

The Handmaiden's Tale

Campbell MacKinnon - Agent Dubois

“Should great social and political change be instigated by elites and flow from top to bottom, or should it involve the masses overthrowing the top?”

Any great change starts from the ground up. The idea of people banding together and creating something as one is an idea that creates hope. Hope, in the context of a totalitarian regime, is a terrifying idea. It gives regular people the feeling that they matter; that they can create change. The citizens who live on top of society never have motivation to make change, they can be content with where they are rather than where they want society to go. The masses are the motivators that create change, whether that be through forcefully creating change, or protesting and pushing for it in a peaceful way.

A modern day example of change from the ground up is the civil rights movement in the 1950's and 60's. This is a movement that started in homes and churches all across America and was led by groups like the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC or “snick”). The NAACP and SNCC are groups founded by hardworking Americans who stood for change, people who looked at a system and thought, “this is wrong.” These are ideals that people rally behind. Groups like the NAACP and SNCC became popular because of how relatable and grounded they were. In the civil rights movement it was the masses that drove change and got the civil rights act passed in 1964.

To end with a quote from Fred Hampton, a civil rights activist who represented the Black Panther Party (a group with a more radical take on the civil rights movement): “You can kill a revolutionary but you can never kill the revolution.”