virtue; it demonstrates that we have not only drawn a clear line of demarcation between the enemy and ourselves but achieved a great deal in our work.

Oppose Book Worship

(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-6/mswv6_11.htm) (1930) notes

Lesson: must look at class relationships and intersections to understand how the world works and how to fix it.

1. No investigation, no right to speak – either know what you're talking about or do not muddy the waters with garbage words.
2. To investigate a problem is to solve it – don't get lost at large scope; inquire into everything in order to gather the necessary materials to build a solution.
3. Oppose book worship – do not blindly follow directives or information without questioning whether or not it furthers the circumstances of the struggle.
4. Without investigating the actual situation, there is bound to be an idealist appraisal of class forces and an idealist guidance in working, resulting either in opportunism or in putschism – wipe out idealism by investigating.
5. The aim of social and economic investigation is to arrive at a correct appraisal of class forces and then to formulate correct tactics for the struggle – need to find who to ally with and who to overthrow, which is only done via thorough understanding of the situation. Must look at all types of workers/proletariat/bourgeoisie, at all levels (small/middle/rich), in both rural and urban settings.
6. Victory in China's revolutionary struggle will depend on the Chinese comrades' understanding of Chinese conditions – win the support of the majority and do not be optimistic, complacent, or conservative – get into the struggle, investigate facts, foster progressive and militant communist ideals.
7. The technique of investigation – hold fact-finding meetings and investigative discussions. Pull in old people for experience and new people for ideas, pull in those from all facets of life, pull in as many people as you're comfortable with. Prepare and follow detailed outlines, participate personally, probe deeply, and make your own notes.

On Practice (https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_16.htm) (1937) notes

- First, while practicing, the external relations (phenomenal side; separate aspects) are observed.
- These give rise to perceptions and impressions until a leap into understanding where concepts are formed. Concepts are no longer phenomena; by means of judgement and inference, one is able to draw meaningful conclusions.
- The real task of knowing is, through perception, to arrive at thought, to arrive step by step

at the comprehension of the internal contradictions of objective things, of their laws and of the internal relations between one process and another, that is, to arrive at logical knowledge... logical knowledge differs from perceptual knowledge in that perceptual knowledge pertains to the separate aspects, the phenomena and the external relations of things, whereas logical knowledge takes a big stride forward to reach the totality, the essence and the internal relations of things and discloses the inner contradictions in the surrounding world. Therefore, logical knowledge is capable of grasping the development of the surrounding world in its totality, in the internal relations of all its aspects.

- If you want to know the theory and methods of revolution, you must take part in revolution. All genuine knowledge originates in direct experience.
- There can be no knowledge apart from practice. What is indirect experience for me is direct experience for other people. Consequently, considered as a whole, knowledge of any kind is inseparable from direct experience.
- But generally speaking, whether in the practice of changing nature or of changing society, men's original ideas, theories, plans or programmes are seldom realized without any alteration.
- In a revolutionary period the situation changes very rapidly; if the knowledge of revolutionaries does not change rapidly in accordance with the changed situation, they will be unable to lead the revolution to victory.
- The thinking of "Leftists" outstrips a given stage of development of the objective process; some regard their fantasies as truth, while others strain to realize in the present an ideal which can only be realized in the future. They alienate themselves from the current practice of the majority of the people and from the realities of the day, and show themselves adventurist in their actions.
- Idealism and mechanical materialism, opportunism and adventurism, are all characterized by the breach between the subjective and the objective, by the separation of knowledge from practice. The Marxist–Leninist theory of knowledge, characterized as it is by scientific social practice, cannot but resolutely oppose these wrong ideologies. Marxists recognize that in the absolute and general process of development of the universe, the development of each particular process is relative, and that hence, in the endless flow of absolute truth, man's knowledge of a particular process at any given stage of development is only relative truth. The sum total of innumerable relative truths constitutes absolute truth. [9] The development of an objective process is full of contradictions and struggles, and so is the development of the movement of human knowledge. All the dialectical movements of the objective world can sooner or later be reflected in human knowledge. In social practice, the process of coming into being, developing and passing away is infinite, and so is the process of coming into being, developing and passing away in human knowledge. As man's practice which changes objective reality in accordance with given ideas, theories, plans or programmes, advances further and further, his knowledge of objective reality likewise becomes deeper and deeper. The movement of change in the world of objective reality is never–ending and so is man's cognition of truth through practice. Marxism–Leninism has in no way exhausted truth but ceaselessly opens up roads to the knowledge of truth in the course of practice. Our conclusion is the concrete, historical unity of the subjective and the objective, of theory and practice, of knowing and doing, and we are opposed to all erroneous ideologies, whether "Left" or Right, which depart from concrete history.
- Discover the truth through practice, and again through practice verify and develop the truth. Start from perceptual knowledge and actively develop it into rational knowledge; then start from rational knowledge and actively guide revolutionary practice to change both the subjective and the objective world. Practice, knowledge, again practice, and again knowledge. This form repeats itself in endless cycles, and with each cycle the content of practice and knowledge rises to a higher level. Such is the whole of the dialectical–

materialist theory of knowledge, and such is the dialectical-materialist theory of the unity of knowing and doing.

[On Contradiction \(https://redsails.org/on-contradiction/\) \(1937\) notes](https://redsails.org/on-contradiction/)

- The universality or absoluteness of contradiction has a twofold meaning. One is that contradiction exists in the process of development of all things, and the other is that in the process of development of each thing a movement of opposites exists from beginning to end.
- Every difference in men's concepts should be regarded as reflecting an objective contradiction. Objective contradictions are reflected in subjective thinking, and this process constitutes the contradictory movement of concepts, pushes forward the development of thought, and ceaselessly solves problems in man's thinking.
- To be one-sided and superficial is at the same time to be subjective. For all objective things are actually interconnected and are governed by inner laws, but instead of undertaking the task of reflecting things as they really are some people only look at things one-sidedly or superficially and who know neither their interconnections nor their inner laws, and so their method is subjectivist.
- When Marx applied this law to the study of the economic structure of capitalist society, he discovered that the basic contradiction of this society is the contradiction between the social character of production and the private character of ownership. This contradiction manifests itself in the contradiction between the organized character of production in individual enterprises and the anarchic character of production in society as a whole. In terms of class relations, it manifests itself in the contradiction between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat.
- But whatever happens, there is no doubt at all that at every stage in the development of a process, there is only one principal contradiction which plays the leading role.
- Of the two contradictory aspects, one must be principal and the other secondary. The principal aspect is the one playing the leading role in the contradiction. The nature of a thing is determined mainly by the principal aspect of a contradiction, the aspect which has gained the dominant position.
- This is what Lenin means when he says that dialectics studies "how opposites can be ... identical". How then can they be identical? Because each is the condition for the other's existence. This is the first meaning of identity. (eg. Without the bourgeoisie, there would be no proletariat; without the proletariat, there would be no bourgeoisie.)
- All contradictory things are interconnected; not only do they coexist in a single entity in given conditions, but in other given conditions, they also transform themselves into each other. This is the full meaning of the identity of opposites. (eg. war and peace)
- There are two states of motion in all things, that of relative rest and that of conspicuous change. Both are caused by the struggle between the two contradictory elements contained in a thing. When the thing is in the first state of motion, it is undergoing only quantitative and not qualitative change and consequently presents the outward appearance of being at rest. When the thing is in the second state of motion, the quantitative change of the first state has already reached a culminating point and gives rise to the dissolution of the thing as an entity and thereupon a qualitative change ensues, hence the appearance of a conspicuous change.
- We may now say a few words to sum up. The law of contradiction in things, that is, the law of the unity of opposites, is the fundamental law of nature and of society and therefore also the fundamental law of thought. It stands opposed to the metaphysical world outlook. It represents a great revolution in the history of human knowledge. According to dialectical materialism, contradiction is present in all processes of objectively existing

things and of subjective thought and permeates all these processes from beginning to end; this is the universality and absoluteness of contradiction. Each contradiction and each of its aspects have their respective characteristics; this is the particularity and relativity of contradiction. In given conditions, opposites possess identity, and consequently can coexist in a single entity and can transform themselves into each other; this again is the particularity and relativity of contradiction. But the struggle of opposites is ceaseless, it goes on both when the opposites are coexisting and when they are transforming themselves into each other, and becomes especially conspicuous when they are transforming themselves into one another; this again is the universality and absoluteness of contradiction. In studying the particularity and relativity of contradiction, we must give attention to the distinction between the principal contradiction and the non-principal contradictions and to the distinction between the principal aspect and the non-principal aspect of a contradiction; in studying the universality of contradiction and the struggle of opposites in contradiction, we must give attention to the distinction between the different forms of struggle. Otherwise we shall make mistakes. If, through study, we achieve a real understanding of the essentials explained above, we shall be able to demolish dogmatist ideas which are contrary to the basic principles of Marxism–Leninism and detrimental to our revolutionary cause, and our comrades with practical experience will be able to organize their experience into principles and avoid repeating empiricist errors. These are a few simple conclusions from our study of the law of contradiction.

- Every system has internal forces at play. Some work together and some oppose each other (eg. API contract violation would be a contradiction; force diagram in physics shows how forces work together/against each other to determine the sum and understand its circumstances). These contradictions determine how the system moves at any time on any level.

Talks at the Yan'an Forum on Literature and Art (<https://redsails.org/mao-on-literature-and-art/>) (1942) notes

Purpose: to exchange ideas and examine the relationship between work in the literary and artistic fields and revolutionary work in general

- simultaneous military and cultural fronts for the struggle for liberation.

index tags: Philosophy, Communists, Reading List, Reading Notes, Marxism, Marxism–Leninism, Mao–Zedong–Thought, ML–MZT, Dialectics, Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Mao, Zedong, RedSails, RedPrintsPublishing, We Must Unite All The Forces That Can Be United, To Be Attacked By The Enemy Is Not A Bad Thing But A Good Thing, Where Do Correct Ideas Come From?, Oppose Book Worship, On Practice, On Contradiction, On Guerilla Warfare, On Correcting Mistaken Ideas in the Party, Combat Liberalism, Talks at the Yan'an Forum on Literature and Art, In Memory of Norman Bethune, Serve the People, The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountains, Some Questions Concerning Methods of Leadership, ARAK, Five Golden Rays, Mass Line, Guerilla Warfare, Liberalism, Contradiction, Practice, Dogmatism, Art, Leadership, Feminism, Technology, Organizing, Uniting

category tags: Famous Communists

On Sankara

2022-12-11

"Why Sankara next? I like him. I like his discipline and ideals, I like his concrete actions, I like what he stands for to this day. I like his symbolic heart and the material change he affected, and I like how he focused on improving things for those who didn't have the vantage. He's a Robin Hood type, he's a hero in my eyes. I also like that he's a fellow guitar head, that's cool too, plus he was always fitted with the military suit and beret, I mean I could list here all day"

Comrades, there is no true social revolution without the liberation of women. May my eyes never see and my feet never take me to a society where half the people are held in silence. I hear the roar of women's silence. I sense the rumble of their storm and feel the fury of their revolt.

(see: [On Feminism \(/posts/on-feminism/\)](/posts/on-feminism/))

Imperialism is a system of exploitation that occurs not only in the brutal form of those who come with guns to conquer territory. Imperialism often occurs in more subtle forms, a loan, food aid, blackmail . We are fighting this system that allows a handful of men on Earth to rule all of humanity.

(see: [On Lenin \(/posts/on-lenin/\)](/posts/on-lenin/))

Our revolution is not a public-speaking tournament. Our revolution is not a battle of fine phrases. Our revolution is not simply for spouting slogans that are no more than signals used by manipulators trying to use them as catchwords, as codewords, as a foil for their own display. Our revolution is, and should continue to be, the collective effort of revolutionaries to transform reality, to improve the concrete situation of the masses of our country.

We must dare to invent the future.

As revolutionaries, we don't have the right to say we are tired of explaining. We must never stop explaining. We know that when the people understand, they cannot help but follow us.

Thomas Sankara

First seen in [On Africa \(/posts/on-africa/\)](/posts/on-africa/)

TODO: intro/bio

TODO: guitar

TODO: more tags, figure out convention for this article, che, etc.

For now, I'll link some works (in a logical order) and post some of my own notes for quick takeaways:

- [Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle](https://libcom.org/article/womens-liberation-and-african-freedom-struggle) (<https://libcom.org/article/womens-liberation-and-african-freedom-struggle>) (1990)
 - [A United Front Against Debt](https://viewpointmag.com/2018/02/01/united-front-debt-1987/) (<https://viewpointmag.com/2018/02/01/united-front-debt-1987/>) (1987)
-

[Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle](https://libcom.org/article/womens-liberation-and-african-freedom-struggle) **<https://libcom.org/article/womens-liberation-and-african-freedom-struggle>** (1990) notes

Speech: The revolution cannot triumph without the emancipation of women.

Given: March 08, 1987

- Posing the question of women in Burkinabe society today means posing the abolition of the system of slavery to which they have been subjected for millennia. The first step is to try to understand how this system works, to grasp its real nature in all its subtlety, in order then to work out a line of action that can lead to women's total emancipation.
- The women of Burkina were able to ascertain after several years of this ministry's existence that nothing had changed for them. And it could not be otherwise, given that the approach to the question of women's liberation that led to the creation of this pseudoministry refused to recognize, show, and take into account the real cause of women's subjugation and exploitation. So we should not be surprised that, despite the existence of this ministry, prostitution grew, women's access to education and jobs did not improve, their civil and political rights were ignored, and the general conditions of their lives in town and countryside alike improved not one iota.
- There can be no clearer way to conceptualize and explain the question of women and the liberation struggle ahead of us. "The genuine emancipation of women is that which entrusts responsibilities to them and involves them in productive activity and in the different struggles the people face. Women's genuine emancipation is one that exacts men's respect and consideration."
- What is clearly indicated here, sister comrades, is that the struggle to liberate women is above all your struggle to deepen our democratic and popular revolution, a revolution that grants you from this moment on the right to speak and act in building a new society of justice and equality, in which men and women have the same rights and responsibilities. The democratic and popular revolution has created the conditions for such a liberating struggle. It now falls to you to act with the greatest sense of responsibility in breaking through all the shackles and obstacles that enslave women in backward societies like ours and to assume your share of the responsibilities in the political fight to build a new society at the service of Africa and all humanity.
- So what tasks does our democratic and popular revolution have in respect to women's emancipation? What acquisitions do we have, and what obstacles still remain? One of the main acquisitions of the revolution with regard to women's emancipation was, without any doubt, the establishment of the Women's Union of Burkina (UFB). This is a major acquisition because it has provided the women of our country with a framework and a

solid mechanism with which to wage a successful fight. Establishing the UFB represents a big victory in that it allows for the mobilization of all politically active women around well-defined and just objectives, under the leadership of the National Council of the Revolution. The UFB is an organization of militant and serious women who are determined to change things, to fight until they win, to fall and fall again, but to get back on their feet and go forward without retreating. This is the new consciousness that has taken root among the women of Burkina, and we should all be proud of it. Comrades, the Women's Union of Burkina is your combat weapon. It belongs to you. Sharpen it again and again so that its blade will cut more deeply, bringing you ever-greater victories.

- Another sure source of the problem is the feudal, reactionary, and passive attitude of many men who by their behavior continue to hold things back. They have absolutely no intention of jeopardizing the total control they have over women, either at home or in society in general. In the struggle to build a new society, which is a revolutionary struggle, these men place themselves on the side of reaction and counterrevolution by their conduct. For the revolution cannot triumph without the genuine emancipation of women.
- We are not pleading for anyone to condescendingly do women a favor. We are demanding, in the name of the revolution—whose purpose is to give, not to take—that justice be done to women
- Comrades, sisters and brothers, experience shows us more and more that in changing the classical order of things only the organized people are capable of wielding power democratically. Justice and equality are the basic principles that allow women to show that societies are wrong not to have confidence in them on the political and economic level. The woman, wielding the power she has gained among the people, is in a position to rehabilitate all women condemned by history. In undertaking to profoundly and qualitatively transform our society, the changes wrought by our revolution must include the aspirations of the Burkinabe woman.
- Comrades, the future demands that women be freed, and the future, everywhere, brings revolutions. If we lose the fight to liberate women we will have lost all right to hope for a positive transformation of our society into something superior. Our revolution will then have no meaning. It is to wage this noble struggle that all of us, men and women, are summoned.
- Comrades, there is no true social revolution without the liberation of women. May my eyes never see and my feet never take me to a society where half the people are held in silence. I hear the roar of women's silence. I sense the rumble of their storm and feel the fury of their revolt. I await and hope for the fertile eruption of the revolution through which they will transmit the power and the rigorous justice issued from their oppressed wombs

Speech: Women's role in the democratic and popular revolution

Given: October 02, 1983

- The genuine emancipation of women is that which entrusts responsibilities to them and involves them in productive activity and in the different struggles the people face. Women's genuine emancipation is one that exacts men's respect and consideration. Emancipation, like freedom, is not granted but conquered. It is for women themselves to put forward their demands and mobilize to win them.

A United Front Against Debt

(<https://viewpointmag.com/2018/02/01/united-front-debt-1987/>) (1987)
notes

- Debt is neo-colonialism, in which colonizers have transformed themselves into “technical assistants.” We should rather say “technical assassins.” They present us with financing, with financial backers. As if someone’s backing could create development. We have been advised to go to these lenders. We have been offered nice financial arrangements. We have been indebted for 50, 60 years and even longer. That means we have been forced to compromise our people for over 50 years.
- We cannot accept to be told about the merit of those who repay and the mistrust toward those who do not. On the contrary, we must recognize today that it is normal for the wealthiest to be the greatest thieves. When a poor man steals it is merely a theft, a petty crime -- it is solely about survival and necessity. The rich are the ones who steal from the treasury, customs duties, and who exploit the people.
- Notes support from Fidel Castro, François Mitterrand, Gro Harlem Brundtland, Félix Houphouët-Boigny for not paying debt
- Notes that weapons are used against other Africans and that peace must be attained. The weapons bought do not reach the oppressors.
- Advocates for removing dependence on external nations, advocates to produce what they need and consume what they produce within Africa in a united front against debt.

index tags: Communists, Africa, Burkina Faso, Reading List, Reading Notes, Thomas Sankara, Sankara, A United Front Against Debt, Neo-Colonialism, Debt, Fidel Castro, François Mitterrand, Gro Harlem Brundtland, Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Guitar, Women's Liberation, Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle, Feminism, Vladimir Lenin

category tags: Famous Communists

On Voting

2022-12-12

"Literally just so we don't waste time"

My thoughts on Voting and US Electoral Politics

- Communist and Socialist parties should run candidates if/when/where that's financially feasible and stands a real chance to win.
 - Where that's not possible, Communists and Socialists should run in local offices and work to coalition build (ie. [unite \(/posts/on-unity\)](/posts/on-unity)) until it is.
-
- In the meantime, voting is quick. Imo, you should vote for the most progressive candidate likely to realistically win. Takes a few hours every season, if that.
 - And resources are sparse. The Democratic and Republican establishments are both wings of ruthless capitalism and brutal imperialism. We should not be spending our resources giving money or time to parties who unilaterally allow misery at home and endorse it overseas.
 - Vote for whoever you want, or don't vote if you think that's the most useful use of your ballot and time. I'm not telling you what to do – though I do think some candidates

(especially at local levels, in certain areas) are materially better than some of their opponents. And after that, go [give a pair of socks \(/posts/on-uniting\)](/posts/on-uniting) to the guy on the street; read a [book \(/posts/on-site-contents-by-topic\)](/posts/on-site-contents-by-topic) or [article \(/posts/on-redsails\)](/posts/on-redsails) (I have recs all over); see if any of your friends want to go volunteering with you; reach out to someone you miss; lay down and vibe to some [music \(/posts/on-music\)](/posts/on-music); go for a run, or a swim, or a climb. Don't waste any more time on US electoral politics than you have to, keep your eyes on the [prize \(/posts/on-organizing\)](/posts/on-organizing).

Tweets

[@GhaisGuevara \(https://twitter.com/GhaisGuevara\)](https://twitter.com/GhaisGuevara) – Nov 9, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/GhaisGuevara/status/1590209457824620546\)](https://twitter.com/GhaisGuevara/status/1590209457824620546))

Ghais also writes rap out of Philly, check out [ghaisguevara.net \(https://ghaisguevara.net/home\)](https://ghaisguevara.net/home).

i'll put a ballot in when we aren't being tricked and coerced into believing in a two party system. they know exactly what they're doing, idc if you can "put any name you want". we're aware of the hold you have on the masses, stop tryna bully me into your useless ass fights

[@GhaisGuevara \(https://twitter.com/GhaisGuevara\)](https://twitter.com/GhaisGuevara) – Nov 9, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/GhaisGuevara/status/1590208037926891521\)](https://twitter.com/GhaisGuevara/status/1590208037926891521))

you dems LOSE because you're FAKE. not because people dont vote. people have seen your lies for decades and have given up. nobody cares! stop with the guilt trips!

[@dilanpcook \(https://twitter.com/dilanpcook\)](https://twitter.com/dilanpcook) – Nov 8, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1589957574287577096\)](https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1589957574287577096))

have any leftists voting blue considered the possibility that it confirms to Dems your critiques will always be a bluff and not to ever take you seriously because at the end of the day you fall in line?

and the best part is they frame it as if uncritically voting for Democrats gives them leverage.

voting for them is emblematic of a general tendency to fall in line, though, effectively serving as a firewall to deter actions (like strikes) that would make Dems take people seriously.

(quoting @neuropantser5 [here](https://twitter.com/neuropantser5/status/1589999101940146177))
(<https://twitter.com/neuropantser5/status/1589999101940146177>)
there is nothing you can do to make them take you seriously, they don't mind losing and will blame the left no matter what happens. there are very few behaviors you could engage in that would make Dems take you seriously and none of them occur in a voting booth.

true but whether they want to win or not is neither here nor there really, the problem is playing the game and helping them maintain illusion there are systemic solutions.

(quoting @MuseWendi [here](https://twitter.com/MuseWendi/status/1590035263346335745))
(<https://twitter.com/MuseWendi/status/1590035263346335745>)
the Dems don't care if they win or lose, as made clear by the way many of them campaign, bc they will be fine regardless. so not voting for them doesn't really make a difference either. :/

by some responses to this you'd think I ran on codifying Roe then didn't with a supermajority. Or I voted to let states overturn Roe. Or voted for DOMA.

Dems had ample opportunities to codify abortion and LGBTQ rights. they chose not to at best, actively voted against at worst.

**[@dilanpcook](https://twitter.com/dilanpcook) (<https://twitter.com/dilanpcook>) – Nov 9, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1590355351496712193))
(<https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1590355351496712193>)**

leave it to liberals to act as if losing the House and barely scraping by in the Senate is a win. all Dems had to do was use their majority to improve material conditions and they wasted it on incrementalism, militarism and gaslighting.

I get it's tempting to pretend when Republicans are acting like it's a massive win, which is also untrue as far as meeting their "red wave" expectations, but at some point you gotta face the facts it's total gridlock now thanks to Dems policy choices.

Izak Novák – Nov 10, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/izak_novak/status/1590796558068764672\)](https://twitter.com/izak_novak/status/1590796558068764672))

Izak also runs [izaknovak.wordpress.com \(https://izaknovak.wordpress.com/\)](https://izaknovak.wordpress.com/).

I think it's completely valid – even strategically ideal – for communists to be morally opposed and voice their opposition to voting for fascists (Democrats and Republicans) or participating in bourgeois elections, especially when communists lack their own base of power.

If you're a communist party, and your participation in the electoral system isn't accompanied by a clear, decisive critique of the fraudulent nature of the capitalist "democracy" and a clear analysis of fascism in America today, then what are you really doing?

Strategically, consider that even the most powerful unions (who are almost entirely led by liberals) couldn't pass even mild labor reform (EFCA [even without card check lol]) under a democrat-dominated gov during Obama. What "leverage" do you think you have?

What do you, as a communist party, gain by being the 1,000th appendage of the Democratic Party? How much money and time are you spending on electoralism vs. getting communists elected to union leadership positions or, better yet, helping organize new unions?

I find it bizarre that pro-electoralism communists make the argument that the rest of us are being "too moralistic", when it's literally the definition of moralism to waste so much energy virtue signaling in a political system that you have zero leverage in.

The two fatal errors I see here are a completely faulty analysis of fascism as it currently exists in America and the priorities that an extremely weak communist movement should have.

primarycatdad – Jun 22, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1539708337809399809\)](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1539708337809399809))

see [on unity-struggle-unity \(/posts/on-unity-struggle-unity\)](https://posts/on-unity-struggle-unity/).

I'm voting as hard as I can but my government is still a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie???? Someone help

You know what to do

(quotetweeting himself [here \(https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1540338547038846977\)](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1540338547038846977))
talking about starting Unity-Struggle-Unity.

index tags: Voting, Communists, Democrats, Republicans, US, America, North America, Electoral Politics, Bernie Sanders, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Joe Biden, Ghaïs Guevara, @GhaïsGuevara, @dilanpcook

category tags: Personal Writings, Tweets

On Hồ Chí Minh

2022-12-13

"Uncle Ho, "

Remember, the storm is a good opportunity for the pine and the cypress to show their strength and their stability.

It is well known that the black race is the most oppressed and most exploited of the human family. It is well known that the spread of capitalism and the discovery of the New World had as an immediate result the rebirth of slavery which was, for centuries, a scourge for the Negroes and a bitter disgrace for mankind. What everyone does not perhaps know, is that after sixty-five years of so-called emancipation, American Negroes still endure atrocious moral and material sufferings, of which the most cruel and horrible is the custom of lynching.

Hồ Chí Minh

First covered in [On Asia \(/posts/on-asia/\)](/posts/on-asia/), I'll eventually add more info about Uncle Ho. In short: He led the Việt Minh independence movement and he was a key figure in the People's Army of Vietnam and the Việt Cộng during the Vietnam War. Saigon was renamed Ho Chi Minh City in his honor.

For now, I'll link some works (in a logical order) and post some of my own notes for quick takeaways:

- [The Path Which Led Me To Leninism \(https://redsails.org/the-path-which-led-me-to-leninism/\)](https://redsails.org/the-path-which-led-me-to-leninism/) (1960)
-

The Path Which Led Me To Leninism (1960)

- Post WW1 in Paris, at French Socialist Party
- given Lenin's "Thesis on the national and colonial questions"

There were political terms difficult to understand in this thesis. But by dint of reading it again and again, finally I could grasp the main part of it. What emotion, enthusiasm, clear-sightedness and confidence it instilled into me! I was overjoyed to tears. Though sitting alone in my room, I shouted out aloud as if addressing large crowds: 'Dear martyrs compatriots! This is what we need, this is the path to our liberation!'

My only argument was: 'If you do not condemn colonialism, if you do not side with the colonial people, what kind of revolution are you waging?'

There is a legend, in our country as well as in China, on the miraculous 'Book of the Wise'. When facing great difficulties, one opens it and finds a way out.

Leninism is not only a miraculous 'book of the wise', a compass for us

Vietnamese revolutionaries and people: it is also the radiant sun illuminating our path to final victory, to socialism and communism.

index tags: Communists, Asia, Vietnam, Reading List, Reading Notes, Hồ Chí Minh, Hồ, Minh, The Path Which Led Me To Leninism

category tags: Famous Communists

On Pornography

2022-12-14

"full disclosure: I'm anti"

Where to begin. I'll speak first to the young readers, because they're the most inexperienced and thus the most in need of guidance. But some of these topics are taboo, and I fear lots of folks haven't gotten guidance of this type well into their adulthood.

- Porn is not sex. Porn is not even really like sex. You shouldn't copy what you see in porn, and you should do your best to remember that any potential partners you interact with aren't going to be picture-perfect like some of the edited videos you're used to. They are real humans, who do not exist for your sexual pleasure. You are a real human, who does not exist for anyone else's sexual pleasure.
- Porn propagates unhealthy images of sexuality, women, gender identities, minorities, misogyny, motherhood, family, ...
- Porn is the commodification of sex, and it's dangerously addictive (especially in times when people are lonely and isolated, especially in times when dating is at low points due to lack of access [ie. people are busy and also don't have money and also often live with their parents till later] and the commodification of dating [ie. apps that can exacerbate gender tensions and unhealthy gender dynamics; apps that cause people to question their worth and their options])
- The instant access to an infinite amount of sexual commodification is dangerous to consumers. Porn consumption makes people hypersexual. It makes men get erectile dysfunction at increasingly young ages. It makes people dissatisfied with their real sexual relationships, in favor of internet images.

- It is much more dangerous to those involved in sex work. From young girls being trafficked into prostitution and for the production of pornography, to prostitutes who deal with violent clients, to women who are being forced to produce OnlyFans videos by their partner or pimp. These are (many of) the exploited people (predominantly women and girls, but men and boys as well) who generate the body of images and videos utilized for pornography. These are the people I am speaking for, first and foremost.
-

Very succinctly:

1. My first point is a message of solidarity to the victims of sexual trafficking and unwanted sex work. Whether forced into sexual labor through physically violent means or through economically violent conditions, my thoughts are first and foremost with those who are unwillingly part of the sex trade.
2. To those who are trapped, I know there are people and organizations fighting to provide resources for people like you. From housing to protection to economic assistance to educational assistance, I would like for you to find help. This is the main purpose here.
3. Taking these people into account, I'll say that the production of pornography in the modern era provides the broad acceptance of sexual violence. Is that always the case? Maybe not. But while there are economic and human incentives as currently laid out, while human trafficking and sexual tourism are well-known and socially-acceptable concepts, the pornographic media produced packages and preserves the sexual violence associated with its production.
4. ie. consumers of pornography are (often) watching children and teenagers being raped. they are often watching young women be pimped and prostituted against their will, for the sexual pleasure and economic gain of others.
5. Much like racism was used to justify slavery, misogyny and sexism are used to justify pornography; the industry propagates these ideals. The economic base (ie. coerced sexual labor) shapes and maintains the superstructure (ie. patriarchal ideology) – and the ideology also helps maintain the economic base.
6. The increasing access to pornography (prevalence of internet-access devices, at younger and younger ages) is causing people (especially boys and young men) to develop unhealthy images of sexuality, relationships, women, and gender/racial minorities. It is extraordinarily dangerous [media \(/posts/on-media\)](#) to consume.
7. The logical follow-up to these points is that you should be doing what you can to stop the consumption of porn (your own, first; then by your friends, and family, and the kids who get iPads before elementary school). You should be thinking about how to stop the trafficking of girls into the sex trade, and you should be thinking about how to destroy an industry that will continue to negatively materially impact women's lives. Building towards gender equality means eradicating the unhealthy notions propagated in porn, because it means eradicating the commonplace sexual violence women face in all facets of life.

In the words of [Emma Lazarus \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma_Lazarus\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma_Lazarus), "Until we are all free, we are none of us free."

All that said:

- Sexuality is natural.
- Sex is a normal thing. Masturbation is healthy.
- Exposure to naked people, kissing, sex at relatively young ages is healthy (in healthy contexts).
- Some amount of natural exposure to porn in the past (eg. stumbling upon an old nude

pinup photo in the woods) was probably somewhat acceptable. Looking through a saucy SEARS catalog was probably a good thing to do at 9 years old, as was holding hands with the people I liked. But there's a line that's been crossed, with the advent of technology and the progression of the porn industry. With all social media, the lines between real life and carefully crafted image is blurred. The lines between streaming in hot tubs on Twitch and going on TikTok live in a bikini and whatever technical definition of "porn" you have are becoming increasingly hazy as well. Drones of pornographic content is available on platforms that are commonly accessible by children, not to mention the open internet.

- Historically taboo topics must be broached with honesty and transparency in order to dispel outdated notions and ideals. We must be talking about this stuff, often and loudly, in order to help people understand the dangers of a widely-accepted, corporate-backed industry that's dangerous for everyone involved.
 - You should talk to your friends about how to establish healthy friendships and partnerships. You should establish healthy support systems for yourself and for your friends.
 - Talking about it more will allow you to make sure your friends are safe and doing well, and it'll give you more perspectives into how relationships should (and shouldn't) work.
 - Being communicative with your partner (or potential partners) is the best way to ensure you're on the same page as them. Being communicative with your friends is the best way to ensure you're going through regular experiences and handling them in the best way possible for all the parties involved.
 - Relationships (and time alone) are both learning experiences. You can learn a lot about people in any relationship. You can see how they think and what they care about and how they do things. You can emulate their strengths when you notice them; you can strive to avoid their weaknesses, when you notice something about them bothering you. You should be building yourself up through the relationship, and you should be helping your friends and partners do the same. Cover their weaknesses, maybe they'll learn how to cover yours.
 - Keep [learning \(/posts/on-learning\)](#) from all the people and relationships in your life. Keep [building new ones \(/posts/on-uniting\)](#). Keep [working hard \(/posts/on-organizing\)](#). Eventually, you'll be the person you want to be – and [you'll be confident and ready in all your relationships then \(/posts/on-meditations\)](#).
-

"SWERF"

- I'd like to make it clear that I am first and foremost siding with those who are forced into sex work, and am trying to show solidarity with the most oppressed class here.
- Though I'm against the current sex industry in practice because I think it leads to a harmful reproduction of patriarchal ideals and violence against women, I do understand that many people are involved with the sex industry and would stand to lose their source of income without the industry.
- To those people: I would like to provide access to resources (education, monetary, etc.) in order to better cater to your needs as people. My goal is to provide access to these resources across the globe, at a societal level, so that *no* women are forced into the sex industry against their will. I'm not a "sex-worker exclusionary radical feminist" – I'd like for everyone, *including sex workers*, to be able to survive without having to turn to sex work.
- Though my long term goal is to squash an incredibly harmful industry that harms many people, my goal in the short term is shared with you: I'd like for your life to be as survivable as possible, and I hope you're doing ok. I really am on your side, whether you're

willing to hear me out or not.

As Rituraj (@ItinerantMedic (<https://twitter.com/ItinerantMedic>)) says on [twitter](https://twitter.com/ItinerantMedic/status/1585452854000889856) (<https://twitter.com/ItinerantMedic/status/1585452854000889856>):

Mainstream porn is the graphic, sexualised depiction of male dominance and female subordination. It eroticises male aggression towards women. It is hate speech, anti-woman propaganda and sexual terrorism against women.

It dehumanises women as sexual objects existing wholly for men's sexual use and abuse. Porn is completely at odds with women's dignity, humanity and equality.

A 2010 content analysis of popular porn videos found that 88.2% of scenes contained physical aggression, and that perpetrators were usually male and the targets of their aggression overwhelmingly female. Dr Michael Flood describes porn as "rape training".

Research has also found pornography consumption is statistically significantly correlated with physical abuse (both victimisation and perpetration), sexual abuse (both victimisation and perpetration), acceptance of rape myths and negative gender equitable attitudes.

Porn is also a significant contributor to intimate partner sexual violence and abuse. New research has found that pornography features prominently in accounts of women who have experienced Intimate Partner Sexual Violence.

While some dismiss porn as "just a fantasy", in reality, it is the filmed abuse, violation and degradation of actual human women. For the women being brutalised on camera, it is real.

A pornographic scene featuring a man choking a woman cannot be produced without an actual woman being choked, for the enjoyment of (mostly male) viewers. When acts of sexual violence, humiliation and cruelty are carried out by men on the bodies of women, this is not fantasy

So, we must disagree – yes, the problem is with pornography itself. It is not merely that boys are seeing it too young, or that it needs to be balanced with less violent and misogynistic representations of sexuality.

We can't achieve gender equality without challenging pornography and its messages. Read [Caitlin Roper's response to Chanel Contos, entitled 'Yes the problem is porn'] at: [Collective Shout](https://www.collectiveshout.org/response_to_chanel_contos) (https://www.collectiveshout.org/response_to_chanel_contos)

In the words of Star Plátano (@Qban_Linx (https://twitter.com/Qban_Linx)) [here](https://twitter.com/Qban_Linx/status/1584890802378919936) (https://twitter.com/Qban_Linx/status/1584890802378919936),

[Porn] is a garbage industry whose distribution platforms are run by some of the worst people on the planet, completely unaccountable to the public (partially because most people don't even know their names), and the product has deeply warped people's perception of sex and intimacy.

That's not me being a prude, that's just a straightforward cost-benefit analysis.

One interesting article I read, with regards to sexuality in media, is [Everyone is Beautiful and No One is Horny](https://bloodknife.com/everyone-beautiful-no-one-horny/) (<https://bloodknife.com/everyone-beautiful-no-one-horny/>): Modern Action and Superhero Films Fetishize the Body, Even as they Desexualize it. by RS Benedict.

TODO: citations

TODO: brigid, etc – accts that helped

TODO: Dworkin, MacKinnon, etc. link [Feminism \(/posts/on-feminism\)](/posts/on-feminism)

index tags: Feminism, Communists, Marxist Feminism, LGBTQ+, Health(care), Trans Rights, Pornography, Prostitution, Catharine A. MacKinnon, Sexuality, Sex, Masturbation, Communication, Relationships, Emma Lazarus, Yes the problem is porn: A response to Chanel Contos, Caitlin Roper, @ItinerantMedic, @Qban_Linx, Everyone is Beautiful and No One is Horny, RS Benedict

category tags: Personal Writings, Tweets

On Cops

2022-12-15

"another anti, I'm afraid"

TODO: explanation of what cops are, what function they serve under the current capitalist state.

TODO: relevant links re: above

For now, I'll talk about a few links I've got bookmarked.

This (<https://www.wnyc.org/story/citing-drugs-rikers-nyc-ban-incarcerated-people-getting-letters-mail/>) story, headlined "Citing drugs at Rikers, NYC to ban incarcerated people from getting letters in the mail", speaks about correction commissioner Louis Molina citing "fentanyl-soaked children's drawings, love letters, prayer schedules, and T-shirts" as rationale behind NYC banning incarcerated people from getting letters in the mail. As [David Kaib](https://twitter.com/DavidKaib) (<https://twitter.com/DavidKaib/status/1585764778550562816>):

This is an obvious lie in service of doing something indefensible. That prison and jail officials lie so blatantly and that journalists treat those lies as true is disgusting.

index tags: North America, America, USA, ACAB, LGBTQ+, Health(care), BPP, Black Panther Party, David Kaib, @DavidKaib, Louis Molina

category tags: Tweets

On George Jackson

2022-12-16

"fitting one to come after the cops"

Settle your quarrels, come together, understand the reality of our situation, understand that fascism is already here, that people are already dying who could be saved, that generations more will live poor butchered half-lives if you fail to act... Do what must be done, discover your humanity and your love in revolution."

— George L. Jackson

TODO: everything

index tags: George Jackson, North America, America, USA, ACAB, LGBTQ+, Health(care), BPP, Black Panther Party

category tags: Famous Communists

On IronProle

2022-12-17

"aka Red, aka Red Army Duck, aka Junkyard Duck, aka a comrade in the Washington area who's been very helpful towards my education."

As seen on [twitter \(https://twitter.com/IronProle\)](https://twitter.com/IronProle), working hard to keep his community fed, healthy, and growing with [From The Heart PNW \(https://allmylinks.com/FromtheheartPNW\)](https://allmylinks.com/FromtheheartPNW).

Please look at the work they're doing to see how you can fulfil similar needs in your own communities. Please help support the work that these folks are doing, if you're able.

Apart from his thoughts on twitter, Red also recommended Activist Study – Araling Aktibista (aka [ARAK \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/55825394-activist-study-araling-aktibista\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/55825394-activist-study-araling-aktibista)). It's a great read by the Communist Party of Philippines' Education Department, which you can read from [Foreign Languages Press \(https://foreignlanguages.press/colorful-classics/activist-study-araling-aktibista-arak/\)](https://foreignlanguages.press/colorful-classics/activist-study-araling-aktibista-arak/) for free.

It's a great resource to get up-to-speed with Red's work and mindset, and I highly recommend checking it out as well.

I'm going to post some of the things I've learned from Red. His outlook on life and his role within it have shaped my understanding of what a comrade should do; of what a comrade does.

I don't have too much of it documented, many of his thoughts may become hard to find with the passage of time. I am absolutely thankful for the learnings I've been able to take from him so far, and his spirit will live on in the work all of us continue to do. I believe, fundamentally, we share a [purpose and attitude \(/posts/on-organizing\)](/posts/on-organizing).

More than anything, it's been a pleasure to witness some of the beauty of humanity within a comrade I respect dearly. I strive to live a life as meaningful as his, and I work each day towards that effort.

Your first job – Mar 5, 2021 ([src \(https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1367948751453655043\)](https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1367948751453655043)

Your first job in guerrilla warfare is to survive. The fight is long, and the fire is hot. We don't need to run to a flame that's already headed our way.

Prepare yourself for survival and you are preparing yourself for success.

Running toward the fire because you are bored or guilty or for some other secondary reason is for you, not for the People.

Discipline, Frugality and Humility are the ways of the guerrilla warrior. You survive so you can serve.

Build a world worth living in. – Oct 24, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1584717008415096832\)](https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1584717008415096832)

The Marxism I practice has no room to tell anyone that their pain is not real that that their palliatives are not useful.

Change minds by making a world worth living in and nobody will retreat from it, nobody will seek out such palliatives.

Change conditions and minds will change with them. Heal the leg and the opiate is no longer required.

First things first.

If your Marxism is one of judgement and moralizing, of penalizing and crushing, it is not one that we share in common.

We stay armed with compassion, with constructive works and with a focus on reducing harm.

Build a world worth living in.

Red's take on [understanding the river \(/posts/on-siddhartha\)](/posts/on-siddhartha) – Oct 20, 2022 ([src](#) <https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1583186938491961344>)

Once you stop trying to swim against the current and realize things are as they must and should be, everything falls into place.

No wishful thinking, no idealistic daydreaming. No false hopes. Just concrete actions and clarity of purpose.

I could wish things were easier, or i can make them easier for someone else.

I can wish i had a mentor or i can be that mentor i wish i had.

I could hope for long life or i can help build longer lives for those who would otherwise be lost.

Life is as it must be. It is the only way it could be.

From there we can move toward changes that matter. From there we can create history.

First-Things-Firstism – Oct 21, 2022 ([src](#) <https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1583308752627044352>)

First-Things-Firstism

Fill Bellies.

Mend Bones.

Settle Minds.

Throttle Aspirations.

If nothing else this should be what you remember from me.

Put first things first.

The first three are self explanatory but the fourth always gets me questions.

We mean that we encourage people with aspirations to advance their profession or their studies to do so, even over the street work, so they can bring their skills back to the work.

You want to get a MD? focus on your studies and give us only your freest time. Get your grades, pass your exams and bring it back to the streets.

Your skills, knowledge, expertise and your newfound income will help the movement.

You wanna be a lawyer? Do it we support it, so you can bring that advantage to the people and their needs.

Its cultivating people and their abilities, building potential for the movement and splitting valuable labor from the exploitation of the owners.

We must be developing our forces at all times and all hands are needed. This fourth point is the longest looking one of the pack, the one that requires a firm rooting in place and time.

But it is crucial to our long term success that we have our own experts.

So instead of going for that better paying job on the east coast, we need to capture that expertise. Maybe they take the lesser job in order to continue serving the people. Maybe they forgo some of that aspiration and join us once more in service at the street level.

This is what it means to throttle aspirations. Not to kill them, in fact to support them, but to limit their usefulness to the bourgeois and maximize their value to our neighbors.

In this way people fulfil themselves and each other effortlessly.

More book recs from Red – Sep 18, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1571685222475005954)
<https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1571685222475005954>

[How To Hide An Empire \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40121985-how-to-hide-an-empire\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40121985-how-to-hide-an-empire), [How Europe Underdeveloped Africa \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40630.How_Europe_Underdeveloped_Africa\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40630.How_Europe_Underdeveloped_Africa) and [Wages of Destruction \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/711592.The_Wages_of_Destruction\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/711592.The_Wages_of_Destruction)

are three must reads for greenhorns. If you want to have an informed viewpoint on the history of colonialism. It doesn't stop there but it's a great start.

The author of HTHAE, Immerwahr, is pretty spicy and has some occasional chuckle worthy moments when he finds creative ways to describe US settlers.

HEUA, written by Walter Rodney and Angela Davis is data driven history that never stops blowing your mind at the sheer monstrosity of European colonialism.

I forgot to add [Open Veins of Latin America \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/187149.Open_Veins_of_Latin_America\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/187149.Open_Veins_of_Latin_America).

A brutal and eye opening book along the lines of HEUA, very data and fact heavy. A necessary read.

Twitter Dump

More stuff from IronProle, which should get re-organized onto his page after I'm done saving all my twitter stuff.

TODO: re-order all these

TODO: date all the above threads if twitter still exists.

Cancer – Aug 23, 2022 (src
<https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1562148357451030528?s=19>)

Wellllll folks

I just got some extremely negative Cancer news. Turns out you cant defeat cancer with self confidence.

If you got a spare thought, save one for my Wife.

It is what it is. I have no control over any of this so im going to just live or die. Im gonna kiss my wife and smoke my weed.

My fate was never under my control. Ive always been a War Man, and wars have casualties. They have defeats.

Whatever you do, dont feel sorry for me. Ive seen my foes defeated in combat. Ive been a professional bicyclist. Ive been a husband and mentor and ive lifted up thousands with my work.

Ive lived more lives than many get.

Make art of me. Celebrate, but never be sorry.

I made peace with death a long time ago. You have to when you take up your rifle. Swords, you get it.

I was hoping i would live to get a warriors death. Maybe i still will.

But either way, War Mans live and we die.

Are you ready to die? – Oct 19, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1582826297419771904?t=g7FH7jYD1jsVwR0zjBorzQ&s=19\)](https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1582826297419771904?t=g7FH7jYD1jsVwR0zjBorzQ&s=19))

MH counselor asked me if im ready to die. I answer yes without hesitation.

I tell her that life is just a sparrow flying thru a warm house, in one window and out another. We are dead far longer than we are alive, so you gotta be impactful while you are here.

I told her that if you dont wait for life to fill you up but instead fill the world up with as much of you as you have to offer, death is no worry. Ive left my greasy paw prints all over this society.

Everything is as it should be!

Garden Analogies – Sep 16, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1570969318770487296?t=T-ofqibgfJtzip1kU2aI9yw&s=19\)](https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1570969318770487296?t=T-ofqibgfJtzip1kU2aI9yw&s=19))

Garden analogies are so good for explaining revolutionary processes.

A garden is not an event, and neither is a revolution. Both are complex processes, one historical and the other biological.

You cannot pull on your onions to make them grow faster.

Nor can you ignore history and events. We only build by navigating history. We make our own fates, but mediated by conditions that are ever shifting.

**Tilling and Conditioning of the Soil – Sep 16, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1570911724685107202?t=gcRfDV3T2rPDxzjn1RyNuW&s=19)
(<https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1570911724685107202?t=gcRfDV3T2rPDxzjn1RyNuW&s=19>))**

Mutual Aid is a necessary pre-condition but is not the revolution itself. Nobody should be claiming otherwise.

It is the tilling and conditioning of the soil in preparation for the seeds of revolution. Its where we discover new ideas and build new systems.

Logistics cannot simply be summoned from whole cloth. Systems of acquisition and distribution, moving people and things, require strong organization and clear communications.

Mutual Aid is where we put our hands on the materiel limitations of our communities. Where we build up our allies and comrades.

There is no decent excuse for looking down on mutual aid. If you cannot see its worth then that would be your own shortcoming.

Depending on the good will of our communities is a delightful daydream. We must build systems that are robust and efficient, putting labor and materials exactly on target.

This is how we will survive long enough to win. First we must live.

**Young queers – Aug 11, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1557802407676878848?t=1y_yy3b7FigL2gwTU5E8Ng&s=19)
(https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1557802407676878848?t=1y_yy3b7FigL2gwTU5E8Ng&s=19))**

The young queers sometimes don't recognize the struggles that came before them. We had to fight and bleed to make room for yall and we dont look and act like yall. We came from tougher times where we had to become arnored and clawed up.

The veterans of your struggle you now find yourselves in look ugly and mean and appear regressive sometimes.

Like any veteran of a war, we need understanding and compassion.

I learned to walk and talk hetero cuz thats what kept you safe when there was nobody coming to help you.

You could have been the next Matthew Shephard. So we armed up and got really fuckin hard to kill.

"You some kinda queer?" By anyone makes my hair stand up on end.

My Dad taught me that if more than two men ask you "you some kinda queer?" Its time for violence.

If one hetero asks you that, they want to fuck but you should run away.

All this to say that there wasnt celebrations of queer life. There were no supports. Not outside the big cities!

We supported us, but we had to give up huge parts of what many consider queer culture. We survived.

My Dad has been a closet queer his whole life but the fuckin Queer comes out real fast when you starting with some Homophobia. He would put you on your ass.

Im less closeted but you best believe the Queer comes out when its time for war. War Queers!

History – Aug 23, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1562181111404306432?t=Ozgo37tElkCq4o0ugdlstQ&s=19\)](https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1562181111404306432?t=Ozgo37tElkCq4o0ugdlstQ&s=19))

Too much left unfinished, but the kids are young and motivated. History will march on and victory will be ours, the working class will take all we've built.

Nov 10, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1590929101019549697\)](https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1590929101019549697))

When twitter dies you can find me in hell. Im not learning a new fangled social media in the last year of my life.

Thanks, as always, Red. Pic of him [here](https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1562523534991454214?t=RveZJ5nfGdv2Inn_KSLeHQ&s=19) (https://twitter.com/IronProle/status/1562523534991454214?t=RveZJ5nfGdv2Inn_KSLeHQ&s=19) and somewhere on my hard drive, I'll throw it up on the page when I do my image refactor.

TODO: ^

TODO: link this to/from a Seattle/Washington page when that gets made

index tags: @IronProle, IronProle, Red (Army Duck), North America, America, USA, ACAB, LGBTQ+, Health(care), Seattle, Washington, ARAK, Reading Lists

category tags: Modern Communists, Tweets

On Kids Books

2022-12-18

"books are cool; kids are cool; what books should we be giving to kids to learn from?"

Haven't read all of these, but it's a place to keep track of em. Please send me suggestions if you've got any good ones.

[Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/766955.Click_Clack_Moo)

(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/766955.Click_Clack_Moo) by Doreen Cronin

[The Forgotten Door](https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/409320.The_Forgotten_Door) (https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/409320.The_Forgotten_Door) by Alexander Key

[Noodlephant](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40510934-noodlephant) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40510934-noodlephant>) and [Okapi Tale](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/53348129-okapi-tale) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/53348129-okapi-tale>) by Jacob Kramer

[Selfish Shellfish](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/33348194-selfish-shellfish) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/33348194-selfish-shellfish>) by Víctor Vázquez

Thanks to [@MindyIsser](https://twitter.com/mindyisser) (<https://twitter.com/mindyisser>) for helping compile suggestions [here](https://twitter.com/mindyisser/status/1562838423375052806) (<https://twitter.com/mindyisser/status/1562838423375052806>).

index tags: Media List, Reading List, Fiction, Art, Stories, Books, Kids Books, Children, Mindy Isser, @MindyIsser

category tags: Media Lists

On Red Sails

2022-12-19

"and Roderic Day, and Nia Frome"

As is clear from the index, links, and site design, [RedSails \(https://redsails.org/\)](https://redsails.org/) has been a major source of inspiration. The work done by Roderic Day and Nia Frome has helped shape my understanding of what modern communists should be doing, and their work has inspired me to forge my own site in a similar vein.

First and foremost, I'd like to express a quick shoutout to Roderic+Nia for the guidance and help. Thanks a bunch! Keep up the good work, comrades.

Influential works

Roderic and Nia both do a great job writing (and curating!) articles for RedSails. The works done by the team can be found using the [@crew subdirectory \(https://redsails.org/@crew/\)](https://redsails.org/@crew/), or individually under [@roderic \(https://redsails.org/@roderic/\)](https://redsails.org/@roderic/) or [@nia \(https://redsails.org/@nia/\)](https://redsails.org/@nia/).

Technology

Roderic, as a fellow engineer who works in software, really got my attention early on because his perspective resonated with my own. This is especially clear in his [@tech \(https://redsails.org/@tech/\)](https://redsails.org/@tech/) articles. [The Virtual Factory \(02/2021\) \(https://redsails.org/the-virtual-factory/\)](https://redsails.org/the-virtual-factory/) came out right around when I found RedSails, and it's one of my favorites (helped shape my own thoughts [on technology \(/posts/on-technology/\)](https://redsails.org/posts/on-technology/)). [Cults and Miracles \(2018\) \(https://redsails.org/cults-and-miracles/\)](https://redsails.org/cults-and-miracles/) and [On Crypto \(2021\) \(https://redsails.org/on-crypto/\)](https://redsails.org/on-crypto/) are both concise and well worth reading to understand the progression of the tech industry through the modern era.

China (and AES [Actually Existing Socialism])

Roderic and Nia were both influential towards my thoughts on China. I think that started with their tweets and that was a long time ago now, so it's hard to paint the full picture.

That said, I distinctly remember Nia's article [China Good \(2020\) \(https://medium.com/@NiaFrome/china-good-1dc6c9f9b39f\)](https://medium.com/@NiaFrome/china-good-1dc6c9f9b39f) off her [medium \(@NiaFrome\) \(https://medium.com/@NiaFrome\)](https://medium.com/@NiaFrome). I'm just gonna quote it:

Okay, let's say that communism is a classless, stateless society, with no money, where production and distribution are organized by the directly associated producers, the whole shebang. It's not very good at economic growth because production is on the basis of need, and responsive to people's wishes, which means we're probably not going to see a lot of 90-hour work weeks.

Capitalism, on the other hand, is quite good at economic growth, since that's its *raison d'être*. Of course it does run up against problems like underconsumption/overproduction, negative externalities, a huge waste of

human potential and so on, but it is very good at accumulating wealth, since that's what it's all about. It's a machine for grinding up people's lives to create wealth.

What about socialism? Socialism is the transitional state between capitalism and communism. There are people who will have no truck with talk of a transitional state, which I think is stupid — what do they expect, for it to happen overnight? Marx was quite clear that it would take a while to reach communism. What can we say about socialism? Well, it's a transitional state, so it will by definition have characteristics of both capitalism and communism. Which ones, and in which order will they switch out? We can't know. The thing is, nobody has ever reached world communism, so nobody knows in what order socialism needs to abolish all the moving pieces of capitalism, or on what time frame, to achieve its purpose. It does no good to list all the lovely qualities we attribute to communism and say they must hold for a thing to be socialist, because the point of giving the transitional state its own name is to indicate that things are going to be contradictory, in flux, somewhat capitalist. We can't even know whether socialism should be good at economic growth!

There's a problem faced by all countries that want to abolish capitalism and also face the misfortune of being poor: they need to catch up, to grow economically, or else they will be utterly at the mercy of existing capitalist powers. But communism is not suited to economic growth. You can't devolve production decisions to the direct association of producers because they won't produce enough to keep the country safe from invasion and expropriation — this is more or less the problem the Bolsheviks faced with the Kronstadt rebellion. To grow means they have to make some sort of accommodation with capitalism, that bad mode of production they're trying to leave behind: either state capitalism (turning the whole economy into one firm, replacing market mechanisms with naked command) or market socialism.

The USSR went with the first route. What's more, it exported revolution (it's not important whether you agree with this; it's inarguable that, relative to China's foreign policy, the USSR was more aggressively progressive). Because it went so far down the road of abolishing market mechanisms, it had to rely on a great deal of naked coercion in order to achieve economic growth (the market usefully conceals coercion — if you want to replace it, you basically have to take full responsibility). Forced industrialization and forced collectivization are examples. This made it unpopular, which generated a divide in Soviet culture between the state and the masses. At the same time it was pissing off its people, it was pissing off the capitalist powers by pursuing an interventionist policy abroad. Thus its economy was warped in favor of heavy industry and military expenditures at the expense of consumer goods, which made it brittle and susceptible to a palace coup. Khrushchev tried to fix some of this by disavowing the state violence of Stalinism and reorienting towards a consumer society and peaceful coexistence with the West, but this just meant that there would no longer be any kind of ideological guard against embracing Western values tout court, which led the Soviet people to compare their own (much more communist and therefore less rich) society unfavorably with the West.

Dengism solves both problems at a single stroke: it invites rich countries to invest in China, which gives those countries no interest in regime changing it. To get them to come over it had to shred the social safety net, yes, because that's

sine qua non for capitalist accumulation to get off the ground, and it's precisely capitalist accumulation that they wanted to harness. This means China doesn't have to invest disproportionately in military stuff and instead can focus on raising standards of living, generating growth while also reducing poverty. It always pains me to see people scoff at poverty reduction. It is hugely important to democracy, participation, communism, whatever your idea of human flourishing is. China also hasn't pursued a very progressive foreign policy, which achieves much the same thing. The wisdom of Dengism is seen in op-eds wherein Western commentators say "Don't attack China, we have interests there!" and in the stunning approval rating of the Chinese people for their government (much greater public support, consensus, than the Bolsheviks ever saw). This can be partly explained by the fact that China has offloaded responsibility for economic compulsion onto capitalism, something the Soviets could never do. A well-educated and well-fed populace is the single greatest force of production there is, and 88% of those people support socialism.

What determines whether a country is socialist is not whether it's communist, whether it has effectively abolished private property, or whether it has gotten rid of all its billionaires. The important question is the class character of the state and the direction it's heading. We can say even more: if there is a democratic entity that is sovereign over market forces, then it's well on its way to abolishing capitalism, since the capitalist mode of production is defined by the sovereignty of market forces in production.

Nia, like any good Marxist-Leninist, does a good job of analyzing growth within the relevant contexts (ie. the ones that exist within our material nature). She helped me view China's growth through the most fitting lenses.

Roderic's essay [China Has Billionaires \(2021\)](https://redsails.org/china-has-billionaires/) (<https://redsails.org/china-has-billionaires/>) also helped me understand China's socialist transition.

Roderic's [The Xinjiang Atrocity Propaganda Blitz \(2021\)](https://redsails.org/the-xinjiang-atrocity-propaganda-blitz/) (<https://redsails.org/the-xinjiang-atrocity-propaganda-blitz/>) helps understand Western media's bias and streak while reporting on China. Though not about China, [Michael Parenti \(/posts/on-parenti/\)](/posts/on-parenti/)'s [Anticommunism & Wonderland](https://redsails.org/anticommunism-and-wonderland/) (<https://redsails.org/anticommunism-and-wonderland/>) (1997) [an excerpt from his book, *Blackshirts & Reds*] is another great read in that vein.

The State

My understanding of the state has been greatly influenced by [Lenin \(/posts/on-lenin/\)](/posts/on-lenin/), and I highly recommend you read some of his thoughts as well when you're trying to understand the state. *State and Revolution* is a great intro to this discussion.

After Lenin, [Che \(/posts/on-che/\)](/posts/on-che/) has also influenced my view greatly. Especially with regards to technology, and moving forward into authors like Yasha Levine and Shoshana Zuboff in the modern day.

Nia's work has been very influential here as well. Her recent piece [On the Abolition/Preservation of the State](https://redsails.org/on-the-aufhebung-of-the-state/) (<https://redsails.org/on-the-aufhebung-of-the-state/>) is very good as a short place to start. Don't get scared by all the unknown philosophers; I still get a little intimidated too, but I remember [Uncle Ho \(/posts/on-ho/\)](/posts/on-ho/)'s words in [The Path Which Led Me To Leninism](https://redsails.org/the-path-which-led-me-to-leninism/) (<https://redsails.org/the-path-which-led-me-to-leninism/>) (1960):

There were political terms difficult to understand in this thesis. But by dint of reading it again and again, finally I could grasp the main part of it. What emotion, enthusiasm, clear-sightedness and confidence it instilled into me! I was overjoyed to tears. Though sitting alone in my room, I shouted out aloud as if addressing large crowds: 'Dear martyrs compatriots! This is what we need, this is the path to our liberation!'

Dialectics

Here, I'd say [Mao \(/posts/on-mao/\)](/posts/on-mao/) is probably my most influential, with [On Contradiction \(https://redsails.org/on-contradiction/\)](https://redsails.org/on-contradiction/) and On Practice and various other quotations. But Engels, Marx, [Lenin \(https://redsails.org/on-the-question-of-dialectics/\)](https://redsails.org/on-the-question-of-dialectics/), [Roderic Day \(https://redsails.org/what-is-dialectics/\)](https://redsails.org/what-is-dialectics/), [vihart \(https://youtu.be/14-NdQwKz9w\)](https://youtu.be/14-NdQwKz9w), and my background in math all contributed greatly as well.

Analysis of change is a natural human process, we're all familiar with dialectics. Figuring out the terminology used by these authors just helps understand the motion better, it helps us learn from their experiences.

Nia's work is my favorite here: [On Dialectics, or How to Defeat Enemies \(https://redsails.org/on-dialectics/\)](https://redsails.org/on-dialectics/). I mean it's linked in my ["why did I name the site Air and Steel" post \(/posts/air-and-steel/\)](/posts/air-and-steel/).

In a quantitative then qualitative fashion, your understanding will gain shape (ie. definition) as you tackle more of these works. And like any good work, it's rewarding seeing your abilities grow. Good results require serious engineering, that means [organization \(/posts/on-organizing/\)](/posts/on-organizing/) and [learning \(/posts/on-learning/\)](/posts/on-learning/).

Linguistics

On the topics of dialectics and the state, all the new terms I learn and then try to teach people. Well, linguistics is involved here.

Nia's [On Jargon \(https://redsails.org/on-jargon/\)](https://redsails.org/on-jargon/) is a quick 4 paragraphs and explains well why the terminology has come into existence:

Marxist jargon is jargony because it's rigorous, rigorous because it's debated, and debated because it's democratic[...] Marxist jargon is polished by use, not preserved under glass. It's brought out to facilitate communication, increase bandwidth[...] The point is efficiency.

She also speaks well to why we can't ditch the labels or terminology in [Marketing Socialism \(https://redsails.org/marketing-socialism/\)](https://redsails.org/marketing-socialism/) (2019).

Frantz Fanon speaks well to language in a colonial context in [Black Skin, White Masks \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/274392.Black_Skin_White_Masks\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/274392.Black_Skin_White_Masks). [Stalin \(/posts/on-stalin/\)](/posts/on-stalin/) gives some good insight in [Marxism and Problems of Linguistics \(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1950/jun/20.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1950/jun/20.htm) (1950). Gretchen

McCulloch provides a scientific view into modern changes in linguistics related to the advent of internet communications in [Because Internet](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/36739320-because-internet) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/36739320-because-internet>) (2019).

Media

Roderic and Nia have both shaped my own thoughts [on media \(/posts/on-media/\)](/posts/on-media/). They may actually be my largest modern influences, although [Michael Parenti \(/posts/on-parenti/\)](/posts/on-parenti/)'s *Inventing Reality* did a great deal to loosen the pickle jar.

Nia's [The Swerve \(https://redsails.org/the-swerve/\)](https://redsails.org/the-swerve/) (2021) and [Two Cthulhus \(https://redsails.org/two-cthulhus/\)](https://redsails.org/two-cthulhus/) (2021) are both hard to describe. It's the type of reading that blows your hair back, the type of reading you don't realize exists until your head can process the words and you realize what's being said.

Roderic's ["Brainwashing" \(https://redsails.org/brainwashing/\)](https://redsails.org/brainwashing/) (2021) lives in similar pockets of my brain, having fundamentally changed my views on information propagation.

Marxism–Leninism

I suppose back when I came upon RedSails, I'm not sure I yet self-identified as a Marxist–Leninist. I was still rapidly getting caught up on history, philosophy, nature, change, what all the new ideological labels meant (especially re: how they varied in practice).

Nia's ["Tankies" \(https://redsails.org/tankies/\)](https://redsails.org/tankies/) (2020) did well here helping me understand some of the pejoratives slung around on twitter. As did Mao: [To be attacked by the enemy is not a bad thing but a good thing \(https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-6/mswv6_32.htm\)](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-6/mswv6_32.htm) (1939).

Anti–Imperialism

Here again, there are a lot of fundamental authors. Lots of people suffering under ruthless imperialism, lots of whom shout their voices beautifully clear against the enemy.

Roderic's [Self-interested Anti-imperialism \(https://redsails.org/self-interested-anti-imperialism/\)](https://redsails.org/self-interested-anti-imperialism/) (2022) does a good job fighting against opportunism within the imperial core.

Putting everything together

This article has rapidly gotten long. It got long easily, there's much praise to be said for the RedSails effort in my opinion.

How do all of these things come together? Why should anyone care? My own history has been tainted by its share of nihilism, I avoided many important topics I deemed "lesser" while pursuing my coveted STEM education. As I admit in my post [on North America \(/posts/on-north-america/\)](/posts/on-north-america/),

Well. I hated history class growing up.

Roderic tackles that question too, in [“Potato Sack” History \(https://redsails.org/potato-sack-history/\)](https://redsails.org/potato-sack-history/) (2022). He outlines why I started caring.

If the goal is emancipation, there’s no alternative to relentless, impeccable, fact- and trajectory-focused historical education. We all need to become decent students and able teachers of history.

I care about the future of the earth; I care about all the people who suffer under the systems of today. Ergo, here we are. I’m sharpening my understanding of the world (in every relevant arena) so that I can make my best efforts from my vantage.

While there is a lower class, I am in it (thanks [Debs \(/posts/on-debs\)](#)). My name is Aaron and I speak for the children, the trees, the pigeons, the women, the exploited workers, the minorities, the mountains, the air; I speak for the people of the world and all the things they hold dear (thanks [Lorax \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lorax\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lorax)).

Full disclosure: as I recall, I (initially) cared about why I kept getting teargassed on my block. I cared about that before I cared about the environment or the women or the children or the workers. But, well, we’re all raised individualists in Capitalist Amerika – I hope you’ll forgive me. Growing up, my individualist ambitions were meager; I hoped for security, stability, maybe family.

The expanse for which I care has grown, and with it my ambitions have as well. I’m no longer working towards a merely acceptable life for myself. We have an entire world to win – I’m fighting for that.

The oppressed peoples of the world will find a compañero in me forevermore.

Thanks, always, to the RedSails team.

index tags: @RodericDay, Roderic Day, @RedSails, Red Sails, @NiaFrome, Nia Frome, North America, America, Montreal, Canada, Communists, LGBTQ+, Health(care), Reading Lists, Technology, China, AES, State, Dialectics, Media, Linguistics, Anti-Imperialism, Marxism-Leninism, The Virtual Factory, Cults and Miracles, On Crypto, China Good, China Has Billionaires, The Xinjiang Atrocity Propaganda Blitz, Anticommunism & Wonderland, Blackshirts and Reds, Michael Parenti, Deng Xiaoping, Xi Jinping, Vladimir Lenin, State and Revolution, Che Guevara, On the Abolition/Preservation of the State, The Path Which Led Me To Leninism, Hồ Chí Minh, Mao Zedong, Friedrich Engels, Vihart, On Dialectics: or How to Defeat Enemies, On Jargon, Marketing Socialism, Black Skin White Masks, Frantz Fanon, Marxism and Problems of Linguistics, Joseph Stalin, Because Internet, Gretchen McCulloch, The Swerve, Two Cthulhus, Brainwashing, Tankies, To be attacked by the enemy is not a bad thing but a good thing, Self-interested Anti-imperialism, Potato Sack History, Eugene Debs, Lorax

category tags: Modern Communists, Resource Lists

On All Power Books

2022-12-20

"and LASD Gangs, and @tankiepilled aka @whatsantifa aka coffeenpedagogy"

All Power Books

All Power Books (<https://allpowerbooks.org/>) (@allpowerbooks <https://twitter.com/allpowerbooks>) is a space for the people! It's a Volunteer-run Bookshop + Co-Working + Event Space for the comrades, located at 4874 W Adams Blvd. in Los Angeles, CA, USA.

They're currently open 2PM-7PM WED-FRI & SUN and 12PM-7PM SAT. They're closed MON & TUES.

They have a great [list of resources](https://allpowerbooks.org/pages/resources) (<https://allpowerbooks.org/pages/resources>) that covers California Tenant Resources, Workers' Rights Resources, Free Texts, Local Organizations, and On Campus Organizations (mostly focused on the California and specifically LA area).

They also run programs where you can [buy a comrade a book](https://allpowerbooks.org/products/buy-a-comrade-a-book) (<https://allpowerbooks.org/products/buy-a-comrade-a-book>) or [request a free book](https://forms.gle/a6c8yaGqJ5Eay66u9) (<https://forms.gle/a6c8yaGqJ5Eay66u9>). To help support them, you can [donate on ko-fi](https://ko-fi.com/allpower) (<https://ko-fi.com/allpower>) or [sign up for a monthly subscription](https://allpowerbooks.org/products/60-subscription-1) (<https://allpowerbooks.org/products/60-subscription-1>).

LASD Gangs

The comrade who introduced me to All Power Books also introduced me to the following reading resource.

[A Tradition of Violence: The History of Deputy Gangs in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department](https://knock-la.com/tradition-of-violence-lasd-gang-history/) (<https://knock-la.com/tradition-of-violence-lasd-gang-history/>) is a 15-part investigative series by [Cerise Castle](https://knock-la.com/author/cerisecastle/) (<https://knock-la.com/author/cerisecastle/>).

It links [the LASD Gang Affiliate Database](https://lasdgangs.knock-la.com/) (<https://lasdgangs.knock-la.com/>), the first-ever public, searchable database of gang-affiliated LASD employees.

The series starts with [The Protected Class](https://knock-la.com/lasd-gangs-little-devils-wayside-whities-cavemen-vikings/) (<https://knock-la.com/lasd-gangs-little-devils-wayside-whities-cavemen-vikings/>): An examination of the first documented gangs in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Tankiepilled

[@TANKIEPILLED](https://twitter.com/TANKIEPILLED) (<https://twitter.com/TANKIEPILLED>) is a comrade working at All Power Books who introduced me to their efforts. They led me to the LASD story when their twitter display name was "READ LASD GANGS" so s/o for that.

Here's a link to their [@whatsantifa linktree](https://linktr.ee/whatsantifa) (<https://linktr.ee/whatsantifa>). It links to their [twitter](https://twitter.com/TANKIEPILLED) ([TANKIEPILLED](https://twitter.com/TANKIEPILLED)) (<https://twitter.com/TANKIEPILLED>)/[insta](https://instagram.com/coffeenpedagogy) ([coffeenpedagogy](https://instagram.com/coffeenpedagogy)) (<https://instagram.com/coffeenpedagogy>)/[tiktok](https://tiktok.com/@whatsantifa) ([whatsantifa](https://tiktok.com/@whatsantifa)) (<https://tiktok.com/@whatsantifa>), as well as resources such as a [Marxism-Leninism 101 Guide](https://soyouwanttorevolution.carrd.co/) (<https://soyouwanttorevolution.carrd.co/>), a [Viet Nam War Guide](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nC6ZjKwN3NicV6z1PXcKoS6p-01rhEBQyJSynPtb6IE/) (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nC6ZjKwN3NicV6z1PXcKoS6p-01rhEBQyJSynPtb6IE/>), [Hồ Chí Minh on Black Liberation](https://www.workers.org/2018/02/35459/) (<https://www.workers.org/2018/02/35459/>), [Hồ Chí Minh Primary](https://www.workers.org/2018/02/35459/)

Sources on marxists.org (<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/ho-chi-minh/index.htm>), and the youtube link for "Gaza Fights for Freedom" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnZSaKYmP2s&ab_channel=EmpireFiles).

Kudos on the good work comrade; keep it up :4)

Tweets

Here are some of their tweets

Dec 28, 2021 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/TANKIEPILLED/status/1475741747615449094>))

if u vacation in hawai'i after seeing natives beg tourists not to come, we are no longer friends and i am so serious about that. stand by your ethics.

this is one thing that i can't wrap my mind around. many people who say they "support decolonization" or liberation at large but can't be bothered to just... not go there... and they still go?? your vacation is not that important in stark comparison to the negative impacts it has

(quotetweeting [@Keoni DiFranco](#)
(https://twitter.com/Keoni_DiFranco), [here](#)
(https://twitter.com/Keoni_DiFranco/status/1467150882315849728))

22% of O'ahu (85,000 acres) is occupied by the US military. The median price for a single-family home is \$1M, 50% of all homeless in Hawai'i are Native Hawaiian.

The Navy has now poisoned the water supply. Honolulu is being asked to ration water.

Something must to change.

Jan 9, 2022 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/TANKIEPILLED/status/1480107699584991233>))

abandon nihilism, uphold revolutionary optimism!

Jun 8, 2022 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/TANKIEPILLED/status/1534426989611737088>))

im so glad i organize irl so my entire worldview of the left is actually based in material reality and not twitter discourse

Jun 12, 2022 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/TANKIEPILLED/status/1536088049628590085>))

ppl who dont organize always have the loudest critiques lol

life is better when you arent mad at everything all the time for no reason lol

Jun 24, 2022 ([src](#))

(<https://twitter.com/TANKIEPILLED/status/1540359601731710976>)

unironically things are objectively worse under Biden than they were under Trump
lmfao

Aug 10, 2022 ([src](#))

(<https://twitter.com/TANKIEPILLED/status/1557433483554742272>)

what is actually the point of being a "communist" that only reads theory and doesn't organize? lol

index tags: All Power Books, @allpowerbooks, LASD Gangs, A Tradition of Violence: The History of Deputy Gangs in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Cerise Castle, LASD Gang Affiliate Database, @TANKIEPILLED, Coffeenpedagogy, Whatsantifa, North America, America, Los Angeles, California, Communists, LGBTQ+, Health(care), Reading Lists, Resource lists, Hồ Chí Minh, Black Liberation, Vietnam, Twitter, Backup, @Keoni_DiFranco, Organizing

category tags: Modern Communists, Resource Lists, Tweets

On Red Prints Publishing

2022-12-21

"and Marxist-Leninist Reading Hub, and Mount Tai Press, and Comrade Duck aka @DengistDuck"

Red Prints Publishing

[Red Prints Publishing \(https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/redprintspublishing\)](https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/redprintspublishing) is an online bookstore dedicated to making revolutionary theory accessible at affordable prices. ([@RedPrintsPub](https://twitter.com/RedPrintsPub) (<https://twitter.com/RedPrintsPub>))

Marxist-Leninist Reading Hub

[Marxist-Leninist Reading Hub \(https://www.mlreadinghub.org/\)](https://www.mlreadinghub.org/) is a group of Marxist-Leninists dedicated to communist education. ([linktree for @MLReadingHub \(https://linktr.ee/MLReadingHub\)](https://linktr.ee/MLReadingHub) – this will lead you to their discord, social media, and other important links)

Mount Tai Press

[Mount Tai Press \(https://www.mounttai.press/\)](https://www.mounttai.press/) is a publication unaffiliated and unassociated with any political party or organization with the purpose of education and agitation of Marxist-Leninists and others interested, via the continued development and application of scientific socialism to current conditions, with a specific importance placed on revolutionary professionalism, discipline, and principled pragmatism by way of dialectical and material analysis. ([@MountTaiPress \(https://twitter.com/MountTaiPress\)](https://twitter.com/MountTaiPress))

DengistDuck

I was introduced to all of these efforts via twitter. Comrade Duck ([@DengistDuck \(https://twitter.com/DengistDuck\)](https://twitter.com/DengistDuck)), a [CPUSA \(cpusa.org/join\)](https://cpusa.org/join) member based in Laos who helped with the creation of MLRH and RPP; the reason I know about all the good work being done in the first place! Keep it up, comrade.

I'm also including a few tweets of theirs

Jan 5, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1478595199836336129\)](https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1478595199836336129))

It's not normal to see a deadly virus infecting, harming, and killing our country and the first response to be to send more people into harms way. The only reason that people even think an idea like this is good is because they're conditioned to a society where its sink or swim

China does not have to face these issues we are seeing now in the states. Why not?

Because China cares about their people. They lockdown and isolate COVID, they take it seriously. When people need to be locked down and isolated, the government sends them food and resources. They value lives above the rich and profits.

It is so cartoonish that all of the death and suffering we are seeing was easily avoidable, but our capitalist society forces us to keep the cogs turning for the sake of profit.

And our population is conditioned to believe that the profit we are forced to generate is for our benefit when its not. Not only is it not for our benefit, it is literally killing us.

800,000+ dead. 1 Million new cases in one day. In a single day, we have had 1200.6% more cases than China (mainland) has had cumulative in the entire course of COVID.

We don't have to live in a society that forces us to die for the rich. Our government is not for us, and no amount of voting will ever fix that. China, and the rest of the Communist governments in the world, show us that there is a solution. Socialism is the only answer to this disgusting problem that we are facing today.

[Join the CPUSA \(https://www.cpusa.org/join-us/\)](https://www.cpusa.org/join-us/)

**Jan 26, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1486482011065827328)
(<https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1486482011065827328>))**

US education really be leaving out details like Henry Ford was a supporter of the Nazis

**Feb 26, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1497727129701781506)
(<https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1497727129701781506>))**

Honestly, if you're in the West, your primary objective at this moment is to stop your country from pushing war. It is your responsibility to push anti-War propaganda to your friends, family, and community. It is your responsibility to organize around this issue.

Your principal contradiction has shifted.

Mar 4, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1499972058863788032)
(<https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1499972058863788032>))

If you haven't cried over the USSR then you haven't learned enough about the USSR

Mar 26, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1507785287111479301)
(<https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1507785287111479301>))

Every single person, including communists, who lives in the empire has an internal struggle with chauvinism.

This chauvinism doesn't magically stop when you become a communist and it can't stop as long as the empire lives.

It is important for the communist movement within the empire to recognize this contradiction and to not think we are ever above this contradiction.

To ignore it will lead to chauvinist errors and lead us further away from true internationalism.

We must always consider our chauvinism and how it has/is affecting our decisions. We must actively oppose chauvinism within ourselves just as we speak against outwardly.

This contradiction will always exist until the empire no longer exists and we must be mindful of it.

Apr 2, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1510450922375286786)
(<https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1510450922375286786>))

Nothing has made me prouder of CPUSA recently than the role they played in unionization efforts of Amazon in NY.

When AOC showed who she was and abandoned their struggle, the communists were there. And the communists will always be there for the people.

This is the mass line in practice

May 2, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1521313888872001539)
(<https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1521313888872001539>))

The Soviet Union in the 1920s legalized abortion and made it free

Oct 17, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1581977914324955136)
(<https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1581977914324955136>))

Socialism in Laos – Kaysone Phomvihane Thought

Although the term "Kaysone Phomvihane Thought" was not established until the 10th Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) National Congress, it refers to the Lao application of Marxism–Leninism current and before the 10th congress

Important Context:

The Lao people had been oppressed for centuries and the most recent and well-known, the colonial and neo-colonial efforts of the French and U.S.

When the Great October Socialist Revolution occurred, it sparked a wave of revolutionary fervor across the world.

Revolutionary movements around the world were often viewed as three distinct revolutionary movements:

1. The Socialist system
2. National Liberation
3. International Labor movement in the Capitalist nations

The Great October Socialist Revolution united these distinct revolutionary movements, drawing millions of people towards socialism, and inspiring even more people to fight for liberation – the Lao people were among these people to fight for liberation and socialism.

At this point, I am not going to go further in depth of the history from 1900–1970 because it is a lot of information to get lost in. But the influence/role of the USSR in worldwide revolutionary struggle is important to highlight.

The LPRP had lead the masses in the efforts of bucking off: first, the French colonial system in 1953; second, bucked off the neo-colonial French system in the 1960's; third, bucked off the American imperialists, freeing the Lao people finally in 1975.

This victory of this resistance took its toll. Many know about the US "Secret War" in Laos, but the US did more than take lives, it crippled the development of a country that had few resources to begin with.

Article that talks highlights the death toll: [The Secret War: US Terror in Laos \(via mounttai.press\)](https://www.mounttai.press/articles/the-secret-war-us-terror-in-laos) (<https://www.mounttai.press/articles/the-secret-war-us-terror-in-laos>)

On top of being a new fledgling country from a semi-feudal background, the US bombed Lao farm lands, industry, people, etc... Those that survived risked their lives to rebuild, simple tasks as rice farming could prove fatal thanks to the UXO's as mentioned in the article above.

The "international economy" (led by the US) turned its back on Laos because of its dedication to Socialism under the LPRP. Though not completely alone, the Lao people had the support of the socialist bloc

The landscape for socialist construction, to put it frankly, is *ROUGH*

As established by the Second National Party Congress in 1972, the LPRP set in motion the plan of "direct transition to socialism bypassing capitalism."

As 1972 was before national liberation, this was not fully expanded upon at the time. In 1986 the LPRP CC held the 4th Plenum of the LPRP CC established the socialist transitional period in Laos as:

"The establishment and consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the right of the working people to be the collective master of the country, together with the simultaneous achievement of three revolutions:

1. revolution in the sphere of production relations,
2. revolution in the sphere of science and technology,
3. revolution in the sphere of ideology and culture.

In this process, the scientific–technological revolution plays the key role, and the cultural–ideological revolution must keep one step ahead of the other two."

This quote is the most important thing to understand when discussing Kaysone Phomvihane Thought. These three revolutions.

Here we see a clear statement that material conditions are the primary contradiction in Lao Socialist construction while Marxism–Leninism is the guiding ideology (cultural–ideological revolution staying one step ahead).

In 1989, with the collapse of the USSR approaching, Laos opens up its economy, but the Party journal still emphasizes the material conditions within the transitional period:

"Previously, we defined the basic struggle in our socialist country as a two–line struggle between socialism and capitalism and argued that with the transition to socialism, we had to resolve this struggle and a struggle between collective ownership and private ownership... This [is] a misunderstanding... Considering the current socio–economic situation in our country, the most fundamental struggle [to resolve] is the one between old–fashioned forces of production and increasing production to supply the demand in society that is increasing daily."

Few years later, the USSR completely collapses. Socialist countries' primary support vanishes and pressure on all socialist countries greatly increases

Although external relations changed greatly because of the collapse of the USSR, the primary contradictions within Laos did not – their task was to still construct socialism. Without the USSR, this forced Laos to reconsider how to survive on the world stage. Having followed a similar path to that of China and Vietnam, Laos opened up its economy – an economy that allowed foreign and national private investment, while under the careful watch and heavy hand of the LPRP (remaining a dictatorship of the proletariat).

This opening up allowed for the scientific–technological revolution, that which the Party deems as the key role, to make great strides, despite the collapse of the USSR, while still maintaining the cultural–ideological revolution under the guide of the Party.

The cultural–ideological revolution has taken a blow since the collapse of the USSR, but has still stayed ahead of the other two.

Funding and guidance for building socialist superstructure fell drastically without the USSR. To see some examples: <https://jstor.org/stable/43738032>

The production relations revolution is more dynamic than some might expect. As mentioned before, Laos began socialist construction directly from being a semi-feudal colony.

In contrast to countries like the US, class relations is much more complex.

There remained many classes left over from the the semi-feudal time. Transforming these classes to proletariat is not as simple as it sounds and it takes time; especially with an economy that is not a powerhouse.

The LPRP works towards this challenge through "model villages"

you can read a book about it here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X9-5KS2JxOmOgiZlfefc9NVjyA5IHTj/view?usp=sharing>

Hopefully this thread is insightful to Kaysone Phomvihane Thought and Socialist construction in Laos.

Read Kaysone's book here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X9-5KS2JxOmOgiZlfefc9NVjyA5IHTj/view?usp=sharing>

Phoumi's (another Lao leader) book here:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JVHXxUKZkvDTm9xPjwzHolTbuCaj0KCv/view>

**Oct 17, 2022 ([src](#)
<https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1581919408007413761>)**

Laos: we tried the path of a completely socialized economy, but that didn't work. With our people remaining extremely poor and the USSR collapsing, we were left 2 options – stay closed off from the world market and starve; or adapt market reforms under Party control

Idealist Communists: LOL you revisionist idiots!! If I was in charge, I simply would have starved the people. I don't care if the Party leadership has led you out of being in the Least Developed Country category. Only the revolution that is *pure* gets my support.

**Sep 25, 2022 ([src](#)
<https://twitter.com/DengistDuck/status/1574195132274188289>)**

Cuba: a family is a group of people that love and take care of each other <3

Italy: Mussolini 2 electric boogaloo

index tags: Red Prints Publishing, @RedPrintsPub, Marxist-Leninist Reading Hub, @MLReadingHub, Mount Tai Press, @MountTaiPress, @DengistDuck, CPUSA, Covid, Amazon Labor Union, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Cuba, Italy, USSR, US Education, Henry Ford, War

category tags: Modern Communists, Resource Lists

On Unity–Struggle–Unity

2022–12–22

"and The Red Clarion, and @primarycatdad"

Unity–Struggle–Unity

[Unity–Struggle–Unity \(https://unity-struggle-unity.org/\)](https://unity-struggle-unity.org/) is "a Marxist–Leninist press publishing the Red Clarion, Crucible, and the Unity Journal". (@USUMLPess (<https://twitter.com/USUMLPess>))

Although I've just been introduced to the effort and I haven't (yet) read much of the Red Clarion, I do want to share the site already.

I think their [Contributor's Guide \(https://unity-struggle-unity.org/submissions/contributors-guide-the-red-clarion\)](https://unity-struggle-unity.org/submissions/contributors-guide-the-red-clarion) is a great read, and it's helped me focus the scope/audience of my own site as I build it out. I highly recommend reading it if you have your own stories to tell; it may lend useful perspective from fellow authors who share a goal and mindset.

Along with that, they provide a helpful [Glossary of Marxism–Leninism \(https://unity-struggle-unity.org/glossary-of-marxism-leninism/\)](https://unity-struggle-unity.org/glossary-of-marxism-leninism/) that may come in handy, especially for newer comrades.

The Red Clarion

The Red Clarion itself is available [here \(https://unity-struggle-unity.org/clarion/\)](https://unity-struggle-unity.org/clarion/). There's a variety of content, from news and analysis to book reviews and poetry.

Tweets

Homelessness and Its Criminalization – May 25, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1529461736285216768\)](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1529461736285216768))

I have a homeless client. He's Black and he lives in his car.

The state is prosecuting him with a weapon in a motor vehicle law because he was pulled over, and he told police he had his pistol in the car. He was permitted to carry and kept it in his glovebox, where the law says its supposed to be. The law they're prosecuting him under has a 2 year mandatory minimum. He's a homeless uber driver.

The trick is, two months prior, cops arrested him for sleeping with his car on. They charged him with a DUI. Even though they couldn't prove it, the charge alone suspended his license. State police saw this and suspended his pistol permit. They sent him notice that he couldn't carry anymore.

Except he doesn't have an address.

This is gun control.

Police are the problem. The capitalist state is the problem.

If you're in Connecticut and you want to act, get organized

(image link to reading group in)

I agree – if you're anywhere, get [organized \(/posts/on-organization\)](https://posts/on-organization).

On McDonalds – Jun 11, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1535772821753933824\)](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1535772821753933824))

A McDonalds hamburger costs \$2.09 at the register. McDonalds internal documents show that the raw materials (patty, bun, etc.) cost \$0.34. A McDonalds employee makes \$11/hr on average with a shift manager making \$15/hr. Shifts are 8 people on average. That means McDonalds pays \$77 + \$15/hr in wages to a shift (total \$92). The average McDonalds makes \$2.7 million/year in sales. That is \$308/hour, or roughly 147 hamburgers every hour at \$2.09.

Subtracting the wage of the workers (\$92) and cost of materials (\$49.98), this means there is \$166 in surplus value accumulated every hour by the capitalist.

If we take the value of the 147 hamburgers and distribute it among the workers who completed them and placed them into circulation, we get \$258.02 (\$308–\$49.98) divided among 8 workers for \$32/worker/hour as compared to their \$11/hr wages.

The rate of exploitation of the McDonald's workers is thus, when the raw materials are taken as constant capital and not variable capital, is 32:11, roughly 3:1.

This means, that of each hamburger, if 34 cents is raw material and the sale price is \$2.09, there is \$1.75 attributable to the work of the McDonalds employees in the store. We can divide that value among the 8 workers, and we'd come up with 21 cents per hamburger created by each one.

However, let's look a little more carefully, not merely from the point of view of the

McDonald's capitalist, but from the point of view of the imperialist.

The beef patty in a McDonald's hamburger weighs 1.6 ounces. According to the corporation, the meat is a combination of chuck (\$4/lb), sirloin (\$9/lb), and round (\$7/lb). The prices of these meats is from the US beef markets.

We can take the average of these three prices: \$6.50/lb. For the amount contained in a hamburger (1.6 ounces), this comes to roughly .65 cents ($\$6.50/16 = .40$).

As you can see, this is more than the entire value of the raw materials in the McDonald's hamburger. Even if they receive a twenty-five per-cent discount for bulk operations, that's still 49 cents per hamburger.

One of the top countries supplying beef to McDonalds is Brazil, which shouldn't be a surprise: the Brazilian ranching industry supplies a huge amount of worldwide beef, and grows it on land assarted from the Amazon.

A Brazilian livestock handler makes 16 reals/hr, which is \$3.21 USD. Brazilian beef costs a mere \$1.76 and \$2/lb. We can see why. The price of Brazilian beef is so much lower because the Brazilian worker's wage is so much lower.

Why is that?

Imperialism.

The labor market of Brazil is artificially depressed by fascists like Bolsonaro, who are put into power by US interests to keep prices low. US monopoly capital also destroys the quality of life in imperialized countries because this is how the socially necessary labor time is determined for reproducing the labor force.

If the Brazilian beef costs 34 cents for 1.6 ounces while the reproduction cost of the Brazilian ranch hand is \$3.21 an hour, then we may establish a ratio – roughly \$3/hr to 30 cents or \$1/hr to 10 cents. If the ranch hand made \$11/hour just as the metropolitan workers do, this would be an increase of 3 and a half times, increasing the Brazilian beef cost to \$1.19 for 1.6 ounces.

If we wished to maintain the price equilibrium by which the hamburger is sold at \$2.09, this would require an equalization of wages between the metropolitan worker and the peripheral worker. That is to say, because the hamburger is worth \$1.75 in labor ($\$1.75 + \$0.34 = \2.09) from the metropolitan worker, we must equalize the \$1.75 in metropolitan labor with the \$0.34 in peripheral labor.

If we were to divide these into two equal parts, that is, \$1.04 worth of peripheral labor crystallized in the meat and \$1.04 worth of labor in the metropole for the finishing of the meat into a final product, that is a change of \$0.71 in favor of the peripheral worker.

For each hamburger made, the metropolitan worker is paid 3x the wage of the peripheral worker. The metropolitan worker cooking the burger on the grill, assembling the worker, dealing with angry customers, and selling the burger; the ranch hand is enduring near-slave conditions on the Brazilian plain.

The metropolitan worker is directly paid 3 times more for their labor, the hamburger's cost is depressed for all metropolitan workers, the metropolitan capitalists (the monopoly capitalists) provide other social safety benefits to keep the class consciousness of the metropolitan workers from developing, and they also concentrate the high-waged, final finishing work for products and the management positions within the metropole.

These are the wages of imperialism.

Lots of quote tweets etc. demanding I account for credit, interest payments, advertising, salaries for HR and executives, franchising fees, rent, machinery, etc.

I didn't factor in any of the standard constant capital valuations for a reason: it obscures the point, which is

the law of unequal development and the imperialist forced underdevelopment of the periphery. The pay for the entire cavalcade of non-productive or marginally productive executives, HR reps, advertising, etc., etc., all comes out of the 11 hamburgers sold after the first 7.

So do the salaries of the CEOs.

Rent actually isn't a factor for a McDonalds because the corporation owns the ground. The franchisee pays the corporate office rent, but the corporate office pays no one.

These costs are all marginal – as are the electricity and water costs and the degradation of the grill, etc.

The grill itself costs around \$3,000 but can make an untold number of hamburgers, imparting to the hamburger a mere fraction of a fraction of a cent.

The typical annual mcdonalds power bill is \$40,000. That works out to \$4.5/hour or

3 cents per burger at the average rate of 147 burgers per hour.

The cost of upper management is mostly faux frais which can be eliminated, or non-productive labor which is parasitic, etc. There is still PLENTY of value to cover the necessary work at higher levels.

And obviously there are things other than burgers made at a McDonalds – each product has a different individual rate of exploitation for the workers (for example, the soda is hugely exploitative and mostly mark-up).

Important, however, is that most of the profit is not from MARKUP (charging more than a thing is worth) but from THEFT (stealing and refusing to compensate the legitimate labor of the worker).

**On Unity–Struggle–Unity – Jun 24, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1540338547038846977)
(<https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1540338547038846977>))**

I am pleased to announce that I'm part of a project with some other great folks that will soon be launching a press designed to help unite the fragmented Communist movement in the imperialist centers of North America – the settler states of the US and its junior partner Canada

This week we are releasing our PLAN and the guidelines for submitting to our three periodicals: The Red Clarion, Crucible, and Unity-Struggle-Unity

'From our analysis of the present-day U.S. Communist movement and its recent history, we have concluded that the task of achieving Communist unity will entail two major components:

On the first hand, an "All-Empire" Communist Party must be capable of uniting, centralizing, and effectively coordinating the myriad local struggles already being waged across the U.S. Empire, which have hitherto carried on in a dissociated,

Moreover, these relatively large, unsalvageable all-U.S. parties have, in effect, if not intent, served our enemies, by drawing out several thousand potential revolutionaries from actually revolutionary struggles and meaningful praxis;

by putting them to work as election volunteers for the Democratic Party; by corraling them into settler-patriotism and expelling those who uphold the necessity of decolonization; by absorbing these comrades into massive, cop-infested,

pyramid-scheme-designed, thoroughly anti-revolutionary honeypots. This situation has left a significant bulk of U.S.-based Communists entirely pacified. And, it can't go unstated, it has left countless gender-oppressed comrades abused and silenced in the process. In sum, none of

the relatively large U.S. "Marxist" parties have proven themselves capable of achieving Communist unity, let alone of becoming the vanguard of the revolutionary movement that is once more taking hold in North America.

To again refer to Lenin, Communist unity should not be mistaken to mean a "unity" between Marxists and the opponents, distorters, and liquidators of Marxism who currently dominate our movement, impede its further advancement, and shamelessly serve our enemies by absorbing and

redirecting a significant portion of its resurging energy. On the contrary, the task of achieving Communist unity demands that these hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of comrades, who currently linger as potential revolutionaries in the rank-and-file general memberships of the

relatively large but unsalvageable parties, be drawn back into the revolutionary movement. In other words, we must unite those comrades who can be united, while isolating the reactionaries who long ago commandeered leadership.

These two components are the essence of the task of Communist unification and set the preconditions for advancing our movement to its next stage."

Are you in the imperial center? Are you in a Communist formation? It's not the vanguard. Why not? Because it has not been able to unite revolutionary practice and theory with the revolutionary masses. You MUST help form the vanguard.

Now is the hour.

We cannot do that except by breaking up the vast reservoirs of reaction that have taken over every major formation. Strike at them. Destroy them! Free your comrades from meaningless tailism. FIGHT!

**On Trans People – Jul 28, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1552767471194603520)
(<https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1552767471194603520>))**

Given the concentration of trans people currently organizing in Marxist spaces, I'm willing to say that anti trans is anti Communist at this point

I mean this in the most direct sense – not that the theory is incompatible (it is) but that anti trans ideologues are a shield for anti communism designed to undermine and destroy it

**Sep 16, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1570739141918457857)
(<https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1570739141918457857>))**

For some few days in July of 1877, the city of St. Louis was held by a revolutionary Commune. You fancy yourself a communist but don't know about the only self-organized commune in the territorial U.S.? Sit right down and listen.

It began, as revolutionary actions often do, with a depression.

Beginning in 1873, the world capitalist economy was struck with stagnation and contraction. It was kicked off by the Panic of '73; a series of bank failures in Austria soon spread to the rest of the world economy.

Industrial production in the U.S., which had been growing at a rate of 3x each year, slowed to 1.7x between 1873–1890. There was a 10% decline in manufacturing output during that period, with most of this being in consumer goods, iron, and construction.

On July 14, 1877, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad cut its wages again – for the third time that year. The railroad workers had no unions, but they spontaneously broke out into a strike.

The strike started on July 14, 1877, with B&O railroad workers in Martinsburg, West Virginia. They blockaded the town, a critical rail juncture, and prevented all rail traffic from rolling through, demanding that the wage cut be revoked.

The governor of West Virginia dispatched the National Guard to clear the lines and resume rail service, but the guardsmen refused to fire on the strikers. At the same time, the B&O workers in Maryland took up the strike and closed the railroad center at Cumberland.

Albany, Syracuse, and Buffalo New York, all major railyards, closed. The strike spread from the B&O to other lines. In Pittsburgh, the Pennsylvania railroad baron Thomas Alexander Scott recommended the strikers be given a "rifle diet."

On July 21, the Pennsylvania National Guard bayoneted strikers and then opened fire, killing 20 railroad workers. The strikers did not disperse; they retaliated, trapping the guardsmen in a roundhouse and razing 39 buildings.

Striking railroad workers in Pennsylvania burned 104 locomotives and 1,245 freight and passenger cars. The Pennsylvania National Guard fought their way out of the roundhouse, shooting and killing over 20 people as they cut their way out of the railyard.

This was the background of the strike action in St. Louis. As the country seized in strikes and transport actions, the Workingman's Party (the first Marxist party in the U.S.) and the Knights of Labor gathered in St. Louis.

On July 22, one day after the massacre in the Pennsylvania railyards, train workers held a secret meeting to call for an increase in wages and determined to strike. They then held a public outdoor meeting, which was steered by 200 members of the Workingmen's Party.

That night, a third meeting was held, and the rail workers adopted a resolution that read:

WHEREAS, the United States government has allied itself on the side of capital and against labor; therefore,

RESOLVED, That we, the workingmen's party of the United States,

heartily sympathize with the employees of all the railroads in the country who are attempting to secure just and equitable reward for their labor.

RESOLVED, That we will stand by them in this most righteous struggle of labor against robbery and oppression,

through good and evil report, to the end of the struggle.

The demand was put to the bosses who rejected it immediately. The strike began at midnight in East St. Louis and within hours of announcement, the strikers controlled the city uncontested.

In the morning, the rail strikers announced they would permit passenger and mail trains to pass through the city, but all freight traffic would be stopped. The rail companies waited.

Chicago & Alton tried to start a freight train, but it was stopped and turned back to the yard. The Union Railway & Transit Company removed their wage decrease, but the Transit workers continued to strike in solidarity with their brothers, stiffened by militants in their ranks.

City officials wired frightened messages, warning that this was a repetition of the Paris Commune of '71.

The second day of the strike, July 24, the strikers determined they would expand their blockade to passenger trains. A train was decoupled from its passenger cars and only permitted transit when the locomotive was bare.

At 11:00 AM that morning, twenty-five strikers led by an Ohio and Mississippi Railway engineer seized two Missouri Pacific Railroad locomotives, took the Missouri Pacific engine shops, and tried to persuade the workers there to cease work. They refused.

3,000 – 4,000 people gathered at the depot as unrest increased. It was announced by the city authorities that six companies of infantry were marching to put an end to the blockade and clear the rail lines. Police began to sweep the streets.

At 4:00 PM that afternoon, flatcars from other striking yards arrived, loaded with more strikers. The word had gotten out that St. Louis was the hub of a powerful solidarity movement across all railway lines.

At 6 PM, six companies arrived from Fort Leavenworth. Their commander stated that "I have been ordered here with general instructions to protect the property of the United States" but declined to take action except to hole up in an army barracks.

That night, Communist leaders held meetings throughout the city. Processions of people marched through the streets. The city government, paralyzed by the fear that they were not heavily armed enough to act, did nothing. The police remained "inert."

On July 25, 1877, at 9 AM, the Communists gathered a crowd in a downtown marketplace. There, they convinced wire manufacturers to join the strike. At 10 AM they marched to Turner Hall where the executive committee of the Workingmen's Party was meeting.

By now, Black workers had joined the white strikers. An air of solidarity prevailed throughout the city. The Workingman's Party declared that all work within St. Louis would soon come to a halt.

On the morning of July 26, a mass meeting of coopers agreed to join the strike. Smelter and clay workers joined the strike. 35% of the workers striking were U.S. born; 29% were German; 18% Irish; 12% English or Welsh. A full 12% of strikers were Black.

The strike was entirely controlled by the Executive Committee, a group of 47 or so men that appear to have been elected or appointed by unknown processes. The most prominent were clerks, a student organizer, a doctor, a drug and bleach maker, a newspaper seller and a boot fitter.

On the evening of Wednesday, July 26, in Carondelet, six miles south of the city center, as ironworkers called on the Martindale Zinc Works to enter the strike, the foreman of the works struck a striker with a crowbar. The police tried to step in, but were driven off with rocks.

The ironworkers took control of the zinc works and unfurled the red flags of the International. By the end of the day, there was not a single manufactory in operation. The strike had shut down the entire city. It was all in the hands of the Workingmen's Party.

That evening, there was another mass meeting at Lucas Market of over 10,000 people. Peter Lofgreen, a workingman's delegate, harangued the crowd and told them that if the managers could not restore their pay, it was time for the railroads to be in the hands of the workers.

Thomas Curtis declared that the demands of St. Louis must go all the way to the president of the United States. This, he said, was "not a strike – but a social revolution!"

On BPP and CPUSA – Sep 27, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1574858101366431744\)](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1574858101366431744))

There's a reason the BPP was violently liquidated and, say, CPUSA wasn't

Two Registers – Sep 29, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1575525136333099009\)](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1575525136333099009))

Communists, if they are serious and not merely playing at Communism, must learn to master at least two registers, two modes of speaking. The first is for talking to other Communists – it makes use of technical language and argument. It is dense and self-referential.

The second mode or register is the agit-prop mode, which is used to converse with a mass audience. This mode is straight-forward, uses no technical language (or defines its terms very carefully) and designed to communicate complex ideas in a straightforward fashion.

This is something public defenders who care about their clients also do, by the way. There is a technical-legal language that you need for the court and opposing counsel – the "magic words" that don't mean what they sound like. But then there is language you use with a client.

So for example, to the court you might say "This strikes at the heart of fundamental fairness; there is no authority to do what I'm asking you to do, your Honor, but you should do it anyway because it is just."

I tell my clients: "This isn't fair, but it's legal."

You can't talk to someone who's never read Marx or Lenin about the dictatorship of the proletariat the first time you speak to them. Those words are meaningless. You can't talk about the bourgeoisie. You can MAYBE talk about imperialism, but they won't understand what you mean

HOW do you communicate this? You eliminate all technical jargon. You don't talk like you're quoting Lenin or writing an article in 1897. You say "working people" or the "working class." You talk about "owners," the "ruling class," "bosses."

I'm going to do a [Midnight Communism](https://www.youtube.com/user/KelithVedan/featured) (<https://www.youtube.com/user/KelithVedan/featured>) that touches on this issue when I'm done with the script.

Oct 4, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1577350782013145088)
(<https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1577350782013145088>))

Liberalism is counter-revolution. The liberal "class struggle" is a bourgeois-led class struggle to subdue, subvert, and destroy revolutionary class-consciousness

What are the weapons in the liberal class struggle? Superprofits distributed as reforms, social safety, etc. The temporary lifting of social and cultural oppressions. These are the weapons of the liberal

Liberals in the U.S. since the early 1930s have used the threat of fascism (which is already here in the united right-liberal left-liberal bloc of the ruling class) to try to fuse together opposed class interests

Coincidentally, this is fascism itself, by the by

To be unwilling to drive to overall victory (the destruction of capitalism and the bourgeois state, the SOURCE of fascism) in order to win individual skirmishes (elect this left-fascist rather than this right-fascist) is to throw away the revolutionary project

AT ONE TIME, when liberalism was counterposed to the old feudal regime in Europe, it was progressive (in that relation). Now, it is reactionary, regressive, and a brake on liberation

To distinguish between "fascism" on the one hand and "liberalism" on the other is to compare two different categories (the "categorical error"). Fascism is the fighting form of the bourgeoisie; liberalism is their ideological arrangement

As a political ideology, liberalism makes a certain case for universal suffrage, etc. But the liberal has never adhered in actuality to this ideological commitment. Therefore, it is absolutely possible for one to be both a committed liberal and a fascist

Reading Groups – Oct 14, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1580992229065183232\)](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1580992229065183232))

Why Reading Groups?

Marxists are renowned for forming reading groups, usually focusing on difficult-to-read classics like Capital. Is this some weird hold-over from the olden days when bespectacled petit-bourgeoisie met in dark and sooty rooms to plot revolution? No!

There is a good reason why we have reading groups and why we continue to form them. Those reasons are that:

1. Struggle is communal.

We can all read whatever we want on our own and think deep thoughts about our lives and our readings, but unless we put those thoughts to the test and exchange them, temper them, and interact with other people who have had

different struggles, then we will never come to a truly correct understanding. The reading group is the place to study our current social order and find ways to change it.

2. Class-consciousness can develop spontaneously, political development can't. Class-consciousness is the Marxist awareness that present (capitalist) society is divided into discrete "classes" with differing interests. This develops organically and spontaneously as you look around and see things like the 2008 bailouts, etc. However, what we should do about the existence of social classes, that is, political development, is not spontaneous.
3. Reading groups develop sympathizers into Communists. The journey from just being on the left to understanding what needs to be done about the brutal inequality of capitalism is a hard one, and you need friends and allies to help you through it. Essentially, we all have to discard old "liberal" ideas about government and look the truth — the bare facts — in the face. When U.S. ideologues talk about "human rights," what do they mean? When they talk about a "free press" what does that mean? It's through collective study and group accountability that we learn to purge ourselves of these old prejudices.
4. It's hard to develop politically when the hegemonic, ruling, culture tells you that Communism is evil. You need allies to help buoy you up and help you sort the truth about social justice from the fiction.
5. Reading groups help teach more than political education — they help us practice real democracy, accountability, and organization. Organizing, no matter what anyone tells you, isn't about putting on marches, protests, sit-ins, or phone banks (although some of those things can be used to organize). Organizing is about developing groups with internal relations that allow them to make decisions, act collectively, and remain in-tact between meetings. Reading groups are a form of organizing, so long as they don't descend into meaningless debate clubs.
6. Reading groups, when done right, draw others into the struggle. One of the big challenges of the struggle right now is activating or drawing in other people who are prepared to disbelieve the self-evident lies of the ruling class, but have no real avenue to express their anger, dissent, or disagreement. Particularly by organizing reading groups in public places and advertising them in public places, this brings in class-conscious people who have a desire to learn more and helps transform them into fighters for justice. In short, the reading group is a site of reproduction of Communist thought, theory, practice, and revolutionaries.

If you're considering something to read, may I recommend that you can form a reading group around currently-unpublished [@USUMLPress](https://twitter.com/USUMLPress) (<https://twitter.com/USUMLPress>) work if you contact us, or we can help you set up a reading group around the [Red Clarion](https://unity-struggle-unity.org/clarion/clarion/print-edition/) (<https://unity-struggle-unity.org/clarion/clarion/print-edition/>).

Oct 19, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1582820532650930176)
(<https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1582820532650930176>))

I feel like most of the people who say the US isn't ready for revolution have never been in a poor neighborhood

Have you stood in a decaying building and talked to someone whose apartment was recently gutted by fire about the police? Don't tell me the quality of life is too high. The revolution isn't made in the suburbs

On Voting – Oct 21, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1583471834049105925)
(<https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1583471834049105925>))

The argument is not whether you should vote (debatable) but whether or not a COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION should BREATHELESSLY PROCLAIM that a CLASS ENEMY represents the BEST INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASSES

Its actually not possible to support the "democrats" because they don't have a coherent national policy. Their party lacks all political discipline and acts as a catch-all for class collaboration on a "left" line

What are the "democrats"? They're a coalition of the most reactionary elements of labor fused with the interests of the labor aristocracy and petit-bourgeoisie, governed in rough form by the left-leaning haute bourgeoisie

They beg from the same pot of money that the GOP does; this pool of "big donors" (the ruling class) swings between parties on a per-issue and per-year basis

Military Power – Oct 24, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1584543535142797312)
(<https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1584543535142797312>))

A revolutionary uprising in the US does not need to overcome the full might of the US military

Facing the revolution in this manner is a fast way to revolutionary nihilism (AKA counter revolution, right deviationism)

Nov 7, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1589742917664804864)
(<https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1589742917664804864>))

One of the big errors of the US movement was classifying fascism as something inherently and qualitatively different from bourgeois settler democracy

"Fascism is worse than the bourgeois republic" fascism is merely the settler logic applied to the bourgeois republic

Thanks to [@primarycatdad](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad) (<https://twitter.com/primarycatdad>) for leading me to these resources and for contributing as an editorial board member for USU. He also runs [Midnight Communism](https://www.youtube.com/user/KelithVedan/featured) (<https://www.youtube.com/user/KelithVedan/featured>), a youtube channel which "is the place where [he] whisper[s] to you at night while [his] family is asleep, telling you all the ins and outs of Communist theory."

index tags: Unity–Struggle–Unity, @USUMLPress, Glossary of Marxism–Leninism, Contributor's Guide, Red Clarion, @primarycatdad

category tags: Modern Communists, Tweets, Resource Lists

On The Fall of Twitter

2022–12–23

"aka all my bookmarks"

Huh?

Well. It's November 4th. Twitter has just gone through a major round of layoffs, as have a few other companies while they can escape scrutiny.

As [@Foone](https://twitter.com/Foone) (<https://twitter.com/Foone>) says [here](https://twitter.com/Foone/status/1588429889107296256?t=r5XrHQb2-Hn5GMwpZo2vPw&s=19) (<https://twitter.com/Foone/status/1588429889107296256?t=r5XrHQb2-Hn5GMwpZo2vPw&s=19>):

As a former SRE, I'd just like to say:

This site isn't going to burn down. That's way too calm and organized a death for a site this big which apparently just fired most of the on-call staff.

That's more like it.

It's going to evaporate, not like a puddle on a hot day, but like a couple tons of steel that's just met an atomic shockwave

We're going to need high speed cameras to even see the blast as anything more than a single frame of white and then devastation as far as the eye can see.

This site is going to melt.

It's actually funny in retrospect how people have been talking about how the changes to verification and unbanning certain people is going to drive people off Twitter as they lose trust in the platform...

It's not going to last long enough for that to even matter!

This is a great example of what's going to happen. It's not going to get hacked or have servers catch fire, but something small and unexpected is going to take it down and they'll be unable to find someone to unfuck it:

Right now a disk is filling up on a server somewhere in some data center that a person who has just been laid off has been manually clearing every few days and when that disk fills up Twitter will go down.

So I'm trying to get all my useful info and links off of there before they're lost forever. Why does it always feel like I'm racing against time trying to build as things crumble? Anyway.

TODO: sort these into the relevant articles, tags, everything, organize, organize, organize all the resources

To start, this maybe isn't related specifically to twitter, but I feel it's relevant. From Dan Waterfield (@danwaterfield (<https://twitter.com/danwaterfield>)) [here](https://twitter.com/danwaterfield/status/1587900573055082497?t=VxaVVQkBABheS2w9kwjQyg&s=19) (<https://twitter.com/danwaterfield/status/1587900573055082497?t=VxaVVQkBABheS2w9kwjQyg&s=19>):

I would argue that this is what state collapse looks like btw. A slow inability to build new things, to look after the populace, to repair infrastructure. Essentials get more expensive. The elite retreat to enclaves and gated communities.

State becomes less and less able to respond to natural disasters.

I think that's applicable enough to the twitter situation, though I'm not sure that's what Dan was originally referencing. If/when twitter falls, there is no recourse. Under private ownership, with a lack of regulation or accountability, we can lose millions of hours of community time, thought, and effort. Just because the richest guy around wanted to meme around and buy a website, wreak havoc on the workers for a little good time.

We (see: [On Uniting \(/posts/on-uniting/\)](/posts/on-uniting/)) need to be building and maintaining our own infrastructure, in order to prevent it from being destroyed at the whim of those at the top.

For right now I'm being a bit of a modern librarian on my silly little site. I am trying to salvage and reclaim, in this moment. But we need to build systems for the people, and we need to have been building em 20 years ago. The only time is now.

more tweets about twitter

jfc these are making me sad and anxious. I'm saving them here because I feel powerless to do anything else.

Social Media is not optional – Nov 4, 2022

From Robert Brockaway (@brockway llc (<https://twitter.com/brockway llc>), [linktree \(https://linktr.ee/brockwar\)](https://linktr.ee/brockwar)) [here \(https://twitter.com/brockway llc/status/1588556831731126272\)](https://twitter.com/brockway llc/status/1588556831731126272):

This is where I get the word out about my stuff, where I meet other writers, where I find and book podcast guests. I don't have this following anywhere else, and there's no other place to do this.

I know the cool thing to do is be glad its dying because it spites some dipshit billionaire, but this meaningfully harms my professional life in a serious way.

I quit Facebook because it strangled reach and, y'know, murdered my entire industry. That left most of my social media reach through this platform – what should it have been, TikTok, Instagram? They're not designed for writers and connecting like this. Also: Both equally evil.

Social media is not optional for a working creative these days, it factors into everything you do from podcast sales to book deals. You have to do something, and for people like me: This was it. There was and is not a meaningful alternative.

So it's weird to have this huge pit of anxiety and despair over fucking social media, but I just watched a tantrum-throwing baby drive a tank through my workplace and I'm wondering how the hell I'm going to recover from it.

One thing that's been proven time and again is that an audience is an incredibly fragile thing. This goes away and 95% of my followers -- even engaged ones, people that buy my books, will drift away too.

It's up to me to try to move that audience elsewhere before this dies, but again -- to where? This is it, and any alternative is going to see massive hemorrhage.

Losing a 90K-person platform – Nov 4, 2022

Summer Brennan (@summerbrennan (<https://twitter.com/summerbrennan>)) who writes on substack [here \(https://summerbrennan.substack.com/\)](https://summerbrennan.substack.com/) puts it more concisely:

Oh yeah as an underemployed writer, I'm totally fine with losing a 90K-person platform built up over thirteen years, when I am otherwise not remotely famous, why do you ask?

Unions

I posted a tweet by Anne V Clark wrt twitter and unionization in [On Unions \(/posts/on-unions\)](#) if you want to check out that related content.

**Hot Potato'd – Nov 5, 2022 – (src
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1589028354824736769))**

From Peter, [@The_Law_Boy \(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy\)](#) of [5-4 Pod \(https://www.fivefourpod.com/\)](#):

lots of frustration being directed at elon but it's also pretty weird that the twitter board just hot potato'd the company onto a dude who clearly did not actually want to own it

there's something so bleak about developing a platform for 15 years and then just cashing out as soon as you can get a 30% premium or whatever. shareholder primacy creates these moments of complete detachment from the need to actually make something useful or good

many repliers very proud of themselves for knowing the basic contours of corporate law here rather than grasping the actual point which is that corporate law is dumb

**Nov 7, 2022 (src
(<https://twitter.com/stevekrenzel/status/1589700721121058817>))**

From ([@stevekrenzel \(https://twitter.com/stevekrenzel\)](#))

With Twitter's change in ownership last week, I'm probably in the clear to talk about the most unethical thing I was asked to build while working at Twitter.

With Twitter's change in ownership last week, I'm probably in the clear to talk about the most unethical thing I was asked to build while working at Twitter.

Most people don't really appreciate how close Twitter was to shutting down. The 2016 election was the only thing that saved them and made them relevant again (to the detriment of us all). But I digress...

I worked as a software engineer on a team with a charter to make Twitter work better for people in emerging markets (Brazil, India, Nigeria, etc...). This meant a lot of mobile work. And was mostly non-visual stuff – reducing bandwidth, memory usage, battery consumption.

Oh and app size... we fought tooth and nail to keep the app under 10MB. FB had the money to zero-rate for people in India to d/l a 100MB app, but we did not. We finally lost the 10MB battle when Twitter Video launched (iirc). After that, all discipline around app size was lost.

One of the first areas I worked on was improving the way our mobile apps uploaded logs. Twitter, like most mobile apps, logs *everything* users do – every swipe, tap, edit, delay, etc... – for debugging, metrics, and experiments.

The size of logs adds up quickly.

In the app, HTTP responses were compressed, but requests weren't. Logs are highly compressible, so I wired up support to gzip HTTP requests, and tweaked our log ingestion server to handle these.

(That reduced mobile bandwidth consumption by ~40% iirc. It was absurd.)

So I became known as the mobile logs guy. And that sets the stage for why I was pulled into a Sales conversation. Twitter was on its death bed and was desperate for money. A large telco wanted to pay us to log signal strength data in N. America and send it to them.

My plan was to aggregate signal strength by carrier / by location. I worked with Data Science to find a granularity – minimum area size and minimum distinct users per area – that would preserve anonymity even when combined with other sources of data (differential privacy).

When we sent this data to the telco they said the data was useless. They switched their request and said they want to be able to tell how many of our users are entering their competitors' stores.

A bit sketchier, but maybe workable in a privacy respecting way?

We ran an alternative by the telco. They didn't like it and were frustrated. So was Sales. I was asked to go to telco's HQ and figure out exactly what they want.

The subsequent request was absurd.

I wound up meeting with a Director who came in huffing and puffing.

The Director said "We should know when users leave their house, their commute to work, and everywhere they go throughout the day. Anything less is useless. We get a lot more than that from other tech companies."

I responded with some variant of "No fucking way".

There was no universe where I was going to help sell granular identifiable user location data.

This led to more internal meetings. Legal said the request was fine – none of it violated the user ToS.

Normally they might find another engineer to do this work, but my whole team was aligned with the privacy concerns. Twitter had also just done layoffs (aside: time is a flat circle), so there were no spare engineers around.

My team wasn't touched by layoffs, but half of them had quit anyway. Twitter was having a mass exodus.

I had done what I could, but Twitter was no longer a place to do good work. I decided to join the exodus and would pull any levers to kill this on my way out.

One random anecdote:

In the middle of this, I had gotten a new manager who, in a retention attempt I'll never forget, said "If we filled a dump truck with money and dumped it on you, would you stay and build this?"

I wasn't really sure how to respond to that... but no dice.

My last email written at Twitter was to Jack. To his credit, he responded quickly with something to the effect of "Let me look into that and make sure there isn't a misunderstanding. It doesn't seem right. We wouldn't want to do that."

It was in his hands now.

As far as I know, the project actually got canned. Jack genuinely didn't like it.

I don't know if this mindset will hold true with the new owner of Twitter though. I would assume Elon will do far worse things with the data.

And, for the any employees still at Twitter, don't underestimate the power of a pocket veto.

Sometimes it doesn't work out, or you have to escalate and risk it back firing, but a good pocket veto is a tool to learn to wield well.

Elon

Nov 8, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/lopezlinette/status/1590111416014409728\)](https://twitter.com/lopezlinette/status/1590111416014409728))

From Linette Lopez [@lopezlinette \(https://twitter.com/lopezlinette\)](https://twitter.com/lopezlinette), a [Business Insider columnist \(https://www.businessinsider.com/author/linette-lopez\)](https://www.businessinsider.com/author/linette-lopez).

How do I know so much about how @elonmusk does things? I spent 3 years investigating Tesla at @BusinessInsider from 2018–2021. Here are some of sloppy, dangerous, callous, things I learned:

[Tesla put batteries with potentially defective cooling systems in people's cars. And they knew about it. \(https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-faulty-battery-cooling-systems-design-model-s-2012-2019-6\)](https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-faulty-battery-cooling-systems-design-model-s-2012-2019-6)

[That time Elon told his engineers to stop doing brake tests on Model 3s. The tests were finding too many defects, and he wanted speed up the manufacturing process. Is that "hardcore engineering?" \(https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-elon-musk-orders-engineers-to-stop-brake-and-roll-testing-2018-6\)](https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-elon-musk-orders-engineers-to-stop-brake-and-roll-testing-2018-6)

[Tesla has been much faster to do recalls in China than in the US. One of the China recalls sounds like it could be about this defect I reported on, known within the company for years. \(https://www.businessinsider.com/aladdin-stars-problem-with-tesla-known-as-whompy-wheels-2019-6?op=1\)](https://www.businessinsider.com/aladdin-stars-problem-with-tesla-known-as-whompy-wheels-2019-6?op=1)

[This story put me on Tesla's sh*tlist. It shows a factory in chaos, and explains why Musk was desperately behind schedule while building the Model 3. And if you're looking at it from an accounting lens, it's extremely suspect too. \(https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-model-3-scrap-waste-high-gigafactory-2018-5\)](https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-model-3-scrap-waste-high-gigafactory-2018-5)

Musk would later admit Tesla was on the verge of bankruptcy during this period.

[More on the accounting implications of millions of dollars of waste \(that doesn't seem to appear anywhere on Tesla's balance sheet\). Yes, I'm a nerd. \(https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-millions-dollars-waste-gigafactory-martin-tripp-court-documents-2020-12\)](https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-millions-dollars-waste-gigafactory-martin-tripp-court-documents-2020-12)

And yes, there was that time @elonmusk was a total creep to me on this app, which only convinced me I was asking good questions.

(quotetweeting elon [here](https://twitter.com/elonmusk/status/1014987505978863616)
(<https://twitter.com/elonmusk/status/1014987505978863616>))

[Musk has always been reckless. His cheerleaders Morgan Stanley almost stabbed him in the back in 2019 when Tesla looked like it might go bankrupt. \(https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-analyst-adam-jonas-slams-company-private-call-2019-5\)](https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-analyst-adam-jonas-slams-company-private-call-2019-5)

[I can't imagine how those bankers feel now that he's completely screwed them with this Twitter deal. If he had closed earlier, it would be much easier to unload the debt. \(https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-twitter-takeover-money-sucking-quagmire-tesla-spacex-debt-2022-4\)](https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-twitter-takeover-money-sucking-quagmire-tesla-spacex-debt-2022-4)

[And don't even get me started on what Tesla's relationship with the Chinese gvmnt may bring. They own the land his Shanghai factory sits on and can take it back whenever they think Elon's out of line. \(https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-tesla-china-xinjiang-uyghurs-dark-future-2022-1\)](https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-tesla-china-xinjiang-uyghurs-dark-future-2022-1)

[China's gvmnt has shown @elonmusk that it can cripple Tesla sales if it feels like it. It did it back in 2021. \(https://www.businessinsider.com/how-china-could-hurt-tesla-2021-4\)](https://www.businessinsider.com/how-china-could-hurt-tesla-2021-4)

[I wouldn't be surprised if Tesla acquires Twitter. Why? Because that's how @elonmusk bailed himself \(and his family\) out when Solarcity was going bust. He made up some synergies for Tesla, lied about some new Solarcity product — merger managed. \(https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-tesla-solarcity-merger-frenzied-plan-new-filings-show-2019-10\)](https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-tesla-solarcity-merger-frenzied-plan-new-filings-show-2019-10)

[Solarcity has been a declining share of Tesla's business basically since it was acquired. And it's been a MESS. The company had to initiate a stealth, nationwide plan to switch out defective parts that could lead to fires.](#)

<https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-project-titan-replace-bad-solar-panel-parts-2019-8>)

I've talked to dozens of SolarCity employees and customers. This is what I mean when I say I've seen @elonmusk do "sloppy" and "callous" business.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-solar-panel-fires-become-nightmare-some-homeowners-2019-10>)

Oh, and Tesla was HORRIBLE to workers during the pandemic.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-coronavirus-response-was-unorganized-and-dangerous-workers-say-2020-4>)

And if you're wondering how long @ElonMusk has been surrounded exclusively by sycophants, Tesla's last respectable GC quit after just 2 months in 2019.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/teslas-general-counsel-dane-butswinkas-leaves-after-2019-2>)

I'm sure the Twitter people knew what kind of chaos to expect. Musk is proud of how life-sucking and cultish working for him can be.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-employees-describe-intense-conditions-life-under-elon-musk-2018-8>)

Anyway, I'll leave you with one of the first pieces I ever wrote about @elonmusk, before I started any investigating. It was clear to me then what I think more people understand about him now. <https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-doesnt-care-about-you-2018-5>)

Community, Uniting, Organizing

Rebuild Community – Oct 24, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/goodfriendraf/status/1584526316165943297\)](https://twitter.com/goodfriendraf/status/1584526316165943297))

This is just a thought I like to consider, from rafael diaz (@goodfriendraf <https://twitter.com/goodfriendraf>)

can't help but feel more and more convinced that we're so alienated from one another that we need to take on serious efforts just to rebuild community itself before we're able to get much out of trying to organize it

Climate and Energy

Climate Collapse – Oct 22, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/MarxistHeathen/status/1583924752921468929\)](https://twitter.com/MarxistHeathen/status/1583924752921468929))

A thread made by HeathenCommunist (@MarxistHeathen <https://twitter.com/MarxistHeathen>), a CPUSA member in Arizona:

Climate collapse is not one issue among many or another social ill that we need to defeat capitalism before dealing with. Before anything and everything else: it's deadline.

Shifting our focus to it isn't about making it the most important "issue". It's not an "issue".

It's a material condition that *MUST* shape the *entirety* of our strategy like a frame. That doesn't mean we talk about it more than anything else. It just means it's always on our mind when strategizing, even if we don't say it.

What does revolution mean when it's not just a matter of liberation but total survival?

What do scientific socialism and experimentation mean when we no longer have the time to "try again"?

What does it mean for internal contradictions among our enemy when *they* know this and *they* know that working with us to actually defeat the other camp be defeated by us would be their death sentence?

What does it mean for revolutionary strategy when asking the question of "how can we accomplish this" is an obsolete question, replaced by "how can we accomplish this in time"?

What does it mean when we can't afford another setback? When we can't afford another century of struggle?

What does it mean when believing revolution won't happen in our lifetime stops being the planting of trees whose shade we will never sit under & is now accepting that our grandchildren will have no shade to sit in?

Historical socialist strategy was premised on laying the groundwork for future struggle when it could not find a way to achieve its aims.

How do we cope with the fact that we *are* that future generation that groundwork was laid for? That, if we can't find a way to achieve our aims, that our only option is to keep looking until we find it?

Nuclear Power

[Spent Fuel: The risky resurgence of nuclear power \(https://harpers.org/archive/2022/01/spent-fuel-the-risky-resurgence-of-nuclear-power/\)](https://harpers.org/archive/2022/01/spent-fuel-the-risky-resurgence-of-nuclear-power/) by [Andrew Cockburn \(https://harpers.org/author/andrewcockburn/\)](https://harpers.org/author/andrewcockburn/)

Nov 1, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/curious_founder/status/1587581943763587072\)](https://twitter.com/curious_founder/status/1587581943763587072))

Written by Michael Thomas, who writes at [michaelthomaswrites.substack.com \(https://michaelthomaswrites.substack.com/\)](https://michaelthomaswrites.substack.com).

Recently I learned about a man who has trained 1,000+ people to block wind and solar projects.

I read through all his training materials, presentations, and seminars.

Here's what I learned about him and how his students plan to "win the war on clean energy."

The odds are pretty good you haven't heard of this man, John Droz, Jr.

He's only been interviewed by a few journalists. And when asked about his influence he always responds the same way:

"This story isn't about me."

But the story of climate action and delay in America is very much about Droz.

For most of his life, Droz was a semi-retired real estate developer. In 2011, he reinvented himself and became a "physicist."

That year, his home state of N.C. debated a bill about climate change.

Droz put together a series of presentations, some as long as 168 slides, and headed to the capital.

He had crunched the numbers and looked at the science.

According to Droz, climate change was a sham pushed by clean energy lobbyists.

Remarkably, many legislators listened to him.

Even the Washington Post listened to him. In an article about sea-level rise, they quoted the real estate developer as a "local physicist."

Droz's efforts worked. In 2012, N.C. passed a bill that prevented the state from taking action on sea-level rise.

This work got the attention of the biggest climate deniers in the country.

That year, ATI, a dark money think tank brought him on as a fellow.

At ATI, Droz developed a playbook that would eventually be used by thousands of people to stop clean energy projects.

In 2012, he organized a secret meeting and training session to share his strategy with some of the country's most influential climate deniers and activists.

For Droz, winning the war on clean energy is all about communication.

The man is obsessed with what he calls "Press relations (PR) strategy."

Those two letters—PR—are in hundreds of documents he's produced over the last decade.

What's the goal of this PR?

As he wrote, "Public opinion [on clean energy] must begin to change among citizens at large."

But changing minds wasn't all Droz was interested in.

The next line in his memo reads: "Ultimate Goal: Change policy direction based on the message."

Droz, like many climate deniers, understood the power of offering the public and lawmakers a set of "alternative facts."

All credible experts agree wind energy is better for the environment than fossil fuels.

Droz knew it was possible to convince people otherwise.

Clean energy projects create jobs and tax revenue. They're great for local economies.

Droz offered an alternative assessment.

At the secret meeting in 2012, he proposed an idea:

Established think tanks like Heartland, CFACT, and Cato could publish these "alternative facts."

And volunteers in communities across the U.S. could present them to local lawmakers.

Of course, these volunteers couldn't just be against clean energy.

Droz wrote about this in a later training document titled "What Not To Say."

He writes that if you're against something, "You will be painted as a denier and as a person against progress (going green)."

One of Droz' most effective students, Susan Ralston, mastered this principle.

She named her organization "Citizens for Responsible Solar."

The group has blocked huge projects across Virginia. Their main argument: Solar should be on rooftops, not rural land.

By far the most unique tactic, I saw in Droz' training materials was his suggestion that clean energy opponents never compromise.

According to Droz, the way to win "the war on clean energy" is to come out with aggressive demands and stick to them.

This approach has led his students to pass laws that literally or effectively ban clean energy in communities across the United States.

When they don't succeed at that, they file lawsuits that can drag out for years.

All around the country, clean energy opponents are using this playbook to block solar and wind farms.

Projects that could have offered substantial carbon emissions reductions in almost every state have been blocked as a result.

As for John Droz? He's reinvented himself once more.

In searching public records for his name, I came across dozens of emails to officials everywhere from Arizona to Pennsylvania about his "independent analysis of the 2020 election."

Droz is now an election security expert.

Later this week I plan to publish a story about who is funding and spreading clean energy misinformation.

Stay tuned.

And if you missed it, you can check out [last week's story](https://twitter.com/curious_founder/status/1586084131942932482) (https://twitter.com/curious_founder/status/1586084131942932482)

Media

([src \(https://twitter.com/hilaryagro/status/1588923871193075712\)](https://twitter.com/hilaryagro/status/1588923871193075712))

From Hilary Agro (@hilaryagro (<https://twitter.com/hilaryagro>), [linktree](https://linktr.ee/hilaryagro) (<https://linktr.ee/hilaryagro>))

We all know that Marvel movies are military propaganda but I think it's under-discussed how they're also neoliberal propaganda for making people believe that powerful people will save us if we just let them do whatever they want

I know many people have indeed discussed this (feel free to share links) but since many people still believe Elon Musk and Bill Gates are gonna solve climate change and poverty, clearly it's still not discussed enough

Anyways none of this really matters because the fact is that capitalism is eating us alive—we're served these distractions so we don't organize to fight back.

If you're in Canada, [learn about and support the CUPE wildcat strike! \(via twitter.com/hilaryagro\)](https://twitter.com/hilaryagro) (<https://twitter.com/hilaryagro/status/1588648160406437888>)

Ukraine

Nov 6, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/failure1991/status/1589317988108292096\)](https://twitter.com/failure1991/status/1589317988108292096))

Hi Everyone,

My threads are sparse and spare but I wanted to talk about the current battle of Pavlovka in Donetsk Oblast, south of Donetsk

For context Pavlovka is located south southwest of a village made up of high rise buildings called Ugledar that give it a panoramic view allowing for artillery spotting all the way to Donetsk. You need to take Ugledar to properly secure the

southern approach of Donetsk.

Pavlovka had been taken by the Russians in the Spring but was lost in June to a UKR counterattack shortly before the Russians completely took Lugansk Oblast.

On 31 October the Russian commanders in the region apparently saw an opportunity as the VSU withdrew a brigade from the area to plug gaps up by Artemovsk. They decided to launch an attack across the front

Following a sharp well planned bombardment, including use of TOS-1A thermobaric artillery, the first UKR defensive line was annihilated and the survivors fell back. Despite the mud progress was quick and half the village fell into Russian hands that day

By 1 November most of the village had been cleared, but the UKR held onto the northern edge of the village, assisted by rushed reserves and artillery fire directed from Ugledar

The VSU brought in a new brigade and counterattacked pushing the Russians back somewhat. The Russians however were not helpless. The DNR unit Kaskad has published footage of them using drones to fire artillery strikes on the UKR second line in Ugledar

Now here is where things get interesting and confusing. Controversy has arisen on RU TG from a letter ostensibly written to the Governor of the Primorsky Krai that complained of heavy losses, extremely bad planning and incompetent glory seeking commanders.

Specifically the letter claims General Rustem Muradov, commander of the Eastern Military District, was promised a medal if he took Pavlovka by the Chief of the General Staff, General Gerasimov and there was little planning or care shown

The letter also claims the 155th Marine Brigade has lost 300 men killed and wounded in four days fighting and HALF its vehicles. Link to the text can be found here (in Russian).

This has been seized on by Russian correspondents Alexander Sladkov and the War Gonzo team and promoted with great outrage. It has also been picked up by pro-UKR western commentators including Rob Lee.

[RT \(via Rob Lee, twitter.com/RALee85\)](https://twitter.com/RALee85)
(<https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1589302035748249602>)

['the letter itself from the 155th Marine Brigade that is on everyone's lips today. The brigade was ordered to advance to Uhledar via Pavlivka. They mention 300 casualties \(dead and wounded\) in just 4 days, and these are marines.' via Dmitri, twitter.com/wartranslated](https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1589300375583981569)
(<https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1589300375583981569>)

Now then here is the thing. I don't believe this letter fully. Why? Because the letter said the brigade has lost half its vehicles. Even at a minimum that would 130 vehicles. The UKR are very media conscious. We would see the evidence of this all over social media. We do not

Scanning Rob Lee and UKR Weapons Tracker I counted at most 6 vehicles from this area of the front in UKR videos over the past four days. One of which was a not badly damaged but abandoned tank in Pavlovka.

[Ukraine's Omega unit captured a Russian T-80BVM tank in the Vuhledar/Pavlivka area. \(via twitter.com/RALee85\) \(https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1589278976236982272\)](https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1589278976236982272)

By contrast there is evidence of UKR soldiers in severe distress in this area particularly from the VSU 72nd Bde. There are videos of soldiers claiming many of their comrades are dead and they could be overrun at any moment.

As far Pavlovka itself, the aforementioned DNR unit Kaskad, shows continuous strikes on UKR units fighting in the village.

So we have no evidence of devastating Russian losses but we do have direct video evidence that this is definitely not a triumphant easy going time for the VSU. Indeed we have pleas on UKR social media about missing men from the 72nd VSU bde. What is going on here?

Well, a few things. As @BakerSevenZero has pointed out the letter singles out and calls glory seeking and incompetent two Russian Generals of North Caucasian ethnicity. Muradov and Akhmedov

We know the UKR attempt to sow ethnic division in the Russian Armed Forces, recall for instance claims from February and March that ethnic Russian commanders were throwing away the lives of their Buryat and North Caucasian troops – claims later proven false

The letter also calls out the chief of the General Staff, Valery Gerasimov. Recently both Kadyrov, the Chechen President/Governor, and Prigozhin, the CEO of the Wagner PMC got General Alexander Lapin of the Central Military District sacked

These were on claims similar to those levelled against Muradov in this letter here. However those claims were vehemently denied by Lapin's own troops, the Donbass militia who served under his command, and direct video and battlefield evidence to the contrary

So what do I think? This letter is either a UKR psyop or a bit of racist nonsense from some members of the 155th Naval Infantry brigade. I tend to lean toward the former.

Whatever the case the battle of Pavlovka is definitely grim for both sides, but this latest news I think is being seized on by too many people both those who lean towards Russia and those who lean toward UKR.

Modern Movement

Nov 7, 2022 ([src](#)

(<https://twitter.com/m1vql1hdwt/status/1589618250702557184>))

via mazal מַזַּל ([@m1vql1hdwt](https://twitter.com/m1vql1hdwt) (<https://twitter.com/m1vql1hdwt>)), editor at [Unity-Struggle-Unity](#) (</posts/on-unity-struggle-unity>).

we lost like 2 generations of marxist-leninist leadership through the most vicious state repression during the last few decades and i think that goes a long way towards explaining why anarchistic/utopian misconceptions of theory and praxis prevail in our movement now

"where are our mentors? where is the old guard"

...

"oh, they're all dead."

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: World History, Tweets

On Trans Rights

2022-12-24

"== Human Rights"

As I work through my twitter bookmarks, I'm making new pages to clean up the page.

I've touched on trans rights in [On Feminism](#) (</posts/on-feminism>) and I think a really great article to get started is [The Woman Question](https://redsails.org/the-woman-question/) (<https://redsails.org/the-woman-question/>) (2016) by Lori Watson.

Trans Tweets

Prettying-Up for Doctors – Nov 14, 2022 ([src](#)

(https://twitter.com/two_n_minus_one/status/1592046458697834496))

From [@two_n_minus_one](https://twitter.com/two_n_minus_one) (https://twitter.com/two_n_minus_one)

trying to explain to a cis person why i need several hours to pretty up before a doctor visit makes me feel completely insane

'yeah so doctors in canada unironically believe in a good/evil taxonomy of trans women invented by a guy who rated us mainly by how fuckable he found us,' it feels like i'm trying to convert someone to flat earth theory or something because of how fucking outrageous it is ... but it's also just like. true. we gotta go through these guys to get healthcare, and that means playing the game

Did not expect this post to go off so hard wtf. For those in the comments still curious, this is a decent start: [Making Sense of Autogynephilia Debates \(via juliaserano.medium.com\)](https://juliaserano.medium.com/making-sense-of-autogynephilia-debates-73d9051e88d3) (<https://juliaserano.medium.com/making-sense-of-autogynephilia-debates-73d9051e88d3>). @christapeterso (<https://twitter.com/christapeterso>) has also done a lot of great work in the subject. Id find links but I gotta prep for my staying-alive visual exam bye

Desistence Therapy – Oct 23, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/scattermoon/status/1584116431255638016) (<https://twitter.com/scattermoon/status/1584116431255638016>))

From Elaine Scattermoon's (@scattermoon (<https://twitter.com/scattermoon>))'s thread [here](https://twitter.com/scattermoon/status/1584116431255638016) (<https://twitter.com/scattermoon/status/1584116431255638016>):

OK Twitter, I need to talk to you about the harmful version of conversion therapy I went through a teen – something called 'desistence therapy', which was basically gaslighting of a young teen into not only not transitioning but believing that not transitioning was their idea.

What's worse is that this was done to me not by a shady illicit private business but by a NHS Gender Clinic. They forced me to undergo the wrong puberty, with me begging them to prevent it, and tried to convince me that it was what I really wanted all along, and it broke me.

I've been wanting to make this thread for a while but every time I went to write it, I froze up, because it still has such a lasting impact on me even two decades later. I've been scared to talk about it, the effect it had on me, what it did to me. It's genuinely traumatic.

But I've learned that nobody seems to know it even happened here in the UK. I've met nobody who went through the same thing – at least this side of the Atlantic – and I feel that there needs to be some record of it, a testimony from someone who went through it in the UK in 2000s.

Not just as a personal record – finally putting this out there to get it out of my head – but also so that there's awareness that it happened, what it does to young people, and why it must NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN anywhere. Why 'desistence' is so incredibly harmful and outright abusive

I've always met trans people my age – mid-30s now – who tell me they wish they'd known they were trans earlier in their lives, before puberty did its damage, and I have to stop myself snapping at them in response, because I did, and it only led me into denial and gaslighting.

I realised I was trans very early for someone my age. I won't give you the full backstory but I was a nerdy kid who did her research and I was able to piece things together from various Internet resources and medical records around 2001. I was in my early teens still then.

Eventually I plucked up the courage to speak to my GP. Who didn't know what to do with me and had to look it up. Mostly it involved in him examining my teenage genitals – I know – and referring me on to a GIC. Given my age it should have been the Tavistock in London. It wasn't.

Instead I was referred to my local GIC, which I won't name here. Waiting lists back then were nowhere near where they were now, but they were still in the terms of many months, with something like half a year between appointments. This will become very important.

At that point, I was still very lucky. I'd barely had any effects of puberty yet, and I felt there was a good chance I could avoid it altogether, get the right puberty for me with the changes I wanted, rather than the male ones I dreaded and deeply feared.

I knew puberty blockers were a thing – despite what media now may claim, they're not new, and even back then they were in use for trans teens in the Netherlands. I thought maybe I could convince the doctors to save me. That maybe I'd saved myself.

I was very wrong.

When I finally saw the GIC, what I got wasn't that help, but persistent stonewalling, through a facade of concern. They interrogated me about my school life, my family, my sexuality, my mental health, the sexual assault I'd suffered as a kid, and they used all of it against me.

Everything they could find to justify making me wait a little longer – it was always 'the next appointment' when they'd discuss puberty blockers or hormones. And remember this was with 5–8 months between appointments, so each delay was costly, esp with puberty on the horizon.

But they always told me that I simply wasn't ready. Not even due to their call – they insisted that it was me. That what I was telling them suggested I wasn't really trans, that I wasn't sure, that I needed to give it more time before they could decide anything.

One time I remember very clearly was as I was approaching my 17th birthday. They told me that people who go to university experience a great deal of life changes and that I needed to wait until university before making any kind of call. Uni was still over a year away then.

All the while, I was encouraged to try other approaches than transition. Perhaps I should just spend more time with 'other boys'. I could try getting a girlfriend, having sex. Or maybe I was just gay. I should simply try not being trans. After all 'that's what I was telling them'

I was 16. I trusted them because I had to trust them, they were my doctors, I had nowhere else to turn, especially with no support from my Catholic school, my parents, or any local trans people. I was dependent on them and they let me

down badly and abused that trust.

In hindsight, it was very clear they were never going to actually treat me in any sense. It was all a stalling exercise and their excuses were made up – using anything they could get – just to keep me in that endless holding pattern. Even when I cried begging them to help.

Except the holding pattern was designed to be indefinite. Even when I did go to university, as in the example above, they still spun new reasons at me. At age 19, I was no closer to any treatment at all than I was at age 14. And I'd hit puberty by then.

Unless you're trans yourself, you probably can't fully appreciate what going through the wrong puberty is like – especially with full awareness of its wrongness, that it was fully preventable, and that those who could do that were simply not (and were saying it was your fault)

It's pure pure body horror. Everything goes the wrong way, in ways that make you feel sick, that just don't feel like *you*, in ways that are permanent or at least very costly to undo. It's like feeling yourself slip away with you powerless to do anything about it. It's HELL.

Your own body betrays you. It no longer feels yours. Even your voice is stolen from you. And it feels wrong on such a basic primal level you can't even articulate to anyone who doesn't know that world-shattering pain. And you're still a child then.

For me at that age, after having been told by other (much older) trans people on the net that I was so lucky to be doing things so young – it felt like game over. That that was it, I'd never be able to be myself anymore, that I'd lost my sole chance at a happy life.

When I reached my second year of university, much of puberty over, and I was *still* being told the same things – that I didn't seem actually trans, that I needed to give it more time, that I should enjoy being a man more, that perhaps I just needed a girlfriend – I broke.

I gave up. Stopped attending any more appointments because it was clear it wasn't going to achieve anything, and I felt like there was nothing to achieve anymore anyway, as I said, it felt like game over. I just wanted to die. Wanted any excuse to die. There was no point.

The only reason I didn't die is that I was too concerned with upsetting those around me, so I carried on with uni, but I was a shell. I didn't look after myself in any way, I stopped being as outgoing and active, my lively online presence dwindled away to nothing. I was empty.

That thing where you wish something would kill you so you could have oblivion without the guilt it would cause those around you if you took your own life. I deliberately don't look crossing the road. I never expected to live long. What was the point? I was gone. I was denied.

You can still see it in my old livejournal posts – going from a bubbly and poetic girl flirting, discussing anime, writing stories, being emotional and naive in all those teenage ways – to just doing my uni assignments, disappearing into video

games, no longer writing anything.

I was fortunate to have a year abroad as part of my degree, and living by myself in a German forest with new friends, I slowly began to start to rebuild myself as much as I could, using the money I made teaching out there to fund private hormones and transition upon return to UK

And that's how I eventually got to where I am today. But it'd be a lie to say everything just fixed itself. I'd not be writing this otherwise. I still recall all the trauma of being forced through the wrong puberty, being constantly delayed, told it was what was best for me.

I've since learned what was happening. I can't be entirely sure as I don't have any notes from that time, any records. I was a teen after all, and it was still the early 2000s before things were all done electronically.

Further, my parents were absolutely not supportive, they told me it was God's will that I was born a boy and that I shouldn't change that, I had to go behind their backs the whole time, and the few times they found any GIC letters they threw them away. I have no records.

And I feel like I can't trust my own memories because that's what gaslighting does. I have my old private diary entries, which are deeply painful to read, but I just remember being made to feel like I was saying the wrong things, that I wasn't trying enough options, etc.

But what I recall very much matches the methodology of a Canadian psych called Kenneth Zucker and his 'desistence therapy', a technique designed to make trans children 'desist' from being trans, through the idea that they'll grow out of it – that you can make them grow out of it.

Rather than the standard NHS practice of waiting until trans kids turned 18 before beginning treatment – something the Tavistock was doing at the time, and which a similar aged friend of mine who saw the Tavistock at the same time ended up doing – they tried to desist me.

I don't know why. I assume they didn't know what to do with a trans child when their other patients were adults so followed Zucker's methodology, which was medically uncontroversial at the time.

All the smiley, 'supportive' meetings I'd had with psychs at the GIC were attempts to get me to stop with this whole trans thing. That they could convince me that I didn't really want that, through trying to get me to be a boy, through saying it was the fault of my assault, etc.

(do you have any idea how much it hurts to be told that something traumatic you had done to you, like the assault I had when I was 11, is the reason why you're having further trauma inflicted on you? Like it was my own fault and I was paying the price)

Told it was a sexual thing that I could solve through fucking somebody. That it was a mental health thing and I just needed to be happier. That it was an idle fancy I'd drop in the real world of uni. And that this was what I really wanted. Of course that I wasn't genuinely trans"

I struggle to say all this because – while I know I am trans and have for a long time – I still feel like it was actually my fault that I never got treatment then. That I'd said the wrong things, presented the wrong way, that I should have made more an effort, that I should etc.

Rationally, I know there was nothing I could have done, that what I said or did was irrelevant, because that's how desistence therapy works, the whole idea is to get the child to stop being trans after all. But still, it's hard not to blame myself. I do, in my darker moments.

Part of what made me realise this was desistence therapy was speaking to a friend (who I won't name publicly here, she can come forward if she wants) who went through the same thing at Zucker's clinic in Toronto. Our experiences tallied almost exactly despite the different places

Zucker's medically discredited now, though the anti-trans campaigners still love him (even though he's also extremely creepy towards the kids who see him). However when he was struck off, the very psychs I'd seen at the UK gender clinic signed a letter defending him. A red flag.

Desistence therapy assumes that you can stop trans children from being trans by forcing them to grow out of it – one way or another. In practice, this means leaving them broken, depressed, and suicidal, believing that they did this to themselves. It's immensely cruel.

'Desisting' is of course a term used to describe criminal acts and that very much reflects how it views transness in young people as something going very wrong with them and that they can get away from it and live a 'clean life' if only they're held back like it's a life of crime

I used the term 'conversion therapy' at the beginning of this thread because that's what it is. Doing trans healthcare is never the goal, the entire aim is to stop a trans kid being trans, you just do it by keeping them waiting endlessly rather than directly forcing them.

These are children and you're gaslighting them that not only are they not what they say they are, but that they know they're not and that this is the outcome they themselves desired. This is immensely abusive and deeply shattering to the psyche. Trust me, I know.

I have had a lot of traumas in my past – many which I've never gone into publicly and which I have no intention of doing so – my life, especially my early life, is a mess – but this is one I've struggled to talk about the most because it's still so upsetting. I live with it.

The fact that I am who I am today wouldn't have been possible without a lot of self-reflection (obviously going through male puberty wasn't actually 'game over' for me) and therapy but I still have the signs of PTSD from the whole experience across the latter half of my teens.

In some ways I feel I have survivors' guilt. That I made it through this, so the responsibility in dealing with it rests solely on my shoulders. Heck, this is why I'm making this extremely long thread today. But I don't know of anyone else who went through this in the UK.

Whether anyone else did, I don't know. As I said, I was meant to be referred to the Tavistock. The GIC I ended up at clearly didn't know what to do with me and looked to Zucker's (deeply abusive) methodology. But there might have been others who were likewise broken. Or killed.

It was *very hard* to be actively trans as a young teen c.2002. Thanks to Section 28 there were very few resources, so you had to be good at research to even know it was a thing beyond the sensationalist occasional lurid glossy mag stories. So maybe it was just me. I don't know.

Part of why I decided to keep living and try life after all was a desire to ensure this never happened again to anyone in the UK. But I was never in a position to help ensure that. I wasn't able to raise the alarm as a teen – Mermaids wouldn't help me then – I was powerless.

While trans youth healthcare in the UK since then has still been pretty awful and not remotely sufficient, I've at least not heard of active desistance therapy techniques being used (though I know horrifyingly trans kids are still effectively forced through wrong puberties).

However recently with the upswing in anti-trans activism and the increasing moral panic about trans kids, I've seen the ideas of desistance therapy coming back into the public eye. It's what the anti-trans orgs campaign for, I've read their documentation.

And whenever I see anyone advocating for 'desistence', I cannot think straight, because what happened to me comes flooding back, and all I can think is that it must not happen to any other child. I don't want anyone to ever have to suffer like that ever again. You can't imagine.

Those who don't believe trans is *really* a thing, or that it's some kind of adulthood perversion, or a social contagion akin to the dancing plague, they all believe that trans kids cannot be, and that you can somehow stop them if you just hold them back, tell them you're helping

that desistance therapy is a 'kindness' because it 'allows' the child to stop being trans through making them think it's their own idea, that you can keep them away from it long enough it will stop, that it's not as brutal as straight-up conversion therapy.

THIS. IS. BULLSHIT. Take it from me who actually lived it, not from some columnist who thinks transness was invented in 2010, or some parent who thinks they can un-trans their child, or some anti-trans activist who spins webs of concern trolling, or Kenneth fucking Zucker.

Desistence isn't "letting kids stop being trans", it's *forcing* them to not be, it's *disallowing* transness, it's even right there in the word itself. It doesn't work through changing the child's mind, it works through making the child eventually give up. Conversion therapy.

It's imperative that desistance therapy be seen and regarded as a variant of conversion therapy. Don't let its gaslighting nature or the fact it never *directly* pushes conversion fool you. It is abusive, it is damaging, it is inhumane, and it leaves children with lifelong damage

Desistence therapy is sold as a kinda humane 'cure' for transness. Not beating transness out of the kid but encouraging them to drop it, to 'move on', to 'learn to be a boy/girl instead'. This is all equivocation, it makes no difference in terms of harm done to the child. I know.

And on top of that, you leave the child blaming themselves, for the rest of their lives. Any parent who truly cares for their kid should rightfully view that as abhorrent, but current discourse is selling it as a panacea instead. I'm deeply deeply afraid for current trans kids.

Again, I'm the only one I'm aware of who underwent this particular kind of treatment as a child in the UK (I know plenty who had the just as harmful more traditional kind of conversion therapy, unfortunately). There may well be more.

But it means I know what it does, first-hand.

I don't want to spill my traumas quite so openly on this platform – I'm making myself very vulnerable here, opening myself up like this – but as I said, I feel a kind of responsibility to explain what happened to me, to leave a record, and to plead that it never be allowed again

I've long wondered what, if any, purpose my trauma had. There's no karmic reward for the suffering I went through. What doesn't kill you just leaves you wounded. But if I can somehow stop what happened to me happening to even one other person, I'd give my all to do that.

Hence this thread. Sorry it's been so raw. I could have made it longer but I worried about its length as it is. I just felt I needed to get it out there, especially with recent developments. I needed people to know what happened, what desistence therapy is, what it does.

I'd really appreciate it if you could spread the word, let people know, pass on my testimony, promote this thread, have this all mean something in at least some way. In some ways it feels like one of the most important things I've ever written. That people know what this is.

It's such a fucked-up thing to do a kid and I recall it every time I look in a mirror even now in my mid-30s. I'm both my current self, angry about what this does, what it did to me, and my teen self, scared, doubting every aspect of herself, feeling like her life was stolen.

Please help me stop this ever happening again.

This was deeply scary to write and share and I've been putting it off for a long time, but I felt that I had to say something, at long last.

Thank you so much for reading.

Elaine Scattermoon

PS: It seems desistence therapy is now being called 'gender exploratory therapy', but it's still the exact same thing under a different name. Don't let the phrasing fool you, it's not about exploration but rather trying to push acceptance of birth gender.

You might also see desistence therapy called 'watchful waiting' esp in UK, though

they won't tell the young patients themselves that. These euphemisms all imply a lack of harm but that's deliberately misleading: remember we're often *begging* for *urgent* help at these points.

'Doing nothing' is *not* the neutral option because it's actually 'forcing kids through wrong puberty' which is deeply traumatic body horror. Blockers on the other hand are neutral: they hold off that puberty and give the option of continuing with it later if so desired.

PS2: I went over my own diary entries from the time again and recalled that the clinicians kept trying to tell me how very masculine I was, how masculine my voice sounded, how manly I looked. None of that was true – I was actually bullied a lot for being so girly as a kid/teen.

"You're such a manly boy, look how handsome you are, hear how deep your voice is, you could easily get a girlfriend, you'll feel so much better, you've basically told us yourself"

meanwhile I'm getting thrown into the mud at school (& worse) on a regular for being a girly gay.

Thank you for writing and sharing Elaine. I'm glad you're alive, and I'm glad I got to hear your perspective. ~AS

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Resource Lists, Tweets

On Indigenous Resources

2022-12-25

"Books and Threads"

TODO: this shouldn't be in December probably. Just putting it here to clean twitter dump.

Indigenous Threads

New Amauta resources

From New Amauta ([@AmautaNew](https://twitter.com/AmautaNew) (<https://twitter.com/AmautaNew>)):

In honor of Indigenous Heritage Month, I'm doing a 5 part outlining Indigenous ideologies!

For part 1, we'll look at the ideology of Zapatismo from Mexico. A [THREAD](https://twitter.com/AmautaNew/status/1587654893908525056?t=tmtEfvl0I7KsyNoEQMGUVg&s=19) (<https://twitter.com/AmautaNew/status/1587654893908525056?t=tmtEfvl0I7KsyNoEQMGUVg&s=19>)

Although I'm not posting the entire thread here, I'll post New Amauta's [linktree](https://linktr.ee/NewAmauta) (<https://linktr.ee/NewAmauta>) which has his links on "Everything you wanted to know about Indigenous America (North and South)"

Landback Resources

From Professor Flowers (@LuaBorealis (<https://twitter.com/LuaBorealis>)) [here](https://twitter.com/LuaBorealis/status/1459572576456482821) (<https://twitter.com/LuaBorealis/status/1459572576456482821>):

I've been meaning to do this for a while. This is a compilation of some resources on land back that I found to be the most accessible. This is such an important topic, please take some time to look through these sources if you haven't already.

The first source is a panel put on by @LunaOi_VN (https://twitter.com/LunaOi_VN) and other indigenous people. They all share very informative perspectives on land back in different areas in the world. [Indigenous Panel Discussion on Decolonization and Landback \(via youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_6glqoqVdg) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_6glqoqVdg)

The next are 3 short videos I've previously shared, that @Wasiigan (<https://twitter.com/Wasiigan>) was kind enough to show me. They go over the inspirational land back movement in Canada:

- [Past](https://youtube.com/watch?v=3sVq0Cvqh3k&t=42s) (<https://youtube.com/watch?v=3sVq0Cvqh3k&t=42s>)
- [Present](https://youtube.com/watch?v=UsyyYeVHGJ0) (<https://youtube.com/watch?v=UsyyYeVHGJ0>)
- [Future](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McVEgEA4qvg) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McVEgEA4qvg>)

I've also been shown the "The Red Paper" written by the Yellowhead Institute. It's brief, beautifully written, and a great overview of land back: [Land Back: A Yellowhead Institute Red Paper \(via redpaper.yellowheadinstitute.org\)](https://redpaper.yellowheadinstitute.org/preface/) (<https://redpaper.yellowheadinstitute.org/preface/>)

Lastly here are a couple of books that [@AmautaNew] has suggested on learning about land back and Indigenous rights:

- "The Red Deal" by The Red Nation
- "New World of Indigenous Resistance" by Noam Chomsky, and voices from North, South, and Central America

This is such an important topic. Please take some time to look into these sources if you haven't already.

Book Recs

From Indigenous Peoples Movement (@IndigenousPpls (<https://twitter.com/IndigenousPpls>)) thread [here \(https://twitter.com/IndigenousPpls/status/1583202802163032066?t=2H3-4uEh1iGDBQqA6V7GKw&s=19\)](https://twitter.com/IndigenousPpls/status/1583202802163032066?t=2H3-4uEh1iGDBQqA6V7GKw&s=19):

What are books by Indigenous peoples that you think other Indigenous peoples should read? Let's educate each other

- Research Is Ceremony: Indigenous Research Methods by Shawn Wilson
- The Reconciliation Manifesto by Arthur Manuel
- Unsettling Canada by Arthur Manuel
- [Whose Land Is It Anyway? A Manual for Decolonization \(https://fpse.ca/decolonization_manual_whose_land_is_it_anyway\)](https://fpse.ca/decolonization_manual_whose_land_is_it_anyway)
- Our History is the Future by Nick Estes
- Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer.
- The Things She's Seen by Ambelin Kwaymullina and Ezekiel Kwaymullina (her other books are great as well).
- There There by Tommy Orange
- Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley.
- Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko
- Sabrina & Corina by Fajardo-Anstine Kali
- Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia.
- The taste of sugar by Marisel Vera
- Clap When You Land from Elizabeth Acevedo
- Olga Dies Dreaming by Xochitl Gonzalez
- The Altar Within by Juliet Diaz

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Resource Lists, Tweets

On RedSails Twitter and MediaLists

2022-12-26

"Lots of stuff Nia and Roderic posted"

TODO: combine with RedSails page? Separate between Nia/Roderic? idk, maybe do something.

RedSails – Jan 16, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/RodericDay/status/14827247335402537\)](https://twitter.com/RodericDay/status/14827247335402537)

The general orientation from when Nia Frome and I [Roderic Day] started [RedSails](https://redsails.org/) (<https://redsails.org/>) remains unchanged:

- Read "Flight From History?" by Domenico Losurdo
- Read Assata Shakur's Autobiography
- Read "Marx's Inferno" by William C. Roberts
- Watch "Black Sails"

Nia Frome

Buncha her tweets. I'll probably make a separate page, or maybe tack it onto the [RedSails one](https://redsails.org/posts/on-redsails) ([/posts/on-redsails](https://redsails.org/posts/on-redsails)).

**Marketing Socialism – Jan 31, 2019 ([src](https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1091004191022202880)
(<https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1091004191022202880>))**

This eventually became an article on RedSails, [Marketing Socialism](https://redsails.org/marketing-socialism/) (<https://redsails.org/marketing-socialism/>), but I saw it on twitter first.

when i was a kid i also believed 'communists should ditch that label, for PR reasons'. now i think you make more headway owning it than dishonestly disavowing it. not least because *someone will almost always bring up stalin no matter what you call yourself*

stalin is a powerful trope for normies. his name stands for the perverse emergence of injustice from the overzealous pursuit of justice. it's dramatic irony. it's a morality tale about how power corrupts.

that mythic trope stands as a barricade between normies and socialism *no matter what kind of spin you put on socialism*

what are the crimes normally attributed to stalin? the show trials, the purges, the gulag, forced collectivization... in other words state violence. the socialisms that define themselves in opposition to stalin therefore downplay state violence as much as they can.

but statehood IS (a monopoly on legitimate) violence. the question of who's doing violence to whom, and to what end, is the fundamental problem of politics. it's capitalism's answer to this question that makes us hate it so much.

"nobody does violence to anybody" sounds good, but it's not actually a political position. political positions require charting out a plausible path from where we are now into the glorious future ahead, and that path goes through socialist states.

the demonization of stalin is the demonization of socialist statehood itself. you will not convince a normie that the latter is false as long as they remain convinced that the former is true.

the ritual denunciation of stalin on "the left" 1) presents a utopia of socialism without antagonism 2) flatters first-worlders and academics 3) spares people the unpleasantness of interrogating how their ideas about the past were formed 4) makes a virtue of losing and waiting

if we decline to draw from the entire history of socialism-in-power in favor of utopian socialism or pragmatic liberalism, the range of results we can obtain will be limited to those achieved by utopian socialism (evanescent communes) and pragmatic liberalism (hellworld)

pretending our new thing is sui generis and doesn't have anything to do with bad stalinism *doesn't actually mean we'll face different problems or have better solutions*. stalin faced problems that were generic to socialism. socialism isn't just a label, it's a class project.

you don't actually transcend that project just by calling yourself something else, just like you don't transcend capitalism by calling yourself a post-capitalist.

**Why is Materialism Proletarian? – Jul 15, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1415685579430371328)
(<https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1415685579430371328>))**

why is materialism proletarian? because the objective world exerts a greater unifying force on the thinking of the proletariat than it does on the thinking of any other class. the bourgeoisie, a minority, can more easily wrap itself in myths and delusions of grandeur

i think that, in an important sense, proletarian standpoint epistemology = materialism

so wherever marxism becomes massive it becomes more materialist, more marxist

the material world is what we share, ineluctably. the urgency with which it presses itself upon our thoughts is inversely proportional to our insulation against it, insulation in the form of money/power/privilege

liberalism is a marvelous technology for sparing the bourgeoisie the unpleasantness of having to synthesize or hash out their various conflicting worldviews, it's a license for boundless subjectivism

because each bourgeois can be counted on to step forward when it counts, that is, to defend their class interest in maintaining exploitation, keeping their insulation nice and thick, there is no need to reach any higher agreement on an objective basis

the proletariat, which needs cooperation to survive, which is brutally exposed to the exigencies of life on this planet, can't afford to leave conflicts unresolved, it *needs* objectivity

the proletariat as a class has more sense organs and greater sensitivity to the material world than any other class in history

**Problems – Aug 2, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1422056559132258308)
(<https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1422056559132258308>))**

capitalism creates problems that only socialism can solve. socialism is inevitable only in the sense that a logical conclusion is inescapable, not in the historic sense—it is of course possible that humans won't solve their problems

Pessimism and Nostalgia – Oct 23, 2021

it's bizarre to see tankies accused of both pessimism and nostalgia when like... we're the ones who think socialism is winning

eschatological optimism is no optimism at all

and if you've had the misfortune of speaking to an anti-stalinist leftist for more than two seconds you know they're giant fucking nerds about what could have been, that's their bread and butter

similarly w/r/t the idea that we're only in it for the affective payoff of taboo-breaking, as if there were no affects associated with the anti-stalinist left (getting off at being smarter and more decent than everyone in history, potentially leading the "true" revolution, etc.)

evidently some important taboos need breaking, also

in general the psychologizing argument that paints your enemy as unwell, moved by pathological motives, can basically be turned against anyone, and is therefore abstract, empty. what matters is the *content* of the hope, the *content* of the nostalgia, *which* taboos get broken

iPhones – Nov 8, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1457783112444698624)
(<https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1457783112444698624>))

re: the "you're a communist with an iphone" thing

communists are the ones who believe that the incredible wealth of our society, though the product of heinous exploitation, should be made to serve the great masses, that capitalism has made unprecedented things possible

the WHOLE POINT is to detourn, hijack, repurpose, salvage, adapt these things that are the product of class society in order to bring about a classless one. you don't DO that by keeping your hands off all the dirty products of class society (i.e. basically everything)

furthermore:

the most ethical consumption would be to buy clothes handmade by versace himself

the contradiction between being a communist and having an iphone is the contradiction between use-value and value at the heart of the commodity itself

the law of value or abstract labor is a kind of monstrous drive to accumulate coupled with a monstrous indifference to concrete particulars. use-value, by contrast, is *all about* concrete particulars – if you want people to flourish, you want them to enjoy use-values.

the underlying problem is that we produce stuff in this anarchic, clumsy, uncoordinated way, that our labor is socialized only after the fact, and so the law of value runs roughshod over everybody's flourishing

making a socialist society means reasserting the sovereignty of conscious deliberation (the kind of thing iphones are very good at enabling btw) over and against the unconscious rule of blind economic forces

**Replacements – Nov 27, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1464721319426236426)
(<https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1464721319426236426>))**

whatever replaces capitalism has to be better than capitalism *at* doing stuff, not just better in an abstract/moral sense

protracted economic war

**Race – Dec 30, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1476604613717540870)
(<https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1476604613717540870>))**

it's a race between socialism and human extinction

**Anarchism or Socialism? – Jan 24, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1485680106844700672)
(<https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1485680106844700672>))**

there's definitely an asymmetry between MLs and anticommunist leftists: MLs can explain anticommunism as stemming from propaganda, ignorance, and social pressures, whereas anticommunists can only explain marxism-leninism by saying that a lot of people just choose evil

this has to do with the fact that we have more experience being them than they do being us

**Moving to the left – Feb 9, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1491470985626894342)
(<https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1491470985626894342>))**

you move to the left as you gain an awareness of crimes that are much worse than theft and murder: big, abstract crimes of using many people wrongly, squeezing them dry, denying them access to the means by which they might flourish, frittering away their lives on stupid nonsense

all the baby-brained rightists can do is dial up the made up death toll of communism because they haven't progressed beyond like stage 4 of moral development

i wasn't sure about this tweet because like, if you think about it, both the preconventional stages 1-2 and the conventional stages 3-4 are really just punishment avoidance, minor variations on what is essentially stage 1 thinking

**Markets – Apr 13, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1514323213047799818)
(<https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1514323213047799818>))**

the claim "markets are incompatible with socialism/communism" conflates two questions:

1. are markets a feature of communism? (no)
2. must markets disappear immediately in order for something to be recognizable as socialism? (no)

once again, by erasing any distinction between lower and higher, socialism and communism, ultras can revoke the socialism card of any society that has ever existed and render the term completely speculative, imaginary, philosophical, ideal

eschatological

**Consistency vs Completeness – Oct 22, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1583992142225022977)
(<https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1583992142225022977>))**

locality/consistency/non-contradiction

realism/completeness/holism

you gain the latter only by sacrificing the former, with which it's mutually exclusive

realism \approx holism because realism says there's only *one* objective world (that's what objectivity means, the oneness of it, there not being as many worlds as there are perspectives) and that means realism hinges on counting the whole world *as* one, i.e. holism

locality \approx non-contradiction because it has to do with a subjective narrowing of one's focus (*only* in the sense x, *only* meaning y) with the *goal* of attaining consistency, self-identity, for one's objects. the worst slur a dialectician knows is "partial, one-sided"

sorry to break it to you but the interdependence of all things got in there before your little controlled experimental setup and it ALWAYS WILL

**Imagining – Oct 31, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1587230560476340225)
(<https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1587230560476340225>))**

the correct form is the imperative: stop imagining the end of the world, start imagining the end of capitalism

**Understanding – Nov 1, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1587508187229573121)
(<https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1587508187229573121>))**

understanding stuff in a more proletarian way = understanding it better

this is because our *existing* understanding is so deeply biased by accumulated historical privileging of aristocratic and bourgeois perspectives

**Nov 3, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1588220817317453825)
(<https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1588220817317453825>))**

re: idealism vs. materialism, philosophy, the ivory tower, anti-intellectualism, kant vs. dogmatism, credentialism, communization of the epistemic, etc.

the basic question: "who has the right to truth?"

one answer with obvious appeal: "everyone!" but that can't be right, because people disagree. unless somehow our notion of truth could encompass those disagreements? but then it would no longer point in any particular direction, it wouldn't resemble *objective* truth at all.

there's going to have to be some kind of hierarchy, some axis by which we measure who's closer and who's farther away from the truth. perhaps multiple axes? that sounds nicely pluralist, but again it waters down our conception of truth to the point where it can't do what we want.

so you're gonna have to bite the bullet and admit that truth is unevenly distributed. the obvious next question is: who's got it?

oops, there's been some drift from the first tweet. "who has the right to [declare or discover] truth" has turned into "who's got truth?" before i was talking about inequalities in its production (permits), now i'm talking about inequalities in its possession (poverty/wealth)

so we could side with those who aren't allowed to declare or discover truth, or we could side with those who are richer in truth

the obvious dialectical temptation is to come up with some sort of reasoning to show that these are in fact the same people

oh wait i've already done that:

understanding stuff in a more proletarian way = understanding it better

this is because our *existing* understanding is so deeply biased by accumulated historical privileging of aristocratic and bourgeois perspectives

Nov 7, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1589660048656986112)
(<https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1589660048656986112>))

the tactic of pointing out inconsistencies in other people's politics jumped the shark like six seasons ago. it's time to start earnestly seeking/furthering the good, folks

stop hiding behind hypocrisy gotchas and just tell us what you think ought to be done

"but nia," you might say, "where does that leave immanent critique, the almighty dialectic, the universal irony of the world, all that jazz?"

i think calling out hypocrisy is justifiable iff you're able to identify the consistency (unity) underlying the inconsistency (contradiction), because that usually makes your own position w/r/t the unity in question clear and unequivocal

Roderic Day

Feb 26, 2021 ([src](#)

(<https://twitter.com/RodericDay/status/1365287733523083266>))

Please understand what Jacobin and NovaraMedia are: capitalist propaganda for lefty audiences.

Stop apologizing and making excuses for them. Stop trying to both-sides this, to salvage this. Unsubscribe today.

"Modern" Tendencies – Jul 30, 2022 ([src](#)

(<https://twitter.com/RodericDay/status/1553578289230487552>))

An interesting thing about studying theory instead of just being born again every Thursday is that you can see how, far from fresh, many of these "modern" tendencies are just remakes:

- Maoists are Proudhonists
- PatSocs are Dühringites
- SocDems are Kautskyites

Labour Demands in NA – Nov 4, 2022 ([src](#)

(<https://twitter.com/RodericDay/status/1588725053193322500>))

The nascent strike wave in North America will only really become fearsome and achieve full maturity when the labour demand morphs from

"Give us our fair share, capitalists!"

to

"We don't need you, you're parasites. Get out of the way."

I've done a great deal of criticizing the syndicalist cult of self-management, insofar as Westerners sneer at poor nations developing through state capitalism.

This criticism has a dual, though.

Advanced capitalist economies *are* basically fully ready for self-management.

**Nov 7, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/RodericDay/status/1589748793896943621)
(<https://twitter.com/RodericDay/status/1589748793896943621>))**

This is wrong, and wrong in an important way.

If you believe propaganda is the driving force of the status quo, America has never been stronger.

If you believe it's a mere alibi, and that class stability depended on material concessions, America has never been weaker.

(quotetweeting Hampton Institute (@HamptonThink
(<https://twitter.com/HamptonThink>)) [here](https://twitter.com/HamptonThink/status/1589746789082894336)
(<https://twitter.com/HamptonThink/status/1589746789082894336>))

Anti-communism in the US does not come from "free thinking."

It comes from the most extensive and long-lasting government propaganda/psychological operation in history.

Disagreeing about whether America's biggest strength is its propaganda power isn't a "mere quibble."

It radically reshapes how you interpret the current situation and how you respond to it!

Consistent materialists cannot attribute infinite power to "propaganda machines."

Media Lists

**Her faves – Jun 29, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1277464974995206156)
(<https://twitter.com/NiaFrome/status/1277464974995206156>))**

the miracle in milan (1951), heartwarming af
northern lights (1978)
heaven's gate (1980)
the working class goes to heaven (1971)
missing (1982)
state of siege (1972)
salt of the earth (1954)
the strategy of the snail (1993)
the wind that shakes the barley (2006)
the battle of algiers (1966)
i am cuba (1964)
burn! (1969)
romero (1989)
rome, open city (1945)
born in flames (1983)
the act of killing (2012)
the gospel according to st. matthew (1964)
if.... (1968)
the rest that occur to me are well-known enough that i won't bother repeating them, but ultimately jodi dean is right:

Every movie is about class struggle.

**MediaList – Mar 2, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/RodericDay/status/1366960353205231617)
<https://twitter.com/RodericDay/status/1366960353205231617>)**

I'm always ranting about how bad most media is, how bad politics cannot be isolated since they corrode theme and plot and aesthetics, making most stuff unwatchable.

So I'm gonna just list media I enjoyed. Some may be mega-hits everyone's heard of, some not.

search kw: MediaList

Kundo: Age of the Rampant (2014) – Korean film about revolutionary bandits.

The Wind that Shakes the Barley (2006) – Irish film about revolutionary independence guerrillas.

The Motorcycle Diaries (2004) – Origin story of famous revolutionary Che Guevara.

Rang De Basanti (2006) – Story of a group of friends in India changing as a result of preparing to play the part of revolutionaries in a documentary.

Bacurau (2019) – Incredibly interesting story about a town in Brazil.

Black Sails (2014–2017) – An allegory of the Russian Revolution set in the Pirate Republic of Nassau.

Sing Street (2016) – Nice story about a bunch of Irish kids starting a band.

Mangal Pandey: The Rising (2005) – A local leader in India leads the 1857 mutiny against British rule.

Spartacus (2010–2013) – About the slave revolt in Rome.

Snowpiercer (2013) – A very metaphorical take of a revolution from the back to the front of a train.

Cambridge Spies (2003) – Dramatization of the story of Cambridge rich kids who used their elite status to deeply infiltrate US/UK institutions on behalf of the USSR.

The Battle of Algiers (1966) – Rebels resist the French occupation of Algeria.

Virunga (2014) – A documentary set in Congo about people resisting and exposing a disgusting UK-based oil and gas company Pharos Energy/SOCO International.

Ping Pong: The Animation (2014) – A bunch of kids in Japan contemplate the meaning of life via ping-pong.

Let The Bullets Fly (2010) – A rogue bandit, a weasel imposter, and a crook mobster collide in 1920s China.

A World Without Thieves (2004) – A bunch of master thieves wage a secret competition aboard a packed train in eastern China.

True Blood (2008–2014) – Very uneven, but I still really like it. Supernatural camp in Louisiana, featuring violent anti-vampire mobs chanting "Make America Human Again" in... 2012?!

Your Name (2016) – This movie cycles through a lot of genres, and may seem out of place here, but it's got one vignette in particular about Doing The Right Thing that works on me every time.

Great Teacher Onizuka (1998) – Bike gang leader tries to fulfill dream of being a teacher, but it's a challenge.

Anne with an E (2017–2019) – A girl gets adopted in Canada, and has to either learn to fit in or transform things around her to fit in with her.

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Modern Communists, Media Lists, Tweets

On Prole Academy

2022-12-27

"Briefings and Book Reviews for working people in a hurry"

Prole Academy

[Prole Academy \(https://www.proleacademy.com/\)](https://www.proleacademy.com/) is a "radical book blog for working people in a hurry" – they outline Marxist theory in order to give workers quick overviews of books and concepts, to help them start their education.

Although I found them on twitter, I won't link their threads since they're image heavy – the same content can be found on their website.

Their site has [briefings \(https://www.proleacademy.com/reviews/series/briefings/\)](https://www.proleacademy.com/reviews/series/briefings/) – in-depth looks at a concept, event, or person that matters, designed to be read with as much or as little time as you have. You can find their first briefing series at [Marxism 101 \(https://www.proleacademy.com/reviews/series/marxism-101/\)](https://www.proleacademy.com/reviews/series/marxism-101/).

They also have [book reviews \(https://www.proleacademy.com/latest-posts/review/\)](https://www.proleacademy.com/latest-posts/review/) on leftist works. From classics like [State and Rev \(https://www.proleacademy.com/review/the-state-and-revolution-vladimir-lenin/\)](https://www.proleacademy.com/review/the-state-and-revolution-vladimir-lenin/) to modern works like David Graeber's [Bullshit Jobs \(https://www.proleacademy.com/review/bullshit-jobs-david-graeber/\)](https://www.proleacademy.com/review/bullshit-jobs-david-graeber/), they provide quick one-pagers and highlights to get caught up in brief. Although I always recommend referencing the originals (as you should with anything you read on my site), summaries and articles can be a great place to start. So, thanks to Benjamin Walker and the folks at Prole Academy for trying to make theory more accessible to the masses!

They also have a [bookshelf \(https://www.proleacademy.com/bookshelf/\)](https://www.proleacademy.com/bookshelf/), [courses \(https://www.proleacademy.com/course-listing/\)](https://www.proleacademy.com/course-listing/), a [blog \(https://www.proleacademy.com/blog/\)](https://www.proleacademy.com/blog/), some [about info \(https://www.proleacademy.com/about-us/\)](https://www.proleacademy.com/about-us/), and a [buymeacoffee \(https://www.buymeacoffee.com/ProleAcademy\)](https://www.buymeacoffee.com/ProleAcademy) if you want to support their efforts.

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Modern Communists, Resource Lists

On Eugene Debs

2022-12-28

"and US Socialism in early 20th century, and the IWW"

On Debs

This'll be a (real) page at some point, with more info about Debs and that era of history. But for now, just some quotes off twitter.

The capitalists are combined against you. They are reducing wages. They have control of the courts. They are doing everything they can to destroy your power. You have got to follow their example. You have got to unify your forces.

Your grandfather made a pair of shoes, and they were his own. You make a thousand pairs of shoes where he made one. You do not own a single one of them. You can produce wealth in fabulous abundance, but you have not got it. Why not?

You are satisfied with too little. The average worker with a wage that will keep body and soul together is content, and he is told that he is blessed to be content. I am doing what little I can to incite him to discontent. Intelligent discontent is the torchbearer of civilization.

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Famous Communists

On Homelessness and Homeless Resources

2022-12-29

"This is an important topic and I want to convey the seriousness with which I care about it, but also I'm moving really fast to get stuff done. I'll come back later"

TODO: Should also link resources

TODO: not in december probably

Homelessness Tweets

Shelters

From Piper (@yourfriendpiper (<https://twitter.com/yourfriendpiper>)) on her thread [here](https://twitter.com/yourfriendpiper/status/1588239681954582529?t=sTWYBKEwmbpBUJOuBemh4q&s=19) (<https://twitter.com/yourfriendpiper/status/1588239681954582529?t=sTWYBKEwmbpBUJOuBemh4q&s=19>):

Once again repeating: if large numbers of people would prefer to sleep outside in 40 degrees and raining over the shelter offered, the problem is with what you're offering.

(Not an actual policy suggestion) Everyone who supports "shelter enforcement" should be forced at the hands of armed state agents to live in a shelter for a week.

How to get off the streets

Comrade Red, @IronProle (<https://twitter.com/IronProle>), gave this response to the question "If you woke up homeless, hungry, with \$20 to your name, and had none of the connections you have now, how would you get off the streets?"

Id buy some dope and trade it up til i could get a hotel room. Might take me like three or four days, but id find some under the table work and slide into a low credit "apartment" in a few weeks. Id have a real apartment in a few months, with like 22 roommates.

Ive done it a couple times. Long hours sitting in the QFC common space, buying something occasionally so i don't get booted.

But the reality for most people is that they dont. And the longer they stay homeless, statistically.

Statistically the longer one stays homeless the more likely you are to remain that way. The loss of a mailing address is often an insurmountable barrier among other pitfalls you cannot possibly predict.

The fact is that in King County, HALF of houseless people work one or more jobs despite their lack of housing.

This fact is why many houseless people are "service resistant" because all too often sleeping in a shelter conflicts with work.

Strict entry times for shelters make sense logistically but human wise, its an awful policy that drives people working hard to better their conditions choose to sleep in a ditch.

Not to mention the safety, security and hygiene concerns of non profit shelters and their temporary, underpaid staff who are given nothing abd expected to work miracles. It leads to unsafe and unsanitary conditions that people are correct in rejecting.

The hyper policing and vigilante "justice" from housed people increases the chances of becoming caught up in the legal system. They get you once and then they keep coming for you. You never really leave the carceral system.

So now you have no address, you are working under the table. You have a police record that follows you everywhere.

The barriers continue to mount and you learn to cope. Housed life becomes a far off memory.

At least youve still got some income until you fall off the roof of a house at work. No workers comp for you.

You go to the emergency room and they treat you like an animal and discharge you with aspirin.

You cant sleep. Your old boss doesnt answer your calls or texts. There is no work and it hurts to breath anyhow. You couldnt do labor if you wanted to.

Your cash drains away and youve lost the last the last of the belongings you had from home. Your clothes are all moldy or destroyed.

You ate hungry but the nearest store is 3 miles away uphill.

Someone else in the jungle offers you a pain pill. You have no way of knowing what it is but the pain is unbearable. This is a bittersweet moment of mercy.

It works. You can move or breath but the next 5 years is a blur of increasing pain and disability. Youve overdosed on pressed pills, your fellow campers saving your life.

Nobody recognizes you on the street. Youve become a corporeal ghost.

You have days of full on psychosis. You get thrown out of stores. The local non profits have written you off, since you have so little chance of improving their city stats to get funding. You are gristle.

You go in and out of county lockup for eating stolen food in the store. The employees beat you up regularly but you have no recourse.

One winter you die unceremoniously.

There is a meager display setup where you perished but houses kids light it on fire in a few days.

This could be anyone.

Weve met houseless mathematicians, ex doctors, engineers and sooooo many blue collar folks.

You are not in full control of your health or circumstances.

Anyone can lose it all overnight for no reason, for no fault.

Read more of Red's thoughts in [On IronProle \(/posts/on-ironprole\)](#)

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Resource Lists, Tweets

On Unions

2022-12-30

"Why and how we should be working together"

Another one starting as a tweet dump

Union-related tweets

Starbucks – Nov 1, 2022

Just a couple days ago, on November 1st 2022, Starbucks Workers United ([@SBWorkersUnited](https://twitter.com/SBWorkersUnited)) posted updates [here](https://twitter.com/SBWorkersUnited/status/1587530037443678210?t=8uPVCxl-kUTL7tvmn7kfqQ&s=19) (<https://twitter.com/SBWorkersUnited/status/1587530037443678210?t=8uPVCxl-kUTL7tvmn7kfqQ&s=19>):

UNION WINS THREAD ALERT: Less than a year ago, there were ZERO unionized Starbucks stores in the US. Today, there are 258! Let's take a look at some of the incredible things workers have fought for and WON over the past year...

One of our first public demands was fighting for seniority pay for baristas. How did Starbucks respond? By implementing the first seniority pay in the company's 50 year history.

Union workers raised the issue of inadequate and failing equipment. What were we able to pressure the company into doing? Store renovations ACROSS the country, including new ovens.

After working through a global pandemic, our campaign demanded that workers get paid a living wage. Starbucks acquiesced to our demands and implemented a \$15 minimum wage across the country.

Stores that have been closed, that have unionized, are able to bargain with the company to ensure that partners are transferred to a preferred location and are able to keep their guaranteed hours.

One of the first proposals that unionized Starbucks workers in Elmwood brought to the company was a policy on a more tolerant dress code. Soon after this proposal was presented, Starbucks implemented our ideas at stores nation-wide.

Another one of our proposals that Starbucks has implemented across the country is faster sick time accrual, which is something that unionized workers have been advocating for since the very beginning of our campaign.

Our campaign is responsible for the removal of Kevin Johnson as CEO of Starbucks and ushering in almost an entirely new C-Suite of Starbucks executives. Union-busters like Rossann Williams & John Culver have both left (or are leaving) the company.

Not only did our campaign pressure Starbucks to implement long overdue changes, but we continue to make the company concede to our demands by striking and other actions.

For example, the campaign's action have resulted in bad managers being removed from stores, the purchasing of new equipment, and acceptance of workers' availability.

And these are all things that we accomplished even without a contract! Union partners continue the fight for everything from adequate staffing to better benefits to health and safety at work.

Starbucks doesn't want us to organize because they know that when we organize, we win.

Despite Starbucks trying to do everything to stop us from organizing, partners continue to stand up, fight back, and organize. If this is all that we won less than a year into our campaign, just imagine the possibilities of what is to come.

Great work to the workers of Starbucks! Here's the Starbucks Workers United [bit.ly \(https://bit.ly/m/sbworkersunited\)](https://bit.ly/m/sbworkersunited) with links to their site and resources.

Starbucks: externalities – Oct 23, 2022

Though we can see workers gaining power at these Starbucks, that didn't come easy. As we see from an ex-Starbucks employee in Ithaca, NY (@valleyboyboy (<https://twitter.com/valleyboyboy>)) [here](https://twitter.com/valleyboyboy/status/1584304485148798976) (<https://twitter.com/valleyboyboy/status/1584304485148798976>):

My life is terrible since Starbucks fired me. I can't get a job despite filling out every app I can. I have no money. My internet is out bc non payment. It has caused irreparable damage to my mental health. All because I started a union.

This company is evil. I have no backup plan. No family to help. I have lived off gofundme money until understandably people couldn't give anymore.

I have nobody. No friends. Every day is bad. I can't even watch movies. My one refuge. I have to cancel all my services now.

I am losing my stability. I will have no home. All because I took a chance to make my workplace better for myself and my coworkers.

Starbucks doesn't care. None of the management that pretended to be my family for years reached out in any way.

Now I'm rotting in poverty.

Fuck you @Starbucks

I'm sorry to hear these stories (and worse) constantly as I see workers try to fight for their rights across the US and the world. The callous treatment demonstrates, *clearly*, the necessity of unions and stronger worker protections. It should not be possible for corporations to inflict poverty upon workers who are struggling to survive!

re: twitter – Nov 2, 2022

As Anne V Clark (@annevclark (<https://twitter.com/annevclark>)) says [here](https://twitter.com/annevclark/status/1587815235469066241?t=il1B3ulwTNVOLhZAWBujMw&s=19) (<https://twitter.com/annevclark/status/1587815235469066241?t=il1B3ulwTNVOLhZAWBujMw&s=19>):

The reason unions are badass is if a billionaire walks into your office and starts demanding you work 12 hours a day 7 days a week to prove to him you deserve your job, you and your coworkers can legally make that one of the worst days of his life.

Make Elon write all the code! From what I understand he's some kind of genius who never sleeps! Should be easy for him!

Employer: we don't think we need you!

Employees: okay (goes home)

Employer: no wait

COUGH COUGH <https://code-cwa.org> (<https://code-cwa.org>)

Thanks Anne, for the good points, and sorry to all the workers who have been crawling through the mud at twitter to keep the site running through what I understand to have been a hellish year. Your work is appreciated, as are you. Maybe not from above, but from some guy writing his little website. Thanks, really.

Other links

Amazon Labor Union

[ALU \(https://www.amazonlaborunion.org/\)](https://www.amazonlaborunion.org/) ([@amazonlabor \(https://twitter.com/amazonlabor\)](https://twitter.com/amazonlabor)) is a worker-led movement to put power back in the hands of Amazon employees and establish our right to negotiate for a better, safer, and more equitable workplace.

Their president, Christian Smalls ([@Shut_downAmazon \(https://twitter.com/Shut_downAmazon\)](https://twitter.com/Shut_downAmazon)) is also on [instagram \(https://www.instagram.com/chris.smalls_/\)](https://www.instagram.com/chris.smalls_/) if you want updates there.

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Tweets

On Aren LeBrun

2022-12-31

"aka @ProustMalone"

Tweetdump from Aren LeBrun, aka [@ProustMalone on twitter \(https://twitter.com/proustmalone\)](https://twitter.com/proustmalone) and [@arenlebrun on tiktok \(http://www.tiktok.com/@arenlebrun\)](http://www.tiktok.com/@arenlebrun).

I found his thoughts/threads compelling, and I looked towards his [bookshelf](#) (<https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/62454238-aren-lebrun>) to understand where he was learning from. He explicitly pushed his audience towards Michael Parenti, who I've covered [here](#) ([/posts/on-parenti](#)) – for that, I'll always be grateful.

Oct 21, 2019 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1186270749058830338>))

I want to like Bernie Sanders, I really do, but I can't help but notice that he's causing poor people to act very angry and confident now rather than be quietly resigned to the depravities of capitalism the way I've grown to enjoy.

Our system is not an accident. It is not a product inherited by otherworldly design. It is a direct consequence of daily human choice. Billionaires choose to hoard the wealth of a thousand lifetimes while sitting idly by as people starve to death every day all around them.

Feb 22, 2020 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1231251456994545669>))

My dearest centrists: Bernie Sanders isn't "forcing you to vote for Trump." He is simply forcing you to be honest with yourself about what your politics have always been.

Mar 8, 2020 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1236797628031123456>))

The scientist who created the polio vaccine didn't patent it and he saved lives all over the world. Some people aren't motivated by greed and domination over others.

Mar 13, 2020 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1238567438851112960>))

SCOOP: Cuban doctors have discovered an antiviral for #COVID19 and are collaborating with China, Italy, and Venezuela. This is what happens when you invest in science and public health rather than spend \$800,000,000,000 a year blowing up children.

Source: "Interestingly, Recombinant Interferon Alpha 2B has been in Cuba for 39 years; the country began the development of this protein with antiviral properties at the same time that the biotechnology industry was being invented in 1981." [link at workers.org \(https://www.workers.org/2020/03/46641/\)](https://www.workers.org/2020/03/46641/)

Second source: "Since Jan. 25, the ChangHeber Company located in Changchun city has been producing the famous Cuban antiviral, which is one of 30 medicines chosen by the National Health Commission for its potential to cure respiratory diseases." [link at telesurenglish.net \(https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/cuban-antiviral-used-against-coronavirus-in-china-20200206-0005.html\)](https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/cuban-antiviral-used-against-coronavirus-in-china-20200206-0005.html)

Mar 14, 2020 ([src \(https://twitter.com/david_j_roth/status/1238896526593789954\)](https://twitter.com/david_j_roth/status/1238896526593789954))

David Roth ([@david_j_roth \(https://twitter.com/david_j_roth\)](https://twitter.com/david_j_roth)) tweeted:

Republicans asking to exempt the largest and most profitable companies on earth from providing paid sick leave during a pandemic is one of the most Republican things imaginable, and Democrats capitulating to Get Things Done is one of the most Democrat things imaginable.

to which Aren replied:

The question isn't, 'Are there no major differences between the parties?' but, 'Do the differences make a difference?'

—Michael Parenti

Mar 24, 2020 ([src \(https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1242414555659149312\)](https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1242414555659149312))

What has the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation done for you in the time of COVID19? Nothing? Perhaps taxing the shit out of billionaires is better than relying on the tender mercies of breadcrumb philanthropy.

“Hasn’t [BILLIONAIRE PHILANTHROPIST] done enough?”

No, because we are out of ICU beds and ventilators while the rich remain richer than kings and pharaohs.

May 28, 2020 (src
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1265862935777288192>))

Looting a billion dollar corporation during a pandemic is an act of revolution you candy-ass liberal fuckheads. I will not be taking questions at this time.

May 30, 2020 (src
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1266581618573152256>))

The forced end of Bernie Sanders’ campaign was not the end of revolution in America. It was the end of negotiation.

There’s not a magical 1:1 relationship between Bernie Sanders and these protests. Many of these people presumably (and understandably) don’t care much about electoral politics. But the radical ferment Sanders was tapping into is the same basic energy fueling this social rupture.

Jun 7, 2020 (src
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1269798208877854726>))

Absurdity is the state assigning you The Grapes of Wrath at 16 and tear gassing you at 26 for understanding it.

I'll be ever'where – wherever you look. Wherever they's a fight so hungry people can eat, I'll be there. Wherever they's a cop beatin' up a guy, I'll be there...An' when our folks eat the stuff they raise an' live in the houses they build, why, I'll be there.

The US education system isn’t designed to train people for a life of thought and investigation. It’s a tedium endurance regimen that helps stymie the suicide rate in an industrialized economy. Kids get tested on Steinbeck at 10 and are punished for still thinking about him at 11.

Jun 7, 2020

The Anti-Communist Impulse by Michael Parenti (1969):

That [young radicals] are passionately concerned with the evils of war, poverty, racism, and economic exploitation weighs much less in the minds of many liberals than that some of them have committed acts of incivility.

In this age of missiles, militarism, and mass murder, the young protestors are accused of being peculiar purveyors of violence. Thus do many liberals expend more time attacking those who protest the enormities of this world than attacking those who perpetrate such enormities.

Or as I like to put it:

A Bernie Bro was rude to me online

And I intend to cite it as the chief piece of evidence in my forthcoming argument for why poor people shouldn't have health insurance.

**Jun 7, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1269791535534690304)
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1269791535534690304>))**

If you happen to like any of my posts on here, most of the reason why is due to a colossally important Marxist writer by the name of Michael Parenti. A lot of people message me looking for reading recommendations. To all of you: I cannot recommend Parenti enough, especially now.

Legitimately a life-changing tweet. Thanks again, comrade. Since 2020, I've come up with my own thoughts [on Parenti \(/posts/on-parenti\)](#).

**Jun 22, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1275176898776137728)
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1275176898776137728>))**

It's time to get military recruiters the fuck out of our high schools now.

And while we're at it, it's time to set our political sights on nothing less than the full abolition of poverty in America, because hunger, hopelessness and desperation are the best military recruiters of all.

Jun 27, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1277079968598687744)
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1277079968598687744>))

NPR is news for people who are okay with war and genocide as long as the paperwork is filled out correctly.

National Petroleum Radio

National Pentagon Radio

Noncommittal Preening Republicans

Public radio is a vital service and it's one I support completely. But NPR is not public radio. It is a soothing chorus for liberals who do not know their calming, educational drive to work every morning is being orchestrated by the ideological tyranny of corporate capital.

I've listened to NPR for years. Like all corporate-funded media outlets, not once did its coverage call into question the imperialistic drive of US foreign policy decisions. Such a glaring omission of critical questioning is not "objectivity," it's bias in favor of the powerful.

NPR's rep as a liberal outlet can only exist within an overall media universe that's extremely far-right in its framing of economic and political policies.

Think: NPR has a daily show called Marketplace. Does it have any companion program about the labor struggle? No.

The omission of a real labor section in most corporate-owned MSM outlets (NPR included) is just one of hundreds of examples of the silent but powerful dogmas of "objective" centrism. These dogmas quietly dictate American audiences' sense of what has news value and what does not.

Why is it that there's no dedicated Labor, Climate, Housing, or War section in any of our MSM outlets? These issues impact vastly more readers/viewers than the stock market does, but the latter gets more press than those previous 4 categories combined. That is a conscious choice.

Why is it that so many Americans watch and read and listen to the news every day, and so few have even a decent understanding of capitalism or imperialism? Why do we have the most politically illiterate population in the world while having the most-watched 24/7 "news" of anyone?

TLDR – If you've gone your whole life considering yourself fairly well-informed, and you're not ignited with rage by the inhuman marauding our oligarchy has unleashed on foreign nations and its own people throughout this century and the last, NPR is likely a major reason why.

Jul 3, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1279051632114831362)
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1279051632114831362>))

Money is not real. It is an abstraction used to represent value, which is real. Value is created by labor. The working class creates nearly all the value in a society and keeps almost none of it. Part of the function of the wage concept is to mask this very obvious form of theft.

Jul 13, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1282730843342016518)
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1282730843342016518>))

"[Philanthropy] is not a solution; it is an aggravation of the difficulty...Charity degrades and demoralizes. It is immoral to use private property in order to alleviate the horrible evils that result from the institution of private property."

—Oscar Wilde

Aug 10, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1293014380704079876)
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1293014380704079876>))

A lot of talk on here about the “end of democracy” in America. I’m confused as to when the beginning of it was. The framers abhorred democracy and saw it (correctly) as a threat to the class privileges of rich landowners. That sentiment has carried straight through to today.

The rich have always used false democracy to placate the multitude. James Madison, Federalist 10: “To secure private rights against the danger of [rebellion] and at the same time preserve...the form of a popular government is the great object to which our inquiries are directed.”

Many Americans have a basic (if underdeveloped) awareness of how racist the founders were; far fewer understand how much they despised the unpropertied classes across all demographics. Hamilton said, “The [masses] are turbulent and changing; they seldom judge or determine right.”

Elbridge Gerry (5th US Vice President) referred to democracy as “the worst of all political evils.” This he said amid the ongoing genocide of millions of native people in order to acquire the land and resources for the early development of American industrial capitalism.

American history is littered with powerful voices admonishing democratic rule. Edmund Randolph, a US attorney who was the ninth governor of Virginia, said that the country’s problems were a consequence of the “turbulence and follies of democracy.”

The Convention delegates in Philadelphia debated hotly for weeks about the wording of the Constitution. But it was not a democratic debate between rich and poor; it was the factional squabbling of merchants, slave masters and manufacturers vying to defend their holdings.

Our government was instituted as the rich person's equivalent of a union. It existed to serve the interests of the privileged class, not least of which was protection from a landless multitude whose appetite for liberty was not satisfied by the pretentious screed of landlords.

A Twitter thread is not the place to detail every piece of evidence that proves this argument. For more, read Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States" and Michael Parenti's "Democracy For the Few," both still legal only because very few decide to read them.

Maintaining the illusion of democratic rule has been an essential piece to the overall maintenance of the American empire as it has developed through the centuries. The ruling class in this country (yes, there is a ruling class) has done what it wants from the beginning.

All the various iterations of progressives and socialists who've developed in America through the generations to resist the dominant capitalist orthodoxy arrive at the same conclusion: democratic freedom means nothing in a system designed to impose economic tyranny on the masses.

All of this is to push back on the liberal argument that workers ought to support a system of rapacious exploitation, corporate monopoly, and genocidal market expansion in order to preserve some rhetorical gimmick that gives the system a legitimacy it's never deserved.

**Aug 23, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1297560363920248832)
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1297560363920248832>))**

I'm sorry your mom died of COVID and you're living with two roommates out of a 2006 Nissan Pathfinder ransacked nightly by Walmart's private security forces as California burns to ash an acre per second on the horizon but have you considered there's a CHEETO IN THE WHITE HOUSE

The millennial and Gen Z suburban lifestyle dream is to park your three bed no bath 2006 Nissan Pathfinder in a Target parking lot instead of those poor fucks who have to park their shit at the Walmart.

**Sep 28, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1310774832439623680)
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1310774832439623680>))**

If I were a salaried Vox reporter I would spend more time asking why only two Democrats voted “No” last week on the 161st judge Trump has appointed to a district court than I would about the 1.07% of the popular vote Jill Stein got four years ago.

Let’s simplify this for the highly respected political pundits among us: If you believe someone is an “existential threat to our democracy,” you do not vote to confirm their judicial appointments.

Again for the highly respected political pundits in the room: If you believe someone is an “existential threat to our democracy,” you do not vote to give them a \$738 billion war budget and the permission to militarize outer space.

And a third time to the highly respected political pundits, who are so full of shit they’re tripping on it: if you believe someone is an “existential threat to our democracy,” you do not vote to fund his anti-immigrant gestapo.

I am of the opinion that pundits who spend more time attacking people without power than they do questioning people with it are weasel-brained narcs who don’t deserve your attention unless it’s to dynamite their takes into oblivion and laugh at the debris.

Also, for the sake of interest, it was Chuck Schumer and Richard Blumenthal who voted No on the judicial appointment. A few Democratic Senators abstained from voting, including Kamala Harris.

In short: I criticize Democrats not because I believe Trump isn’t a threat; I criticize them because I do think he is, and I wish they did, too.

Oct 18, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1318035648750751744)
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1318035648750751744>))

A lot of people describe our press as “free & open” because it is not owned by the state. They ignore that it is owned by six multinational conglomerates whose shareholders have a unified set of class interests that get reflected in nearly 100 percent of media coverage every day.

A free press means more than Potemkin dissent from MSNBC and the New York Times. It means mainstream outlets critically questioning the economic and political order that rules our lives. There’s a reason Americans consume media 24/7 and know nothing about their country or world.

It’s easy to find stories that criticize whoever the POTUS is at the time, because this form of dissent puts no stress on a corporate–capitalist worldview. Try finding one MSM outlet that reported accurately on the failed fascist coup to privatize Bolivia’s lithium last year.

“People who think they're free in this world just haven't come to the end of their leash yet.”

—Michael Parenti, Blackshirts & Reds

"Excuse me sir I've been a senior producer at Hypnotoad Broadcast Group for 20 years and I've only been cattle prodded once for using a Level Three Hostile Adjective to describe Monsanto lobbying against clean water laws. Unlike you I stick to the facts."

Langley, Virginia has entered the chat.

Bolivians waited nervously for the results of Sunday’s high-stakes presidential election even as Evo Morales pre-empted authorities' slow vote count and declared his hand-picked candidate the victor. [link at apnews.com](http://apnews.com)
(<http://apne.ws/RImJA13>)

Within the corporate–controlled media system there remain good journalists doing a good job. That's not the point. Ask yourself: Why are the most essential stories/themes of our time (climate change, imperialism, poverty and wealth, etc.) barely topics of discussion in U.S. life?

– Oct 26, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1320759785961172992)
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1320759785961172992>))

The neoliberal ideal is inherently technocratic. People learn to be unconscious systems managers, viewing life as a network of rules and regulations divorced from any deeper moral character. This ideal worships codes and systems and numbs itself to the daily horrors they produce.

This is a major reason why U.S. liberals believe they are the good guys, fighting to restore "normalcy," while proudly supporting candidates owned by weapons manufacturers whose business model relies on flaying the innocent from machines that blacken the sky.

This mantra might come from the powerful but it doesn't stop there. Log onto Facebook sometime and read the run of memes and whatnot of your more liberal-minded friends. The main theme is that Trump is a violation of the rules, not that the rules are themselves inherently fucked.

Nov 16, 2020 (src
<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1328398012855373824>)

Trying to get cancelled today, here's my best effort: the Marvel Cinematic Universe is an extraordinary achievement in military industrial complex propaganda written at a fourth grade reading level and should be laughed out of the building.

Every time I see one of these abominations it brings on a deep depression that lasts about a week. Millions of kids imparted 5-10x per year with the idea that (a) foreign marauders are coming for them and (b) a trillion dollar national security state is justified and inevitable.

But don't take my word for it. Here is the United States Department of Defense. [Airmen Fly Higher, Further, Faster With Captain Marvel \(via defense.gov\)](https://www.defense.gov/News/Feature-Stories/story/Article/1775393/airmen-fly-higher-further-faster-with-captain-marvel/)
(<https://www.defense.gov/News/Feature-Stories/story/Article/1775393/airmen-fly-higher-further-faster-with-captain-marvel/>)

So far my favorite protests to this well-documented fact is that (1) hating juvenile war propaganda as a citizen of a nation permanently at war is elitist, and that (2) Antman & The Wasp should be viewed on the same tier as Macbeth because both were written for the masses.

MCU movies can't be jingoistic military propaganda! They are merely enjoyable multiple hour long Hollywood productions funded by the Pentagon and designed to be watched by millions of people across all ages and demographics up to 10x per year. Stop overthinking it.

[Anna Banerjee: "Marvel movies are state propaganda" \(via the Daily Iowan\)](https://dailyiowan.com/2019/04/29/banerjee-marvel-movies-are-state-propaganda/)
(<https://dailyiowan.com/2019/04/29/banerjee-marvel-movies-are-state-propaganda/>)

The political content of these films is covert. Many of them feign critique of the state and the weapons industry. But never (ever) is the broader capitalistic purpose of imperialism brought into question. Per MCU movies, the system isn't wrong, it's just run by the wrong people.

This is the perfect cross section of cancellability. Libs hate it because they need to believe imperialism can be morally virtuous as long as the correct heroes are in charge. Libs who call themselves leftists hate it because they think demanding smarter pop art is ableist.

The dichotomy in Ironman remains "America good, 'terrorists' bad." There is no broader critique about the wars themselves or why we are fighting them. Stark's main issue is that Americans are dying at the hands of "terrorists," not that we are an unjust occupying force.

The MCU levies a highly controlled critique of the MIC and the national security state in a way that quietly absolves those things of the real criticisms they deserve. The evil is never the INTENT of these systems, but that they've been hijacked by bad actors. That is propaganda.

Everyone who is angry at this benign and easily verifiable point sounds like this to me

and another thing: im not mad. please dont put in the newspaper that i got mad.

(via [@dril](https://twitter.com/dril) (<https://twitter.com/dril>), [here](https://twitter.com/dril/status/549425182767861760) (<https://twitter.com/dril/status/549425182767861760>))

Anyway, happy birthday Martin Scorsese.

– Dec 5, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1335240954039701504) (<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1335240954039701504>))

Guys I've looked into it and I'm beginning to think the CIA and the State Department aren't exactly shooting straight when they provide intel on our "enemies."

If a flurry of corporate news outlets immediately seem to be wanting you to feel the same malevolent way about a foreign country all at the same time, there is a reason, and that reason is never because they have your own interests at heart.

"It is firm & continuing policy that Salvador Allende be overthrown by a coup...It is imperative that these actions be implemented clandestinely & securely so that the American hand be well hidden."

—Cable to CIA operatives in Chile, from Kissinger's "Track Two" group (Oct 1970)

"The more successful China proves to be in its internal development & relations with Third World nations, the more it is again becoming a target of western elites, defamed as a mortal threat to US national security."

—Michael Parenti, *The Face of Imperialism* (published in 2010)

"[Our] military machine creates a world of client states open to corporate penetration, on terms that are completely favorable to the [corporations]. It's not too much to conclude that such a policy is produced not by dumb coincidence but by conscious effort & deliberate design."

—Michael Parenti, *The Face of Imperialism* (2010)

"Half the world's wealth is owned by 2 percent of the richest adults. It is time that liberal critics stop thinking people who own so much of the world are 'incompetent' or 'misguided'...When we think the empire builders are being stupid, we're not being very smart ourselves."

Dec 6, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1335673835581005831)
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1335673835581005831>))

Zero people die when a protestor shatters a Starbucks window. Tens of thousands die each year because the market denies them health care coverage. The state deems one of these a violent act, the other not. This is because capitalism values private property over human life.

It is 100% legal for US corporations to produce weapons of mass slaughter and sell them to fascist dictators & rightwing paramilitaries all over the world. Our government literally oversees this process. But it's illegal for a homeless person to steal a can of beans from Walmart.

Feb 2, 2021 (src
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1356624726102167552>))

Capitalism is when a vaccine to a deadly pandemic exists but we can't create or distribute enough of it because two pharmaceutical conglomerates refuse to lose out on shareholder profits by sharing the patent information.

My patience is too thin to deal with people who have been intellectually destroyed by pharmaceutical propaganda but I appreciate their efforts to generate sympathy for Pfizer in this most difficult of fiscal quarters.

It turns out that the economic model aggregated from man's most selfish impulses does not result in a society capable of handling crises navigable only through communal organization.

This myth that capitalism created the vaccine is wrong. The research/development was taxpayer funded. Public medical research is a democratic element of U.S. life that has managed to withstand post-Reagan privatization. That is what created the vaccine.

[US taxpayers are funding six Covid vaccines. Here's how they work \(CNN\)](https://edition.cnn.com/2020/06/22/health/us-coronavirus-vaccine-funding/index.html)
(<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/06/22/health/us-coronavirus-vaccine-funding/index.html>)

Feb 5, 2021 (src
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1357742187832725504>))

The press does many things and serves many functions but its major role, its irreducible responsibility, is to continually recreate a view of reality supportive of existing social and economic class power.

—Michael Parenti, *Inventing Reality: The Politics of News Media*

Feb 12, 2021 (src
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1360259965496172548>))

I am once again asking liberals when they will resume caring about kids in cages.
Oh my bad we're not calling them that anymore.

Biden Admin. to Open Migrant Overflow Facility amid Increase in Unaccompanied Minor Apprehensions (via [Yahoo!News](https://news.yahoo.com/biden-admin-open-migrant-overflow-152558949.html) (<https://news.yahoo.com/biden-admin-open-migrant-overflow-152558949.html>))

Mar 19, 2021 (src
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1372945373640019970>))

If unions didn't work, Amazon wouldn't be fighting tooth and nail to stop its workforce from unionizing.

Aug 19, 2021 (src
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1428336851744698374>))

As a reminder, [@Nestle](https://twitter.com/Nestle) (<https://twitter.com/Nestle>)'s economic role is to steal Earth's natural water from its inhabitants, sell it back to us at an upcharge, and pollute the planet with billions of plastic bottles per year. Per the laws of capitalism this is both morally correct and a sound business model.

The ideological machines that stunt the minds of Americans on purpose teach us it is morally unimaginable to revolt against a corporation like Nestle but that Nestle businessmen have every right both legally and ethically to steal our water during a drought.

Aug 27, 2021 (src
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1431231760512208896>))

The fascist response to homelessness is to punish the homeless in defense of investor profit. The socialist response is to give them free homes in defiance of investor profit. You can choose one & only one. This exercise should help explain what side "centrists" are actually on.

There are way more fascists in America than anyone is willing to admit. To tolerate things like homelessness, private health insurance, poverty wages, etc., means we've bought into the main thrust of fascism, which is that those without power are weak vermin deserving of death.

Despite all our feigned humanitarian progress, the poor and intersectional underclass remains the group most acceptable for a "liberal democracy" to hate and demean — if not in our direct behaviors then in the values we hold reflected back onto us by the economic order we defend.

Jan 19, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1483774172803313665)
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1483774172803313665>))

This Psaki lady represents a particularly macabre element of the national undoing. A whole job devoted to gaslighting the sick and poor into believing it a hysterical demand the White House do anything to help them that might inconvenience Aetna shareholders. And she's bad at it.

To be fair, this explains the role of every Press Secretary for every administration. But you once got the sense these people felt some pressure to concede (at least superficially) to public needs, versus mocking them out loud on purpose while smiling.

Feb 24, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1496715564357758980)
(<https://twitter.com/proustmalone/status/1496715564357758980>))

Can someone explain clearly why Ukraine/Russia amounts to a conflict involving the West, but Saudi Arabia's years-long genocide of the Yemeni people (a genocide for which US companies are knowingly providing money & arms) does not?

My unsolicited suggestion is to prepare for an ideological climate in which any critique of the NATO position going forward is met with immediate accusations of treason.

You're not evil or dumb for maintaining some skepticism re: US intelligence sources or State Dept. reports, just as you'd have for Russian state TV. Given what we've lived through since 9/11 it is in fact irrational to embrace our national security state as the arbiter of truth.

Lastly, remember that I am not an expert. The only thing I will say definitively is that American bombs, machine guns, tanks, warships and fighter planes will not make this situation better, but rather drastically worse, as they do every time.

Response to any who feel this question is illegitimate or perhaps in bad faith given the current circumstances.

The situation in Yemen (mainly, our active role in it) casts doubt on the State Dept's claims that its only interest is preserving democracy in Ukraine. Were that the case, we would not be arming/funding genocide in Yemen and shipping arms to fascist autocrats around the world.

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Modern Communists, Tweets

On Joe Clark

2023-01-01

"aka @ScottishCommie"

This is a huge resource thread, all pulled from twitter user Joe Clark, [@ScottishCommie](https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie) (<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie>). So, first and foremost – thanks to Joe for making these threads in the first place. These are just getting backed up in case twitter explodes.

Also this is the first article of 2023 rn so wow happy new years! go read all 60 of the books linked below to celebrate :4)

Tweets

These are just dumps from twitter threads of resources. Many are taken from his [Thread of Threads](https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1558856288657969153) (<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1558856288657969153>).

Thread one: Foundational texts – Jun 28, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1541885990255710208) (<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1541885990255710208>))

Gonna make a thread here on foundational texts to do with Marxism that are absolute must reads for any Marxist. This list will give a comprehensive but still detailed understanding of Marxism, the nature of Capitalism, Imperialism and DiaMat. Audiobooks will also be provided.

Number one, nice and easy for an introduction – Principles of Communism by Engels

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/11/prin-com.htm\)](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/11/prin-com.htm)
- [PDF \(https://marxists.org/history/usa/pubs/lrlibrary/03-LRL-princip-of-comm.pdf\)](https://marxists.org/history/usa/pubs/lrlibrary/03-LRL-princip-of-comm.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGcpspooZvk\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGcpspooZvk)

Number Two – The State and Revolution by Lenin.

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/staterev/\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/staterev/)
- [PDF \(https://marxists.org/ebooks/lenin/state-and-revolution.pdf\)](https://marxists.org/ebooks/lenin/state-and-revolution.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrLQsyUYig\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrLQsyUYig)

Number 3 – Foundations of Leninism by Stalin

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1924/foundations-leninism/index.htm\)](https://marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1924/foundations-leninism/index.htm)
- [PDF \(https://foreignlanguages.press/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/C01-Foundations-of-Leninism.pdf\)](https://foreignlanguages.press/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/C01-Foundations-of-Leninism.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyLqgtOQaUOv053ZzdKETOQM01hREs_ho\)](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyLqgtOQaUOv053ZzdKETOQM01hREs_ho)

Number 4 – Wage Labour and Capital by Marx

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/wage-labour/\)](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/wage-labour/)
- [PDF \(https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/wage-labour-capital.pdf\)](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/wage-labour-capital.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0v_po2nBHG8\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0v_po2nBHG8)

Number 5 – Value, Price and Profit by Marx

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1865/value-price-profit/index.htm\)](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1865/value-price-profit/index.htm)
- [PDF \(https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/value-price-profit.pdf\)](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/value-price-profit.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLE_Abq17r465AasJ15O808aeJJIXvUCfA\)](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLE_Abq17r465AasJ15O808aeJJIXvUCfA)

Number 6 – Dialectical and Historical Materialism by Stalin

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1938/09.htm\)](https://marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1938/09.htm)
- [PDF \(https://foreignlanguages.press/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/C21-Dialectical-and-Historical-Materialism-Questions-of-Leninism-2nd-Printing.pdf\)](https://foreignlanguages.press/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/C21-Dialectical-and-Historical-Materialism-Questions-of-Leninism-2nd-Printing.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mj-7lvz0qNM\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mj-7lvz0qNM)

Number 7 – On Contradiction by Mao

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_17.htm\)](https://marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_17.htm)
- [PDF \(http://academics.wellesley.edu/Polisci/wj/China/Mao%20Readings/OnContradiction.pdf\)](http://academics.wellesley.edu/Polisci/wj/China/Mao%20Readings/OnContradiction.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKW5L3-9Ods\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKW5L3-9Ods)

Number 8 – Left Wing Communism, An Infantile Disorder by Lenin

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1920/lwc/\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1920/lwc/)
- [PDF \(https://socialist-alliance.org/sites/default/files/left-wing_communism.pdf\)](https://socialist-alliance.org/sites/default/files/left-wing_communism.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKWYoRTyfdk\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKWYoRTyfdk)

Number 9 – What is to be done? by Lenin

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1901/witbd/\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1901/witbd/)
- [PDF \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/download/what-itd.pdf\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/download/what-itd.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfYogySLKvih0-EsJLq--oPBc5uGw_iO\)](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfYogySLKvih0-EsJLq--oPBc5uGw_iO)

Number 10 – Imperialism the Highest stage of Capitalism by Lenin

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/)
- [PDF \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/imperialism.pdf\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/imperialism.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tCzJA_9EyQ\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tCzJA_9EyQ)

Number 11 – Neo-Colonialism the last stage of Imperialism by Nkrumah

- [Book/PDF](https://prisoncensorship.info/archive/books/Economics/Neo-Colonialism_KwameNkrumah.pdf)
(https://prisoncensorship.info/archive/books/Economics/Neo-Colonialism_KwameNkrumah.pdf)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL3yArrOI_afhJFIGP6cBpbJQbrSyW9NVm&v=XyqUPXn2BCA) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL3yArrOI_afhJFIGP6cBpbJQbrSyW9NVm&v=XyqUPXn2BCA)

Number 12 – Socialism: Utopian and Scientific by Engels

- [Book](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1880/soc-utop/index.htm) (<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1880/soc-utop/index.htm>)
- [PDF](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/Engels_Socialism_Utopian_a)
(https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/Engels_Socialism_Utopian_a)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4_BiWhvVyA) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4_BiWhvVyA)

Number 13 – On Practice by Mao

- [Book](https://marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_16.htm) (https://marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_16.htm)
- [PDF](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d6923d233383100011392f4/t/5ea1a8t+Mao.pdf)
(<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d6923d233383100011392f4/t/5ea1a8t+Mao.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pe74xs6QSCA) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pe74xs6QSCA>)

Number 14 – Marxism and the National Question by Stalin

- [Book](https://marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1913/03.htm)
(<https://marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1913/03.htm>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MY-WDTkvtlc) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MY-WDTkvtlc>)

Number 15 – Critique of the Gotha Programme by Marx

- [Book](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1875/gotha/) (<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1875/gotha/>)
- [PDF](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/Marx_Critque_of_the_Gotha)
(https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/Marx_Critque_of_the_Gotha)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgAiqpUwmhU) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgAiqpUwmhU>)

Thread two: Marxist lectures, videos, documentaries, etc – May 25, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1529466243090087937) (<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1529466243090087937>))

Gonna make a thread here of videos, lectures, documentaries etc you should all watch

<https://youtu.be/xP8CzIFhc14>

<https://youtu.be/bN8oq7IF9FA>

<https://youtu.be/8zLQLUpNGsc>

<https://youtu.be/HnZSaKYmP2s>

<https://youtu.be/LPO7sd0X1ds>

<https://youtu.be/X7MtydR-fil>

<https://youtu.be/7z-AxNFx88o>
<https://youtu.be/N8omQc00eEQ>
<https://youtu.be/2kBgGLHMfnU>
https://youtu.be/Tiy_ViFcTNw
https://youtu.be/VmUb1Gr2_Ew
<https://youtu.be/FUWrgLpazwE>
<https://youtu.be/R1gcipAvply>
https://youtu.be/nrYf97_IUrE
<https://youtu.be/G7Vlt41HPUE>
<https://youtu.be/mcpENjsr6f0>
https://youtu.be/xL3b_QmNV2Y
<https://youtu.be/cobVBgQKdlc>
https://youtu.be/lGYHwldJ_gY
<https://youtu.be/gmXCzYzBdrY>
<https://youtu.be/pKcmNGvaDUss>
<https://youtu.be/OOF56wYTI1w>
<https://youtu.be/MojDoeloUTc>
<https://youtu.be/MON2HL02mec>
<https://youtu.be/FZqwlNpXelg>
<https://youtu.be/fxcgm-atVlc>
https://youtu.be/Rt_iAXYBUSk
https://youtu.be/m7uBIBg_zWk
<https://youtu.be/aRFH1pWDJr0>
https://youtu.be/xT0_Lh9Y6ml
<https://youtu.be/OwN3i56Wzas>
<https://youtu.be/WcQIEIRLU1Y>
<https://youtu.be/yE39MFcyyUs>
<https://youtu.be/c6ZWJT3B3r0>
<https://youtu.be/xxTBujB8xhU>
<https://youtu.be/iH5nzZU0qCc>

Thread three: texts on dialectical and historical materialism – Mar 10, 2022
([src \(https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1501883297110048770\)](https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1501883297110048770))

Dialectical and Historical Materialism by Stalin

- [Book](#)
(<https://marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1938/09.htm>)
- [PDF](#) (<https://foreignlanguages.press/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/C21-Dialectical-and-Historical-Materialism--Questions-of-Leninism-2nd-Printing.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mj-7lvz0gNM>)

Socialism: Utopian and Scientific by Engels

- [Book](#) (<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1880/soc-utop/index.htm>)
- [PDF](#)
(https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/Engels_Socialism_Utopian_a)
- [Audiobook](#) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4_BiWhvVyA)

On Contradiction by Mao Zedong

- [Book](#) (https://marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_17.htm)
- [Audiobook](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKW5L3-9Ods>)

Elementary Principles of Philosophy by Georges Politzer

- [Book \(PDF download on this website\)](#)
(<https://foreignlanguages.press/foundations/elementary-principles-of-philosophy-georges-politzer/>)
- [Audiobook](#) (<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrodPcAMP2OsMmIF6pGphTSKU1z03GH5N>)

Thread Four: Other Marxists texts which should be read – Mar 18, 2022
([src \(https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1504972185345183750\)](https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1504972185345183750))

Going to make a thread here that will probably get expanded upon in the future of Marxist theory recommendations outside of the 5 heads. These are works I've either read myself or has been recommended to me by comrades. Unfortunately free links for these books I cannot find

1: [Blackshirts and Reds \(via drive.google.com\)](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12ONHcu0qxTMb7FsnimD5PxNEC4Ou7zTA/view)
(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12ONHcu0qxTMb7FsnimD5PxNEC4Ou7zTA/view>)

by Parenti. Essential readings. Dispels a lot of anti communist propaganda and highlights the horrors of Capitalism.

2: Washington Bullets by Vijay Prashad. Outlines the history of CIA coups and assassinations around the world

3 & 4: Another View of Stalin by Ludo Martens and Stalin: The History and Critique of a Black Legend by Domenico Losurdo. Both books dispel a lot of the myths and propaganda around Stalin

5: Africa Must Unite by Kwame Nkrumah. It highlights the cause of the Pan-African movement, the movement to unite Africa under scientific socialism

6: Neocolonialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism by Kwame Nkrumah. Speaks on a new stage of imperialism. This book cause a massive outrage in the US for obvious reasons

7: How Europe Underdeveloped Africa by Walter Rodney. It goes into great detail on how Western Capitalist nations are the reason for Africa's lack of development

8: Discourse on Colonialism by Aimé Césaire. Highlights the horrors of colonialism and rejects the "justifications" for it

9: Black Marxism, the Making of the Black Radical Tradition. Unfortunately I haven't read it yet so I cannot describe it but it has been recommended to me by a lot of Comrades1

10: Women, Race and Class by Angela Davis. It covers Marxist feminism and the history of the slave trade and other Black and Feminist movements through a Marxist analysis.

Some drive links to more resources, shared by sophie ([@mrxstlesbian](https://twitter.com/mrxstlesbian))
(<https://twitter.com/mrxstlesbian>) [here](https://twitter.com/mrxstlesbian/status/1558867225867583491)
(<https://twitter.com/mrxstlesbian/status/1558867225867583491>):

This Google drive n reading list have a huge amount of free pdfs of them too including some of the ones you couldn't find! I've also included a doc list too :)

- [Academia and Public Links](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0BwWkvy7DK9vaUkdOaWl2X21aS2c?resourcekey=0-tuopW_AXW1XJIUM0--ESdg)
(https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0BwWkvy7DK9vaUkdOaWl2X21aS2c?resourcekey=0-tuopW_AXW1XJIUM0--ESdg)
- [Massive Reading List](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kwDGZFH2-jFr4xZ2ynxQkihYwIVh_uZlp1-Q73uXzso/edit?usp=drivesdk)
(https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kwDGZFH2-jFr4xZ2ynxQkihYwIVh_uZlp1-Q73uXzso/edit?usp=drivesdk)
- [Documentary List](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GINRWHmnzQ41xCG-qzsVxFtSCyPdxhgaBSM8M0FaozU/edit?usp=drivesdk)
(<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GINRWHmnzQ41xCG-qzsVxFtSCyPdxhgaBSM8M0FaozU/edit?usp=drivesdk>)

Thread 5, Essential Lenin Texts – Aug 14, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1558886025493204992) (<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1558886025493204992>))

Thread on what is in my opinion, essential Lenin texts. Links to the books will be provided as well as audiobooks and pdfs if those are available. If I leave off any text you think should be on here, let me know :)

Books One: The Three Sources and Three component parts of Marxism

- [Book](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1913/mar/x01.htm) (<https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1913/mar/x01.htm>)
- [PDF](https://ycl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/The-Three-Sources-and-Three-Component-Parts-of-Marxism.pdf) (<https://ycl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/The-Three-Sources-and-Three-Component-Parts-of-Marxism.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dth5FEWhWaM) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dth5FEWhWaM>)

Book Two: What is to be done?

- [Book](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1901/witbd/) (<https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1901/witbd/>)
- [PDF](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/download/what-itd.pdf) (<https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/download/what-itd.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfYogySLKvih0-EsJLq--oPBc5uGw_iO) (https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfYogySLKvih0-EsJLq--oPBc5uGw_iO)

Book Three: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back

- [Book](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1904/onestep/index.htm)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1904/onestep/index.htm>)
- [PDF](https://marxists.org/ebooks/lenin/lenin_one_step_forward.pdf) (https://marxists.org/ebooks/lenin/lenin_one_step_forward.pdf)
- [Audiobook](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfYogySLKvihY_SG72QmGbTdJGGhhcIEB) (https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfYogySLKvihY_SG72QmGbTdJGGhhcIEB)

Book Four: The Right of Nations to Self-Determination

- [Book](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1914/self-det/) (<https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1914/self-det/>)
- [PDF](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/cw/pdf/lenin-cw-vol-20.pdf) (<https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/cw/pdf/lenin-cw-vol-20.pdf>) (page 401)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOqEY_rfum0) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOqEY_rfum0)

Book Five: Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism

- [Book](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/) (<https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/>)

- [PDF \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/imperialism.pdf\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/imperialism.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tCzJA_9EyQ\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tCzJA_9EyQ)
- Book Six: The Military Programme of the Proletarian Revolution
- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/miliprog/index.htm\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/miliprog/index.htm)
- [PDF \(https://archive.thecommunists.org/download/publications/lenin_military_programme.pdf\)](https://archive.thecommunists.org/download/publications/lenin_military_programme.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GoDbA5744lQ\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GoDbA5744lQ)

Book Seven: The Tasks of the Proletariat in the Present Revolution (April Theses)

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/apr/04.htm\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/apr/04.htm)
- [PDF \(https://michaelharrison.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/The-tasks-of-the-proletariat-in-our-Revolution.pdf\)](https://michaelharrison.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/The-tasks-of-the-proletariat-in-our-Revolution.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsbEALgyK0o\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsbEALgyK0o)

Book Eight: Lessons of the Revolution

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/sep/06.htm\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/sep/06.htm)
- [PDF \(http://marx2mao.com/PDFs/Lenin%20CW-Vol.%2025.pdf\)](http://marx2mao.com/PDFs/Lenin%20CW-Vol.%2025.pdf) (page 231)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxuGSwTh4Pw\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxuGSwTh4Pw)

Book Nine: The Impending Catastrophe and How to Combat It

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/ichtci/index.htm\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/ichtci/index.htm)
- [PDF \(http://directdemocracy4u.uk/dd4en-resources/note/The_Impending_Catastrophe_and_How_to_Combat_It.pdf\)](http://directdemocracy4u.uk/dd4en-resources/note/The_Impending_Catastrophe_and_How_to_Combat_It.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYxVG-SNWsXmIU4VEdvfSaGLiuVrd-9gJ\)](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYxVG-SNWsXmIU4VEdvfSaGLiuVrd-9gJ)

Book Ten: The State and Revolution

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/staterev/\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/staterev/)
- [PDF \(https://marxists.org/ebooks/lenin/state-and-revolution.pdf\)](https://marxists.org/ebooks/lenin/state-and-revolution.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrLQsyUYiq\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrLQsyUYiq)

Book Eleven: The Immediate Tasks of the Soviet Government

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1918/mar/x03.htm\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1918/mar/x03.htm)
- [PDF \(https://michaelharrison.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/The-Immediate-Tasks-of-the-Soviet-Government-VI-Lenin-FLPH-Moscow-1951.pdf\)](https://michaelharrison.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/The-Immediate-Tasks-of-the-Soviet-Government-VI-Lenin-FLPH-Moscow-1951.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kShSwXY36r8\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kShSwXY36r8)

Book Twelve: The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1918/prrk/index.htm\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1918/prrk/index.htm)
- [PDF \(https://foreignlanguages.press/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/C27-The-Proletarian-Revolution-and-the-](https://foreignlanguages.press/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/C27-The-Proletarian-Revolution-and-the-)

[Renegade-Kautsky-1st-Printing.pdf](#)

- [Audiobook \(https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0-lkmzWbjoaoPIYZzy8UtCnrQSZlkGl\)](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0-lkmzWbjoaoPIYZzy8UtCnrQSZlkGl)

Book Thirteen: Economics And Politics in the Era of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1919/oct/30.htm\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1919/oct/30.htm)
- [PDF \(https://michaelharrison.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Economics-and-Politics-in-the-era-of-the-Dictatorship-of-the-Proletariat.pdf\)](https://michaelharrison.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Economics-and-Politics-in-the-era-of-the-Dictatorship-of-the-Proletariat.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdxwVOBKlqU\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdxwVOBKlqU)

Book Fourteen: "Left-Wing" Communism, An Infantile Disorder

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1920/lwc/\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1920/lwc/)
- [PDF \(https://socialist-alliance.org/sites/default/files/left-wing_communism.pdf\)](https://socialist-alliance.org/sites/default/files/left-wing_communism.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKWYorTyfdk\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKWYorTyfdk)

Book Fifteen: Role and Functions of the Trade Unions Under The New Economic Policy

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1921/dec/30.htm\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1921/dec/30.htm)
- [PDF \(http://marx2mao.com/PDFs/Lenin%20CW-Vol.%2033.pdf\)](http://marx2mao.com/PDFs/Lenin%20CW-Vol.%2033.pdf) (page 192)

Book Sixteen: Materialism and Empirio-criticism

- [Book \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1908/mec/\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1908/mec/)
- [PDF \(https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/cw/pdf/lenin-cw-vol-14.pdf\)](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/cw/pdf/lenin-cw-vol-14.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbu51LFk83rSeq1iFn4QzzALpw5-FoF0N\)](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbu51LFk83rSeq1iFn4QzzALpw5-FoF0N)

Left this one to last as it is by far the largest Lenin text and hardest to read

Castro Stuff – Aug 26, 2022 ([src](#) <https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1563332133044727808>)

For anyone wanting to learn about Fidel Castro or read his works, speeches, etc this website is a goldmine: <http://fidelcastro.cu/en> (<http://fidelcastro.cu/en>)

Democratic Centralism – Sep 8, 2022 ([src](#) <https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1568012685593419776>)

Short thread of short texts to help people understand Democratic centralism. I've found all of them useful.

- [Freedom to Criticise and Unity of Action by Lenin](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1906/may/20c.htm) (<https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1906/may/20c.htm>)
- [On the Party, Democratic Centralism within the party by Liu Shaoqi](https://marxists.org/reference/archive/liu-shaoqi/1945/on-party/ch05.htm) (<https://marxists.org/reference/archive/liu-shaoqi/1945/on-party/ch05.htm>)
- [This helpful article by YCL UK](https://challenge-magazine.org/2021/11/03/democratic-centralism/) (<https://challenge-magazine.org/2021/11/03/democratic-centralism/>)

Comprehensive ML Reading List – Oct 15, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1581392343026274304) (<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1581392343026274304>))

A thread on what I consider a comprehensive reading list of Marxist–Leninist theory that includes works to do with the state, imperialism, feminism, fascism and other areas.

Introductory Texts:

Principles of Communism by Engels

- [Book](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/11/prin-com.htm) (<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/11/prin-com.htm>)
- [PDF](https://marxists.org/history/usa/pubs/lrlibrary/03-LRL-princip-of-comm.pdf) (<https://marxists.org/history/usa/pubs/lrlibrary/03-LRL-princip-of-comm.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGcpspooZvk) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGcpspooZvk>)

The Three Sources and Three Component Parts of Marxism by Vladimir Lenin:

- [Book](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1913/mar/x01.htm) (<https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1913/mar/x01.htm>)
- [PDF](https://ycl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/The-Three-Sources-and-Three-Component-Parts-of-Marxism.pdf) (<https://ycl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/The-Three-Sources-and-Three-Component-Parts-of-Marxism.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dth5FEWhWaM) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dth5FEWhWaM>)

Combat Liberalism by Mao Zedong:

- [Text](https://marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-2/mswv2_03.htm)
(https://marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-2/mswv2_03.htm)
- [PDF](http://lib-lespaul.library.mun.ca/PDFs/radical/MaoTseTungCombatLiberalism.pdf) (<http://lib-lespaul.library.mun.ca/PDFs/radical/MaoTseTungCombatLiberalism.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmEG5LjXE4w) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmEG5LjXE4w>)

On Authority by Friedrich Engels:

- [Text](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1872/10/authority.htm)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1872/10/authority.htm>)
- [PDF](http://hekmatist.com/Marx%20Engles/Marx%20&%20Engels%20Collected%20Karl%20Marx.pdf)
(<http://hekmatist.com/Marx%20Engles/Marx%20&%20Engels%20Collected%20Karl%20Marx.pdf>) (Page 457)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofVXvmADewE) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofVXvmADewE>)

On having a correct understanding of Nationalism by Kim Il Sung:

- [Text/PDF](https://kkfonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/On-Having-A-Correct-Understanding-Of-Nationalism.pdf) (<https://kkfonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/On-Having-A-Correct-Understanding-Of-Nationalism.pdf>)

Freedom to Criticise and Unity of Action by Vladimir Lenin:

- [Text](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1906/may/20c.htm)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1906/may/20c.htm>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLTPmVhcaVg) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLTPmVhcaVg>)

Anarchism or Socialism by Joseph Stalin:

- [Text](https://marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1906/12/x01.htm)
(<https://marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1906/12/x01.htm>)
- [PDF](https://foreignlanguages.press/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/C07-Anarchism-or-Socialism-Trotskyism-or-Leninism.pdf) (<https://foreignlanguages.press/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/C07-Anarchism-or-Socialism-Trotskyism-or-Leninism.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5d5IAJE5ZIs) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5d5IAJE5ZIs>)

What is to be done? by Lenin

- [Book](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1901/witbd/)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1901/witbd/>)
- [PDF](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/download/what-itd.pdf)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/download/what-itd.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfYoqySLKvih0-EsjLq--oPBc5uGw_iO) (https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfYoqySLKvih0-EsjLq--oPBc5uGw_iO)

Foundations of Leninism by Stalin

- [Book](https://marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1924/foundations-leninism/index.htm)
(<https://marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1924/foundations-leninism/index.htm>)
- [PDF](https://foreignlanguages.press/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/C01-Foundations-of-Leninism.pdf) (<https://foreignlanguages.press/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/C01-Foundations-of-Leninism.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyLqgtOQaUOv053ZzdKETOQM01hREs_ho) (https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyLqgtOQaUOv053ZzdKETOQM01hREs_ho)

On Practice by Mao

- [Book](https://marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_16.htm)
(https://marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_16.htm)
- [PDF](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d6923d233383100011392f4/t/+Mao.pdf)
(<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d6923d233383100011392f4/t/+Mao.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pe74xs6QSCA) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pe74xs6QSCA>)

Black Shirts and Reds, Rational Fascism and the Overthrow of Communism by Michael Parenti:

- [Text/PDF](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12ONHcu0qxTMb7FsnimD5PxNEC4Ou7z)
(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12ONHcu0qxTMb7FsnimD5PxNEC4Ou7z>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxLKO_R5RmA) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxLKO_R5RmA)

Texts on the State:

The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State by Friedrich Engels:

- [Text](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1884/origin-family/index.htm)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1884/origin-family/index.htm>)
- [PDF](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/origin_family.p)
(https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/origin_family.p)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8W2GaAs5VLo) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8W2GaAs5VLo>)

The Housing Question by Friedrich Engels:

- [Text](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1872/housing-question/)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1872/housing-question/>)
- [PDF](https://hln.org/img/documents/Engels%20The%20Housing%20Question)
(<https://hln.org/img/documents/Engels%20The%20Housing%20Question>)
- [Audiobook](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYxVG-SNWsXnOg74R9J817HqZ6uhKR2KI) (<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYxVG-SNWsXnOg74R9J817HqZ6uhKR2KI>)

The State and Revolution by Lenin.

- [Book](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/staterev/)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/staterev/>)
- [PDF](https://marxists.org/ebooks/lenin/state-and-revolution.pdf) (<https://marxists.org/ebooks/lenin/state-and-revolution.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrLQsyUYiq) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrLQsyUYiq>)

Texts on Dialectics:

Dialectical and Historical Materialism by Stalin

- [Book](https://marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1938/09.htm)
(<https://marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1938/09.htm>)
- [PDF](https://foreignlanguages.press/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/C21-Dialectical-and-Historical-Materialism--Questions-of-Leninism-2nd-Printing.pdf) (<https://foreignlanguages.press/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/C21-Dialectical-and-Historical-Materialism--Questions-of-Leninism-2nd-Printing.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mj-7lvz0qNM) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mj-7lvz0qNM>)

On Contradiction by Mao

- [Book](https://marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_17.htm)
(https://marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_17.htm)
- [PDF](http://academics.wellesley.edu/Polisci/wj/China/Mao%20Readings/OnContradiction.pdf)
([http://academics.wellesley.edu/Polisci/wj/China/Mao%20Readings/OnCc](http://academics.wellesley.edu/Polisci/wj/China/Mao%20Readings/OnContradiction.pdf))
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKW5L3-9Ods) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKW5L3-9Ods>)

Socialism: Utopian and Scientific by Engels

- [Book](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1880/soc-utop/index.htm)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1880/soc-utop/index.htm>)
- [PDF](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/Engels_Socialism_Utopian_and_Scientific.pdf)
(https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/Engels_Socialism_U)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4_BiWhvVyA) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4_BiWhvVyA)

Elementary Principles of Philosophy by Georges Politzer

- [Book \(PDF download on this website\)](https://foreignlanguages.press/foundations/elementary-principles-of-philosophy-georges-politzer/)
(<https://foreignlanguages.press/foundations/elementary-principles-of-philosophy-georges-politzer/>)
- [Audiobook](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrodPcAMP2OsMmIF6pGphTSKU1z03GH5N) (<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrodPcAMP2OsMmIF6pGphTSKU1z03GH5N>)

Dialectics of Nature by Friedrich Engels:

- [Text](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1883/don/index.htm)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1883/don/index.htm>)
- [PDF](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/dialectics-nature.pdf)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/dialectics-nature.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYxVG-SNWsXnUrOAXMFPHPSoh6-Vaf0eP) (<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYxVG-SNWsXnUrOAXMFPHPSoh6-Vaf0eP>)

Texts on Capitalism/Political Economy (Please know that when it comes to the capital texts, it's better to read these in a group):

Wage Labour and Capital by Karl Marx

- [Book](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/wage-labour/)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/wage-labour/>)
- [PDF](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/wage-labour-capital.pdf)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/wage-labour-capital.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0v_po2nBHG8) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0v_po2nBHG8)

Value, Price and Profit by Marx

- [Book](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1865/value-price-profit/index.htm)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1865/value-price-profit/index.htm>)
- [PDF](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/value-price-profit.pdf)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/value-price-profit.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLE_Abq17r465AasJ15O808aeJJIXvUCfA) (https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLE_Abq17r465AasJ15O808aeJJIXvUCfA)

The Conditions of the Working Class in England by Friedrich Engels:

- [Text](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/condition-working-class/)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/condition-working-class/>)
- [PDF](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/condition-working-class-england.pdf)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/condition-working-class-england.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yLr3TrpJRA) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yLr3TrpJRA>)

Capital Volume One by Karl Marx (Note, better read with a group of people):

- [Text](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/) (<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/>)
- [PDF](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/Capital-Volume-I.pdf)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/Capital-Volume-I.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUjbFtkcDBISHViqHHx_wjaeWmDN2W-h8) (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUjbFtkcDBISHViqHHx_wjaeWmDN2W-h8)

Capital Volume Two by Karl Marx (Note, better read with a group of people):

- [Text \(https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1885-c2/\)](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1885-c2/)
- [PDF \(https://files.libcom.org/files/Capital-Volume-II.pdf\)](https://files.libcom.org/files/Capital-Volume-II.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUjbFtkcDBISxnp8uR2kshvhG-5kzrjdQ\)](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUjbFtkcDBISxnp8uR2kshvhG-5kzrjdQ)

Capital Volume Three by Karl Marx (Note, better read with a group of people):

- [Text \(https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1894-c3/\)](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1894-c3/)
- [PDF \(https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/Capital-Volume-III.pdf\)](https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/Capital-Volume-III.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUjbFtkcDBIRoV5CVoc5yyYL4nMO9ZJzO\)](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUjbFtkcDBIRoV5CVoc5yyYL4nMO9ZJzO)

Marxism Feminism (Note, not my strongest subject but I've found all these texts extremely useful):

The Woman Worker by Nadezhda Krupskaya:

- [Text/PDF \(https://marxists.org/archive/krupskaya/1899/the-woman-worker.pdf\)](https://marxists.org/archive/krupskaya/1899/the-woman-worker.pdf)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPTSAsp51vI\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPTSAsp51vI)

Lenin on the Emancipation of Women by Vladimir Lenin

- [Text/PDF \(https://redstarpublishers.org/LeninWomen.pdf\)](https://redstarpublishers.org/LeninWomen.pdf)

The Social Basis of the Woman Question by Alexandra Kollontai:

- [Text \(https://marxists.org/archive/kollonta/1909/social-basis.htm\)](https://marxists.org/archive/kollonta/1909/social-basis.htm)
- [Audiobook \(https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYxVG-SNWsXleg2M1DUOzD4a81yBrhwW6\)](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYxVG-SNWsXleg2M1DUOzD4a81yBrhwW6)

Women, Race, and Class by Angela Davis:

- [Text/PDF](https://legalform.files.wordpress.com/2017/08/davis-women-race-class.pdf)
(<https://legalform.files.wordpress.com/2017/08/davis-women-race-class.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMp5zI6NyMrir0ZxXEkdLJQNDbwS_be2W) (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMp5zI6NyMrir0ZxXEkdLJQNDbwS_be2W)

Feminist Theory: From Margin to Centre by bell hooks:

- [Text/PDF](https://funceji.files.wordpress.com/2017/08/bell_hooks_feminist_theory_org_.pdf)
(https://funceji.files.wordpress.com/2017/08/bell_hooks_feminist_theory_org_.pdf)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrP8vCDYTpE) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrP8vCDYTpE>)

Texts on Imperialism/Colonialism:

Imperialism the Highest stage of Capitalism by Vladimir Lenin

- [Book](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/>)
- [PDF](https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/imperialism.pdf)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/imperialism.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tCzJA_9EyQ) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tCzJA_9EyQ)

Neo-Colonialism the last stage of Imperialism by Nkrumah

- [Book/PDF](https://prisoncensorship.info/archive/books/Economics/Neo-Colonialism_KwameNkrumah.pdf)
(https://prisoncensorship.info/archive/books/Economics/Neo-Colonialism_KwameNkrumah.pdf)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL3yArrOI_afhJFIGP6cBpbJQbrSyW9NVm&v=XyqUPXn2BCA) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL3yArrOI_afhJFIGP6cBpbJQbrSyW9NVm&v=XyqUPXn2BCA)

The Imperialist Partition of Africa by Walter Rodney:

- [Text](https://marxists.org/subject/africa/rodney-walter/works/partition.htm) (<https://marxists.org/subject/africa/rodney-walter/works/partition.htm>)
- [Audiobook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9ELTcjEv_Q) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9ELTcjEv_Q)

The Wretched of the Earth by Franz Fanon:

- [Text/PDF](#) (https://monoskop.org/images/6/6b/Fanon_Frantz_The_Wretched_of_the)
- [Audiobook](#) (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZ_8DduHfUd2r1OOCtKh0M6Q9xD5RaR3S)

A Dying Colonialism by Franz Fanon:

- [Text/PDF](#) (<http://abahlali.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Frantz-Fanon-A-Dying-Colonialism.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmGhRL0YMoc>)

Discourse on Colonialism by Aimé Césaire:

- [Text/PDF](#) (https://files.libcom.org/files/zz_aime_cesaire_robin_d.g_kelley_discours)
- [Audiobook](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBt3kkjD978>)

How Europe Underdeveloped Africa by Walter Rodney:

- [Text/PDF](#) (<https://abahlali.org/files/3295358-walter-rodney.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](#) (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFzMvDEJ8BBVwkIO-PZON6ZQcm_qZZ4Rp)

Texts on Western Imperialism/Intervention/Colonialism

Rogue State by William Blum

- [Text/PDF](#) (<https://archive.org/details/WilliamBlumRogueState2002/page/n147/mo>)

Washington Bullets by Vijay Prashad:

- [Text/PDF](#) (<https://dialecticalartist.files.wordpress.com/2021/03/washington-bullets-by-vijay-prashad-.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HViwlURpX4>)

Killing Hope by William Blum:

- [Text/PDF](#)
(<https://ia803008.us.archive.org/32/items/KillingHope/Killing%20Hope.p>)
- [Audiobook](#) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iV5QuaN5m_M)

Against Empire by Michael Parenti:

- [Text/PDF](#)
(http://uploads.worldlibrary.net/uploads/pdf/20180112220352parenti_a)
- [Audiobook](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzqveHFJ2N0>)

The Blood Never Dried a People's History of the British Empire by John Newsinger:

- [Text](#) (<https://erenow.net/modern/blood-never-dried-peoples-history-british-empire/1.php>)

Marxist analysis of Fascism:

The Fascist Offensive and the Tasks of the Communist International in the Struggle of the Working Class against Fascism By Georgi Dimitrov:

- [Text](#)
(https://marxists.org/reference/archive/dimitrov/works/1935/08_02.htm)
- [PDF](#) (<https://foreignlanguages.press/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/C10-The-Fascist-Offensive-Unity-of-the-Working-Class.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Br79R94UfMQ>)

Fascism and Social Revolution by R. Palme Dutt:

- [Text/PDF](#)
(<https://revolutionarydemocracy.org/archive/DuttFascismandSocRev.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYxVG-SNWsXnpCTb5j3s0-z1UbeHW4jo>)

Blood in my Eye by George Jackson:

- [Text/PDF](#)
(https://redyouthnwa.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/george_l-jackson_blood_in_my_eyebook4you-org.pdf)
- [Audiobook](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYxVG-SNWsXmmKLUwbaAhfVsTneSji0kN>)

Miscellaneous Texts (Wasn't sure where to put these):

Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR by Joseph Stalin:

- [Text](#)
(<https://marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1951/economic-problems/index.htm>)
- [PDF](#) (<https://foreignlanguages.press/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/C33-Economic-Problems-in-the-USSR-1st-Printing.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-RYboleCxA>)

The Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels:

- [Text](#)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/>)
- [PDF](#)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/Manifesto.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdYLRTGmQ3c>)

Liberalism, a Counter History by Domenico Losurdo:

- [Text/PDF](#) (<http://acdc2007.free.fr/losurdo2011.pdf>)
- [Audiobook](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJf0yoJxSw8>)

The Right of Nations to Self Determination by Vladimir Lenin:

- [Text](#)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1914/self-det/>)
- [Audiobook](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bbODqyoeM0>)

Marxism and the National Question by Joseph Stalin

- [Book](#)
(<https://marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1913/03.htm>)
- [Audiobook](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MY-WDTkvtIc>)

"Left-Wing" Communism, An Infantile Disorder Vladimir Lenin:

- [Book](#)
(<https://marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1920/lwc/>)
- [PDF](#) (https://socialist-alliance.org/sites/default/files/left-wing_communism.pdf)
- [Audiobook](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKWYoRTyfdk>)

An incomplete list of US interventions in the world from 1945 – 2001 part 1 – Oct 14, 2022 ([src](#) <https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1581001373302546432>)

I recommend viewing on twitter if possible, there are images I'm not copying here with sources.

China 1945 – 51:

- Backed Chiang Kai-shek against the communists even using recently defeated Japanese troops, the ones that committed unspeakable atrocities in China, to fight the communists. Continued to back nationalist rebels abroad to fight the PRC

France 1947:

- Pumped money into rival political parties and gave guns to gangs to fight the communist party.
- Blackmailed the French government to remove communist ministers from power to receive aid

Marshall Islands 1946 – 58:

- Used the Islands as a nuclear testing ground, displacing thousands and destroying the habitability of many islands

Italy 1947 – 1970s:

- Again like in France, blackmailed the Italian government to dismiss its communist ministers to receive aid.
- Also rigged elections to make sure the popular communist party never won elections

Greece 1947 – 49

- Backed Greek fascists against the Greek communists who fought to defeat the nazis. Then gave further support to this fascist regime that ruled Greece with an extreme brutality

Philippines 1945 – 53:

- US military fought against the leftists even when these leftists were still in the middle of fighting the Japanese imperialists. After defeating the leftists the US set up and backed a fascist dictatorship

Korea 1945 – 53:

- Backed a fascist dictatorship in the South that slaughtered thousands and fought a war against the North to stop Korea's reunification. Side note, the US is responsible for over 2 million Korean deaths in this war

Albania 1949 – 53:

- Tried to overthrow the communist government of Hoxha by using monarchist supporters and Italian fascists and Nazis as guerrilla fighters against the government.

Germany 1950s:

- Launched a campaign of sabotage and terrorism against the GDR. Used communist and socialist traitors to commit terrorist attacks around Europe to then drum up fear of an impending Soviet invasion of Western Europe

Iran 1953:

- US and UK overthrew the democratically elected government of Iran after its prime minister tried to nationalise British owned oil fields. They replaced him with a brutal fascist dictatorship that was eventually overthrown

Guatemala 1953 – 1990s:

- Overthrew elected leader Jacobo Arbenz and installed a fascist dictatorship that committed unspeakable horrors such as running death squads and torture programmes. All for the "crime" of nationalising the lands of United Fruit Company

Costa Rica 1950s – 1970s:

- Tried to overthrow the Liberal president Jose Figueres and tried to assassinate him twice because he wasn't "tough enough with the left" and he sometimes critiqued the US

Indonesia 1957 – 58:

- Backed a fascist dictatorship against the democratically elected government and the extremely popular communist party. The fascists killed an estimated 1 million people in Indonesia, most of whom were

communists
(More details on this in the Jakarta Method)

Haiti 1959:

- US trained the troops of the dictatorship of Francois Duvalier

Guyana 1953 – 64:

- Eventually forced the elected leader Cheddi Jagan from office for his neutrality during the cold war.

Iraq 1958 – 63:

- Overthrew leader Karim Kassem in a coup, he was then executed due to his neutrality in the cold war and his "inconsistent" handling of the Iraqi communist party

Vietnam 1945 – 73:

- Sided with French colonisers against the Vietnamese people and tried to stop the reunification of the country while waging a war against Ho Chi Minh and the communists. The US killed over a million people in Vietnam

Laos 1957 – 73:

- Tried to rig elections and disrupt the largely peaceful leftist movement in Laos. Eventually they moved to more overt methods and bombed Laos killing hundreds of thousands. To this day Laos still remains the most bombed country on Earth

Thailand 1965–73:

- Used Thailand as a base while bombing Vietnam and Laos. While in Thailand they also fought and killed the revolutionary forces there trying to remove them.

Ecuador 1960–63:

- The CIA infiltrated the government and ousted president Jose Maria Velasco because of his opposition to the US policy towards Cuba as well as not clamping down on the Ecuadorian left.

The Congo 1960–65, 1977 – 78:

- Was involved with the overthrowment and later the execution of Patrice Lumumba and backed the dictatorship of Mobutu. Later gave aid to Mobutu to fight off rebellions to his fascistic rule

Algeria 1960:

- Backed the French military in their coup of the Algerian government and hoped the repercussions would topple French leader De Gaulle. They later tried to but decided against assassinating him

Brazil 1961–64:

- Opposed president Joao Goulart for his neutrality during the cold war. Financed and backed a military coup against him and supported this dictatorship while it committed atrocities in Brazil such as mass killings, torture and death squads

Dominican Republic 1963 – 1965:

- US did nothing after a military coup against the first elected leader of the Dominican Republic ousted them. A later rebellion against this dictatorship was crushed by 23000 US troops

Cuba 1959 – present:

- Repeated attempts to overthrow the Cuban Revolution and assassinate Castro. Also a failed invasion of Cuba

Ghana 1966:

- Backed the military coup that overthrow Communist and Pan-African leader Kwame Nkrumah

Uruguay 1969–72

- Trained the police force in assassination and torture techniques as well as provided intelligence for death squads fighting against the Robin Hood like Tupamaros Guerrilla fighters

Chile 1964 – 73:

- Funded and supported the fascist dictatorship of Pinochet who Overthrew the elected government of Salvador Allende. Pinochet was brutal, executing communists en masse and training dogs to rape Liberal women

Greece 1967 – 74:

- The US backed a military coup two days before Greek elections out of fear that the Liberal candidate would win. Followed by 8000 killings in the first month of the coup

South Africa 1960s – 80s

- Backed the apartheid government against Nelson Mandela. Later provided the Intel that caused his arrest.

Bolivia 1964 – 75:

- Backed the military in its coup of President Victor Paz. Later worked with this regime and former SS officers to track down and murder Che Guevara

Australia 1972 – 75:

- Tried to rig the elections to stop the Labour Party winning. Later helped to overthrow this government

Iraq 1972 – 75

- Sent money to Kurdish forces, not to help them fight for autonomy but to weaken themselves and the Iraqi government who were enemies of the Shah of Iran, the dictator that the US put into power

Portugal 1974 – 76:

- CIA did everything it could to stop the leftist reforms taking place after the Fascist dictatorship of Portugal was overthrown. Eventually the CIA succeeded and CIA funded candidates won the elections in Portugal

East Timor 1975 – 99

- US funded and backed the Indonesian invasion of East Timor who had recently gained independence from Portugal. Almost a third of East Timor's population was killed

Angola 1975 – 1980s:

- US supported UNITA during its war with the MPLA. Over 500 000 people were killed

Jamaica 1976:

- US tried to stop the reelection of Prime Minister Michael Manley

Honduras 1980s:

- US turned Honduras into a colony and set up bases to help itself in the war against the guerrillas in El Salvador and Guatemala. Also served as a staging area in the US war against the Socialist government of Nicaragua.

Nicaragua 1978 – 80:

- Funded the Contras in their war against the socialist government of Nicaragua.
- Later interfered in elections to stop the sandinistas from winning.

Philippines 1970s – 1990:

- Poured millions into the Philippines to help the fascist government defeat the leftist and communist insurgencies/revolutions being waged against it

Seychelles 1979–81

- CIA funded a mercenary invasion of the Island

South Yemen 1979 – 84

- Backed paramilitary forces trying to overthrow the socialist government.

South Korea 1980:

- Helped put down a student led protest. Killing thousands

Chad 1981 – 82:

- The US and France helped overthrow the government of Chad, leading to the brutal executions of tens of thousands and the torture of hundreds of thousands

Grenada 1979–83:

- The US tried to destabilise the socialist nation of Grenada under the New Jewel Movement. Later invaded the Island after the murder of Maurice Bishop at the hands of the Grenadian military

Libya 1981–82:

- Tried to assassinate Gaddafi many times as well as shooting down two Libyan planes flying over Libya.

Fiji 1987:

- CIA and NED backed the coup that Overthrew the elected government of Timoci Bavrada

Afghanistan 1979–92:

- Funded reactionary forces to overthrow the Marxist government in Afghanistan killing 1 million, disabling three million and displacing 5 million

El Salvador 1980–92:

- Funded the corrupt government to circumvent democracy. Eventually provided arms and later boots on the ground to support the government against a popular revolution

Haiti 1987 – 94:

- Backed the fascist dictatorship there. Later, under pressure, helped restore the democratically elected government of Aristide with the promise he would not help the poor at the expense of the rich.

Bulgaria 1990–91:

- NED helped stop the extremely popular Bulgarian socialist party from winning the election. But they won so the US helped destabilise the nation and forced a new election. This time the socialists lost

Albania 1991–92:

- Same thing that happened in Bulgaria. Socialists won the election, the US destabilised the nation, funded the opposition, forced a new election the Socialists lost.

Somalia 1993:

- The US used the excuse of providing aid to heavily involved itself in Somalian politics. The US killed over a thousand Somalians in its fight against Mohamed Aidid

Iraq 1990s:

- First gulf War. US manufactured consent for an invasion of Iraq during its war with Kuwait. 50,000 Iraqis died

Peru 1990s – 2000s

- US backed the fascist dictatorship of Fujimori, responsible for mass killings and the mass sterilisation of indigenous peoples

Mexico 1990s – 2000s:

- Backed the Mexican government in its war against the Zapatistas in the name of fighting the drug trade something the Zapatistas are not involved in

Colombia 1990s – 2000s:

- Backed the corrupt government against popular uprisings in the name of combating the drug trade. 200,000 Colombians were killed during this period

All information in this thread was taken from the book "Rogue State" by William Blum which you can read for free here: [Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower by William Blum \(via archive.org\)](https://archive.org/details/WilliamBlumRogueState2002/)
(<https://archive.org/details/WilliamBlumRogueState2002/>)

Apr 7, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1512213283016691712)
(<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1512213283016691712>))

Dialectical Materialism is just so interesting and once you grasp it's meanings and fully understand it, it's impossible to see things without it. I think for an introduction, Stalins "[Dialectical and Historical Materialism](https://redsails.org/dialectical-and-historical-materialism/)" (<https://redsails.org/dialectical-and-historical-materialism/>) is a great read.

In the first Chapter "Marxist Dialectical Method" he mentions four principal features. The first being "Nature Connected and Determined"

The point here is that all of nature is connected to one another. You cannot understand things as isolated from one another. Everything is effected by one another. For example, a tree dying maybe due to a lack of rain or a lack of sunlight due to surrounding plants.

It is not dying on its own. Furthermore the tree cannot grow on its own, it relies on the nature around it (water, soil, sunlight, etc).

The second part is "nature is a state of continuous motion and change". What this means is things are not stagnating, everything is constantly changing. Plants grow and change throughout the years and throughout the seasons.

Another example is you as a person. You do not stay the same, your mind and body changes as time goes on even at the molecular level. The cells constituting your body now are not the same ones you had at birth. Old cells die and new cells grow.

It is the nature of all things to grow and change. To be born and to die. Nothing stays the same.

The third point is "natural Quantitative change leads to Qualitative change" What this means is as more and more things occur (Quantitative change) a new Qualitative change occurs.

An example would be water boiling. As the temperature increases (Quantitative change) this leads to a Qualitative change of the water boiling. Likewise a decrease in the temperature would lead to the Qualitative change of water turning into ice.

A bigger example would be the Quantitative change of Strikes, Protests, Riots, etc leading to the Qualitative change of a change in legislature, president or even the Qualitative change in the mode of production via a revolution from Capitalism to Socialism.

The final point is "Contradictions Inherent in Nature". This refers to how Contradictions exist within all things, there is a constant struggle between the old and the new, a struggle between opposites. Progress is driven by these Contradictions.

New things grow out of the old. Feudalism was born out of antiquity, Capitalism was born out of Feudalism and Socialism was born out of Capitalism.

To end off Stalin says that slow Quantitative changes leads to faster and abrupt Qualitative changes such as revolution resulting in the change of the mode of production. Therefore Capitalism can only be overthrown via Quantitative changes leading to a revolution.

One must be a revolutionary, not a reformist if their goal is to overthrow Capitalism. The contradictions inherent in Capitalism will lead to its eventual overthrow at the hands of the Proletariat and the Peasantry. Class struggle must be driven to its final conclusion.

**Tankies – Apr 14, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1514621620471713792)
(<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1514621620471713792>))**

Propaganda teaches you that Stalin was a bloodthirsty dictator that hungered for power and was just as bad if not worse than Hitler. Reading Stalin and actually studying his life/history/achievements teaches you that he was an incredibly smart man and an incredible Marxist.

I hold firm in my belief that no Marxist has been as propagandized against as Stalin. He has been attacked by the bourgeoisie, by Trots, by Nazis & by revisionists.

I dont glorify Stalin he made mistakes and bad decisions at times but most of what you hear about him is propaganda

**Tankies pt. II – Jul 20, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1549859417239207937)
(<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1549859417239207937>))**

You don't need to kiss the ground they walk on, or even like them all that much. But this narrative that Stalin and Mao were mass murdering lunatics akin to or worse than Hitler just shows you've done 0 analysis of their works, both theoretical and practical.

Did they do some shit that personally I don't like? Of course, no one will agree with 100% of someone's actions. Did they also leave their mark on the world that was a net positive? Absolutely. One must only look at their nations before they came to power to see the good they did

And not just their nations. On the world stage their actions and the actions of their nations had profound effects mostly positive. If not for the USSR, the Nazis would have won WW2.

It's also just extremely embarrassing to see this binary good or evil, and the narrative that Stalin and Mao were evil from self described Marxists. Gotta start gatekeeping the term Marxist until we figure out wtf is going on

Good related reading from [@NiaFrome \(https://redsails.org/@nia/\)](https://redsails.org/@nia/) at ["Tankies" \(via redsails.org\) \(https://redsails.org/tankies/\)](https://redsails.org/tankies/).

Apr 23, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1517970532783824898\)](https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1517970532783824898))

Upon looking into it I realized just how good the Cuban Healthcare system is and how much it contributed to the high life expectancy of the nation.

Before the revolution, Cuba was led by a fascist comprador leader known as Batista who was eventually ousted by Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and the Cuban people.

Under Batista there was at its height, 88 hospitals in Cuba, 9.2 doctors per 10000 people, and the country was ravaged by corruption, crime, and capitalism. The transformation that has occurred Post-Revolution is nothing short of fantastic.

By 2019, Cuba had 150 Hospitals, 436 Community Polyclinics and 15,000 regular clinics. There is now 84.2 doctors per 10,000 people meaning that Cuba employs over 97000 physicians. Cuba also has 5.3 hospital beds per 1000 people, compared to the United States number of 2.87.

Life Expectancy in Cuba sits at 78 years, and Infant mortality is 4.2 per 1000 people (the lowest in North America). By 2025, they will have the highest proportion of people over 60 in all of Latin America.

Cuba has not kept it's healthcare at home either as it currently has over 30,000 doctors working overseas. In 2004, Castro along with Hugo Chavez of Venezuela launched "Operation Miracle" which provided free healthcare for all illnesses affecting the eyes in Latin America.

This led to 3.5 million people within Latin America having their eyesight restored free of charge. Cuba also started "LABIOFAM" in Africa, a chemical and biopharmaceutical research institute which is working to vaccinate Africans

against Malaria which kills 630000 annually.

They also set up ELAM, The Latin American School of Medicine which has graduated 20,000 doctors from over 123 countries. Ban Ki-Moon, former secretary general of the UN said it is the "World's most advanced medical school"

Margaret Chan, Former Director-General of the WHO said in regards to the Cuban Healthcare System "Cuba is the only country that has a healthcare system closely linked to Research & Development. This is the way to go, because human health can only improve through innovation".

They also congratulated the leadership of Cuba for "having made health an essential pillar of development". and further said "We sincerely hope that all of the world's inhabitants will have access to quality medical services, as they do in Cuba".

In the face of Covid Cuba has made great strides. They have developed 5 separate vaccines for Covid one of which when combined with the booster vaccine Soberana Plus (also cuban made) was 91% effective. Transporting these vaccines elsewhere has been difficult due to the sanctions

Cuba has fully vaccinated 9.94 million people in their country, or 87.7% of the population, one of the highest's in the world. They have also sent doctors around the world, particularly Africa to help fight covid such as sending 200 doctors to South Africa.

Speaking of vaccines, Cuba has developed a lung cancer vaccine. Information is limited but it is said that it has greatly increased the life expectancy of people with Lung Cancer, even those with an advanced case.

In clinical trials, those with an advanced case of Lung Cancer whom had been granted 9 months to live ended up surviving an extra 3 months with the vaccine. An increase of 25%. Again due to the embargo and sanctions, it has not left Cuba.

Jack West MD, the clinical executive director for AccessHope and a medical oncologist at City of Hope who specialises in Lung Cancer said in regards to the vaccine "It seems to provide a very modest survival benefit".

To end this off I shall leave you with two videos speaking on Cuba and its healthcare. One by [Kwame Ture \(https://youtu.be/1OS8Z5B5Cbk\)](https://youtu.be/1OS8Z5B5Cbk) and one by [Michael Parenti \(https://youtu.be/eoxT1UwTM3I\)](https://youtu.be/eoxT1UwTM3I).

EDITOR'S NOTE: I subbed similar youtube videos for the twitter clips linked, watch on twitter for the originals if the website still exists.

Just to add in regards to Covid in Cuba, Cuba has had 8500 deaths from Covid, Belgium, a country with the same population size as Cuba has had 31000 deaths despite being "more developed" and richer than Cuba

May 16, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1526376798069706754\)](https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1526376798069706754))

The mass normalisation & love given to the Azov battalion in Ukraine by Western leaders & media outlets should deeply concern us. Its no secret that the west is friendly with Fascism but to openly parade nazis as heros is extremely dangerous and we've already seen consequences of this. The right is organised, the right in many nations is armed. And decades after decades of red scare propaganda has left the western communist movements in unfavourable positions to this. All I can say is get organised and if you can, arm yourself.

I see the libs arrived under this tweet seemly wanting to prove how liberals uphold Fascism seeing as how they're all doing nazi apologia rn

**Jun 29, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1542164478242050052)
(<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1542164478242050052>))**

Some so called Marxists seem to be trying to move away from any kind of social progressivism whether that be towards LGBTQ+ rights, women's rights, etc. The justification for this is that liberals, etc and by extension the capitalist system also "fights" for these things.

First off this idea that social progressivism is somehow disconnected from the class struggle under the capitalist system rather than attached to it is deeply flawed. But secondly they're ignoring the fact that the right has historically always tried to coopt leftist movements.

A big thing within Fascism is the use of leftist (mainly Marxist) language to gain popularity within the masses while quietly actually working against the pro working class agenda they talk about.

Marxists do not need to distance ourselves from these struggles because they can be and have been coopted. What we should do however is to bring these struggles back to a Marxist base, to talk about them and fight for them through the proper analysis, a Marxist one.

Things such as women's rights can be used as a means to justify western imperialism, we've seen this with Afghanistan and the fake outrage Western media had for how women will now be treated there. The truth is they don't care, its just a justification for the US to go back.

But does that mean women's liberation is somehow bad? Of course not. Marxism from its inception has fought for women's liberation, we see this in the writings of Marx and Engels. Further writers, both male and female have continued this struggle.

Do not abandon the working masses just because a part of their struggle has been coopted by the capitalist system, but instead drag it back to its proper place. A place of being attached to the class struggle and use it to fight against the capitalist system.

**The Grenadian Revolution – Jun 29, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1542320718721044480)
(<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1542320718721044480>))**

The Grenadian Revolution, a thread

Grenada is an island in the Caribbean. It became a French colony where the Native Carib and Arawak people were exterminated by French colonialists. African slave labour was brought over and the island became an agricultural colony. Eventually Britain took control of the island.

In 1974 Grenada won its independence and its new leader was a man named Eric Gairy, who began a process of selling out the country. Businesses were sold off, profits landed in the hands of a select few and the nation was dependent on Canadian, British and US finance capital.

Gairy used his power in the government to fight businesses that opposed his own interests, enriching himself and a select few. He also passed many measures to suppress the masses and formed a gang, trained in Pinochets Chile to harass and kill the masses and opposition parties.

The mongoose gang in Grenada were notorious and brutalised the people even killing the father of Maurice Bishop, the eventual socialist leader of Revolutionary Grenada.

To fight back against Gairy, two organisations, the Movement for Assemblies of the people under Maurice Bishop and the Joint Endeavour for Welfare, Education and Liberation under Unison White came together to form the New Jewel movement, a Marxist–Leninist party.

The New Jewel Movement spoke on why it took a Marxist–Leninist path and said they were inspired by the Black Power movement in the US, the anti colonial struggles in Africa and most importantly the Cuban Revolution which allowed them to see Scientific Socialism up close.

The New Jewel Movement (NJM) showed an ability to mobilise the masses such as demonstrations with tens of thousands of people, working closely with the proletariat, unions and becoming the main opposition party.

Gairy feared they'd take over and planned to assassinate them while he was in the US. However the NJM managed to seize power while he was away, mobilising the masses and seizing the Blue Army Barracks, and the nation's only radio station. They also arrested the mongoose gang.

The revolution was bloodless. The NJM smashed the state machinery and formed a new one, a People's Revolutionary Government and formed the Peoples Revolutionary Militia to protect the nation.

Grenada was a very poor and underdeveloped nation however so Maurice Bishop took inspiration from Lenin's NEP. He nationalised what he could and allowed limited capitalist development supervised by the new government to build up the nation's productive forces.

Under the NJM, Grenada progressed and the life of the masses greatly improved:

- all of Gairy's oppressive laws were removed.
- businesses would now recognise and respect unions and the right to strike

- organisations such as the national women's organisation grew in numbers
- councils were formed in neighbourhoods, workplaces and villages to get the people involved in the governance of the nation and to raise the political consciousness of the people
- GNP grew by 5.5% in the first year of the rev and 14% in the second year.
- real wages grew by 10%
- unemployment fell from 50% to 12%
- massive land reform programmes were ushered in. Government had 10, year leases on unused land over 100 acres for agricultural uses.
- low interest loans for farms expanded
- four new agricultural universities were established
- benefits for unemployed workers introduced
- medical and dental care became free
- new clinics and modern hospitals were built
- secondary school became a right, free books, uniforms and hot lunches were introduced.
- price controls on essential food items
- 75% of families eligible for interest free loans and low cost materials to fix their homes
- a housing plant was built to produce 500 prefab houses a year
- 30% of workers tax exempt
- retirement, sick pay, disability pay, maternity leave and pay introduced.
- women guaranteed equal pay
- laws to stop the sexual abuse of women introduced and enforced.

Revolutionary Grenada received support from many nations such as the USSR, Libya, Syria, Eastern Europe, the DPRK and most importantly Cuba who helped Grenada with its construction of a brand new modern airport.

However Grenada was subjected to imperialist propaganda by the US. Reagan claimed the New Airport was going to be used as a staging base for a Cuban and Soviet invasion of the US and accused the government of human rights abuses.

Despite the good work being done by the NJM, a group of ultras under a man named Bernard Coard, head of the military accused Maurice Bishop of Revisionism and of being a Cuban Puppet. They arrested Bishop and put him under house arrest.

The masses outraged, marched and freed Maurice who along with other NJM members marched to Fort Rupert to confront Coard and try and repair the damage. When they arrived however, the military opened fire, killing many people

Maurice and the NJM members surrendered to stop the bloodshed. They were taken inside the Fort and executed. To this day, no one knows where their bodies are.

The US used this political instability as an excuse to invade. They killed 69 people including Cuban workers at the airport and overthrew what was left of the revolutionary government. The US laid the final nail in the coffin of the Grenadian Revolution.

However do not despair as the work of Maurice Bishop, the NJM and the Grenadian masses lives on and shall inspire new generations to take up their

struggle.

If you'd like to learn more about the a Grenadian Revolution I recommend these two videos and this book.

- [MAURICE BISHOP SPEAKS \(via youtube.com\) \(https://youtu.be/X7MtydR-fil\)](https://youtu.be/X7MtydR-fil)
- [Grenada: The Future Coming Towards Us \(1983\) \(via youtube.com\) \(https://youtu.be/7z-AxNFx88o\)](https://youtu.be/7z-AxNFx88o)
- [Maurice Bishop Speaks: The Grenada Revolution and Its Overthrow, 1979–83 \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/162690.Maurice_Bishop_Speaks\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/162690.Maurice_Bishop_Speaks)

Much more detail and context for what happened between Coard and Maurice Bishop and the eventual end of the revolution

(quotetweeting [@freiresdaughter](https://twitter.com/freiresdaughter) (<https://twitter.com/freiresdaughter>), [here](https://twitter.com/freiresdaughter/status/1542475550094237698) (<https://twitter.com/freiresdaughter/status/1542475550094237698>))
great thread but this isn't why bishop was arrested...

CC meetings voted on a joint leadership resolution which would have maurice as the face/spokesperson and bernard as the ideological driving force (he was always seen as more orthodox) maurice was hesitant at first but then accepted this

the problem came when maurice went to hungary and czechoslovakia and rumours from there came that he was having second thoughts about this decision. his security guards *claimed* that he said there was a power struggle since "no state had joint leadership" this

somehow got to grenada which annoyed the CC as they took a vote and he should respect the vote. even worse there were RUMOURS that he wanted to overthrow the leadership/decision/CC. there is a big chance that these were false/exaggerated but that's what isolated him.

Aug 19, 2022 (src
<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1560801057290207237>)

Had to delete my tweet on rent prices in the USSR cause it turns out their rent + utilities, when adjusted for inflation and in USD was not \$240 a month for a two bedroom flat. Its \$68.75. Almost \$70 or £60 A MONTH for rent, electricity, heating, water, etc.

The average UK salary is 2000 pounds. After taxes you have 1600. That means you'd have 1540 left over each month for food and commodities.

Sep 25, 2022 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1574179728927428608>))

An openly fascist party has won the election in Italy and I fear that this will become the trend in the Western world. As capitalism is in crisis, our nations will move from covert fascism to that of overt fascism.
It is our duty to oppose this by any means necessary

Oct 4, 2022 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1577282231953166338>))

Putin is a direct result of the illegal dissolution of the Soviet Union and the propping up of far right dictators in the post soviet nations such as Yeltsin in Russia or Havel in former Czechoslovakia. The West is a main reason for all the misery that has happened since.

A big part of liberal thinking is that things simply just exist in a vacuum. That Putin just magically became leader of Russia one day and then years later just got mad and decided to invade Ukraine.
They refuse to dig into the roots of conflicts.

Oct 13, 2022 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1580623400938020864>))

Sometimes I think people shy away from George Jackson's definition of Fascism because it would mean contending with the fact that for many of us, we are already living under Fascism and that would call into question all of our analyses of our own countries.

This thread is useful

(quotetweeting amir ([@MustBeTheHero](https://twitter.com/MustBeTheHero) (<https://twitter.com/MustBeTheHero>)), [here](https://twitter.com/MustBeTheHero/status/1542700730640908293) (<https://twitter.com/MustBeTheHero/status/1542700730640908293>))

since “fascism” is getting thrown around so much I wanted to share some of George Jackson’s thoughts on it, since I found them so intuitive

as you read these, think of the situation that we have in the US today

there are lots of different definitions to the term but GJ emphasizes the two key aspects: capitalist and anti-labor

it’s important to understand what it is so that we may be successful in our fight against it.

“The ultimate aim of fascism is the complete destruction of revolutionary consciousness.”

“The essence of a U.S.A totalitarian socio-political capitalism is concealed behind the illusion of a mass participatory society. We must rip away its mask.”

this is what was really illuminating to me: the 3 faces of fascism

- out of power: here it looks like populism
- in power, insecure: violently oppressive fascism
- in power, secure: all revolutionary spirit is defeated, protests are allowed since they will never succeed

fascism out of power will complain about “parasitic capitalism” or maybe, crony capitalism. Parenti said populism on the right is always fascism

fascism allows the ruling class to disguise their interests as “national interests”

“Fascism is always a response to a threat to the establishment.”

“the marriage between the political elite and the economic elite becomes more apparent”

“Monopoly capitalism is the central objective of corporative fascism.”

hope this helps you assess whether this country is fascist. and looking at history, you cannot vote out fascism.

But you can also read his work for free which you can find by googling ["Blood in my eye pdf"](https://archive.org/details/BloodInMyEyeByGeorgeL.Jackson) (<https://archive.org/details/BloodInMyEyeByGeorgeL.Jackson>)

I do agree that fascism can be hard to pin down (some Jackson also argues) so I would argue to read more beyond this. Dimitrov also writes on fascism, as does Parenti (to a more limited degree)

Oct 14, 2022 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1581081889485754368>))

One thing about the CIA I remember reading was that if they tried to infiltrate Eastern Europe/ the Soviet Union, the average life expectancy for an agent was 24 hours.

The KGB were no joke

Reply from [@IrishRed 83](#) (https://twitter.com/IrishRed_83):

Considering the incredible achievements of the world's first self-sustaining, besieged workers' state in history, facts like this just make me sad. Imagine what they could have achieved – still – if they weren't perpetually concentrated on this level of self-preservation.

Reply from [@ScottishCommie](#) (<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie>):

Yep. That's why I really like how Parenti talks about siege socialism. How these nations were in a constant state of defense due to western imperialism and yet they still made incredible achievements. Once capitalism is gone they'll be no stopping human achievement

Oct 16, 2022 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1581661484538425344>))

Haiti has been punished for over 200 years because it fought back against the Western Powers. Haiti was the first free country in the world because it banned slavery. Haiti was a nation built by slaves that freed themselves and the West has never "forgiven" them for that.

(quotetweeting [@mL Nkrumaism](#)
(https://twitter.com/mL_Nkrumaism), [here](#)
(https://twitter.com/mL_Nkrumaism/status/1582283886931116033)):

Kwame Ture's analysis importance of Haitian history to ALL OF US.

stop neocolonialism means no allowing policy of coup followed by backing a Juan Guaidó type compliant to corporations interest.

all peoples from Haiti to Korea know this.

<https://youtu.be/xJ09Z8Bu2V4>

Oct 18, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1582375337513877504)
(<https://twitter.com/ScottishCommie/status/1582375337513877504>))

One of the beautiful things about Marxism is that the laws of Marxism could have been "discovered" by anyone. Marxism was born out of Capitalism and class society, anyone who analysed Capitalism would have come to Marx's conclusion. It just so happened to be Marx who did it first

This is why Marxism will always exist.

Every Marxist text could be burned, everyone who knows Marxism could be killed but so long as Capitalism and class society exists, Marxism will come back for it is a science

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Modern Communists, Resource Lists

On Bail and Criminalization

2023-01-02

"More stuff about the Prison Industrial Complex, the psyche of those most at risk of criminalization, etc."

Bail and Criminalization tweets

Bail

From Arielle Ivy (@ArielleIvy (<https://twitter.com/ArielleIvy>)) on her thread [here](https://twitter.com/ArielleIvy/status/1584677755484094467?t=9w45M6pLSoumbWJOHI-TQQ&s=19)
(<https://twitter.com/ArielleIvy/status/1584677755484094467?t=9w45M6pLSoumbWJOHI-TQQ&s=19>):

Today I watched a judge get upset b/c an attorney said during a bail application that the family had not been able to save enough money to buy their loved one's freedom. She didn't like that characterization of bail. Which leads me to ask, what do judges think bail is?

Bail is LITERALLY a sum required to be paid for a person's freedom. Is the bench so high folks lose touch with reality once they ascend to it?

Let's all you and me remember what bail is as well; it can be easy to forget, if you don't often interact with it personally.

Criminalization Culture

From Roderic Day (@RodericDay (<https://twitter.com/RodericDay>)) on his thread [here](https://twitter.com/RodericDay/status/1584373120924004355?t=GrErIcPvYhKu9bPMdOfdbaq&s=19) (<https://twitter.com/RodericDay/status/1584373120924004355?t=GrErIcPvYhKu9bPMdOfdbaq&s=19>):

Disagreements about habits are so suffused in terror of criminalization that Westies can't have chill discussions about them without panicking.

"Watching this movie is bad for your self-esteem."

"YOU WANT TO BAN ART!?"

"Weed makes you sluggish."

"YOU WANT TO JAIL ME!?"

I consider being able to work out a disagreement with a good friend an *essential* life skill.

And I mean reaching a satisfying resolution that settles the dispute, not deferring it forever with a lazy "agree to disagree" non-conclusion.

It's the main driver of growth.

Dealing with unjust authority is the most embittering thing in the world.

But the salve that America offers its victims is just childish metaphysical egoism.

"Be yourself!" it insists, flattering you into ignoring whether your habits contribute to your predicament.

Old lady on the NY Metro – Oct 25, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/FelipeDLH/status/1584887584307961862) (<https://twitter.com/FelipeDLH/status/1584887584307961862>))

From Felipe De La Hoz (@FelipeDLH (<https://twitter.com/FelipeDLH>)) who covers immigration news on substack at [Border/Lines](https://borderlines.substack.com/) (<https://borderlines.substack.com/>):

On a train where a small older woman was muttering incoherently to herself. To be crystal clear, she was standing still, not harassing or even addressing anyone in particular. Doors open, two cops board and remove her, apparently at the direction of the conductor

They don't give her a reason or anything, just "black jacket? Come with us ma'am, you can take the next train, come on," which seems like an obvious lie. A few people mutter about it, the doors close, train leaves

No one was being hurt, but I guess just having some issues quietly to yourself is now grounds for removal. It's clear that the flooding of cops into the subways has little to do with public safety, and much to do with public perception of disorder

Organizations and Bail Funds

I'm listing some of the groups and bail funds I know of.

TODO: explain what a bail fund is, why they're important, etc

- [National Bail Fund Network \(https://www.communityjusticeexchange.org/en/nbfn-directory\)](https://www.communityjusticeexchange.org/en/nbfn-directory) (@BailFundNetwork <https://twitter.com/BailFundNetwork>) – We're a network of over 90 community bail/bond funds that free people from jail and immigration detention & fight to #EndMoneyBail and #EndDetention.
- [Coalition to End Money Bond \(https://endmoneybond.org/\)](https://endmoneybond.org/) (@endmoneybond <https://twitter.com/endmoneybond>) – Working to #EndMoneyBail & pretrial incarceration across Illinois. We work for racial justice & freedom.
- [Richmond Community Bail Fund \(https://rvabailfund.org/\)](https://rvabailfund.org/) (@RVABailFund <https://twitter.com/RVABailFund>) – Abolitionist volunteer-led bail fund // email: rvabailfund@gmail.com // phone: 804-601-4944 (general) 804-291-8520 (in-jail)
- [Northwest Community Bail Fund \(https://www.nwcombailfund.org/\)](https://www.nwcombailfund.org/) (@NWCBailFund <https://twitter.com/NWCBailFund>) – We pay bail so that everyone in our Pacific Northwest community has a fair shot at justice (Western WA).
- [Envision Freedom Fund \(https://envisionfreedom.org/\)](https://envisionfreedom.org/) (formerly BKBailFund) (@EnvFreeFund <https://twitter.com/EnvFreeFund>) – Brooklyn Community Bail Fund is now Envision Freedom Fund! Fighting to dismantle the criminal legal & immigration systems.
- [Philadelphia Community Bail Fund \(https://linktr.ee/pcbfb\)](https://linktr.ee/pcbfb) (@Phillybailout <https://twitter.com/Phillybailout>) – aka "that Philly bail out jawn," PCBF works to end pretrial detention and the prison industrial complex. Until that day, we post bail to free our people.
- [Philadelphia Bail Fund \(https://www.phillybailfund.org/\)](https://www.phillybailfund.org/) (@phillybailfund <https://twitter.com/phillybailfund>) – The Philadelphia Bail Fund is a revolving fund that posts bail for people who cannot afford it. Our goal is to keep families together and #EndMoneyBail.
- [Massachusetts Bail Fund \(https://www.massbailfund.org/\)](https://www.massbailfund.org/) (@MassBailFund <https://twitter.com/MassBailFund>) – We are abolitionists who pay bail so that ppl can be free while fighting a case. We work to end pretrial detention & supervision. #FreeThemAll
- [Chicago Community Bond Fund \(https://linktr.ee/chibondfund\)](https://linktr.ee/chibondfund) (@ChiBondFund <https://twitter.com/ChiBondFund>) – Community bail fund practicing mutual aid & fighting to #EndMoneyBail + pretrial incarceration. Proud member of @BailFundNetwork <https://twitter.com/BailFundNetwork> & the Coalition to @endmoneybond <https://twitter.com/endmoneybond>
- [Minnesota Freedom Fund \(https://mnfreedomfund.org/\)](https://mnfreedomfund.org/) (@MNFreedomFund <https://twitter.com/MNFreedomFund>) – Working to end oppressive jailing and reduce its harm to our community by paying cash bail and immigration bonds for people who can't afford it.
- [Lancaster Bail Fund \(https://linktr.ee/lancasterbailfund\)](https://linktr.ee/lancasterbailfund) (@LancBailFund <https://twitter.com/LancBailFund>) – A volunteer run revolving fund on a mission to end money bail and pretrial detention. We post bail for individuals held pretrial at Lancaster County Prison.
- [Tucson Second Chance Community Bail Fund \(https://tucsonbailfund.org/\)](https://tucsonbailfund.org/) (@FreeTucson <https://twitter.com/FreeTucson>) – The Tucson Second Chance Community Bail Fund is a grassroots org working to end the criminalization of the poor & disrupt pretrial detention in Southern Arizona

- [NC Community Bail Fund of Durham \(https://www.nccbailfund.org/\)](https://www.nccbailfund.org/) (@nccbailfund (<https://twitter.com/nccbailfund>))

Alright, and now for non bail fund but similar organizations

- [Appalachian Prison Book Project \(https://appalachianprisonbookproject.org/\)](https://appalachianprisonbookproject.org/) (@AppalachianPBP (<https://twitter.com/AppalachianPBP>)) – The Appalachian Prison Book Project (APBP) is a nonprofit organization that sends free books to people imprisoned in the Appalachian region. (Morgantown, WV). They'll take things like [composition notebooks \(https://twitter.com/AppalachianPBP/status/1588974468730605569\)](https://twitter.com/AppalachianPBP/status/1588974468730605569) and send em to folks in prison – see if you can find a similar project near you!

There are more, please search in your area or see if you can help start one with groups that are working towards bail reform/relief in your area! I can only list so many here.

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Resource Lists, Tweets

On Brigid

2023-01-03

"aka ComradeBrigid, of Probably Cancelled Pod"

Revolutionary Women's Liberation with Brigid

Brigid Ó Coileáin (@ComradeBrigid (<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid>)), on linktree as [estrellaroja \(https://linktr.ee/estrellaroja\)](https://linktr.ee/estrellaroja), hosts a podcast called [Probably Cancelled Pod \(https://probablycancelledpod.libsyn.com/website\)](https://probablycancelledpod.libsyn.com/website). Her linktree contains a lot of links to good educational resources, highly recommend you check it out.

Dec 14, 2020 ([src \(https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1338708239224090624\)](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1338708239224090624))

This whole "sex workers enjoy what they do" thing is so dishonest..

Just say you prioritize the experience of (white, western) cam girls rather than survival sex workers of the entire rest of the world. Who cares about women in the global south, right?

In 2012 there was an estimated 42 million prostitutes in the world.

[Reply \(https://twitter.com/phoenix_hearted/status/1338796129152978946\)](https://twitter.com/phoenix_hearted/status/1338796129152978946) from Aria (@phoenix_hearted (https://twitter.com/phoenix_hearted)):

I don't even think cam girls "enjoy it". All sex work is dehumanizing because the buyers are abusive pos.

The reason that belief is so hard to squash is that the women themselves are forced to pretend like they are enjoying themselves to keep their income.

Dec 21, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1341174027117846528)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1341174027117846528>))

'Libertarian socialism' is almost an oxymoron, as it simultaneously asserts to prioritize both the individual and the collective. A distinctly western an entitled tendency using socialism as a guise for individualism. Which is why it fails time and time again.

Jan 1, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1345149558985252865)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1345149558985252865>))

SWERF implies a disdain for sex workers. As an ex-sex worker myself, I can say I only have compassion for all sex workers. And that's precisely why I want the exploitation of women and children here and abroad to end.

An end to sexual slavery, an end to pimps and johns, an end to poverty, an end to rape culture, an end to sex tourism, an end to femicides and missing and murdered indigenous women. It's common sense.

Jan 21, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1352296598211092480)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1352296598211092480>))

The thing the US Left does best is anti-communism.

Feb 19, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1362835097322422274)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1362835097322422274>))

Americans talk about Uyghurs in Xinjiang as if they care about Muslims LOL

Meanwhile, the US openly deals with Islamic extremism within the Uyghur population by DRONE STRIKING them and Americans are SILENT.

Mar 11, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1370234501973032960)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1370234501973032960>))

So funny when STEFS (Sex Trade Expansionist Feminists) tell me to "listen to sex workers" but then I tell them I'm an ex survival sex worker and then they don't know what to do.

Mar 12, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1370442545621299202)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1370442545621299202>))

Homelessness and the sex trade are both largely due to poverty and you only see one being reframed by liberals as "empowerment".

There are some people who choose to be homeless but we don't point to them as a justification for homelessness. Poverty alleviation (socialism) is central to alleviation on both fronts.

Mar 22, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1373973431566401536)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1373973431566401536>))

Some people see a 50+yo man having sexual relations with a young woman as creepy/predatory until there is a monetary transaction involved. I find this odd.

He asks an 18yo girl to make custom porn or give him a lap dance in the strip club for money and suddenly it's not predatory at all (and the girl is "empowered")! Strange logic.

Mar 30, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1377091199664852993)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1377091199664852993>))

We've gotten to the point that women in porn being raped/abused (verbally and physically) while being double-penetrated and crying is considered normal but speaking against that is considered "sex-negative".

It's astounding how many people are desensitized to this degree of blatant misogyny.

Apr 9, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1380732082360573955)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1380732082360573955>))

They really convinced these liberal feminists that patriarchy is feminism :crying emoji:

Apr 21, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1384910427935621123)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1384910427935621123>))

It's empowering to be coerced into producing male orgasm because you're poor.

- people on twitter

May 14, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1393327256265805825)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1393327256265805825>))

Prison abolition is not possible until communism. To say traffickers, murderers, and rapists should run free right now for the sake of being a prison abolitionist is a super wild take. Anarchists have weird ideas but also not surprising.

This liberal notion of ultimate individual freedom void of material analysis naturally leads to this.

Good luck shutting down cartel-run child brothels with your food not bombs chapter and a couple volunteer social workers.

This doesn't mean I'm not a prison abolitionist. I am. I've even organized with prison abolition orgs. We held the meetings in my home. I'm just not an idealist-- I'm a materialist.

May 29, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1398789301593415681)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1398789301593415681>))

The way that pornography has shaped women's beauty standards over the past few decades is actually horrifying.

My heart goes out to all the women in the sex trade who were told they need X operation in order to work, and to all the women who are pressured to conform to these toxic standards of patriarchy and self-loathing.

Jul 9, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1413544570634346496)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1413544570634346496>))

Can you imagine being a communist in the 1960s and after decades of McCarthyism the hippies show up and completely derail Left politics? That must have been so depressing.

Radlibs are the hippies of today. Same bad politics, new optics.

Anti-communist, anti-society, patriarchy but make it ~woke~ repackaged as "sexual liberation", academic anti-working class, utopian socialist nonsense. Hippies V. 2.0

Jul 23, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1418422377436811265)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1418422377436811265>))

Disturbing to know that men watch violent porn and then leave the house and look at you.

Jul 29, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1420794422233604102)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1420794422233604102>))

Universities that charge thousands a semester putting people into debt and then hold seminars for students on "How to be a sex worker 101" should be charged with sex trafficking.

Aug 20, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1428802473666486278)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1428802473666486278>))

*Sex work is work!" is not analysis. It's no wonder that the people who parrot this catchphrase have the weakest materialist analysis on the sex trade. No analysis of class. No analysis of race, sex, and gender demographics. No statistics. Just catchphrases.

Oct 7, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1446190962422714378)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1446190962422714378>))

A dude just told me he'd rather watch porn than have sex with an actual person. This is what happens when our sexualities become commodified by a capitalist industry. This is why society becomes more and more pornified while people are having less actual sex. We're alienated.

Alienated from ourselves, alienated from each other, alienated from the erotic, our sexualities, the sensual, and from connection. Porn kills all of this.

Dec 2, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1466512169504235520)
(<https://twitter.com/ComradeBrigid/status/1466512169504235520>))

Anti-war activism should always be tied to anti-imperialism and should never devolve into pacifism.

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Modern Communists, Tweets

On Foreign Languages Press

2023-01-04

"an MLM Publishing House, with lots of free pdfs."

Foreign Languages Press

Foreign Languages Press ([@FLP_books \(https://twitter.com/FLP_books\)](https://twitter.com/FLP_books)), available at [foreignlanguages.press \(https://foreignlanguages.press/\)](https://foreignlanguages.press/) is a Marxist-Leninist-Maoist Publishing House. Founded in 2016, they "believe in the necessity of providing the broadest possible access to revolutionary literature at an affordable cost. [They] publish books based on [their] understanding of the current needs and challenges that the International Communist Movement is facing."

They have tons of [foundational works \(https://foreignlanguages.press/foundations/\)](https://foreignlanguages.press/foundations/), [Maoist works \(https://foreignlanguages.press/works-of-maoism/\)](https://foreignlanguages.press/works-of-maoism/), and [original works and essays \(https://foreignlanguages.press/new-roads/\)](https://foreignlanguages.press/new-roads/).

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Resource Lists, Modern Communists

On Yasha Levine

2023-01-05

"a Soviet-American journalist, and historian of technology."

Yasha Levine

Yasha is a Soviet-American journalist. He's the author of [Surveillance Valley: The Rise of the Military-Digital Complex \(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/34220713-surveillance-valley\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/34220713-surveillance-valley) and a [substack \(https://yasha.substack.com/\)](https://yasha.substack.com/) with a podcast called [The Russians \(https://yasha.substack.com/p/the-russians\)](https://yasha.substack.com/p/the-russians) (run with [Evgenia Kovda \(https://kovda.org/about/\)](https://kovda.org/about/))

Apr 12, 2018 ([src \(https://twitter.com/yashalevine/status/984555750432411648\)](https://twitter.com/yashalevine/status/984555750432411648))

The Soviet Union was why European Jews weren't completely wiped out, you retrograde sociopaths.

Members of my family fought—and died fighting—fascists, while anti-communists like you cheered the Nazis on.

(quotetweeting Victims of Communism (@VoCommunism)
"To them I will give within My temple and its walls a memorial
and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an
everlasting name that will endure forever." #NeverAgain
#YomHaShoah #HolocaustRemembranceDay

Victims of Communism, a US government propaganda outfit signed into law by Bill Clinton.

And by the way, fascists like VoC did not see a difference between Jews and communism: Communism was a Jewish plot to take over the world. You couldn't eradicate one without eradicating the other.

**May 3, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/yashalevine/status/1257023811284697089)
(<https://twitter.com/yashalevine/status/1257023811284697089>))**

All these American leftists who say: "We must critique China!" Americans have no political power over our own ruling class in our own society. So good luck with "critiquing China"—as if that's gonna do anything except feed into the elite-driven "War with China" campaign going now

I'll just drop this here: Like all elite-driven xenophobic campaigns, this "China did it" propaganda wave displaces blame for domestic political problems onto an inscrutable, foreign enemy. [Respectable Racism: The "War With China" Edition \(via yasha.substack.com\) \(https://yasha.substack.com/p/respectable-racism-the-war-with-china\)](https://yasha.substack.com/p/respectable-racism-the-war-with-china)

Let me reiterate this simply for those who don't get it: We can't even convince our shitty oligarchic government to give us basic healthcare. So...focus on getting political power domestically, rather than projecting your political impotence on evil foreigners.

Glad I was planning to launch a new limited series on the history of America's imperial propaganda machine. Time's ripe.

With this insane spook-fed propaganda "War With China" campaign converging on us, I'm glad I planned to start a limited series on <http://yasha.substack.com> on the origins of America's imperial propaganda machine—from the CIA in 50s Munich, all the way to Falun Gong and others today

Aug 15, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/yashalevine/status/1294784511281004544)
(<https://twitter.com/yashalevine/status/1294784511281004544>))

Let's be honest: No one in America or the EU actually cares about Belarusians. They just want to destabilize Russia. Unleashing a wave of desperate and exploitable migrant workers on the EU—and privatizing the country's vast industrial and ag wealth is a big bonus, too.

AGAIN: NO ONE HERE CARES IF BELARUSIANS LIVE, DIE OR GET TURNED INTO SERFS ON A GERMAN FARM.

Just look at what our empire helped do to Ukraine. What a nightmare. Today this highly-educated, resource-rich country — once home to the most advanced Soviet industries — is the poorest country in Europe. [Ukraine: A Short History of Meddling \(via yasha.substack.com\)](https://yasha.substack.com/p/ukraine-a-short-history-of-meddling) (<https://yasha.substack.com/p/ukraine-a-short-history-of-meddling>)

Sep 20, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/yashalevine/status/1440093350246367232)
(<https://twitter.com/yashalevine/status/1440093350246367232>))

this whole masked help/servant “scandal” is so perfect. people suddenly upset because servants have to wear masks—but not because there are servants who constantly live and work under the authoritarianism of their masters, i mean, employers. yeah the mask is the evil thing here.

the met gala was egalitarian until the celebs and elites made their servants and lackeys wear masks!

oh those hypocritical libs!

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Modern Authors

On Nicky Case

2023-01-06

"a digital creator, who's made some neat stuff."

Nicky Case

Nicky Case ([@ncasenmare](https://twitter.com/ncasenmare) (<https://twitter.com/ncasenmare>)), found at ncase.me (<https://ncase.me/>), makes lots of cool stuff online.

They have a [blog \(https://blog.ncase.me/\)](https://blog.ncase.me/) and you can sign up for a newsletter, but I came across them for their simulations and games.

Try [The Evolution of Trust \(https://ncase.me/trust/\)](https://ncase.me/trust/) or [To Build a Better Ballot: an interactive guide to alternative voting systems \(https://ncase.me/ballot/\)](https://ncase.me/ballot/). Or check out all their projects [here \(https://ncase.me/projects/\)](https://ncase.me/projects/).

TODO: See if [nutshell \(https://ncase.me/nutshell/\)](https://ncase.me/nutshell/) is a good solution for this site. smh why does everything I do lead to more work

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Modern Authors

On Communist Anarchist Society Saboteur (C.A.S.S.)

2023-01-07

"aka @Casswantsrevolt."

Cass

What does organization look like? – Nov 6, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/Casswantsrevolt/status/1589312784655060994\)](https://twitter.com/Casswantsrevolt/status/1589312784655060994))

From Communist Anarchist Society Saboteur (C.A.S.S.) ([@Casswantsrevolt \(https://twitter.com/Casswantsrevolt\)](https://twitter.com/Casswantsrevolt)):

As a lot of people realize the need for arming up against fascist violence, a lot buy a gun and think they're good

This is a mistake

A single person with a gun can protect themselves against immediate violence, but they will not be able to protect themselves against the fascist movement as a whole.

for that you need to be organized. But what does being organized look like?

First things first, you need to find people you trust and form a group.

This might seem hard to do in our atomized world but we need to do it. Talk to your neighbors and find likeminded people, show up in your friends and comrades lives, connect and network.

after you have a group you can trust, start training together. Drills, dry fire, exercise, rucking, hiking, first aid, small unit tactics etc. Train together and have fun with it. Do fun shit together to build trust. Have movie nights, potlucks, and BBQ's

And for the gods sake, help your community.

start a food not bombs, organize a community pantry, build a community garden. Host art and other fun events. Check up on your neighbors, repair houses, do disaster relief, start a cop watch, help train and protect the marginalized

if you don't help your community, you're just a group of people with guns. With an organized community, you can do force multiplication that will help you immensely against fascist threats. A majority of your group's actions should be helping your community

Another thing your group should do, intelligence. Find and dox fascists in your area. Walk, bike, skate, and drive around to learn about the layout of your area. keep an eye on local politics and fascist group's actions. Find out which people and group in your area are

sympathetic, apathetic, or hostile. Network and connect with other groups in your area and work together. Learn where security cameras are Practice good security culture and PERSEC.

But the major thing to prevent is yourself and your group from being filled with machismo. Your main goal isn't to be the most badass revolutionary and go out in a blaze of glory, its to help your community and survive another day. Don't be tough, be caring.

Remember, if we wait for the governments, it'll be too little, too late; if we act as individuals, it'll be too little; but if we act as communities, it might just be enough, just in time.

I think we often lose the forest in the trees

They don't want trans people to use the "correct" bathroom, they want to make being trans in public for long stretches of time impossible

They don't want to remove queerness from schools, they want to make it impossible for...

...anyone to learn about queerness ever

They don't want to stop trans kids from getting hormones, they want to prevent any sort of transition ever

They aren't calling us groomers because they worry about kids safety, they're constructing a narrative that allows them to kill us

Aug 4, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/Casswantsrevolt/status/1555045270383108096\)](https://twitter.com/Casswantsrevolt/status/1555045270383108096))

Liberals say they are progressive till you convey the slightest bit of empathy to the unhoused

Aug 18, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/Casswantsrevolt/status/1560281334001590280\)](https://twitter.com/Casswantsrevolt/status/1560281334001590280))

When you realize that basically the entire wizarding world is smaller than the population of Iceland the entire illusion of JK Being a good author just shatters

Read Ursula K Le Guin instead

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Modern Communists, Tweets

On TechEmails

2023-01-08

"at techemails.com or @TechEmails"

TechEmails

[@TechEmails](https://twitter.com/TechEmails) (<https://twitter.com/TechEmails>) has some useful stuff, also available at [techemails.com](https://www.techemails.com/) (<https://www.techemails.com/>). They provide "Internal tech industry emails that surface in public records." in a free newsletter format.

From April 7, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/TechEmails/status/1585804674170355712\)](https://twitter.com/TechEmails/status/1585804674170355712)), between Elon Musk and Parag Agrawal, regarding Musk's acquisition of Twitter:

Elon Musk:

I have a ton of ideas but lmk if I'm pushing too hard. I just want Twitter to be maximum amazing.

Parag Agrawal:

I want to hear all the ideas – and I'll tell you which ones I'll make progress on vs. not. And why.

And in this phase -- just good to spend as much time with you. + have my Product and Eng team talk to you to ingest information on both sides.

Elon Musk:

I would like to understand the technical details of the Twitter codebase. This will help me calibrate the dumbness of my suggestions.

I wrote heavy duty software for 20 years.

Parag Agrawal:

I used to be CTO and have been in our codebase for a long time.

So I can answer many many of your questions.

Elon Musk:

I interface way better with engineers who are able to do hardcore programming than with program managers / MBA types of people.

:fire emoji: :fire emoji:

Parag Agrawal:

in our next convo – treat me like an engineer instead of CEO and lets see where we get to. I'll know after that convo who might be the best engineer to connect you with.

Elon Musk:

Frankly, I hate doing mgmt stuff. I kinda don't think anyone should be the boss of anyone. But I love helping solve technical/product design problems.

You got it!

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Modern Authors

On Alec Karakatsanis

2023-01-09

"aka @equalityAlec"

Alec Karakatsanis

[@equalityAlec](https://twitter.com/equalityAlec) (<https://twitter.com/equalityAlec>), bio [here](https://civilrightscorps.org/alec-karakatsanis-founder-executive-director/) (<https://civilrightscorps.org/alec-karakatsanis-founder-executive-director/>) on his site Civil Rights Corp.

Tweets

He's had a few good threads, so I'm keeping this as a tracker to remember his writing and work.

Nov 13, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/equalityAlec/status/1591856278204211200)
(<https://twitter.com/equalityAlec/status/1591856278204211200>))

THREAD. A 70-year-old man has died in the downtown Houston jail because he couldn't pay \$500 cash. No media outlet has deemed it important enough to tell the public about his death, but what happened is horrific and his story matters.

Robert Alfred Horn died on October 26. Sheriff officials and the news have chosen not to talk about his death to the public. The man is the 23rd person to die in the downtown Houston jail this year. What the news treats as urgent matters.

After his arrest, he was told that he could go free if he could get a \$5,000 secured bond. The U.S. and the Philippines are the only two countries in the world to allow for-profit bond companies. But he had to pay a company \$500 to secure the bond, and he couldn't. He died.

After our historic lawsuit, we ended the jailing of people charged with misdemeanors in that jail because they are poor. But prosecutors and judges in charge of felony cases have doubled down on cash. They use cash to determine who is free and who isn't:

[The News Media and Bail \(via equalityalec.substack.com\)](https://equalityalec.substack.com/p/the-news-media-and-bail)
(<https://equalityalec.substack.com/p/the-news-media-and-bail>)

The consequences are dire. Using cash bail has led to humanitarian crisis at the jail, horrific abuse of pregnant women who can't get cash, wrongful convictions, and it increases crime in the future. Read about it from Eric Reinhart (@ Eric Reinhart (https://twitter.com/Eric_Reinhart)) and Krish Gundu (@kinsngops (<https://twitter.com/kinsngops>)): [Why Are In-Custody Deaths Surging at Houston's Harris County Jail? \(https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2022/10/in-custody-deaths-surg-ing-houston-harris-county-jail.html\)](https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2022/10/in-custody-deaths-surg-ing-houston-harris-county-jail.html)

This is an area of scientific consensus and obvious policy. No one should be caged solely because they are poor, and we must do everything we can to maximize pretrial liberty so people can keep their jobs, their housing, and their families together.

If you want to support people working on these issues with very limited resources, please support the amazing [Texas Jail Project \(https://www.texasjailproject.org/\)](https://www.texasjailproject.org/), which discovered the death, and without whom none of us would know about it.

THREAD (https://twitter.com/equalityAlec/status/158457022274842624?t=tcRyT7W_xpx1pp5fZF4wpg&s=19). This weekend, the New York Times published misinformation it knew to be false. Because the stakes are so high, I try my best to explain what the paper did why it is so dangerous.

THREAD (<https://twitter.com/equalityAlec/status/1588210962867314689?t=ap1BwHhUCvqQoNg4pRBtbw&s=19>). Two Harvard professors published an academic article calling for 500,000 more armed cops, who they say will arrest 7.8 million more people per year. The article reveals alarming flaws in elite academia at a time of rising fascism. This is one of my most important posts.

Alec writes on Substack [here \(https://equalityalec.substack.com/\)](https://equalityalec.substack.com/), to get his writing in full if twitter is no longer accessible.

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Modern Authors

On Historic.ly

2023-01-10

"at [historicly.net](https://www.historicly.net/), with @eshaLegal and @uncle_authority"

These folks run [historicly.net \(https://www.historicly.net/\)](https://www.historicly.net/) and [vilenin.substack.com \(https://vilenin.substack.com/\)](https://vilenin.substack.com/). I use some of their tweets to source my quotes for my [Lenin \(/posts/on-lenin\)](/posts/on-lenin) and [Stalin \(/posts/on-stalin\)](/posts/on-stalin) pages.



- ([@uncle_authority \(https://twitter.com/uncle_authority\)](https://twitter.com/uncle_authority)), formerly @nalpraxis, writer for [historicly.net \(https://www.historicly.net/\)](https://www.historicly.net/), has had a few good tweets. saving some here.

Jun 18, 2021 ([src \(https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1405935061531246593\)](https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1405935061531246593))

Communists, Marxist—Leninists, need to realize or admit that they are absolutely by no means "leftists." The Left—Right political spectrum is a bourgeois liberal construct that has no basis in reality. The Communist political spectrum is Oppressed—Oppressor.

The US ytleft is a sticky, bubbling soup of anticommunist reaction, hedonism, chauvinism, anti-intellectualism, moralism, pacifism, idealism, liberalism, imperial apologists and anarchists. Screw that.

Communists need to find the *victims of capitalism*, at the farthest margins of society and begin crafting a massline while engaging in mutual aid; there's no shortage of partywork here, so why are we the materialists affiliating in any way with Chomskyites and neo-Bernsteinians?

Jul 7, 2021 ([src \(https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1412626065567195136\)](https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1412626065567195136))

Anybody remember that house in Milwaukee that the police were absolutely using to hold teenage girls they kidnapped for sex trafficking and then immediately burned down once everybody figured out what was going on and we like... Just stopped talking about?

Jul 18, 2021 ([src \(https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1416665878956056577\)](https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1416665878956056577))

A really good way to not fall for Color Revolution nonsense is to simply not be a babybrain who thinks the US would ever support the will of actual human beings
Imfao seriously wtf is wrong with you

Aug 29, 2021 ([src \(https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1432183870565257216\)](https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1432183870565257216))

"They use slave labor in Xinjiang"

"Source?"

"study of 8 people conducted by the White Jesus Intelligence Institute For Infinite Military Expansion"

Nov 16, 2021 ([src \(https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1460476296321028097\)](https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1460476296321028097))

People here aren't "falling for" CIA ops in Cuba — they support US imperialism, the return of the plantation system in Cuba; its relapse to a labor camp for agricultural extraction. Stop treating liberals like drooling babies who don't know what their own politics and goals are.

The liberals have been salivating for control over Cuba since the 1800s; Jefferson supported its annexation openly. They see it as manifest destiny, but to the east; trying to acquire it since the Polk administration. The ideology of white supremacy long demands this expansion.

Liberals can't stand to see a tropical paradise a mere 90 miles away that has so successfully rejected their hegemony, and they will tolerate nothing less than full ideological and economic control over the island.

Nov 27, 2021 ([src \(https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1464677243125481476\)](https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1464677243125481476))

Call me crazy, but I think Communists should recruit people into the Communist movement by explaining Communist ideas, not by assuring reactionaries it's a safe space for their backwards, incorrect ideas.

Mar 11, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1502305431112269825)
(https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1502305431112269825))

I don't know what is so confusing about this (well, yes I do: y'all don't fuckin' read) but "imperialism" is an arrangement of political economy; a development of capitalism — not defined by the "vibes" of a geopolitical conflict, or your fetishistic attraction to "underdogs."

For instance, the US invasion of Iraq itself was a crime, a violation of international law but the INVASION was not the imperialist part. The imperialism came when Iraq's agriculture was gutted and Monsanto was given carte blanche over that sector, among many, many other things.

You could say the invasion as a verb was imperialist people enacting those imperialist economic mechanisms in agriculture, energy etc was the outset, if mostly unspoken goal ...

... but if you want to designate Russia imperialist for whatever reason at this juncture, you'd have to prove that motive.

Good luck.

Jun 16, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1537402303686316032)
(https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1537402303686316032))

The US cotton industry is as reliant on plantation slavery as it ever was, we just pretend it's different because the slaves are prisoners and not as visible.

(quotetweeting [The Hill](https://twitter.com/thehill/status/1537209612985843714)
(<https://twitter.com/thehill/status/1537209612985843714>))
US prison workers produce \$11 billion worth of goods and services for "little to no pay at all" [US prison workers produce \\$11B worth of goods and services for 'little to no pay at all' \(via thehill.com\) \(https://trib.al/n8MI5cK\)](https://trib.al/n8MI5cK)

Sep 26, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1574576156841775104)
(https://twitter.com/uncle_authority/status/1574576156841775104))

"Coco Chanel was a Nazi spy, like, a fucking enthusiastic participant, she literally sucked Nazi dick to get the gig while living at the Paris Ritz in Vichy France" is a weird little historical fact that basically never comes up for some reason.

Esha

Similarly, Esha (@eshaLegal (<https://twitter.com/eshaLegal>)) also writes for [historicly.net](https://www.historicly.net) (<https://www.historicly.net/>). Couple of hers:

Sep 11, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/eshaLegal/status/1304340327059394560)
(<https://twitter.com/eshaLegal/status/1304340327059394560>))

Corporate Death Penalty:

The idea that after certain atrocities, a corporation no longer can exist.

It's assets need to be nationalized and executives jailed and their assets seized.

I'm going to make a thread of corporate atrocities that deserve corporate death penalty.

1. Bayer: The holocaust (It was dissolved in the Soviet zone but western zones reconstituted it along with BASF and Sanofi)
2. Chiquita: For hiring paramilitary death squads to assassinate 173 workers!
3. Buyer's Parent Company: Monsanto. There is a very disturbing documentary about all the birth defects in Vietnam. I can't remember its name. (cites story about Agent Orange victims in Vietnam)
4. Dow Chemicals. For killing over 16000 people in the Bhopal Disaster
5. Chevron: For displacing thousands of people in Ecuador after they dumped crude oil in the amazon. [Chevron wins Ecuador rainforest 'oil dumping' case \(via bbc.com\) \(https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-45455984\)](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-45455984)
6. Mitsubishi: Kidnapping and forced slavery of over 3000 people.

While we are at it, lets call out the supreme court on their BS. Apparently, it's unconstitutional to extend a statue of limitation for using slave labor

7. Adidas: Nazism and modern day sweatshop labor.
8. JP Morgan:
 - Collaboration with King Leopold.
 - Crashing the global economy twice: 1929 and 2008.
 - Making millions of people homeless after both crashesThis is just what I can list off the top of my head.
9. [Dupont made a river burn! That sounds like something worthy of corporate death \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0mskblxRQ\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0mskblxRQ)
10. Nestlé for killing babies, child slavery, stealing water and hiring death squads

Umicore which used to be Union Minere for assassinating Lumumba and Say Hammarskjöld.

Hiring white nationalists to set up an ethnostate in Congo, financing white nationalist mercenaries, child labor and slavery

Listen to [my interview with Rocksén](https://historicly.substack.com/p/dag-hammarskjold-and-the-red-white-a24) (<https://historicly.substack.com/p/dag-hammarskjold-and-the-red-white-a24>)

11. De Beers: Crimes are too numerous to list.

Apartheid, Slavery, civil wars, child labor, creating Rhodesia, death squads etc etc.

[The cartel isn't for ever](https://www.economist.com/special-report/2004/07/15/the-cartel-isnt-for-ever) (via [economist.com](https://www.economist.com))

(<https://www.economist.com/special-report/2004/07/15/the-cartel-isnt-for-ever>)

12. Shell: Displacing thousands in Nigeria, environmental degradation, famine, death squads, murder and slavery

13. Volkswagen: The holocaust

14. Goodyear: Genocide, torture, slavery, being the Heart of Darkness

BMW: Being owned by Joseph Goebel's grandchildren (and the holocaust)

We should assume that every German corporation is guilty unless otherwise proven innocent:

(quotetweeting [@historic_ly](https://twitter.com/historic_ly) (https://twitter.com/historic_ly), [here](https://twitter.com/historic_ly/status/1177064068173180928) (https://twitter.com/historic_ly/status/1177064068173180928))

Tyson's Foods is killing all life in the gulf coast: [Investigation Reveals Tyson Foods as #1 Culprit in Largest "Dead Zone" on Earth](https://returntonow.net/2017/11/01/study-names-tyson-foods-1-culprit-largest-dead-zone-u-s-history/) (via returntonow.net)

(<https://returntonow.net/2017/11/01/study-names-tyson-foods-1-culprit-largest-dead-zone-u-s-history/>)

Execute 'em! Read my article on [Corporate Death Penalty](https://www.historicly.net/p/corporate-death-penalty) (<https://www.historicly.net/p/corporate-death-penalty>)

Jan 4, 2022 ([src](#))

(<https://twitter.com/eshalegal/status/1478274979078840322>)

I still can't get over the fact that there are people who are over the age of 5 who seem to think that poor people lack "financial literacy" and not "money"

Apparently, they go to churches and Mosques and other areas where poor people live to teach them financial literacy.

I'd love to get my hands on a leaked video or even some of the literature they pass out.

There are multiple organizations peddling nonsense.

It's like going to a peasant and saying "Yo..instead of renting a cow from the Kulak, why won't you save up all the money to buy your own cow?"

And I feel weird that this analogy makes perfect sense to most of my audience.

Feb 2, 2022 ([src
\(https://twitter.com/eshaLegal/status/1489048904628944897\)](https://twitter.com/eshaLegal/status/1489048904628944897))

What people don't realize is the reason why the holocaust is more recognized than other genocides is because the Red Army preserved the evidence and Stalin insisted on Nuremberg.

The British East India company dumped their sins into the Indian ocean.

God knows what happened to the list of slave owners crimes. There was no red army to make them stand trial.

They got to reform in the south and bring back similar systems.

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Modern Communists, Tweets

The Cost of a Watch

2023-01-11

"originally a tumblr post, by user inkskinned"

This is a short piece by tumblr user inkskinned. I wanted to save it on my site because it touched me and I often think back to it to help me maintain perspective and remember for whom I'm working hard.

Thank you to the author for sharing.

Every day I handle more money than I will ever make. Every day.

At the start of my employment, my boss showed me videos of people stealing, and we both had a chuckle about it. How silly they were! There was a camera overhead. and it's not to watch the shoppers. See, we can't actually stop shoplifters. They get away with it maybe nine out of ten times. But we, who are all watched and tallied and witnessed? We are always caught.

At first it was hard to hold one hundred dollar bills. An amount I had never seen before. An amount that didn't exist in my household. It's normal now. Here is something that is not for me.

'What the hell, I'll take another,' says the man, pondering out 200 dollar watches. What the hell. Total comes to 580 and not even a flinch in his face. I have been working for 11 hours today and made only 110 dollars. It will go to my rent. Today I work for free, it feels. When I get my check, I will have 35 dollars left for food and saving.

The six hundreds he hands me go into the cash register. For a moment, I imagine having money. Then I put it away, counting out his change.

I know for a fact we sell out products for double what they are worth. That I could be making commission. That they could hand me those 580 dollars and change my life and not even mark the difference in their checkbooks. He's not the only sale they make today, but I am the reason they made it. He's not the only one spending 600 dollars, but if I hadn't spent two hours with him telling me about his life, he wouldn't have spent any. I go home. I don't own a watch.

I have watched and rewatched a video on how to make salmon four ways. My shopping list is always the same. Pasta. Rice. Tuna. If I can afford butter it was a good week. I dream of the world I will never walk in, where I can throw the best fish fillet in the cart with a shrug. I hold hundreds in my hand and look up at the camera. I put them under the cash drawer.

I go to work. I scrap together my savings. I eat my bowl of rice slowly. My manager takes a paid week off from work just for this birthday. He owns a yacht.

I'm not worth the cost of a watch.

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Tumblr

The Five-Four Pod

2023-01-12

"with Peter (@The_Law_Boy), Michael (@_FleerUltra), and Rhiannon (@AywaRhiannon)"

5-4 (<https://www.fivefourpod.com/>) is the only podcast I really listen to. It's a good look into the US legal system, and the folks are funny. I learned about em via Peter on Twitter. For now, I'm mostly just going to backup some tweets if I find any. But check out the pod, it's a good one!

Peter

aka [@The Law Boy](https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy) (https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy), America's daintiest lawyer, who also makes a podcast called [If Books Could Kill](https://twitter.com/IfBooksPod) (<https://twitter.com/IfBooksPod>).

Aug 29, 2018 ([src](#)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1034924272903438337))

Girls don't want a "real man," they want a law boy.

May 15, 2021 ([src](#)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1393614102648565772))

one military tactic i'm learning about is you trap your enemy in a small area full of civilians and then you just call every civilian you kill a "human shield"

crazy that sun tzu missed this one

Jun 8, 2021 ([src](#)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1402456124780122115))

you: wow the wealthiest billionaires on earth really don't pay much in taxes

intelligent business guy: uh that's actually due to an aggregating series of legal technicalities you fucking idiot

Jun 26, 2021 ([src](#)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1408881039590756352))

conservatives love to harp on crime in liberal cities because they have a fantasy wherein liberals are violently punished for naively trusting minorities

this is imo largely distinct from the phenomenon of wealthy liberals fretting over crime in cities, which is primarily the result of them being pussies

Jun 30, 2021 ([src](#)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1410280833559285762))

a lot of people are trying to understand why Bill Cosby is being released from prison. as an experienced attorney i can explain: he is extremely, extremely rich

Aug 2, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1422285161622802440)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1422285161622802440))

the night that trump got covid was the closest we'll ever be to everyone on twitter just being in a stadium together doing the seven nation army chant

Nov 20, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1462193648586698759)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1462193648586698759))

apparently the female members of NYU's Federalist Society board resigned after the group voted to host "anti-choice" speakers. which really makes me wonder what those ladies think the Federalist Society is

"as people who hold every reactionary position except for when they negatively impact us, we were appalled"

Dec 19, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1472647087925911552)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1472647087925911552))

one of the weirdest things about modern democratic messaging is that post-hillary it's mostly built around putting the moral onus on voters to support Dems, rather than on elected officials to do shit people want them to do

Jan 6, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1479189768818855939)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1479189768818855939))

if the anti-school closure people just said like "my kid has been stuck at home with me for two straight years and if i'm subjected to one more day of it i'm gonna lose my goddamn mind" i would respect that a lot

Feb 9, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1491467982756794372)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1491467982756794372))

you really shouldn't have taken on so much debt for college, you brought this on yourself

- guy who risked his life to hold down a square mile of iraqi desert after hearing a 15-minute pitch in a shopping mall

Mar 23, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1506712874659590151)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1506712874659590151))

rip madeleine albright. from being a refugee to creating millions of them, she truly embraced the full spectrum of the human experience

Apr 13, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1514296168968241157)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1514296168968241157))

as part of our effort to make new yorkers feel safer on the subway, every station will now have 4-5 guys with guns who are legally allowed to kill you

Apr 29, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1520057358478680064)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1520057358478680064))

my best guess as to why so many people seem to think the far left is ascendant is that they were made to attend a single corporate diversity training and lost their fucking minds

May 3, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1521589951695147012)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1521589951695147012))

it is time to make roe v. wade permanent by putting it on the blockchain
democrats have had 50 years to do this. no excuse.

May 3, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1521550615788367873)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1521550615788367873))

n all the handwringing about the court leak i have not seen a single coherent defense of what concrete interests are actually served by keeping draft opinions confidential. if justices are merely doing the objective and impartial practice of law, what does it matter?

every conservative whining about this is speaking entirely in abstraction. some intangible and unquantifiable damage was done to the court. can someone explain what specific problems this would lead to?

May 8, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1523438142476341248)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1523438142476341248))

sorry, but protesting outside of justices' homes is not the right way to voice your disapproval of the court. the proper course is to pour billions of dollars of dark money into building institutions that steadily subsume the judiciary over the course of several decades

May 9, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1523725434634276864)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1523725434634276864))

when discussing the propriety of protesting outside of supreme court justices' homes, it's important to remember that in the 90s the court held that protesting outside of the homes of **abortion clinic employees** is protected by the first amendment

there's been chatter about 18 U.S. Code § 1507, which seems to make protesting outside of a judge's home illegal. i'd think that if protesting outside of some random clinic employees' house is protected, so is protesting outside of the homes of powerful public figures

May 27, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1530277957532532736)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1530277957532532736))

what seems like an unprecedented deluge of lies and misinformation from the Uvalde police is actually a pretty standard amount of dishonesty from cops. they're just not used to anyone analyzing or questioning their narratives

this is also why police departments will often seem shockingly bad at putting together plausible stories -- it's just not a skill they ever really need, because every political, cultural, and legal institution gives them the benefit of the doubt no matter what

Jun 1, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1532090732038725632)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1532090732038725632))

outcome aside, the fact that the jury for one of the most widely publicized trials in recent memory was not sequestered is unreal

lots of people responding with "why should taxpayers have to pay for that?!" and i'm a big proponent of fiscal responsibility, so i suggest paying for it by firing one police officer

there were steps the judge could've taken to make this less of a media circus, but you can't have it both ways. if you bring in the circus, you need to at least attempt to keep the jury impartial. instead we got a result that was probably dictated in no small part by youtubers

Aug 25, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1562826249369976833)
(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1562826249369976833))

the biggest revelation of the past few days is that while most of us spent 2020 worrying about COVID treatment and transmission, conservatives were committing large-scale PPP fraud

regarding the changes to verification on twitter – Nov 6, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1589463508332457985\)](https://twitter.com/The_Law_Boy/status/1589463508332457985))

the conservative stance on what is or is not free speech has never been consistent or coherent, but "free speech except for blue check parodies" is an incredible position to hold. a remarkable feat of the human mind

Michael

Aka [@ FleerUltra \(https://twitter.com/ FleerUltra\)](https://twitter.com/FleerUltra), also on [ALAB Series \(https://www.alabseries.com/\)](https://www.alabseries.com/).

May 12, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/ FleerUltra/status/1524755457235034113\)](https://twitter.com/FleerUltra/status/1524755457235034113))

I've been a vote-blue-no-matter-who guy for 22 years and now I'm feeling ready to check out of politics. Maybe that's not a character flaw in me but rather a reflection of party leadership that has been fucking up over and over for 20 years continuing to do so right now

special type of broken brain to see "I've been a vote-blue-no-matter-who guy for 22 years" and then think recycling the same vote-blue-no-matter-who talking points at me is a worthwhile use of your time

Jun 2, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/ FleerUltra/status/1532367053234917377\)](https://twitter.com/FleerUltra/status/1532367053234917377))

I legitimately have never been more pessimistic about the future in my life, and I am developing a seething hatred for the people in power who have squandered away our limited opportunity to actually improve things.

before you yell at me about the GOP, I already have a well-developed seething hatred of them

Jun 24, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/ FleerUltra/status/1540337673470038016\)](https://twitter.com/FleerUltra/status/1540337673470038016))

the biden admin has had an unbelievable amount of time to prepare for this moment. something to keep in mind when we see how they respond

Rhiannon

May 23, 2020 ([src \(https://twitter.com/AywaRhiannon/status/1264299363465125889\)](https://twitter.com/AywaRhiannon/status/1264299363465125889))

Here is how you understand the law: you read the legal question that is posed to the Supreme Court, and you think, what would be the best result for poor people? The Supreme Court will choose the opposite thing. Bam you understand the law.

Nov 18, 2020 ([src](https://twitter.com/AywaRhiannon/status/1329123974689804290)
(<https://twitter.com/AywaRhiannon/status/1329123974689804290>))

The risk of COVID being fatal to you or a loved one is obviously high enough that it should be motivating people to do all the precautionary stuff but I just want to reiterate--from a young otherwise healthy person--how much I feel like having COVID really fucked with my brain

Attention span is decreased. My memory sucks. I have trouble finishing sentences, especially when I'm using specialized vocabulary. I have to read words and sentences repeatedly to actually "get" them. I was sick in mid June. I don't feel like I ever fully recovered.

Mar 3, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/AywaRhiannon/status/1499570332042248197)
(<https://twitter.com/AywaRhiannon/status/1499570332042248197>))

I got a 12 billion on the LSAT

Jul 2, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/AywaRhiannon/status/1543333646278561801)
(<https://twitter.com/AywaRhiannon/status/1543333646278561801>))

He's a ten but he thinks originalism is a legitimate method of constitutional interpretation

Jul 8, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/AywaRhiannon/status/1545518889987198979)
(<https://twitter.com/AywaRhiannon/status/1545518889987198979>))

Just drove past the Supreme Court. Looks like shit.

Aug 3, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/AywaRhiannon/status/1554922850200461312)
(<https://twitter.com/AywaRhiannon/status/1554922850200461312>))

If there's one thing on this planet I know, it's the Texas Penal Code. So here's my rare legal take for twitter: I do not believe it was part of Alex Jones' defense plan to have Alex Jones commit aggravated perjury, a 3rd degree felony offense that carries 2 to 10 years in prison

Aug 24, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/AywaRhiannon/status/1562510809347268609)
(<https://twitter.com/AywaRhiannon/status/1562510809347268609>))

I don't have undergraduate loans. I have \$220K in law school loans. My initial balance was around \$195K.

I went to a public law school. No scholarships. I'm the 1st lawyer in my fam, one of the few to ever go to college. I graduated in 2016. My salary at my 1st law job was 52K. I did not break over 60K in salary until last year, when my income started to be supplemented by a podcast

To qualify for public service loan forgiveness, you have to make 120 on-time payments and work for the "right" kind of public service organization that qualifies. That's *ten years* of making payments every single month AND working for the right organization (501c3 or government)

In solo practice doing legal work for the poor? Nope. Even though I've been practicing 6 years, I only have ~5 years worth of payments because I didn't work for the right kind of employer (I worked for myself exclusively representing indigent clients).

Extremely common

(quotetweeting Alex Barrio (@AlexJBarrio
(<https://twitter.com/AlexJBarrio>)) [here](https://twitter.com/AlexJBarrio/status/1562520123390341120)
(<https://twitter.com/AlexJBarrio/status/1562520123390341120>))
I went to a public law school and took out 140k. After paying down 40k i now owe 220k. Make it make sense.

I make more money at my job now, but that's as a result of a lot of external factors I had no control over (and am grateful for!)—i work for a new PD office that hired *six people* out of many many applicants, and we have pay parity with the DA's office (whole nother rant)

I will survive. But just wanted to provide my situation as an example. This is the status of most of the lawyers i know. You're told "oh you'll get loan forgiveness for public interest" like it's nbd, like it's nothing. I had absolutely no background knowledge or info

Sep 18, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/AywaRhiannon/status/1571691071989481472)
(<https://twitter.com/AywaRhiannon/status/1571691071989481472>))

Police put a woman in a car. And left it on the train tracks. And a train hit the car.

Do police officers need to be taught about trains? What training fixes utter disregard for human life? What will another million from the city budget do to rectify this? Why do we trust them?

(quotetweeting The Kansas City Star (@KCStar (<https://twitter.com/KCStar>), [here](https://twitter.com/KCStar/status/1571681157011349504) (<https://twitter.com/KCStar/status/1571681157011349504>))
Police had just detained the 20-year-old woman after a reported road rage incident.
[Cops put woman in police car parked on tracks, CO officials say. Then a train came \(via kansascity.com\) \(<https://www.kansascity.com/news/nation-world/national/article265981831.html>\)](https://www.kansascity.com/news/nation-world/national/article265981831.html)

Oct 11, 2022 ([src](#)

<https://twitter.com/AywaRhiannon/status/1580029819924148224>))

Short thread. I made a really hard decision a couple weeks ago. I resigned from my job as a public defender. I have been experiencing serious mental health struggles for a long time, and in place of taking care of myself, I tried to take care of clients.

I have spent a long time identifying as a public defender, so long that it's hard now to think of myself as anything but. I can't think of anything else I want to do other than fight for poor people in the system. If I'm not advocating on someone's behalf, what am I even doing?

I'm heartbroken. I worked with incredible colleagues, lawyer & non-lawyer warriors who make you proud to show up at work every day. The clients. The families. It was an honor to stand next to, to spend time with each and every one of them. Everything I saw. Everything I learned.

I don't know what's next for me. I need to take care of myself & heal. This was a deeply personal choice, and I think that part—that it's utterly internal, that my brain stopped working in the way I wanted, that there's no one to blame—makes me feel selfish and guilty.

Maybe we'll talk about this on the pod soon. Maybe. There's a big hole in my heart. "It is our duty to fight. It is our duty to win." I'm going to try to apply this to myself, so I can show out for the people again one day soon. It is our duty to fight. It is our duty to win.

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Modern Authors

People's Freedom Assembly

2023-01-13

"A Greensboro-based, Black (New Afrikan) and Indigenous-led decolonial socialist organization, serving working-class and houseless peoples in Greensboro."

People's Freedom Assembly is a Greensboro-based, Black (New Afrikan) and Indigenous-led decolonial socialist organization, serving working-class and houseless peoples in Greensboro.

[Linktree \(https://linktr.ee/qsopfa\)](https://linktr.ee/qsopfa), on twitter [@qsopfa \(https://twitter.com/qsopfa\)](https://twitter.com/qsopfa).

They run a [blog \(https://medium.com/@peoplesfreedomassembly\)](https://medium.com/@peoplesfreedomassembly) about who they are and what they believe

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Modern Communists

On Vi Hart

2023-01-14

"A rare middle school throwback I still stand by – and a very early source of inspiration"

From Twitter, she's a

Mathemusician and Strategist.

They also link [vihart.com \(http://vihart.com/\)](http://vihart.com/), but it seems to be down right now (11/09/2022)

Vihart's [youtube videos \(https://www.youtube.com/user/Vihart\)](https://www.youtube.com/user/Vihart) were some of my favorite early youtube finds.

From interesting and unique musical instruments and compositions, to cool math and paper projects, I always looked forward to whatever cool stuff I'd be introduced to next.

The way Vihart made math accessible and interesting and *fun* was always inspirational. Whenever I try tutoring or teaching, I try to make learning as effortless as watching their videos. I try to show students how things work and why they matter – ie. why they're *cool* – without the other person even realizing they're getting smarter as we speak.

I loved the early Doodling in Math Class series, I've got some [braided snakes](https://youtu.be/heKK95DAKms) (<https://youtu.be/heKK95DAKms>) colorful sharpied on my childhood desk. Some of them even demonstrate [dialectics in nature](https://youtu.be/14-NdQwKz9w) (<https://youtu.be/14-NdQwKz9w>) very well, though I had never heard that dialectics in middle school. And it's very cool to see videos [still coming out](https://youtu.be/Twik7wgdwZU) (<https://youtu.be/Twik7wgdwZU>) (more rarely now), ten years later.

Tweets

The urgency of this article, I suppose, is this tweet from [@vihartvihart](https://twitter.com/vihartvihart) (<https://twitter.com/vihartvihart>)

[On the fall of twitter \(/posts/on-the-fall-of-twitter\)](https://twitter.com/vihartvihart/status/1590503401674395648) – Nov 9, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/vihartvihart/status/1590503401674395648\)](https://twitter.com/vihartvihart/status/1590503401674395648))

I can't remember if I actually said this or if it weren't obvious enough, but yes I will be deleting my twitter.

First I gotta get my data archive, then confirm deactivation, then not touch anything for 30 days, and then eat a celebratory doublesnack

I've been trying out Mastodon and I like it, but who knows how things will shake out. mastodon.social/@vihart (<https://mastodon.social/@vihart>)

I don't remember how long this account has been private, but it's basically been the same group of us for years (perhaps slowly shrinking). Private twitter is definitely best twitter, thank you for being part of it. I've had a better experience here than a lot of people.

I don't have any particular grievances with twitter, I just don't trust them with my data. I've worked in tech long enough to know how much data they have on all of us and what they could do with it if they wanted / if it were legal. And what money/lobbying could make legal.

Elon Musk is not afraid of using his money and influence in politics. Twitter will not be profitable through direct advertising or subscriptions, but he has every click, swipe, search, video play, and private message made by you, and celebrities, and political opponents.

If twitter were more important to my livelihood or social life or hobbies, maybe I'd weigh its benefit against the risk differently. As it is, for me, I'd like my data to be deleted as soon as I have the legal right to, and not risk future twitter/gov't policy changes.

I also want to delete all my twitter data for the sake of anyone notable who has ever sent me a really stupid private message. You may all sleep a little easier. In 31 days.

To be clear here: the future I see as most likely is one where Elon Musk uses his influence to erode privacy laws and prevent new ones from passing, so that he can make twitter actually profitable by leveraging personal data you don't even realize twitter can track about you.

Sure there's explicit data on twitter of concern. Like, what if your state gov't could use something you tweeted/dm'd about abortion to prosecute you or someone you know. But twitter can also know if you clicked on info about abortion, or paused to look as you were scrolling past

and use location data from your phone, and etc etc. Especially given Elon's tweet asking people to vote Republican in yesterday's US election, I've worked in tech policy long enough to know the kind of things Republican gov'ts partnered with Elon Musk would think of.

Game recs

My most played games, with hundreds of hours on record are Team Fortress 2 and Mountain. But I haven't played either in many years so let me put together a random list of more recent favs:

Hades: perfect roguelite

Celeste: perfect platformer

Hollow Knight: perfect metroidvania

Potionomics: it's new and has potions

Vampire Survivors: it's new, \$5, and a single-stick twinstick

Moon Hunters: my go-to when friends stay over

Kingdom Two Crowns: I like it

Eastshade: yes

I have a special place in my heart for purely one-thumbstick gameplay. Maybe I am holding a beer, or petting a dog, or my wrist hurts. So that's why Vampire Survivors intrigues me. For one-thumbstick multiplayer arcade party time, Particle Mace is fun and little known.

I enjoy a deckbuilder, or something with the flavor of deckbuilding. Potionomics was extra fun for that reason. Also:

Inscription is an excellent game in every way

Ooblets is cute farming pokemon deckbuilder

Iris and the Giant and also uh nope I forgot the names of all games

Sometimes I like a game where you type words out of letters real fast, or real slow. Bookworm Adventures is a beautiful classic. But I will play any game, even bad games, where I get to come up with funny words

Spellspire

Words for Evil

Highrise Heroes

God of Word

Alphabear

Something I like about slow spelling games is that they can instantly become co-op games, and people can get in on helping find good words at any time, without having to do gaming controls or commit to playing the entire game with you.

I've been hooked on twinsticks since the original Crimsonland, and have and will play anything 10tons ever makes.

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Modern Authors

On Dilan

2023-01-15

"idk anything about this dude but he's got some good tweets"

I came across Dilan when he tweeted about voting, which I quoted in [On Voting \(/posts/on-voting\)](/posts/on-voting).

But he makes some good points very succinctly, so I'm saving

Tweets

Dec 16, 2021 ([src](https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1471353127278288911)
(<https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1471353127278288911>))

I bet you \$768,000,000,000 that the United States can afford Medicare for All.

Jan 8, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1479730215077040132)
(<https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1479730215077040132>))

the United States is number one. in covid cases, incarceration and military spending

Jan 8, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1479718670888697856)
(<https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1479718670888697856>))

mfs will unfollow you for acknowledging the fact that in 2020 there was an eviction moratorium, more relief money, unemployment benefits and fewer covid deaths lmao fuck off

you should be more mad at democrats for failing to do better than already abysmal response to a pandemic

Mar 5, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1500295973498593283)
(<https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1500295973498593283>))

Imagine thinking a nation founded on Native genocide and the backs of slaves was ever the moral authority of the world.

Mar 18, 2022 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1504732673213800449>))

so "Anonymous" is clearly a US Intelligence operation disguised as a non-state entity right

maybe it has been co-opted and there are some groups that aren't idk, seems like pretty much any hacker group can associate itself w it

reading about some of their earlier work I don't want to paint with a broad brush, but definitely some fed elements currently

Mar 22, 2022 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1506285223948001289>))

has the United States ever considered simply minding its own fucking business

Mar 26, 2022 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1507633882799042560>))

ever get the feeling Nazis actually won the war

(image reply showing Nazis and their future positions)

Wernher von Braun – Head of NASA

Walter Hallstein – Head of EU Commission

Adolf Heusinger – NATO's Chief of Staff

Kurt Waldheim – Secretary General of the United Nations

This tweet has some solid replies that recommend [The Devil's Chessboard: Allen Dulles, the CIA, and the Rise of America's Secret Government](#) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/24723229-the-devil-s-chessboard>) by David Talbot and [Blowback: America's Recruitment of Nazis and Its Destructive Impact on Our Domestic and Foreign Policy](#) (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/22309161-blowback>) by Christopher Simpson. Though the USSR did a good job defeating the Nazis, many of them were well received by capitalist nations.

Apr 10, 2022 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1513157143314108417>))

Zelenskyy really said he's going to use Israel as a template for Ukraine. How can anyone who stands with Palestinians see that as anything other than a giant red flag?

May 20, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1527707896867237888)
(<https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1527707896867237888>))

they literally just moved the money laundering scheme from Afghanistan to Ukraine.

Sep 9, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1568350619223859201)
(<https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1568350619223859201>))

so the united states is systematically allowing public water systems to fail to justify privatizing it so corporations like nestle can reap the profit right

Sep 12, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1569391630792409088)
(<https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1569391630792409088>))

crazy how the sitting president literally exploited 9/11 to manufacture consent to invade a country that had nothing to do with it, setting in motion a multi-decade global "war on terror" where millions were killed for corporate profit, yet somehow that doesn't qualify as fascist

and he's trying to sentence a journalist, Julian Assange, to multiple lifetimes in prison for publishing evidence of war crimes done in these wars. but yea totally not a fascist just grandpa biden who loves ice cream

a bit weird how anytime somebody makes the mere suggestion that biden is fascistic suddenly people come in running interference. probably nothing

Sep 26, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1574412743758606336)
(<https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1574412743758606336>))

Cuba just codified lgbtq rights, meanwhile in the United States the party in power is holding lgbtq rights hostage "until after midterms" to coerce people to vote for them.

like abortion rights, dems have had ample opportunities to codify gay marriage, but they'd rather use it as a govt strategy.

Oct 17, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1582148606751956992)
(<https://twitter.com/dilanpcook/status/1582148606751956992>))

so let me get this straight. the US fomented revolt in Ukraine, installed a nazi-aligned regime that systematically erased Russian culture and killed people of the Donbas for 8 yrs, all to goad Putin into a hostile position for pretext to weaken/coup Russia? that right?

also hand in glove, billions laundered to the military industrial complex in the process.

those who have seen events that took place, leak of Nuland's call, statements by US officials over years (including Biden himself) – know this to be the case, but many who pretend otherwise only do because they're chauvinists who think US is moral authority of the world.

index tags: Twitter, Backup, The Devil's Chessboard: Allen Dulles the CIA and the Rise of America's Secret Government, David Talbot, Blowback: America's Recruitment of Nazis and Its Destructive Impact on Our Domestic and Foreign Policy, Christopher Simpson

category tags: Modern Communists, Tweets

On Indigenous Rights

2023-01-16

"and reading lists, topics of note, etc"

Books

I suppose Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States* is always a good start to learning about the history of the US, and I think Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz's *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* is a great follow-up to get an indigenous perspective.

TODO: articles ?

Tweets

ICWA – Nov 9, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/NDNDIO/status/1590544324043079680\)](https://twitter.com/NDNDIO/status/1590544324043079680))

From [@NDNDIO \(https://twitter.com/NDNDIO\)](https://twitter.com/NDNDIO)

non indigenous leftists dont understand how big of a deal ICWA is. the future of all native nations rests on the results of this challenge to ICWA. the future of this fucking planet being habitable is going to be determined by this. n if u think for a second natives are gonna allow our kin to be ripped away from us en masse after all the work weve been doing to rebuild what was genocided out of us u got another thing comin. this could trigger something HUGE....

**ICWA 2 – Nov 9, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/notdbird/status/1590729428136755200)
(<https://twitter.com/notdbird/status/1590729428136755200>))**

From [@notdbird](https://twitter.com/notdbird) (<https://twitter.com/notdbird>), bio "Oglala Lakota. Ina. Pine Ridge Rez–raised. Oxford comma fan. Views are my own. she/her."

When my youngest was nine months old, he was in the cruising stage of learning to walk. He fell and hit his head. We'd baby proofed the house and had his cruising contained in a very small area. We took him to the ER and before they even examined him, they filed a CPS report.

Husband, who is very Native looking, was the one to take him in. They treated him like a criminal and tried to separate him from our son. He refused. I called my sister who works w/the ICWA advocate for our tribe. They were ready for fight for us to keep him, an Oglala baby.

After the doctors reviewed the CT and subjected our baby to a massive, painful full body check for signs of child abuse, they told us our "story checked out." According to the records, however, they didn't share that with CPS. We lived in fear for months. This was in ND.

We could've lost our child over a common childhood injury. Husband was treated like a big scary child abuser despite being a gentle, loving father. And when the doctors apologized, they apologized to me, the light skinned Native with more Euro features. It was disgusting.

ICWA matters. These states actively work to separate Native kids from their families. White friends have taken their kids in for similar injuries and weren't threatened.

We aren't safe. We are afraid every time we take our kids to the doctor. The medical system is complicit.

**ICWA 3 – Nov 9, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/retrograde/status/1590441811541393409)
(<https://twitter.com/retrograde/status/1590441811541393409>))**

My #ICWA agent is the only reason I was able to escape an abusive foster home. I was placed with a white woman by the Office of Children's services Wasilla. My ICWA agent literally saved me, and I know she did the same for other native children. #ProtectICWA

When my younger brother was being rehomed by the same Alaska Office of Children's Services, the only reason I was considered for his temporary placement was his #ICWA agent! These people fight for the rights of Indigenous children every day and protect us from abuse!

Native children are being STOLEN and ABUSED by the government every day TO THIS DAY! It didn't stop with the end of residential schools. ITS STILL HAPPENING! And that is why we need to #ProtectICWA #ICWA

To urge your government officials to act, text PCCPGW to 50409 and follow prompts! It sends a letter to your state officials and can all be done in your text messages.

Sign and share these petitions to help protect #ICWA!

[Protect the Indian Child Welfare Act \(via action.lakotalaw.org\)](https://action.lakotalaw.org)
(<https://action.lakotalaw.org/action/protect-icwa>) and [Protect the Indian Child Welfare Act \(via change.org\)](https://change.org/p/protect-the-indian-child-welfare-act) (<https://change.org/p/protect-the-indian-child-welfare-act>)

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Tweets

On Palestine

2023-01-17

"From the River to the Sea"

Don't have a full article on Palestine yet but I saw a tweet and wanted to make a quick note.

Reading

[Strategy for the Liberation of Palestine \(via foreignlanguages.press\)](https://foreignlanguages.press/colorful-classics/strategy-for-the-liberation-of-palestine-pflp/)
(<https://foreignlanguages.press/colorful-classics/strategy-for-the-liberation-of-palestine-pflp/>)
was published by the Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine in February 1969. A pdf is available there, physical copies are available on FLP or on [RedPrintsPublishing](#)

<https://www.lulu.com/shop/popular-front-for-the-liberation-of-palestine-and-marxist-leninist-reading-hub/strategy-for-the-liberation-of-palestine/paperback/product-zqy9pp.html?page=1&pageSize=4>.

Tweets

Intellectual Front for the Liberation of Palestine – Nov 12, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/IntellecFront/status/1591452987897294849\)](https://twitter.com/IntellecFront/status/1591452987897294849))

From [@IntellecFront \(https://twitter.com/IntellecFront\)](https://twitter.com/IntellecFront)

Over 70,000 bullets and 70 grenades were stolen without detection from an IOF base in the occupied Syrian Golan today. Earlier, 30,000 bullets were stolen from an IOF base in the Naqab. These bullets will surely make it back to the IOF, at a speed of approx 2,600 ft/second.

via [RNN \(https://t.me/PalestineResist\)](https://t.me/PalestineResist) (Resistance News Network, via Telegram)

This type of resistance, this type of armed resistance, draws strategic and tactical parallels from guerilla warfare of the past. I highly recommend reading [Mao \(/posts/on-mao\)](#) and [Che \(/posts/on-che\)](#) on Guerilla Warfare as well as the PFLP's take on Liberation Strategy in Palestine.

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: World History

On Mental Health

2023-01-18

"Keeping your brain thinking and feeling ok, an important one!"

In short, our current iteration of society and the day-to-day lives it entails can be very difficult! Sometimes you don't have enough money, sometimes you don't have enough time, sometimes you have approximately 20 things going wrong at the same time and you don't have anyone to turn to because everyone else is going through their own stuff too.

Your mental health may be suffering, but it doesn't mean it's your fault if you feel bad. If your life (ie. nature) has put you into difficult circumstances, it can be natural to feel fear or anxiety or depression ...

Someone who's been through war will often experience PTSD. That makes sense, their brains and bodies have experienced things that most humans don't, and their brain responds in natural (but unfortunate) ways to the devastating conditions they witness and harrowing experiences they face.

Someone who's lived with an abusive partner or family member may be hyper-aware of their circumstances, anxious because of defensive instincts built around their own protection.

Anyone who has to sell their body, mind, thought, and time in order to have a salary to survive, well, you have reason to feel like you don't have control over your full life. Work is necessary for things to keep functioning, I want a fruitful society that employs its people in useful and productive labor. But right now, I see a whole lotta people stressed about bills and tired of long hours, their bodies and brains are getting tired. And that makes sense, their brains are responding to circumstances pretty naturally if they don't feel so great about working for pennies on the dollar compared to the guys at the top, wasting billions on a whim.

If I can convey anything to you, it's that your brain is responding naturally. If it's responding in bad ways, that doesn't (necessarily) mean anything is wrong with you or your brain – it just means your situations, circumstances, and experiences have led your brain to work this way. The way you've been treated, the interactions you've had, the media you've consumed – those all shape how you think, how you act, who you are.

I'm not going to give you any of the conventional mental health advice you hear. "Exercise", "make friends", "talk to someone", "clean your room", "pick up a hobby", "do something new"

Why thank you so much, I'm cured now!

I know. I know. I've been there. All that stuff does help, obviously, but you already know that. It's still hard to do.

My advice is to trust your brain. Use it to understand why it works the way it does, and use that to help you move in the direction you want to. Stay healthy, friends.

Podcasts

It's Not Just In Your Head

I'm not a huge podcast guy, my brain isn't wired that way, but I have tuned in to [It's Not Just In Your Head \(via anchor.fm\)](https://anchor.fm/itsnotjustinyourhead) (<https://anchor.fm/itsnotjustinyourhead>) ([Patreon](https://www.patreon.com/itsnotjustinyourhead) (<https://www.patreon.com/itsnotjustinyourhead>)). Maybe this piques your fancy:

Two mental health professionals explore how our capitalist economic system impacts our emotional lives. From precarious housing and employment, to unaffordable healthcare, to endless debt -- it's not just in your head!

Tweets

Zo – I wanna say 2020ish, but I can't pull the og.

This tweet lives in my brain, it's one of the greats. It's from zophia. Her twitter is private at [@allegedlyzo](https://twitter.com/allegedlyzo) (<https://twitter.com/allegedlyzo>) (previously @gramscifancam), but here's here [goodreads](https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/121320255-zophia) (<https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/121320255-zophia>).

the human body evolved over hundreds of thousands of years so u can sit at a desk in a sterile cubicle and look at fake lights in a box and pretend u dont want to kill urself and if u can't focus on doing that for 9 hours a day 5 days a week that's a mental disorder

Nov 14, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1592175041915092992\)](https://twitter.com/primarycatdad/status/1592175041915092992))

Repeating the correct line of a locked mutual: we should oppose the current psychiatric establishment not because mental illness is fake (it's not) but because they only care about us for our ability to produce labor

They're mechanics, and like mechanics they can help us – but their criteria for help is wrong and they are willing to break and mutilate us so we conform to the labor regime

Nov 14, 2022 ([src \(https://twitter.com/DiachronicDio/status/1592144277970513920\)](https://twitter.com/DiachronicDio/status/1592144277970513920))

We can make systemic critiques of therapy as class warfare, the colonial and carceral nature of psychology, and essentialist theories of mental health without condemning the individual use of therapy and medication to function

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Personal Writings

On Transit and Cars

2023-01-19

"and new urbanist memes for transit oriented teens"

Personal Preface

I grew up in the suburbs, for the most part. My parents both owned cars to get to work. Through elementary and middle school I took the school bus for my daily commute. In high school, I bused (2 years) and then drove (2 years) into the small east coast city I call home.

Through university, I had a car but mostly stuck to the town bus system (free with university creds).

After graduating, I took up a job in the Puget Sound area and drove about an hour each way from Cap Hill, Seattle. After a couple years there, I drove back to the east coast with all my stuff.

Since, I've moved to NY and ditched the car. I take the subway, mostly, but I also walk and bus and occasionally bike around.

Cars

Cars are a necessity in most of the United States – the way houses are zoned and built in the suburbs, most people can't get to work without them. So for most people here (who haven't lived in a city with good transit) it's completely alien to imagine life without them. How can you do stuff without a car?

And for most people, it really is unrealistic to switch to something like biking or carpooling to work every day. For most people, there aren't any alternatives without moving to a big city (and that, too, is an unrealistic alternative for most people).

Transit

The only way to reduce dependence on cars is a fleshed out transit system. Ways for people to get:

1. to work, friends, and other daily/weekly activities, and
2. to other parts of the country/world

Without transit infra providing those options to people, they'll be car dependent with the current layout of society.

Saving the World

Well. All the socialists turned out to be right on this one, it seems. Transit is very good for connectedness and that's a good thing for the folks who want to organize the largest growing social class (ie. the proletariat).

And the socialists are also the ones trying to, y'know, stop the billionaires from ravaging the earth for private profit into mankind's doom. So, y'know, reducing the:

1. unhealthy car dependence
2. corresponding emissions and energy consumption. Electrics use fossil fuels too, think for 5 fucking seconds about how energy is produced in the US, please I fucking beg of you, please.
3. corresponding wasted space dedicated to parking and concrete roads in the West, that prevent walkability and encourage more and more unhealthy development.

Those are all priorities, if you consider yourself a socialist in the US (or, y'know, care about the future of our shared planet). We can't tackle this problem individually; giving up your car and losing your job isn't going to solve anything for anyone. We have to figure out how to reduce car dependency of *our society*. Therefore we need to figure out *societal level solutions* to reducing car dependence. That requires our government and industry, ie. the people who effectually control the development of infrastructure, to prioritize efforts to reduce car dependence.

That may leave you with the following line of questioning:

How do we get the millionaire senators to prioritize this? How do we get the house of representatives to care? Even if we elect one good DSA candidate in my area, how do we go about doing a national-level infrastructure re-prioritization? Could we do a referendum, somehow, is that something that can cover something like this? Who do I talk to about that?

You can go on-and-on thinking about electoralism and the modern US legislative system. There's an infinite amount you can think about. A slightly more helpful line, I think, is:

Why do all these rich parasitic old dudes control all of the decisions in our society? Why do they prioritize the zoning for their McMansions that are as far away from the poors as possible? Why can't we put the scientists who are specialists in energy and the earth and locomotives in charge of that sorta decision making?

Because those are all great questions. Why can't we?

[I'd like to try \(/posts/on-organizing\).](/posts/on-organizing)

TODO

There's a lot more to talk about here.

I'd like to touch on transit and infrastructure in other countries. Showing things like the massive expansion of China's rail system, the incredible rail systems being build all over Asia and Europe, some of the very bike friendly cities like Amsterdam and Copenhagen.

There's also the concept of housing and how suburban dreams and aspirations drive how the isolating architecture of modern cities is built. There aren't even malls for the kids to hang out in anymore, there's nowhere they can go without spending money to be there. It's... sad. Walkability is so great for community and socialization, it's a wonderful experience being around many people whenever I leave my apartment.

A lot of that development has also been driven by car lobbies, shutting down public transit systems that used to function in order to sell more cars.

And I'm sure there's a bunch I don't know about yet.

TODO: other transit folks/links/tweets/resources

index tags: Cars, Trains, Buses, Transit

category tags: Personal Writings

On New York Resources

2023-01-20

"aka stuff for those in local Lenapehoking"

Ok, this list doesn't really exist yet. It will one day :4)

TODO: add all the resources. organize by category, interlink with other pages

TODO: homeless/hungry

TODO: women's resources, abuse resources, kids resources

TODO: link learning resources

TODO: volunteering resources

TODO: art, etc. in the city. places to see, things to do,

TODO: link subway stories, other experiences ?

index tags: Resource List, New York, Health(care)

category tags: Resource Lists

On Matt Korostoff

2023-01-21

"An engineer creating very good visual websites and other interesting stuff"

Wealth shown to scale

My introduction to Matt's work was his [wealth visualization \(via mkorostoff.github.io\)](https://mkorostoff.github.io/1-pixel-wealth/) (<https://mkorostoff.github.io/1-pixel-wealth/>).

It uses one pixel to represent \$1000, and demonstrates other major milestones (median US household income, average lifetime wealth, etc. in comparison to Jeff Bezos' wealth). I think it's a great visualization and a well-made resource, so shoutout to Matt for his great work. I can't state enough how much I respect and admire projects like these.

Incarceration in real numbers

Which brings us to another great project, a [visualization of the number of Americans jailed or imprisoned \(via mkorostoff.github.io\)](https://mkorostoff.github.io/incarceration-in-real-numbers/) (<https://mkorostoff.github.io/incarceration-in-real-numbers/>).

Faces of Covid-19

And a project related to Covid, Matt also created a [visualization of the 535,000 Americans who died of Covid in the first year of the pandemic](https://mkorostoff.github.io/hundred-thousand-faces/) (<https://mkorostoff.github.io/hundred-thousand-faces/>)

In his words,

In the first year of the global pandemic, COVID-19 killed around 535,000 Americans, a number that defies comprehension. This website is intended to help visitors understand the massive scale of this event by putting a human face on each person lost. It is my hope that this will allow visitors to understand the death toll as more than just a number.

8 minutes 46 seconds

A project related to the death of George Floyd, Matt created a [timer to fully realize the reality of the killing \(via 8m46s.com\)](https://8m46s.com/) (<https://8m46s.com/>).

On May 25th 2020, Derek Chauvin held his knee on the neck of George Floyd for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, resulting in Mr. Floyd's death. I invite visitors to sit quietly and reflect for this same length of time. It feels like an eternity. A partial transcript of the incident is provided throughout.

Site

The rest of Matt's work (serious, unserious, and computer) can be found on his site: mattkorostoff.com/ (<https://mattkorostoff.com/>).

I also really enjoyed [Factory Factory Factory](https://factoryfactoryfactory.net/) (<https://factoryfactoryfactory.net/>), aka "Modern Software Development Summarized", originally titled "Why I Hate Frameworks" by Benji Smith and maintained on that domain by Matt.

index tags: Visualizations, Matt Korostoff, MKorostoff, Benji Smith, Wealth shown to scale, Jeff Bezos, Incarceration in real numbers, Incarceration, Faces of Covid-19, Eight minutes forty-six seconds, Factory Factory Factory

category tags: Modern Authors

On Aaron Thorpe

2023-01-22

"A comrade in Atlanta. aka @borgposting, aka @paradoomer, aka @thotteusstevens, aka a bunch of other @s I don't remember"

Aaron writes at spacelight.substack.com (<https://spacelight.substack.com/>) and works on a few podcasts, including [The Trillbillies](https://www.patreon.com/trillbillyworkersparty) (<https://www.patreon.com/trillbillyworkersparty>) ([@thetrillbillies](https://twitter.com/thetrillbillies) (<https://twitter.com/thetrillbillies>)), [Everybody Loves Communism](https://www.patreon.com/everybodylovescommunism) (<https://www.patreon.com/everybodylovescommunism>) ([@elcpod](https://twitter.com/elcpod) (<https://twitter.com/elcpod>)), and previously [A Time of Monsters](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/a-time-of-monsters/id1536813867) (<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/a-time-of-monsters/id1536813867>)

Tweets

For what it's worth, Aaron's constant suspensions and bans are one of the first experiences I had with the [Fall of Twitter \(/posts/on-the-fall-of-twitter\)](#). It does give me some hope that I'll continue to find rational, intelligent voices if I keep looking for them (though it's sad that so much of what he's written has been lost to questionable censorship and artificially-barricaded bits). I'll post a few things, but these are all recent because I can only grab stuff from his most recent account.

Sep 30, 2022 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/borgposting/status/1575963735302148096>))

the A.I. art trend is disconcerting ngl. the very idea that some people think you can reproduce something that comes from a base of human experience & social life (art) but without any of that stuff involved in the process, makes me question what they ultimately think of people

its one thing to automate physical labor. i think pretty much all menial physical labor should be automated if possible. but to automate creative labor robs art of what makes it art – people

im also not ringing alarms bells that A.I. art will replace artists. i dont think it will (i could be wrong). but the fact that people think it can & *want* that to happen does not bode well for society in deeply felt indescribable ways

i hate doing threads & i wish i was more succinct in my first post but if it wasnt clear im not worried about the novelty of emerging technologies or that A.I. art is replacing artists right now. im talking about the devaluation of people

Oct 21, 2022 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/borgposting/status/1583495473398022147>))

went from "essential workers" to forcing people back to work under worse conditions & pay, & then when people start unionizing & striking all of a sudden a manufactured recession is necessary. lol this shit is so fake

Nov 9, 2022 ([src](#)
(<https://twitter.com/borgposting/status/1590443901348827137>))

fucked up how conservatives & liberals have goaded people into thinking material issues like trans rights & black liberation are "culture war" issues & leftists eat that shit up as if dignity & self-expression are merely aesthetic nuisances

there is no "culture war." the base is the present mode of production, everything that flows from that & reinforces it is superstructure. marxism 101 cmon son

Nov 10, 2022 ([src](#)

<https://twitter.com/borgposting/status/1590893093976276992>)

this is the best twitter has ever been. watching the richest man in the world (for now) squirm like a bug because hes too dumb & proud to admit paid verification was a bad idea is better than when trump got covid

consider that trump is still alive. chilling. gearing up to run again. elon musk just blew through mountains of cash while pissing everyone off & is posting through it

this is also the greatest time for parody posting ever, pissing off some of the most evil people & corporations who are sure to be mad at him too

Nov 11, 2022 ([src](#)

<https://twitter.com/borgposting/status/1591083454355374082>)

this really is like the titanic going down but instead of violinists somberly playing farewell everyone is scooping up chunks of iceberg from the deck & launching them at the captain

Nov 15, 2022 ([src](#)

<https://twitter.com/borgposting/status/1592655471458254849>)

everyone from twitter accounts w hammer n sickle display names to the few anti-imperialist academics was saying this & being called tankies & they just came out & admitted it lol

(quotetweeting New York Times World (@nytimesworld) [here](https://twitter.com/nytimesworld) (<https://twitter.com/nytimesworld/status/1592604365822517248>))
Ukraine has become a testing ground for state-of-the-art weapons and information systems that Western political officials and military commanders predict could shape warfare for generations to come
[For Western Weapons, the Ukraine War Is a Beta Test \(via nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/15/world/europe/ukraine-weapons.html)
(<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/15/world/europe/ukraine-weapons.html>)

Nov 17, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/borgposting/status/1593404393587613700) (<https://twitter.com/borgposting/status/1593404393587613700>))

the musk-twitter saga should be instructive, proving once again that billionaires are morons. plain & simple. yet there are people who will blame twitter employees or wokeism & maintain that he will lead us into the future. these people are also morons & unsalvageable

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Modern Communists

On Z-Library

2023-01-23

"A useful site that's also crumbled recently"

This started as a part of [On The Fall of Twitter \(/posts/on-the-fall-of-twitter\)](/posts/on-the-fall-of-twitter) since z-library got taken down around the same time as Twitter started falling with the Elon takeover. I figured I'd separate and expand since more has happened since.

z-lib

In the vein of failing infrastructure, I also just heard of the fall of z-lib. From [@juwugoslavija](https://twitter.com/juwugoslavija) (<https://twitter.com/juwugoslavija>) [here](https://twitter.com/juwugoslavija/status/1588486265301008384?t=2VUfnbXV5yoW5ovbd2OqXw&s=19) (<https://twitter.com/juwugoslavija/status/1588486265301008384?t=2VUfnbXV5yoW5ovbd2OqXw&s=19>)

z library being gone is literally the worst day ever why am i abt to cry at jfk international airport

From [@postcardofexile](https://twitter.com/postcardofexile) (<https://twitter.com/postcardofexile>) on [this](https://twitter.com/postcardofexile/status/1588516388137709569?t=21y8G7pUrmCtF8wDE9PLXw&s=19) (<https://twitter.com/postcardofexile/status/1588516388137709569?t=21y8G7pUrmCtF8wDE9PLXw&s=19>) post:

Zlibrary died today, it was shut down by the gatekeepers in the global north. This cruel gatekeeping of sources of knowledge and learning enrages me. So many of us do not have access to libraries (digital and physical) and it was our only source to write books and articles.

Whenever books are not available at my local stores, I had turned to Zlib. I understand as a writer we need royalties and payments, but the joy of hearing someone say that a writing made them feel something, I would take that over anything. I would rather be read and read.

knowledge production should not be limited to those with ivy league and oxbridge degrees, and the libraries these schools give access to. this enrages me because curiosity to learn and question critically is then shut down. Narratives will narrow down and voices limited.

There are so many books that I couldn't have read while writing this novel, and were only available on these libraries. How do they expect anyone in the global south to compete with novelists who have art grants, access to residencies, and libraries, mentors and archives.

and as many have said, including [@mshadimas](https://twitter.com/mshadimas) (<https://twitter.com/mshadimas>) [here](https://twitter.com/mshadimas/status/1588417930630684672) (<https://twitter.com/mshadimas/status/1588417930630684672>):

zlib going down is like the modern day burning of the library of alexandria

Again, may we collect our materials and rebuild our resources. There's so much work to be done.

Arrests – November 17, 2022

Two Russian Nationals were arrested in Argentina today, charged with running Z-Library.

Nov 17, 2022 ([src](https://twitter.com/The_Wub/status/1593330900326121473) (https://twitter.com/The_Wub/status/1593330900326121473))

Sam Bankman-Fried just got caught running what will probably add up to the worst financial ponzi scheme in American history and has yet to be extradited but Z-Library's founders are going to jail for the crime of running a public service bourgeois academia won't

(quotetweeting [this](https://twitter.com/Lysenkoist/status/1593278787634221056)
(<https://twitter.com/Lysenkoist/status/1593278787634221056>)
Z-Library founders arrested in Argentina

Nov 17, 2022 (src
<https://twitter.com/seriations/status/1593325124798783490>)

z-library was one of the few services (along with sci-hub) allowing students, scientists, and other regular people in developing countries able to access information that's held hostage by publishing companies, which are some of the most rapacious profiteers in history

if you care more about the robert maxwells of the world (yes, that one) making a profit, or you're too stupid to know that academic authors don't get shit for their work, you'd be lucky to get targeted by any "russian psyop" lol. you might actually learn something

Nov 17, 2022 (src
<https://twitter.com/ASPertierra/status/1593358006493773824>)

I remember when Cuban academics first discovered z-library and sci-hub. After years of falling way behind because nobody could afford books that weren't gifts from visiting academics or the occasional rare boom bought abroad, z-lib caused a small revolution

One came back to Cuba with almost a terabyte of books across the social sciences that they'd downloaded while abroad. They then shared it widely in their department. People could suddenly keep up with their fields again for the first time in years

For academics, royalties are also always going to be small unless you're that rare unicorn who actually pulls off a crossover success (and even then the royalties are probably fairly modest). I think this should all be open source anyway

index tags: Twitter, Backup

category tags: Resource Lists, Tweets
