

Capitalism & Colonialism Are the Disaster; Solidarity & Liberation are the Solution

Reconstruction Los Angeles 2025

by Michael Novick, *Anti-Racist Action Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)*

The incineration of large parts of the Los Angeles area represents the extent to which settler colonial capitalism has sown the wind and reaped the whirlwind of generations, centuries, of exploitation, land theft, genocide, privatization, gentrification, fossil fuel extraction and other social ills, economic crimes, and political malfeasance.

In the wake of the massive and ongoing destruction, peoples' movements, left and anti-colonial forces must step up to help lead and shape a process of recovery and rebuilding that starts to reverse that history of exploitation, oppression and environmental devastation. We cannot allow the very forces and economic interests that created the conditions and the kindling for this conflagration to profit from it and use it to shape an even more repressive future, as they did with Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and with other previous disasters rooted in a sick system.

A vast immediate mutual aid effort is underway, reaching out to tens of thousands of affected families and individuals. Much of that is aggregated at <https://fires.help>. But beyond that, we need to stimulate and organize the best thinking and rooted efforts of Indigenous peoples, the Black freedom struggle and other liberation movements, Raza and AAPI organizations, labor and tenant organizers, faith rooted

organizations, autonomists and socialists — the full panoply of racial, social and economic justice groupings and grassroots communities, to create a united front movement of solidarity and resistance that can seize the time to shape a better and different future. Otherwise, that process will be in the hands of Gavin Newsom, who has already linked the rebuilding to the upcoming "National Security Special Events" scheduled for L.A. from 2026-28, the World Cup, the Super Bowl, and the Olympics and Para-Olympics. That's a recipe for a police state. That tendency was reinforced by Mayor Karen Bass putting reactionary developer Steve Soboroff, former law-and-order candidate for mayor and former head of the rubber stamp LA Police Commission, in charge of the city's rebuilding efforts.

If I were still the manager of KPFK (which unfortunately canceled all the Indigenous and environmental programming I had introduced, just in time for the worst environmental disaster in the city's history), I would have used the auspices of the station to help convene a series of urgent, ongoing and deepening discussions to map out such an alliance or

united front and a program of recovery. The best I can do at the moment is raise this call for such a process, and throw open the pages of *Turning The Tide: Journal of Intercommunal Solidarity*, and of *Change Links*, the L.A. community calendar and news publication that I also edit, for thoughts and contributions to such a process.

I hope we can all step up, set sectarian differences aside and meet the moment and its challenges. The scope and enormity of what must be done, and the depth of the problems, economic interests and environmental damage that have brought us to this moment and must be overcome, demand all our best efforts.

Principles must be upheld to guide us and that process, such as that housing is a human right, that decolonization is an imperative, and that, as in the Reconstruction after the US Civil War, democratic empowerment is the basis and bedrock of an effort to rebuild. The rebuilding process can be a laboratory for initiatives in social, economic and racial equality. We must assert the primacy of the public good and the commons, and prioritize redevelopment that is in harmony with and helps regenerate the natural physical environment.



Destruction of the "alphabet streets" in Pacific Palisades, LA.

Key elements include: Preventing further sprawl and penetration into vulnerable ecosystems, developing self-sustaining communities that incorporate urban eco-agriculture, rapidly building supportive low-income public housing for not only the recently displaced but for the tens of thousands previously deprived of decent housing, leaving further fossil fuels in the ground, restoring water as a common heritage of the entire ecosystem, and using all those efforts to help implement a peace economy that enhances rather than exploits the natural and social environment, are all vital elements of such a decolonizing reconstruction process.

I invite your response to this initiative and all efforts to begin such a process through in person meetings and discussions. If you want to engage with the ideas sketched out above and participate in trying to develop the type of deep, broad, but pointed united front for reconstruction that seems to be necessary, please contact me ASAP at antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com, or call 323-636-7388. Feel free to share these thoughts and this proposal for a united front with all you think can contribute constructively.

35 Years Ago in *Turning The Tide*

TTT Editorial (1990): Overcoming War and Racism

Editor's note (2025):

Just to be clear and avoid any confusion, the Gulf War being discussed in this article was the first Gulf War, where the US invaded Iraq over the latter country's claims to Kuwait, and the George Bush referred to is the first George Bush, who had been Reagan's VP from 1980-88, and then was elected president in 1988; not the later "war of choice" in the War on Terror of the younger Bush, George W. ("Dubya") Bush.

The racist nature of the Gulf War is as evident in the aftermath as in the build-up. Despite the opposition of some racist groups to the Gulf War (see article elsewhere in this issue), U.S. intervention in the Gulf grew out of racist roots. The disproportionate high number of Blacks and Hispanics among front line troops was noted (their relative scarcity among high prestige pilots less commented on). When Blacks picketed recruiting centers in L.A., the *L.A. Times* reported several young Blacks about to sign up as saying that they felt they'd be safer in Saudi Arabia than on the streets of South Central L.A.

This is beyond the poverty draft; it is driving people into military "careers" with the stick of genocidal violence. And in fact, casualty rates for U.S. troops in Desert Storm were far, far lower than the casualty rate for young Black men in America's cities in the comparable period.

What does it say about our society that we have the resources to send half a million people half-way around the world, but can't end the homelessness, joblessness, racism and hopelessness that produces this plague of violence at home?

We must also ask ourselves who gave George H. W. Bush the power to wage this war -- and the uncomfortable answer is that we did. If 100,000 had taken the streets when Reagan invaded Grenada and Bush invaded Panama, nations close to home with a large Black population, then Bush wouldn't have been so free to unleash violence in the Middle East.

If the anti-war movement had been more forceful over the years in fighting for peace and justice in the Middle East, in defending the Palestinians, perhaps the U.S. wouldn't have been able to sustain the double standard of condemning the Iraqis in Kuwait and upholding the Israeli occupation of Palestine, Syria and Lebanon.

If we'd been up in arms for 10 years while the government refused to fund the war on AIDS, refused to spend money on healthcare, housing, education, childcare, while they spent trillions for more guns, bombs, cops and prisons, George Bush would not have been able to launch this war. Every bomb dropped in Iraq was a school, a hospital, a medical research center that was never built in this country.

The "smart" bombs and missiles were paid for with the blood of people who died needlessly of AIDS, with the blighted lives of a generation of inner city youth. We allowed those weapons to claim lives here in building them, as well as there in dropping them.

We must also look deeper into our character as a nation and the impulse that insists on denying all negative attributes in ourselves and projecting them on to a demonic "other". This impulse is at the roots of racism and all oppression of those who are different.

The demonization of Saddam Hussein and the dehumanization of the Iraqis, which so quickly replaced the "cold war", grew out of the genocide of the Native nations, and the invention of the "negro" by racist ideologues seeking to project outward the criminality and guilt of slavery. The American psyche needs that external enemy, or it will be forced to look inward, and confront -- and heal -- its own divisions and illness.

The dehumanization of Arabs was everywhere, from the Pentagon references to "collateral damage", to liberal commentators referring to the reaction of the "Arab street," to the callous disregard for the massive casualties. The ratio of a 1,000 to 1 of dead and wounded on the two sides was related more to the history of massacres (like Wounded Knee) than to warfare.

The analogies of Iraq to Hitler are laughable. Hitler rose to power in an advanced, industrial country with an imperial history. He enjoyed the support of the other imperial powers so long as his ambitions were directed against the "inferior" Slavs and the commies. Significant sectors of the rulers and the societies of the countries he



George HW Bush and Barbara Bush greeting US troops that invaded Iraq in 1990. GHW Bush said: "The Persian Gulf crisis has forged a new world order in which the superpower adversaries of the Cold War now stand united..."

conquered or allied himself with, supported his genocide of the Jews and gypsies, and his purging of "Christian culture" of homosexuals, decadence and liberalism.

To oppose the war was not to support or glorify Saddam. It was the war which built Saddam up, and which allowed him to carry out atrocities like launching missiles at civilians ...and flooding the Gulf with oil. If not Saddam, the perfect foil, Bush would've found someone else, somewhere else, because he wanted, needed a war: to test new weapons, to use up the old ones, and to strengthen his flag-waving stranglehold on domestic politics.

So the struggle against the war must continue. The U.S. still has a massive occupying army in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq. It's being used for a "settlement" in the Middle East that will leave all the old injustices intact. We must call for U.S. withdrawal. We must demand that the vast store-house of weapons expended in the war not be replaced. We must demand justice and sovereignty for the Palestinians.

And we must demand an end to the war at home, through self-determination for the people oppressed inside this country. The recent video-taped beating by the L.A.P.D. shows all too clearly that there are occupying armies inside America that lay the basis for the armies of occupation we send abroad.

SPEAKING BITTERNESS - A Message to Congress by a Three-Times Homeless Millennial Man

Put a 100% tax on inheritance of estates worth more than \$200k.

I think your kids are mediocre parasites who would drown in the blackwater you've raised without the unfair advantages of shameless parents whose genius moneymaking opportunity was being in the right place at the right time with the right education, regardless of their intelligence.

For the best example of that, I would point out almost all of you are getting rich from the brilliant idea of trading stocks on insider information while serving in Congress.

So much gerrymandering and you're somehow the best and brightest the country has to offer? Or you were the ones who could afford to start a political career when housing was still affordable?

And you took the economic prosperity of the last 75 years, built on the backs of the generation that fought fascism in World War II, and subsequent generations of ordinary working men and women who worked their whole lives while you didn't, and you shut the door behind you so none of them could get in.

You pieces of shit.

You have become a tribe of liars, cheaters, and thieves, with almost nothing else left to say about it. Spineless worms. Hateful cowards. Thieves. Apologists for pandemic tax evasion and anti-government extremism. The recipient of more US government subsidies and corporate welfare than anyone else in the world, or in the history of the United States, Elon Musk, is cutting Medicare and Medicaid, and USAID. How dare he, and how dare you let him?

Who is he to decide who lives and dies? anywhere? The DOGE butchery in federal departments is being used to finance tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans, the same ones who really don't need help, and who are actually responsible for the standard-of-living crisis in the United States. And you don't care because you're ignorant, selfish, spoiled little children who treat our lives like pieces in your power game. You're vicious, ruthless, and heartlessly stupid people.

Campaigning on "fiscal conservative" platforms, and you're actually increasing spending and decreasing tax revenue; what are you, ignorant idiots or stupid, lying pirates? Which is it?

You justify every position you take with the same, simple subtext rooted in the same knee-jerk emotional infamy. "We want it so you're gonna take it." That's how children talk.

And hey, I won't sweat it. Fascist movements fail all the time, because you're losers. Personality predates ideology -- you were *always* losers. I'm not saying that because I hate losers, I don't, and I think that when people use that word to describe ordinary people who have survived this economy, especially when they don't know the conditions? It's disgusting.

When I call the morally bankrupt US American Republican a fucking loser, it's because I can't think of a group of people more out-of-touch with the timeline or context of history.

When education is not liberating, the dream of the oppressed is to become the oppressor. Many people dream of being your oppressor now, just like you dreamed of being an oppressor in my parents' generation, and they know they will not get the chance before you've died. But how you decide to live the rest of your lives will determine whether or not we suppress and expropriate your children.

Your children are likely to be criminals, as you yourselves are criminals, and in many cases your parents and grandparents were rat-fucking criminals who passed the tradition down to you. And the thirteenth amendment still allows for the use of slave labor from convicted criminals. In 25 years the bias against your children will be so strong I don't think they'll get a fair trial, especially if you succeed in sabotaging the courts. If the courts have no integrity, they will be turned on you unfairly in the course of time. What goes around, comes around. As Mighty Mouse said, turn-about is fair play.

Because people hate Elon Musk. He gave two Sieg Heil nazi salutes at the Trump Inauguration. He has been propping up the neo-Nazi movement on X, and in Germany, and everywhere else in Europe that he can.

Let me tell you something, his father had a secret emerald mine, deep in the heart of Apartheid South Africa, and even his deeply flawed father has gone on the record saying that Elon's maternal grandparents immigrated to South Africa during apartheid because they were supporters of Apartheid. Seriously. To the point that his father refused to speak to them. They were too "racist" and that's a direct quote, from an actual trafficker and enslaver.

And recently, Musk was being interviewed, with one of his dozen kids on his knee, his "mini-me" as he put it at the time, and this bouncing baby boy told Tucker Carlson "At SpaceX, we quietly do whatever we want." Out the mouths of babes, huh? Chilling.

X is the platform-of-choice for the Alt-Right. Just ask the Alt-Right. Elon Musk is a Nazi. Just ask the Nazis.

And everyone knows how Musk is an unelected illegal immigrant from South Africa, came here on a student visa and started working illegally. How would you feel if he was a Mexican auto worker? How would you feel if he was an Indian Program Engineer? He is here because of Trump.

The John Birch Society used to say that Dwight Eisenhower was a conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy. Donald Trump is acting like a conscious agent of a foreign power sent to dismantle the US government, and to fuck with Barack Obama or Hilary Clinton. Which, since she's Richard Nixon in a pantsuit, I can understand. But even if she had it coming, I didn't. And weirdly enough, neither did my parents. They are both good, honest, hard-working and God-loving folks. My dad's a pastor who runs a side business as a mediator contracted through the state to resolve custody disputes because he's never stopped thinking about what happened to me as a child. And my mother is a pediatrics ICU nurse, and has spent the last 50 years saving the lives of your babies and your children. And you repay her by trying to kill me. You repay her by electing Donald Trump to office, and you won't lift a finger to protect Healthcare or provide housing.

Trump is now backed by a loose coalition of A) victims of propaganda disenfranchised by an economy that cares less about them every day; B) rapists, pedophiles and human traffickers, and C) foreign powers who have had the red carpet rolled out for the re-colonization of the United States. This is common knowledge. And I'm talking about Europeans. Who did you think I was talking about?

If the Republican party really wants to keep foreign influence out of US affairs, they can ban foreign investors from purchasing real estate in this country, their Administration could seize such properties by eminent domain on the grounds that the deals were done in bad faith as part of larger trend in a 50-year criminal conspiracy. But wait, no, Republicans have no intention of regulating the housing market. They'll ban an app



made by a Singaporean on the grounds that he made a global app that obeys Chinese laws while operating in China.

Donald Trump has been found liable in civil suit after civil suit concerning sexual assault. Every one of his victims expects a campaign of intimidation when they prepare to take the stand. Happens every time. Since entering politics, he has also become the litigant himself 29 times, suing news outlets for defamation to shut them up.

Why, just this last year a really compelling case from one woman, I say compelling because I've read pieces of transcript from her testimony, which is that when she was 13, Donald Trump tied her to a bed and raped her while she screamed and cried for him to stop, and he refused, and came inside of her. When she asked, tears in her eyes, "what if I get pregnant?" she says he threw a wad of cash on the bed and said "then get a fucking abortion." He was 48 at the time, many years before Jeffrey Epstein ostensibly killed himself. There is a growing belief in public opinion, that I share, that, between evidence in his court cases and his longtime association with Epstein, Donald Trump groomed, trafficked and raped children, for fun, until he went impotent.

Also, I'm guessing Elon Musk is obsessed with the letter X because as soon as he can get away with turning it into a twisted-cross swastika, he will. He seems like the type to think that's terribly clever, because his army of marketers can't keep up with him anymore. Elon Musk can be considered a Nazi who serves extra-legally at the pleasure of the president.

Another fun fact, something people may have forgotten because this was during the "Apprentice" years, but according to his wife, Donald Trump slept with Hitler's speeches on his bedside table for years.

By the time he became the Sith Apprentice of Roger Stone, they were on the same page. We haven't heard from Roger Stone for a while, because in his eyes, the crowning achievement of his career was kingmaking a Nazi president. And you did nothing about it the first time, and even less now given a second chance.

You have taken the party of Lincoln and abolition, and made it into a lynch mob of religious extremists, anti-government extremists, international corporate influence, human traffickers, pedophiles, Nazis, and war criminals.

I don't care if I have the respect of Congress or any Congressman. I don't care if this body hold me in contempt. I hold all of you in contempt. Your ignorance, your cruelty, your greed, your contempt for life, and your shamelessness have cost me the lives of people I care about. Have cost countless others the lives of people they care about.

First weeks in office and the military used to fly people to an off-shore concentration camp inside a US military base on Guantanamo Bay in Cuba; dozens of seditionists who stormed the Capitol released; and at least two aviation disasters (caused not by DEI but by underfunding air traffic control and by an out of authorized place military helicopter.

And if anyone watching sees you so much as hint the words "our thoughts and prayers go with the victims," then may your God strike you dead for a lying piece of shit and an evil bastard. You are responsible. You are killers. You are mass-murders and accomplices of rapists and brologarchs.

But none of you will fund housing or Healthcare, all of you want to increase tax cuts for the wealthy, you're slashing aviation regulation, you're slashing social safety nets. You're killing people and you know it. Worse, you're killing other people, and they know it.

The international community has made itself pretty clear on the question of Israel-Palestine: Israel is guilty of genocide, using rape as a weapon of war and a tool of torture and interrogation, they have used the recordings of crying babies to lure people out and shoot them in the head and they have targeted children sitting down for dinner with their families and shot them in the head, with the aid of US provided intel and military AI. If the New York Times shows pictures, will you stop talking like Bibi's got his hand up your ass? If literally an unprecedented global majority agrees that the US is an accomplice in Israeli war crimes, will you agree with the billions of people around the world who say it's a genocide? That the establishment of a demilitarized zone around a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital has become a moral necessity? And that the Israeli people have lost the right to preside over the Holy Land, which has been home to untold millions since the days of Exodus, because they have visited upon their neighbors the same dehumanizing treatment that was visited on them by your grandparents and great-grandparents. What could be worse than that? You've spat and pissed on the mass graves of Auschwitz with new mass graves in Gaza, and a plan to turn it from hell into a Mediterranean Riviera.

But guess what? I haven't spit on the graves in Auschwitz or Gaza. I honor their memory every day, when I commit to the truth that "Never Again" applies to everyone, or else it becomes a deceitful justification for international crime. I honor their memory by standing up to all of you, and I honor their memory by refusing to let you call me antisemitic. I honor their memory by joining millions around the US and billions of my fellow citizens of the world by saying: you are the pawns and playthings of Nazis. So again, I ask, do you ever listen?

Of course not, you're US Americans, Congressmembers; you don't listen. You don't listen to the international community abroad and you don't even listen to the Jewish community in the US. Your only points of contact for 25 years have been with Israeli criminals. You are the most willfully ignorant generation of "leaders" of truly the most ignorant people on the face of the earth. We thought because the US was rich and powerful we could afford to be ignorant, before you destroyed the Constitution on purpose because you're mad voter suppression couldn't stop us from electing a Black president.

Everybody knows you're guilty as sin. You can agree amongst yourselves that you're right and everyone else is wrong, and have that BS echoed on a thousand corporate media outlets and platforms, but let me tell you something, and don't just take my word for it, -- your kids are gonna have swastikas carved in their foreheads by US American children who grew up in the last 10-20 years.

The idea that you think China's Communist Party is responsible for the decades of mistakes you and your predecessors made in this Congress proves that you are ignorant, out-of-touch losers who do not know what the fuck is happening.

You are not just criminals, you are not just enemies of the people of this country, you are enemies of all mankind. And everyone knows. My grandfather was drafted into WW2 to fight the Nazis, and you have surrendered the federal government of the United States to the Nazis. Your names will live on in infamy.

I want you to imagine a Luigi Mangione hat on every ordinary person you see from now on. There was a time when you were accountable only to your local constituents. That time is over, you're accountable to all of us now.

Every ordinary person in the country has suffered because of what you did and are doing. It's so bad that every couple of months I get to talk to someone new about how Henry Kissinger killed more people than Hitler, how Roger Stone, the same man responsible for getting Donald Trump elected started the Brooks Brothers Riot in 2000 that got 'Dubya' Bush "elected" by the Supreme Court after he got defeated by the voters, and that Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney made a killing on the war in Iraq. You remember that one? Blew a bunch of people's legs off, started a public torture camp that Trump is now using as an off-shore concentration camp for ICE detainees, and sold off other people's oil fields to Shell, BP, and ExxonMobil?

And I know the instinct is for Republicans in the House and the Senate to shake their heads over the Bush era and say "dear oh dear if only I had been there" as if you're not a bunch of open, thieving common yourselves. Mitch McConnell illegally withheld a Supreme Court seat from a sitting president, and put a wedge in the door for unchecked criminality in Congress, unchecked disregard for, and flagrant violation of, the US constitution. Ted Cruz started his career in the senate with the naked, stupid fraud of the Tea Party, and he sits before you as if he is a grown man and a real boy, and not a political opportunist made of colored wax and wood.

You have invited agents of foreign powers with self-professed anti-government ideology into the highest levels of government, where putting those ideals into practice will kill hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people.

You've made it clear you don't care if we members of the public have clean air to drink, clean water to breathe, clean food to eat, a safe place to stay, a school for our kids to learn in and not get shot, and you don't care if people steal our taxes. You are allowing people to steal our taxes as we speak. Considering the negligence and acts of bad faith from this chamber, the gross incompetence and government shutdowns, you deserve all the contempt you receive.

Anybody feel like talking about the Pentagon? Does the party of fiscal responsibility want to examine why the largest budget on the planet has failed audit after audit to the scale of hundreds of billions of dollars? Anybody feel like talking about the open secret in places like Boeing and Lockheed Martin, that they can overcharge by 2,000 times what their products and services are worth because Congress is just stupid enough to pay them whatever they ask for, even more than the President asks for, because you have been that stupid since the war on so-called terror began two-and-a-half decades ago.

What else am I supposed to think, if I already know for a fact that Nazis infiltrated the federal government?

How am I supposed to think, if I already know the role men like Henry Kissinger and Benjamin Netanyahu have played in US foreign policy. The soft-spoken descendants of holocaust victims have proven to include two of the coldest and most heartless mass murderers in history. One has already joined Hitler in Hell.

There is no one else to blame.

CONGRESS: you are Nazi collaborators. Resign. Or turn coat. Or your names will be remembered, as all of the names that passed through Nuremberg or the Hague are remembered, whether you are alive when you are tried for crimes against humanity or if you are already dead. Because more people watch C-SPAN every day, and those hats are out there.

You have failed. The crime is complete, and the criminals responsible are tucked in bed with a cup of hot cocoa, waiting to leave the spoils of war to their children in offshore accounts. They won, and they're thrilled. Some of these people here today, included. But you too, have failed- failed to plan for the future. What do you think happens another 25 years from now when everyone knows who you were, everyone knows your children's names, and how those useless morons got their money? Do you honestly think any of my contemporaries, when a majority-Millennial congress holds office, that we won't charge you with crimes against the people? Freeze your funds or your children's? Target you with the United States Military?

Every tool you give this administration will be used against your children. Every weapon you turn on the US public will be answered in blood and turned against you, and don't just take my word for it. Listen to the people outside. If you are associated with the crime of the century and your children inherit the spoils, they'll be rounded up.

You were wrong. You were playing a very short game and you got carried away, you got a little ahead of yourselves.

Now everyone hates you and we will hold you and your children responsible. Sabotaging the federal government in progress has cost lives. The only good news is now a lot of people who didn't seem to get it before, know what the government does now. Because everyone is losing money except for the rich, and ignorance has become a luxury that only the rich can afford.

The US American international businessman is cancer. That's not a metaphor. They sell arms to Israel. They sell arms to White Christian Nationalist oligarchs and authoritarians. "Growth, growth, growth" they used to chant, and now they cheer "Drill, baby, drill" like we all stopped listening, stopped paying attention and forgot at the same time.

Trump, Musk and the others in their class tell whatever lie they need to get what they want. Their positions are crimes of convenience, only honest in that they are naked expressions of insatiable self-interest and self-aggrandizement. These men would dispossess and pimp their grandmothers to the Nazis for a buck. And I know that, because they have already done it, and you have gone along with it.

Congress is culpable for what happened in the treasury, in the Social Security and Medicaid/Medicare system. Mark my words, the people will seek a class action suit against Elon Musk, Donald Trump, and anyone else who is responsible. Or if they can't, they will wake up early in the morning and come talk to them. Just like Babylon, Just like Rome, just like Paris. And if we know whose parents are responsible, their children will not be safe. You decide whether or not that sounds like it applies to you.

I am aware I'm stepping into jeopardy by saying this, but I would rather insult you than be assaulted by you. Today, like every other day, I'll have to settle for both.

Fuck you. Fight the Nazis or face the consequences. Fight the Nazis or go to the hell you have made, and burn in it.

We can talk about the Democrats phony "resistance" after.

GENERAL STRIKE by May 1, 2025.

A Mad Dash to the Right

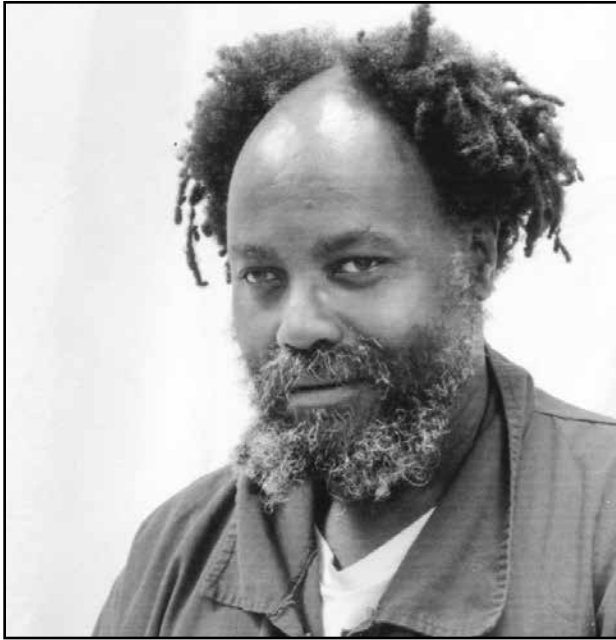
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As we look at this world, as the new year dawns, we must admit that the world is on the march, and if we're honest it's a march to the right. Why is this so? It is so in my view because rightist politicians have mastered the art of fear. And the politics of immigration is all about the manipulation of that fear for political purposes. Fear moves us, not hope, nor altruism. For fear taps into our survival instincts; it also draws us to the polling places and makes us vote.

That explains what has been happening in Europe and in the US as well. In fact, the recent American election was a contest between love and fear. And guess what, fear won. In his first inaugural address in March of 1933 former US-president Franklin Delano Roosevelt said: "The only thing we have to fear, is fear itself." Well, that was then, 1933, almost a century ago.

Today fear breeds more fear. And fear of what? Fear of Blacks, smart women, fear of trans people. Politicians who know about how to motivate populations know well the pull and power of deep emotions, like fear. They use it the way a violinist uses his strings. Many people are so engaged in fear of "the other" that they don't really see the game behind the curtain. That is because fear disrupts our ability to analyze and think things all the way through.

Much of this anti-immigrant hysteria is occurring in Europe, as many refugees from former colonies are trying to make their way back to the lands of the former colonizers' countries. In the US, much of the anti-immigrant energy is aimed at Mexicans and other Latino communities. Some see this explosion of anxiety as the fear of a "browning" of America. Latinos constitute the fastest growing segment of the US population. Europe, meanwhile, is anxious about Arab and African refugees.



Remember the lies about Haitians! "They are eating our dogs, they are eating our cats and other pets". Remember that [claim by Donald Trump]? Of course you do. It was a lie. But it made Haitians the object of fear. How many folks know that the Haitians helped Americans fight against the British in the revolutionary war? The Haitians were "otherized," thus easier to fear.

A few weeks ago, I heard a radio broadcast of someone complaining about refugees entering their country, with significant anger in his voice. Guess who the speaker was? He was a Turkish citizen complaining about refugees from the civil war in Syria. This shows that the problems are not always as simple as they seem.

Over a century ago Marx said, "that a worker had no nation and neither did the working class." As members of a class all workers were brothers and sisters of other workers. Then they had two world wars, the awesome

carnage of those wars and people were firmly held in the grip of nationalism. Still in war mode – but this time locked in the so-called Cold War.

The wars had severely weakened several European empires, and during the sixties we saw a wave of anti-colonial struggles, with many countries winning independence. The Algerian revolution erupted in North Africa and France, already weakened by its fall at Diên Biên Phu, or Vietnam, lost Algiers after some six years of anti-colonial war and popular resistance.

Algerian revolutionary Frantz Fanon called repeatedly for de-colonization, not just in Algeria, but in the whole of Africa. In fact, the world must be de-colonized. Now as many of those Arab and African states experiencing "flag independence," a term that really means false independence, and those countries being in the grips of neo-colonialism, their populations were uncared for and had to flee to find new places to live.

With governments failing to serve the needs of their people, they became refugees of states that failed. The capital accumulation that Europe has experienced looked pretty damned attractive to millions of people in the former colonies. This present era is not just one of rightists' drift, it's also a time of neoliberalism and the domination of the market. It's not a coincidence that these three features are merging, for rightist drift, also known as neoliberalism, and anti-immigrationist anxieties go hand-in-hand.

We're not surprised. Markets don't work to make communities better. They work for profit. Period. They work to exploit, not to serve. We need to know that, so we can organize together against it. Refugees aren't our enemies, only our fears are. And fear ain't nothing but an emotion.

Danke. Danke sehr. With Love not fear, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

These commentaries are recorded by Prison Radio.

A LIGHT IN THE NIGHT AIR

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In every day something extraordinary happens. Such was the case on Wednesday, January 22nd, when a plane and a helicopter collided in the night sky over the Potomac River with a fireball, briefly turning night sky bright. Athletes, their parents, and a military training crew lost their lives that night, but they weren't the only ones. A young, talented civil rights lawyer was among them, and her unexpected death sent shockwaves throughout her friends and colleagues at Harvard Law School.

She was Kiah Duggins, only twenty-one years old, but already a legal spitfire. While at Harvard, she was the President of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, where she and her team worked to prevent evictions during the harrowing pandemic of the COVID-19 virus, thereby saving families during a national crisis.

Remarkably, she worked as a law student and as a lawyer after earning her law degree, working with the ACLU of Northern California, but this was not all, for this young woman, buoyed with the expansive energies

of youth, worked with the law firm of Neufeld, Scheck and Brustin, as well. Also, she worked with the Civil Rights Corps, a non-profit dedicated to fighting systemic injustice. Kiah Duggins, at only 21 years old, was a lawyer's lawyer.

Harvard Law School mourns her passing, as do, of course, her family and many who saw the radiance of her light.

An American president, I speak of Herr Trump, opined that the accident that caused her death happened because of DEI, shorthand for Diversity Rules. Kiah Duggins, Esquire, had she not been on that plane, would probably have smiled before suing him for slander. With love, not fear, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

THE BETRAYAL OF GAZA AGAIN

It was by any measure a stunning moment. An American president essentially offering to gentrify the Gaza Strip, suggesting that they, should they resist, be forced to leave their historical homeland by the Armed Forces of the United States. "They're living in hell," Trump said, as he sat next to the man who ordered the

hell bombed into hell, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Trump said these coastal lands could be made into a lovely kind of Riviera. "It'd be beautiful," he said. Netanyahu beamed at every word, and while Trump saw it as a grand real estate deal perhaps, Netanyahu saw it as the ultimate Zionist dream. Palestinians saw it as the ultimate nightmare for they have lived for the better part of a century with political betrayal since Israel's founding in 1948. For over 70 years they have lived under an occupation that the UN has called illegal, but that doesn't mean a thing.

Now the US exhorts an illegal removal of Palestinians, millions of them, from their own homeland. Is this the gentrification of Gaza? Probably not. But who can really say? Who indeed? We can only hope that Palestinians have the last word.

With love, not fear, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal. These commentaries are recorded by Prison Radio.

<https://www.prisonradio.org/commentaries/>
<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E361640&id=9>

The Centennial of the Birth of Malcolm X - El Hajj Malik el-Shabazz

"I have no mercy or compassion in me for a society that will crush people, and then penalize them for not being able to stand under its weight..."--Malcolm X/El Hajj Malik El-Shabazz

Friday, February 21st, marks the 60th anniversary of the forever haunting assassination of Malcolm X! The Malcolm X Commemoration Committee (MXCC) will join the December 12th Movement for an action at the former Hotel Theresa, at 125th St and Frederick Douglass Blvd in Harlem, as a bold gesture of solidarity with the Cuban Revolution.

It was at the Theresa Hotel on Sept. 19, 1960, that Malcolm received the Cuban Revolution's leader Fidel Castro after his delegation was banished from hotel accommodations near the UN. They were in NY to participate in the annual gathering at the United Nations, the first since the 1959 victory of the Revolution!

Recently, outgoing President Biden took Cuba off of the State Sponsored Terrorist list, a gesture used to strengthen the long outdated and globally condemned US blockade of Cuba. Incoming President Trump, to no one's surprise, immediately placed Cuba back on that list and made the Florida based arch anti-Cuban Marc Rubio his Secretary of State.

"Cuba has been and continues to be an amazing beacon of International Human Solidarity in spite of their very real challenges as a consequence of US hostility. As a matter of principle, it is our duty to publicly demonstrate our Solidarity with Cuba especially when they are at one of their moments of greatest challenge." said an impassioned Zayid Muhammad, on behalf of MXCC. "And it is no accident of history that Malcolm showed us how to do that at the top of the epic decade of struggle that was the 1960s," he finished emphatically.

Later that evening, MXCC will participate in the Shabazz Center's annual observation of the assassination at 7pm. Go to their webpage to register for that always special gathering... <https://theshabazzcenter.org/>

For the historical record, it was the protests of the December 12th Movement during the Dinkins Administration that saved the former Audubon Ballroom from being sold

to Columbia University and destroyed to create a biogenetic laboratory. Out of those battles, the building was preserved and transformed into what is now the Malcolm X and Dr Betty Shabazz Educational Center, the fruit of the vision of the late Dr Betty Shabazz herself. Their daughter, author Ilyasah Shabazz, now manages the center and curates its activities.

On Sunday, February 23rd, MXCC will continue its Revolutionary 4th Sundays conversations with Baba Zak Kondo who wrote the most definitive treatment on the assassination...Conspiracies: Unraveling the Assassination of Malcolm X. Kondo is updating his 1993 epic effort with more than 100 pages of additional work! The conversation entitled Lessons Of The Assassination will take place LIVE on the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee Facebook and YouTube pages at 3pm EST...

Forthcoming Revolutionary 4th Sunday conversations include...

-**Omali Yeshitela**, Uhuru 3 survivor and founding chair of the International People's Democratic Uhuru Movement and people's attorney **Roger Wareham** of the December 12th Movement on the matter of Reparations on March 23rd.

-**Melina Abdullah**, cofounder of Black Lives Matter Grassroots Los Angeles, and **Kamau Franklin** founder of Community Movement Builders on the question of Police Brutality on April 27th.

-**Herb Boyd**, coauthor of *The Diary of Malcolm X* and **Don Rojas**, information officer of Grenada's New Jewel Movement, will discuss their new work *The CIA and Malcolm X* on May 25th, African Liberation Day.

Sunday, February 9th saw MXCC begin its engagement in Newark with the Source of Knowledge Bookstore as they begin their 100 days for Malcolm where the store will feature guest readers from the community on Malcolm related books. The 100 Days will end on May 19th, on Malcolm's 100th birthday! MXCC will feature book signings and conversations at the store soon as well...

*Follow the work of the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee on Facebook, or text 973 202 0745 or 917 346 8142.

122 YEARS OF US IMPERIALISM IN GUANTÁNAMO: FROM TORTURE TO MIGRANT DETENTION

By Abraham Marquez, Geopolitical Economy.

<https://popularrresistance.org/122-years-of-us-imperialism-in-guantanamo/>

Donald Trump's expansion of migrant detention in Guantánamo Bay follows years of torture. Meanwhile, the people of Cuba have always fought for their land to be freed from U.S. imperialism. Colonialist Christopher Columbus landed in Guantánamo Bay on his second voyage to the Americas in 1494. The empires of England, France, and Spain later disputed Guantánamo, a territory of 45 square miles. This "discovery" of the Cuban island unleashed a Spanish extermination campaign against the indigenous population, through disease, starvation, and brutality.

What followed the genocide was the "vertiginous growth of the slave trade based in Havana". As Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research put it: "Cuba became the largest slave colony in all of Hispanic America, with the highest number of enslaved persons imported and the longest duration of the illegal slave trade. About 800,000 slaves were imported to Cuba— twice as many as those shipped to the United States."

Today, Guantánamo Bay remains occupied by the United States. It is used as a detention center by the most powerful military in history. The U.S. routinely rejects the Cuban government's call to hand back Guantánamo Bay to the Cuban people. The camp's status is extremely dubious, not only according to international law, but even by domestic U.S. standards. The government argues that those detained there are not entitled to certain rights under U.S. laws.

On January 29, 2025, Donald Trump signed an executive order calling to expand migrant detention centers at Guantánamo. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2015 banned the transfers of people imprisoned at Guantánamo Bay to U.S. soil. It also imposed a "Limitation on construction of new facilities at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba," meaning the migrants detained there are confined in outdated, run-down facilities. The prison consists of several camps, each with differing security levels, amounts of transparency, and detainees.

Former President Barack Obama promised to close the prison but never did in his eight-year presidential run. In Trump's first term, he pledged to not only keep the prison open but to utilize it to imprison more people there. Former President Joe Biden promised to shut it down, but never did either. Today, in Trump's second presidential term, he is sending migrants to this notorious torture prison.

Nevertheless, this is not the first time a U.S. president has exercised this power. Therefore, it is essential to understand the history of Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and how this territory came to be a U.S. torture camp.

A History Of U.S. Imperialism In Cuba

The Cuban people have a rich history of opposing the unlawful U.S. military occupation of Guantánamo Bay. Cuba fought valiantly for independence from Spain between 1895 and 1898. After the USS Maine exploded in Havana harbor, killing 270 U.S. sailors, President McKinley declared war on Spain. Consequently, Cuba's arduous fight for freedom was thwarted. At the end of the war, the United States seized Spain's former colonies, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam, expanding the U.S. empire.

In 1901, U.S. officials oversaw the drafting of Cuba's constitution, which included a section known as the Platt Amendment. This granted the U.S. the right to militarily invade the country whenever it believed U.S. interests were threatened. Between 1902 and 1912, Washington dispatched the Marines to Cuba four times.

Guantánamo Bay was "leased" to the United States in 1903. Although the U.S. government still controls it to this day, it does not technically consider it to be U.S. territory, because Washington rents the land from Cuba. The Cuban government, however, has long refused to cash the rent checks.

Starting in 1902, Cuba was governed by President Tomás Estrada Palma. He had initially risen to prominence as a revolutionary fighting against Spanish rule, but later sought U.S. military intervention from President Theodore Roosevelt to suppress a worker-led uprising in the tobacco-rich Pinar del Río Province. Later, U.S. troops went on to fight other worker-led uprisings in different towns throughout the country. As a result, the Platt Amendment set the stage for U.S. imperialism to intervene in Cuban politics and society, giving them a base to operate on the island.



Annual ICUJP "Close Guantanamo" protest in Los Angeles at the Westwood Federal Building, Feb. 11.

An uprising took place in Cuba in 1933, at a time of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Good Neighbor Policy". The movement resulted in the removal of U.S.-backed dictator Gerardo Machado. The U.S. was forced to repeal the Platt Amendment in 1934. The Cuban people continued to demand rightful ownership of their land.

Due to its strategic position on the country's southeastern corner, Guantánamo Bay was initially intended as a coaling and naval station, as the U.S. Navy expanded worldwide. However, as time passed and the global class war took center stage with the rise of the Soviet Union, Guantánamo Bay's role evolved.

The most controversial use of the territory began after September 11, 2001. The U.S. established a detention center on January 11, 2002, for militants captured during the "War on Terror." The territory's uncertain legal status is one of the main reasons why the U.S. chose Guantánamo Bay as a detention site. While the U.S. occupies Guantánamo Bay, the Cuban government retains full sovereignty over the soil. Washington has taken advantage of this legal ambiguity to detain people without complete protection from the U.S. legal system.

The Military Commissions Act of 2006 sought to formalize the prosecution of detainees. Still, it faced legal challenges, leading to key Supreme Court Rulings, such as *Boumediene v. Bush* (2008), which granted detainees the right to habeas corpus.

Guantánamo: A Human Rights Nightmare

Guantánamo Bay has consistently captured the attention of the international community, facing severe criticism due to allegations of extreme human rights abuses. Reports from organizations including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have documented instances of indefinite detention, harsh interrogation techniques, and the use of torture. Critics have condemned the detention center for operating outside the norms of both U.S. constitutional protections and international law.

In 2023, 150 human rights organizations sent an open letter to then President Joe Biden, organized by the Center for Victims of Torture, demanding that Guantánamo Bay be closed. They wrote: "Among a broad range of human rights violations perpetrated against predominantly Muslim communities over the last two decades, the Guantánamo detention facility — built on the same military base where the United States unconstitutionally detained Haitian refugees in deplorable conditions in the early 1990s — is the iconic example of the abandonment of the rule of law." The letter noted that it costs approximately \$540 million per year to operate the torture camp, "making Guantánamo the most expensive detention facility in the world."

When Haitian refugees fled a 1991 U.S.-backed coup against democratically elected president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the United States sent them to Guantánamo. Then Attorney General William Barr oversaw the operation. Barr would go on to serve as attorney general again

during Trump's first presidential term. Additionally, U.S. authorities sent Cubans seeking asylum to Guantánamo. At its height, the camp held approximately twelve thousand Haitian refugees. Separately, officials confined around 300 Haitian refugees diagnosed as HIV positive in a separate facility, often referred to as an "HIV prison camp." District Court Judge Sterling Johnson Jr. later ruled that this practice violated the U.S. Constitution.

There are several distinct camps throughout Guantánamo Bay, with 12 publicly acknowledged sites where people are locked up. Camp Iguana, Camp Echo, Camp 7, and Camp X-Ray are the most notorious. Running these detention camps is expensive. "Since 2002, it has cost the United States \$6 billion, and the yearly cost of imprisoning each person is over \$13 million," states a Georgetown University Factsheet Report.

Efforts to close the Guantánamo Bay detention facility have seen political and logistical challenges throughout the decades. Former President Obama campaigned to close the facility but failed to do so. During Obama's two terms in office, the population fell from 242 to 41 people, but 48 people were designated to indefinite detention.

Public government reports do not mention the secretive immigrant detention facility, and only recently have details surfaced about its alarming conditions. In February 2024, the New York Times reported, citing the Department of Homeland Security, that authorities were holding four people at the secretive facility. When Trump announced the order to send migrants to Guantánamo Bay, Amnesty International wrote: "Guantánamo Bay has been the site of torture, indefinite detention without charge or trial and other unlawful practices by the U.S. government. President Trump should be using his authority to finally close the prison there, not re-purposing the facility for offshore immigration detention."

Democrats have done very little to assist working-class families and immigrant communities affected by the president's racist executive orders. A few Democrats have merely offered lip service against the proposal to send 30,000 migrants to the torture camp at Guantánamo Bay. Democrats have yet to offer a solution to halt the deportations in the U.S. that endanger families. ICE has received orders to achieve a daily quota of 1,200 to 1,500 arrests, leading to numerous raids nationwide. By declaring a national border emergency, the administration can deploy more troops to the border, which further militarizes and endangers border communities.

Worldwide Movement To Return Land To Cuba

Each year, a protest takes place on January 11, calling for the U.S. government to shut down Guantánamo Bay. The universal demand of human rights activists is to free the remaining prisoners held there. The U.S. occupation of Cuba at Guantánamo Bay is a microcosm of U.S.-Cuba relations. [This year L.A. was delayed to Feb 11 because of the fires.]

100X100 Campaign to Increase Publication Frequency of Turning the Tide

Over its 36+ year publishing history, *TTT* has been published in magazine format, as a 24-page tabloid, and from time to time on a bi-monthly basis, six issues a year. For the last few years, economic necessity has dictated that we guarantee four issues a year. To restore bi-monthly publication, we launched a fund-raising campaign we've dubbed "100X100."

We are still looking for one hundred people who will donate \$100 a year, or \$10/mo, to make it possible for *TTT* to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing about 1700 copies of each issue into the prisons. You can donate via to antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com. Help it go viral!

Turning the Tide doesn't print itself, or mail itself. Some prisoners who get the paper contribute a few stamps. Often, they pass the copy of *TTT* that they received from hand to hand, cell to cell, or they send in the names and addresses of half-a-dozen or more other prisoners. **Prisoners, if you can find donors or subscribers outside prison to subsidize your sub, that would help a lot!**

If you'd like to see *Turning the Tide* more frequently, if you want to contribute to breaking down the walls of isolation and separation imposed by the prison system, please contribute. If you can't manage \$100 all at once, you could donate \$10 a month. But any donation you make can help. Postage costs for a single issue of *TTT* are \$1200+ and climbing. If you can't donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to your Facebook friends, IG followers, and email contacts. Everything helps. Nobody makes a dime from working on *TTT*.

If the campaign is successful, we will resume publishing every other month in 2025. Postage is our biggest expense. Nobody gets paid at *TTT*. But the Postal Service is not so generous. We have a handful of people who are sustainers, making a monthly donation, a larger number of people who subscribe once a year or so. Right now, we are at about 10% of our goal. LA area supporters could set up house meetings, where the editor will pitch to your friends for support. The future of *Turning the Tide* is in your hands. Now, while you're thinking about it, go to:

https://ko-fi.com/anti_racist_action_la

and donate, or use venmo to @Michael-Novick-3 if you prefer. Then share it with your contacts. With your help, *Turning the Tide* can step up to the "urgency of now" -- the necessity for radical organizing, educating and analyzing to respond to the growing crisis of the Empire -- endless war, police terror with impunity, mass incarceration, colonialism, ecological devastation that will shortly become irreversible.

If you think *TTT* is a useful tool in the struggle for people's power and a new world, please donate today. If you wish, you can also just send cash, check or money order to

Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.

Black Community in Cincinnati Chase Off Nazi Flag-wavers

By Candace McDuffie [Excerpts]

<https://www.theroot.com/welp-thanks-to-cincinnati-black-community-neo-nazis-1851762684>

Over the last several months, there has been an uptick in white supremacists spreading hate in Ohio. In November, a Nazi march took place in Columbus. Just one month later, disturbing racist signs were popping up all over Cleveland.

Another neo-Nazi demonstration took place in Ohio last month on the Interstate 75 overpass near Cincinnati. Thirteen men dressed in black were waving swastika-emblazoned flags, but Black residents from the Lincoln Heights community had enough and confronted them.

The residents demanded that the demonstrators leave and they even set fire to one of the Nazi flags. Among those who stood up to the white supremacists was Jamaal Howard, who told local news outlet KEPR TV that the neo-Nazis fled the scene. "They jumped into U-Haul [after] we pulled up on the bridge and grabbed a flag. As the people here, we burned the flag right over there," Howard said. Despite taking a stand, Howard admitted that these occurrences have left him feeling worried for his life.



"We just have to have some meetings about it because I'm fearing for my life, like I walk outside all the time, and now I have to be in fear just in case anything could happen." A group called The Hate Club has taken responsibility for the demonstration. They also took credit for the march in November in Columbus.

In response to the latest demonstration, the Cincinnati NAACP issued a statement. "We will hold strong in our commitment to the unity and respect for people of all ethnicities, religion, gender, age, and sexual orientation." The organization also explained how Donald Trump's actions have only amplified hate against vulnerable populations. "The current executive orders and actions have angered many and emboldened others. This is not normal and should not be accepted as such. We are stronger together, and we are calling on all to unify against this behavior."

Ye Merchandises Swastika T-Shirts at Super Bowl

A TV commercial by Kanye West, AKA "Ye", that aired during the Super Bowl in several major cities directed viewers to a website that was selling only one item: a T-shirt emblazoned with nothing but a swastika.

The ad, which aired in major local TV markets including Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Atlanta, featured what appeared to be a selfie video of the rapper and producer Kanye West, known as Ye, in a dentist's chair with a mouth full of bejeweled teeth. After explaining that he spent all the money for the commercial on the teeth and had to shoot the ad with an iPhone, he concluded cryptically, "Go to Yeezy.com."

The site, which is powered by the e-commerce platform Shopify, initially offered for sale an array of clothing items from Ye's "Yeezy" brand. But before long, the T-shirt sporting the infamous Nazi emblem was the only item for sale. The cost: \$20. The site was taken down Tuesday morning, replaced with a

message saying, "This store is unavailable." Shopify did not respond to a request for comment.

The ad didn't break the law, but it did allow the rapper to push into what was long considered taboo territory during one of the biggest television events of the year. In October 2022, Ye's Twitter and Instagram accounts were restricted after he posted overtly antisemitic messages. Later that month, Adidas dropped him as a business partner, and it looked as though he might sink from public view.

But that was before Elon Musk bought Twitter. The restrictions on Ye's Twitter and Instagram accounts were soon lifted, only for new owner Musk to suspend him again in December after Ye tweeted an image of a swastika and praised Adolf Hitler and Nazis on right-wing conspiracist Alex Jones' Infowars show. Musk's X reinstated Ye in July 2023, and Ye has periodically resurfaced on Instagram as well.

Nazi imagery and propaganda have proliferated on X under Musk's ownership. Musk has also dabbled in antisemitic tropes on his own account, and last month he dismissed criticism for a Nazi-esque salute he made during a speech after Trump's inauguration. Ye had unleashed a

Nazi "CVLT" Members Charged with Child Sex Abuse

By Sophia Madera

<https://davisvanguard.org/2025/02/neo-nazi-group-members-charged-with-child-sex-abuse-by-doj/>

Neo-Nazis were arrested for grooming minors and coercing them to produce child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and images of self-harm, according to the U.S. Dept. of Justice this past week. Colin John Thomas Walker, Clint Jordan Lopaka, Nahooikaika Borge, Rohan Sandeep Rane and Kaleb Christopher Merritt were indicted by a federal grand jury on related child pornography charges.

The DOJ reported Rane, Walker, Merritt, and Borge were members of CVLT, pronounced "cult," where they adopted neo-Nazism, nihilism, and pedophilia. Members of the online group CVLT participated in sexual exploitation offenses and trafficked CSAM where Rane, Walker, and Merritt acted as administrators, added the DOJ.

According to the DOJ, there were 16 victims globally who were forced to engage in dehumanizing practices, "cutting and eating their own hair, drinking their urine, punching themselves, calling themselves racial slurs, and using razor blades to carve CVLT members' names into their skin." In the most extreme cases, said the DOJ, CVLT

members pressured victims to try to take their own lives on video livestreams.

The DOJ explained that if victims were to resist, they would be threatened by CVLT members, who claimed they would distribute compromising photos and videos to the victim's family and friends.

The DOJ said Rane has been in French custody since 2022 when he was charged in France with child exploitation and related offenses, and Merritt is currently serving a 50-year sentence for child sex abuse crimes committed in 2020 and 2021 in Virginia. The minimum penalty for the four accused would be 20 years in prison and a statutory maximum penalty of life in prison if they are convicted.



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fresh barrage of antisemitism on X in the days leading to the Super Bowl.

On Friday morning before the Super Bowl, the rapper posted a series of anti-Jewish comments to his more than 30 million X followers, including "I love Hitler" and "I'm a Nazi," drawing criticism from the Anti-Defamation League and others. Later that day, Musk replied to a conservative X user who complained that Ye was also posting pornography on the site, saying "his account is now classified as NSFW."

Musk did not address Ye's pro-Hitler posts, and Ye's account remained active on X until he appeared to deactivate it himself late Sunday. He thanked Musk in a final post, saying, "I appreciate Elon for allowing me to vent."

Shopify recently weathered criticism for hosting other antisemitic merchandise. Bloomberg reported in November that the Canadian online retail platform had removed language from its policies prohibiting "hateful content" earlier last year. Ye's website remained active throughout the day Monday, allowing users to place orders for the swastika T-shirts through Shopify's Shop app.

RECENT DISPATCHES FROM COMRADES IN GERMANY, 2024-2025

germanguerrilla.co
January 28, 2025

By the time Daniela Klette, Burkhard Garweg, and Volker Staub ended up on wanted posters, the group they were accused of belonging to—the Red Army Faction—had been in existence for over two decades. The RAF was a clandestine organization that had waged armed struggle throughout the 1970s and 1980s in order to create an anti-imperialist pole of resistance in West Germany, as the country was known at the time. Several members died in the course of the struggle, and dozens of guerrillas and their supporters served lengthy prison terms.

It is alleged that Daniela, Burkhard, and Volker were active in the group in its final years, the 1990s. Daniela was captured in 2024, and Burkhard is now the focus of a newly energized manhunt. We have produced this document to inform comrades in the English-speaking world of their situation and politics.

First some context: The years in which Daniela, Burkhard, and Volker are alleged to have been active were the years in which the RAF de-escalated its conflict with the state, unilaterally announcing, on April 10, 1992, that it would no longer carry out the kind of “lethal actions targeting the leaders of the state and economy” that had become its hallmark in the 1980s. In 1991, the RAF strafed the United States embassy with submachinegun fire in protest against the first Iraq war; in 1993, it bombed a new prison just as construction was nearing completion, doing over \$80 million in damage and delaying its opening by four years. In 1994, the state sprang a trap, using an infiltrator it had managed to position close to the RAF (a first in the group’s history): Wolfgang Grams was killed—according to eyewitnesses he was shot dead after being immobilized—and Birgit Hogefeld was captured (she received three life sentences and was released from prison in 2011). The RAF would never carry out another action. Following a series of acrimonious public debates with the broader far left, the group fell silent, only to release a document announcing its dissolution in 1998.

The 1990s were a decade of rapid change, as the world was twisted into a new shape by the force of the vacuum left when the Soviet Union imploded. This was perhaps nowhere more true than in the new Germany that emerged from the combination of two states that had symbolized the standoff between imperialism and “real existing socialism” since the end of World War II: the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic. West Germany and East Germany: the latter being absorbed into the former a year after the Berlin Wall was torn down by angry protesters on November 9, 1989, the slogan “we are the people” melting into “we are one people.”

As well as German reunification (long thought impossible by all but the far right), the 1990s witnessed the first crest of a new grassroots racism emboldened by these changed circumstances, heightened violence against migrants, the NATO war on Yugoslavia, and the start of a new cycle of imperialist wars against the peoples of the Middle East—and, of course, the introduction of the Internet and the beginnings of what would be the complete transformation of everyday culture, including the nature of political organizing. Just as today, in 2025, we see a new sequence of struggles and challenges taking form, we can also recognize that our present context is very much the culmination of dynamics set in motion in that first decade of what one court jester tried to pass off as the “end of history.”

It is in our current context—global contradictions surpassing the bounds of what can be managed in the old ways, the rise of the AfD in Germany and of the far right internationally, a Zionist genocide in the Middle East, war in Europe, climate disaster—that Daniela Klette has been captured.

In recent years, there were fresh news reports and wanted posters, as police claimed they had found DNA from the alleged RAF fugitives at the scene of various robberies in the 2000s and 2010s. Indeed, in the media/police narrative, the three were linked to a whole series of successful expropriations, several of which involved threatening armored cars with a rocket launcher before making off with the haul. All kinds of unsolved robberies



Militarized German police conducting an unsuccessful 2024 search for two fugitive former members of the one-time clandestine Red Army Faction urban guerrilla group.

were being blamed on what one wit dubbed the “Red Army Faction pensioners.”

When Daniela was captured, however, it was not the result of a robbery gone wrong. Rather, in 2023, an ARD television podcast decided that tracking her down might be good for ratings. They consulted with Michael Colborne, a Canadian journalist from Bellingcat, a website run by digital investigators. “I strongly recommend that you follow this lead,” Colborne told them after feeding Daniela’s old picture from the police wanted poster into the PimEyes face search engine. They had identified Daniela, but were unable to find her, producing an episode framed as a mysterious “failed” investigation. And so it came to pass that some wannabe sleuths who were barely out of diapers when the RAF carried out its last action played a key role in capturing the woman accused of being one of its final members. They produced their show, and a few months later the police, allegedly responding to an anonymous tip as to her whereabouts, moved in to carry out their arrest.

Daniela Klette was captured on February 26, 2024. The apartment building she had been living in was raided, with news reports about dangerous weapons on the premises necessitating the evacuation of the residents. Realizing the police were outside her door, she managed to send a quick text message before disposing of her phone’s sim card; Burkhard was long gone before police raided the alternative caravan park he had been living in and working at as a caretaker. For the first two months, Daniela was held in a cell constantly under video surveillance and was kept isolated from other



prisoners. She was initially charged with participation in thirteen robberies committed between 1999 and 2016 and “attempted murder” (a cash transport vehicle driver was allegedly shot at). A separate trial is being prepared for her based on charges stemming from RAF actions prior to the group’s dissolution.

Dozens of people have been subpoenaed to appear as witnesses and provide information about the whereabouts of Burkhard and Volker, threatened with fines and coercive detention if they do not comply. This includes a number of former RAF members, people accused of being friends with former RAF members, and former residents of the Hafenstrasse squat in Hamburg in the 1980s, when Burkhard had lived there. Some of those who have refused to answer questions have been fined 500 euros.

The state has targeted a number of former RAF members since the group disbanded, trying to dredge up new charges for actions the group carried out when it was active, often actions that other people have already served years or decades in prison for. The fact that the RAF was active for so long and was never defeated but instead chose to disband, and that most former members have refused to recant or to provide information, sets a precedent that is dangerous to those in power. It is an example they have long hoped to snuff out. Similar to the prosecution of elderly former militants in other countries for actions long past, the goal is to stamp out the memory of a certain kind of resistance, lest it become a factor once again as contradictions unfold and the capitalist edifice crumbles ever more.

We are presenting links to a letter from prison by Daniela that was read by actor Rolf Becker at the thirtieth International Rosa Luxemburg Congress in Berlin, on January 11, 2025. We are also presenting a letter by Burkhard that late last year was delivered to the taz, a progressive newspaper with its origins in the 1970s radical left, by an attorney acting on his behalf. All footnotes are additions by the translators. These texts can be downloaded as a pamphlet here: <http://germanguerrilla.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/dispatches-booklet.pdf> For more reports on this case in German:

<http://www.political-prisoners.net>

The most extensive online collection of documents by or related to the RAF can be found at

<https://socialhistoryportal.org/raf>

Daniela reads English, Spanish, Portuguese, and, of course, German. Mail takes about a month to reach her and cannot include any enclosures such as flyers or newspaper articles. You can write to her at:

Daniela Klette
JVA für Frauen,
An der Propstei 10
49377 Vechta,
Germany

Photo, left: Daniela Klette from a 1990’s wanted poster image.

On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide & ARA-LA/PART:

You can find archives of *Turning the Tide* at www.antiracist.org that go back more than 35 years.

In addition, there are several Facebook pages, such as facebook.com/tideturning, and facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity.

You can follow [@ara_losangeles](https://twitter.com/ara_losangeles) on X/Twitter, and the De-Colonize LA! blog at ara-la.tumblr.com.

DEFEND FREE SPEECH AND NON-COMMERCIAL COMMUNITY MEDIA

Remarks by Gerald Horne at FCM/PFB Town Hall, 01-25-2025, with response to a question from a listener from Chairman Omali Yeshitela of the African Peoples Socialist Party, another keynote speaker. <https://pacificafightnack.org>

Thank you for inviting me to this important forum. My name is Gerald Horne, historian, and an activist within Pacifica going back to WBAI in the 1970s, continuing, as noted through KPFFK to this very day.

In any case, this past week of shock and awe has given a foretaste of what to expect from the Trump team in coming years. Withdrawing from the Paris Climate Accord, withdrawing from the World Health Organization. Militarizing the border in preparation for mass deportations and threatening imprisonment for executives of major cities who dared to intervene. Trying to... defund nonprofits. Most ominously, there is the pardoning of the criminals who sought to execute a coup on January 6, 2021. Some of them are already threatening retribution and retaliation.

But for the 77 million strong Trump base, perhaps the most important measure was the decision to overthrow diversity, equity, and inclusion, overturning an executive order by President Johnson in 1965 seeking to bar discrimination at the workplace, which has served as a foundation for affirmative action, already writhing in its death throes in light of recent U.S. High court decisions overturning this anti-discrimination regime at Harvard and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. From the point of view of the Trump base, discrimination against the beneficiaries of affirmative action is a gain for the Trump base.

Unfortunately, our team will be on defense in coming years, but as any sports fan can tell you, a strong defense can generate offense.

Already there is talk in Washington, D.C. of organizing a general strike from May 1st, 2025 in response to the threat to worker rights embodied in this shock and awe program, particularly the idea, a long-standing dream of the ultra-right, to move the jobs of the federal government from the vicinity of Washington, D.C. Leaving workers with the unappetizing choice of moving, for example, to Idaho or becoming unemployed.

In this context, our sister station WPFW, becomes critically important. And my first recommendation is that the Pacifica board ignite a national and international campaign to raise funds for WPFW so that it can coordinate a national and international news bureau to keep close tabs on [the federal government] during [this period, from] the nation's capital.

In this regard, we should also take advantage of our global alliances by, for example, more dedicated sharing of content with the media organs from the BRICS nations, Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, and their allies, such as Telesur, Press TV, Radio Havana, etc.

Unfortunately, this impending attack on the mass media is nothing new. Many of us recall the Red Scare following World War II, where a particular target was television. Hollywood and radio. We recall vividly that it was hardly accidental that the anti-Jim Crow, anti-racist movement accelerated with the founding of Pacifica Radio about 75 years ago and the ascendancy of TV as a household appliance which was able to broadcast nationally and internationally the horrors that were part and parcel of U.S. Apartheid.

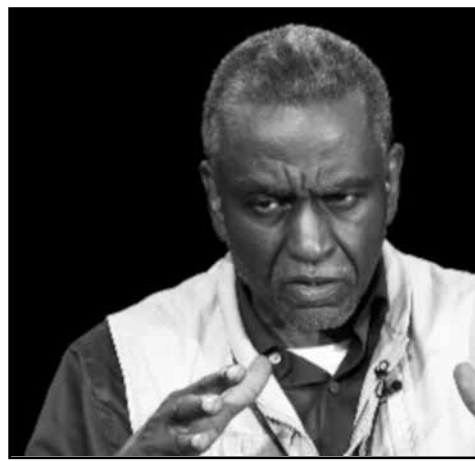
Similarly, we recall from about 1919 to 1967 there was an associated Negro press, with stringers and reporters nationally and internationally, that was able to tell our story of struggle domestically and globally to the point where the mainstream press, which theretofore often had ignored our stories, changed course and began finally hiring reporters to cover this titanic battle.

Similarly, a turning point in our movement arose in 1955 when a black teenager from Chicago was lynched in Mississippi with his terribly disfigured body left in an open casket at his Illinois funeral with photos snapped by the recently minted Black-owned Johnson publishing company, with [such] photos distributed globally, creating tremendous pressure on US imperialism.

A particular target of the post-1945 Red Scare were unions. For example, some of you may recall my book, *Class Struggle in Hollywood*, which deals with this fraught matter. More specifically, a central thrust of the Red Scare was to weaken left-leaning unions, which largely succeeded.

The National Maritime Union, for example, where the late Pacifica board chair Jack O'Dell was once a leading member, was weakened severely to the point where U.S. [merchant] vessels have been equated with being floating slums.

Likewise, we should not forget that that former chairman of the Board of Pacifica, the late Jack O'Dell, who passed away a few years ago in his 90s in self-imposed exile in British Columbia, Canada, was a mentor and advisor to the late Dr. King to the point where JFK took MLK into the rose garden of the White



Prof. Gerald Horne, historian and host of Freedom Now! on KPFFK



Chairman Omali Yeshitela of the African Peoples Socialist Party

House to escape the presumed surveillance of the FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, in order to instruct Dr. King to get rid of Jack. Which Dr. King agreed to do, but then maintained subterranean contact with him, which the FBI knew since they were surveilling him and Jack Odell, helping to bolster Hoover's anger to the point where he called Dr. King, quote. The most notorious liar in the country, unquote. Paving the way for his assassination in Memphis in April 1968.

One lesson that Pacifica should draw from this experience is a lesson I'm sure we already know. Which is to seek alliances with progressive forces and then union movement, be it the UAW, Service Employees International Union, International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the Coalition of Labor Union Women etc This should mean affirmative efforts to include their voices, interviewees, and conferring with their leadership to devise how we can be most useful to them.

Shortly, if the rumors of a general strike on May 1st becomes a substantive reality then this kind of relationship would become exceedingly important. It is no accident that the valuable Pacifica radio archives contain some of the most valuable resources for the anti-Jim Crow and anti-racist movement, obviously we need to put our heads together and think about how to more vigorously exploit those resources in a positive sense.

Much of this content emerged during Jack O'Dell's tenure as board chair, but to be fair, this kind of content has become a hallmark of Pacifica, both before and after Odell's administration.

This has been an explicit recognition of the structure and history of the United States itself to whit, as scholars have begun to inform us, the United States has been a settler colonial regime, with the settlers enmeshed in class collaboration. Indeed, one cannot begin to understand how and why 77 million, mostly settler descendants, voted for the tangerine tyrant, without understanding class collaboration. Similarly, the unpaid sector of the working class and their descendants historically have been in the vanguard of class struggle, as Chairman Omali just made reference to.

This leads to my second recommendation in order to fight back against Trumpism and their marching orders from Project 2025, we should redouble our anti-racist reporting Not least, it has the added advantage of appealing to constituencies most prone to back our agenda, thereby ensuring not only that we survive but thrive. Let me elaborate.

More to the point, in light of the pardon of the coup plotters of January 6th, the possibility is now created of the ultra-right developing an armed militia with carte blanche to attack state organs and opponents of the ultra-right. We should work closely with relevant committees of the National Lawyers Guild and overall the New York City-based Center for Constitutional Rights, public interest groups such as the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection at Georgetown [in DC] and other groupings that monitor these paramilitaries who have an eerie resemblance to the Ku Klux Klan, which fundamentally was the armed wing of the then segregationist Democratic Party of the Jim Crow South.

Indeed, I recommend concretely that Pacifica initiate a nationally broadcast program. Let's call it Fascism Watch, drawing upon experts from and beyond the aforementioned organizations.

I would also point you to the guest list of the program that I host, Freedom Now on KPFFK Los Angeles, which draws heavily from trends in cutting-edge anti-racist scholarship. And again, these guests are then primed to support our overall agenda.

Almost all of my interviews can be found on the Activist News Network on YouTube. I have reason to believe that there are interviewees drawn nationally and

internationally for this program, that heretofore were not familiar with Pacifica, but became so after being interviewed, to our benefit.

Thank you for your attention.

Listener: How do we handle the problem of Pacifica's reluctance For DEI and being and having anti-racist activism in the walls of these five stations. What are we going to do about that? Because one of our biggest problems is that racism isn't just a republican attribute. And we need to talk about it. How do we do that?

Moderator: The questions were to our three speakers, I think Dr. Horne will be leaving so maybe you can start, Dr. Horne and then Brother Omali and Elisa next on that question of our own backyard.

Dr. Horne: Well, I've said my piece, I gave recommendations that speak to programming. So I'll defer to others to address this as I begin to sign off.

Chairman Omali Yeshitela (APSP): Well, thank you. One of the things I wanted to comment on is it was inferred or referenced by a prior speaker that had to mention the fact that this did not begin with Donald Trump or the Republicans. And I think that's extremely important for us to recognize. I mean, it wasn't Trump's Justice Department or FBI that attacked my home at five o'clock in the morning.

It was Biden-Harris's organization that did that. And I think that we have to fight and organize against the system itself. And certainly we have to be able to look at particular individuals who represent a particular expression of the oppression and exploitation that we're looking at, but the system is exploitative. And I think as even if you talk about issues like fascism, I want us to be careful -- Because fascism is an anomaly.

It is not something that is constant, consistent. It is something that occurred at a particular time in history, but slavery was not fascism. The fact that we've got more than the largest prison population in this country being occupied, prisons being occupied primarily by Africans and Mexicans and other colonized people. It's never been characterized as fascism and what happens is when the contradictions that we experience as colonized people began to penetrate or threaten to penetrate the life spaces, the social spaces of people who are themselves colonizers, then the question of fascism gets bandied about. And I wanted to just remind us that even when you look at the history of the struggle against fascism, you look at the you see that some of the most outstanding fascists that we were told in the world who fought against the Nazis in France, the French who did that; But at the same time that they were fighting fascism, they were warring and murdering black people in Algeria. They controlled 14 particular territories in Africa. They were making war against the people in Vietnam. The Colonial question is constant. It's there all the time. It does not require some kind of a shock. It's not an anomaly. The anomaly is when it does not oppress us. And I think that the issues being raised here around the Spanish language of programming, The issues being raised around the contradictions impacting Africans and others and how we treat this is a critical question.

I just wanted to say that, because the contradiction is not our contradiction. For example, we had a judge that says that this is a free speech issue. They knew it was a free speech issue before they attacked my home, before they [tried to] require me to commit perjury by saying that I'm working for Russia or something to that effect. This is important, I think, for us to understand. And I'm calling on you and everybody, because one of the critical issues I've seen over a period of time with most of the stations that we would be concerned with, is the inability to deal with the question of Palestinians and Africans and Mexicans, as we are saying now. These are the issues that need to be on the forefront of what it is that we do.

So I just wanted to say that I don't know exactly how to deal with the way this thing is reflected inside the Pacifica process itself, but certainly I think that all of us who are capable need to be involved in advancing the struggles against colonialism. Which is the majority of the people of the world live under colonial domination, colonial oppression. And so this is the foundation for the whole system, the whole capitalist system, that's from the foundation, a base of colonialism.

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TURNING THE TIDE

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ★ February - Black History Month
- ★ March - Women's History Month / March 8: International Women's Day
- ★ March TBA, Defend Free Speech & Community Media Town Hall
- ★ April 15 Income Tax deadline extended to October in LA wildfire area
- ★ May 1 - International Workers Day - May 1st General Strike <https://m1gs.org>
- ★ May 19 - 100th anniversary of birth of Malcolm X, El Hajj Malik el-Shabazz

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Malcolm X, born May 19, 1925, died Feb. 21, 1965, with Fidel Castro at
the Hotel Teresa in Harlem NY in 1960. Live like them!

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Culver City, CA 90232
www.antiracist.org ★
747-666-PART (7278)
antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com