

# ANATHEMA

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Free

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## THE TWO EVILS

At a time when the United States is increasingly incapable of underwriting the tanking global economy and managing raging inequality at home, the state's capacity for suppressing dissent and shoring up popular support for the continuation of the ruling order has achieved some impressive new successes. The past month has seen the "political revolution" led by Bernie Sanders get fully incorporated into the Democratic Party's official program, accompanied by aggressive discussions of privilege and lesser evilism in order to coerce people into voting for Hillary Clinton. In this context, the Democratic Party and the Republican Party must be understood not as different levels of evil, one of which is obviously better than the other, but instead as offering different strategies for maintaining the current socioeconomic order at all costs.

Liberalism has always positioned itself in opposition to fascism, while in fact it is liberal regimes that have created the conditions for the emergence of fascism. The most classic case of this is the election as president of Germany in 1932 of Paul von Hindenburg, a candidate who was backed by socialists, amongst others, as the "lesser evil" against Adolf Hitler. This strategy failed when von Hindenburg attempted to appease growing Nazism in a deal that appointed Hitler as chancellor but gave Nazis only 3 out of 11 cabinet seats, after which Hitler was able to take total power. During the war that followed, the Western Allies proceeded to promote an image of Stalin as a faithful ally of the West — also as a result of a lesser-of-two-evils logic.

Looking back, these all seem like pretty bad policy decisions, and point to the unreliability of lesser evilism as an attempt to reduce some inevitable future threat. The real weakness of lesser evilism, though, is that it sees liberalism and fascism as two different options instead of intertwined results of the socioeconomic situation. Fascism and white supremacist sentiment is on the rise in the U.S. because the global economy is in crisis and grasping for profits by lowering labor costs, forcing more people into precarious jobs, unemployment, and criminalized work. White people experiencing these losses are offered the dream of protection by white supremacist figures such as Trump, who draw on the already intensely racialized, [CONT. ON BACK PAGE]

## KEEPING IT COP-FREE

It seems that everywhere you turn, people are talking about the police and the racism that holds them together. Not only that, more and more people are calling for the end of the police. From Abolition Square in New York and Freedom Square in Chicago (more on those later), to the increasingly frequent riots and protests against police activity, across the country more and more activists are calling for the abolition of the police. For those of us who want to see this train of thought go further it will be important to experiment with what it can look like to remove police from our lives here and now. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 3]

## READY, SET, STRIKE!

Prisoners are calling for a nationwide strike against prison slavery on September 9th. There are so many ways to build hype, support strikers, and take aim at this prison society. Here's a short list of some of the ways to take action:

\*Learn more. Check out [SupportPrisonerResistance.net](http://SupportPrisonerResistance.net) and [iwoc.noblogs.org](http://iwoc.noblogs.org) for information about the upcoming strike.

\*Spread the word. Let people know about the strike, use whatever method: word of mouth, posters, graffiti, leaflets, banners.

\*Break the isolation. Write to someone on the inside and see how they can best be supported.

\*Confront complicit institutions. Many companies profit from prisons and prison slavery. Organize an action at a McDonald's, Walmart, Bank of America or any other prison profiteering companies.

\*Go to the prisons. Organize a protest or noise demonstration outside a prison or jail. If you can, time your action to take place at the same time as action on the inside.

\*Counter repression. Call, email, visit, fax, etc. contact prison administrators and let them know you support the striking prisoners. Guards and bureaucrats are likely to act less rash if they know people outside the prison are paying attention. ★

# WHAT WENT DOWN

JULY 22 - Frank Rizzo mural in the Italian Market tagged with anti-police slogans.

JULY 26 - PPD cruiser is vandalized in South Philly, presumably during a DNC protest.

AUGUST - Anti-police memorial graffiti for Korryn Gaines, Skye Mockabee, and Joyce Quawey in South West Philly and Grey's Ferry.

AUGUST - #PrisonStrike graffiti on the bridge over Springfield near 51st St.

AUGUST - Posters supporting the September 9th around West, South, & North Philly.

AUGUST - Fuck 12 graffiti on 38th Street

AUGUST 3 - The same Frank Rizzo mural is tagged in solidarity with the upcoming prison strike.

AUGUST 12 - Klan hood goes up on Frank Rizzo statue downtown to protest racist and homophobic policing, historically and in the present.

## FEEL THE BURN: A DNC REPORTBACK

The protests of the Democratic National Convention came and went leaving many behind, such as myself, confused and bewildered. Most of the confrontations occurred between various sects of the dying left and liberal Bernie supporters seeking to contain or co-opt rage. There were some attempts at direct action and militancy but the entire terrain was uncertain and at times hostile toward any action outside of very controlling notions of "non-violent protest."

A few instances were somewhat interesting in terms of what is/not possible in the streets during these events given the social forces participating and directing political struggle towards their ends.

On Tuesday the Black Resistance March, organized by the Philly Coalition for REAL Justice, went down Broad St starting at Diamond. Early on a couple (very obvious) undercover were kicked out of the rally along with a camera operator. One thing in the past that REAL has shouted about, besides pigs, are reporters. The march was led by a few trucks filled with water and members of REAL Justice and Worker's World Party (WWP) on megaphones. Early on in the march, things got tense with the largely white Bernie supporters who showed up, when they were asked to fall back behind the banners and in general not march in front of the contingent of black protesters holding those banners. Some cute banners, one reading FUCK 12 END POLICE FOREVER! and another Stop Killing Black People, were scattered through the march. Overall, it was a confused mix of fuck cop signs and pro-Bernie signs.

The march reached City Hall and merged with an even larger contingent of Bernie supporters and pot-smoking hippies. There people milled about for what must have been an hour around City Hall. There seemed to be some disagreement yet again about who would lead. A split group marched ahead and reached the Wells Fargo center, where four people were arrested around 8:30. After some time the WWP march started again from city hall with the trucks in front. This began the plodding "March Against the DNC" with so many stops along the way, to keep the march together both for the purposes of leadership and for the cops to maintain a defined perimeter.

As the march moved south it thinned out and the mood got more tense as it got dark. Still the cops did nothing as an Israeli and American flag were burned near Broad St and Oregon Ave. But even then self-appointed "peacekeepers," some of whom wore placards that read "#BeLikeBernie I DO NOT support violence of any kind," stepped in to try and kill the fun. I heard one person shout that this is not what we're here for. Who is we?

Another flag was burned in front of the fence to the Wells Fargo center with more complaints from pacifists. The march dispersed from there, many going into the encampment in FDR Park. Two major groups were there occupying space, the Rainbow Family of Light folks and a middle-class Bernie encampment-suburb. There was a stage and a set of screens, which were playing some cartoon. A friend told me it felt like a Jimmy Buffet concert, and it was basically that.

On Wednesday another flag was burned (noticing a theme?) but this time a pacifist got burned trying to stomp out a puddle of lighter fluid! (Fire don't give a fuck bout you.) The energy was more intense that night with two actions against the fence, one where Democracy Spring activists tried to pull down the fence. Some were arrested. After that an unaffiliated group of masked demonstrators came at the fence again, this time with bolt cutters. Seven people were arrested in total as far as we know.

Thursday was the last day of the convention and energy felt low. That night, there was a rally again in front of the fence and there was talk of Democracy Spring activists disrupting HRC's speech on the inside. Another group outside the fence, the DNC Action Committee, held a sign that read "we are pissed and we are peaceful". I agreed with half of that. The banner holders seemed confused when some voiced disagreement with that statement. Later the same group held a "mock trial" of HRC that was so painful to watch.

Socialist Alternative was also there on megaphones declaring themselves to be the official chant leaders and trying to get [2] people to literally repeat after them. The reason for this co-

optation became clear when later a rumor spread throughout the crowd that there were delegates leaving away from where everyone was standing; the action turned out to be a Socialist Alternative rally with some sad Bernie delegates. Food Not Bombs handed around food and masks. This resulted in the image of a 20-something college bro in a tie-dye Bernie t-shirt wearing a black mask and eating a hummus sandwich listening to the live-streamed speeches.

That final image is stuck in my brain as what the entire week felt like: a horrifying simulacrum of modern protest culture, weed and apparently, an Alpaca. ★

### ***COP-FREE CONTINUED***

Highway blockades, occupations outside police stations, marches, and vigils have become well-worn tools in how we've dealt with white supremacy in the past few years, yet there are other tools we haven't yet dusted off and put to use again, as well as so many tools we can still create. A few interesting initiatives have been able to put distance between ourselves and police temporarily; rioting has often led to a police retreat from an area, allowing people to act freely and lawlessly. Orchestrating a riot every time we want some space from police doesn't seem like a feasible strategy at the moment. By looking at un-policed activity and space near and far we can better imagine how we can craft such magical moments and places ourselves.

As the fires of Ferguson kept the police at a distance in 2014, the Quiktrip became a meeting and organizing hub for the uprising against the police that killed Mike Brown. A mass fierce and antagonistic presence can keep police at bay and free up space. When things really pop off and everyone is out in the streets with raw nerves, police often decide that it's better to only approach people when it's safe for them. The ZAD, an occupation of the proposed location for the construction of an airport in France, holds space in a similar way, but on a longer time frame. The police-free territory of the ZAD has allowed people living there to build their autonomy from the state and figure out ways to handle their internal conflicts without police.

A movement that is very popular and well supported will have politicians thinking twice before they send police in to evict an occupation or illegal use of space. This is not to imply that popularity should be a main objective for anti-police activity, but rather that if popularity and support are present that they should be considered as strategic advantages. New York's Occupy Wall Street was so popular that at least one eviction attempt was thwarted in part by a large turn out, the encampment had enough support and reach that the threat of eviction led to hundreds of people showing up in the middle of the night. Occupy Oakland was similarly popular, although their camp was evicted numerous

times. This combined with the guarantee that any cop who entered the occupation would be yelled at, followed, and generally harassed ensured that Occupy Oakland was a lawless zone. As more occupations pop up across the country, notably in Abolition Square (NYC), Freedom Square (Chicago) and Decolonize City Hall (Los Angeles), it will be interesting to see if they gain the support and popularity (or the stubborn ferocity) to hold their ground.

A last minute text, some confusing directions, a couple turns around dark corners and you find yourself in a huge unpermitted rave. Sometimes the best way to keep the cops from stopping the fun is to keep it hidden. Ravers and squatters have been living and partying outside the clutches of the law for decades by learning to keep a low profile and controlling the flow of information. An event that stays off the police's radar can go on for hours without a single arrest or ticket. Hidden and secret events don't have to be limited to parties either; movies, dinner, meetings, or teach-ins can all take place away from the prying eyes of the law so long as they don't take place where police will find them, and no one lets the details slip out when cops are listening.

As flashmobs have shown us, sometimes moving quickly is what keeps us a step or two ahead of the police. Flashmobs happen so quickly that often by the time police respond the them everyone has already moved elsewhere or dispersed. The police are a hierarchical and centralized force, so they can only move so fast, in so many directions, over certain terrain. Speed and mobility have kept many a gathering relatively cop free, or been used to shake a police escort when it feels too crowded.

None of these strategies will work without some thought and innovation, but put to good use they can create moments that we'll never forget. The most interesting times when the police aren't around are when a combination of strategies come together; a secret party that's ready to fight back if discovered by authorities, a well liked and attended demonstration that knows how to disperse and reconvene over and over again... A little forethought, creativity, or experimentation can keep us just out of the police's clutches, one step closer to living without police and a world without cops. ★

***EVERY FIRST WEDNESDAY THROUGH OCTOBER:  
DIGITAL SELF-DEFENSE FOR ONLINE REBELS - A-SPACE  
AUGUST 23-30:  
INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF SOLIDARITY  
WITH ANARCHIST PRISONERS  
SEPTEMBER 9:  
NATIONWIDE PRISON STRIKE  
TO END SLAVERY IN AMERICA  
& NOISE DEMONSTRATION IN SOLIDARITY WITH  
PRISON STRIKE AT 8PM AT 48TH AND ASPEN***

[*TWO EVILS Continued*] white supremacist nature of the U.S. economic, social and political system.

Because the global economy will continue its decline for the foreseeable future, this dynamic of increased immiseration and heightened racialized violence will not change just because a different political party is in office. Each political party just offers a different strategy to maintain this violent status quo and check the increasing unrest it presents. It is white supremacist capitalism, not people choosing the wrong presidential candidate, that has produced the threat of Trump's fascism. If Clinton is elected, people's misery and racism will not just disappear — the situation will only escalate until the deep socioeconomic structures that are creating it are done away with.

We are already living in a white supremacist nightmare world that previous Clinton-led administrations have worked hard to keep intact. Bill Clinton's administration expanded the Reagan-Bush presidency's social welfare cuts, intensifying the war on poor and especially Black populations, for example with the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. This act's \$10 billion expansion of prisons and policing strengthened the current white supremacist regime, in which Black bodies are captured and controlled primarily through incarceration and criminalization. Hillary Clinton's support of the crime bill and welfare "reform," along with free trade and aggressive interventionism abroad, has helped set in place the austerity measures at home and permanent wars abroad that have escalated racial tensions and conflict amongst the many populations of people who are suffering as a consequence. Hillary Clinton is the presidential candidate who is most likely to continue these policies of austerity and war, which are crucial to maintaining the current global economic order.

Capital and the state need for Hillary Clinton to get elected, then, but she has not been an especially popular candidate, in part because her policy choices align so directly with the status quo that is more and more obviously disadvantaging more and more people. The DNC has employed a number of strategies to silence opposition to and build support for her candidacy; one of the most successful ones has been to raise the specter of a Trump presidency.

While Trump is a real threat and has already encouraged existing fascist currents in the U.S., he also serves the purposes of the Democratic Party in a number of ways. At a time in which rebellions against policing and prisons are increasing and the inherent white supremacy of the friendly liberal socioeconomic order is showing through, Trump's candidacy appears as the true fascist threat and allows Clinton and the rest of the nation to pose as liberal by comparison. But the white supremacist reality is

already here, both in the form of popular fascist organizing and in the political order that Clinton will inherit.

Faced with this situation, many people are aggressively advocating voting for Clinton as a harm reduction strategy. But who is the harm reduction for? One might be able to feel righteous about voting for a candidate who improves the health care options of some U.S. citizens, but this slight improvement in the lives of some will definitely be accompanied by the mass murder of others, like Syrians and Palestinians. This isn't even to go into the question of the populations of people that Trump is usually seen as most obviously threatening, for example Latinx migrants and Muslims, many of whose lives Clinton has already helped destroy for some time now as part of the Obama administration and its years of mass deportations and fear-mongering. It may make sense for an individual to vote for a harm reduction strategy for them self, but a Clinton presidency is not a harm reduction strategy on the whole.

The reality of the current liberal order and the threat of it morphing into outright fascism are both problems to which radicals need to offer counter-strategies. The entire democratic regime, which the state will obviously go to great lengths to preserve, must be overthrown and combatting the other available popular options, like fascism, will likely be an increasing part of that struggle. ★

## RISE AGAINST AUTHENTICITY

Scientists of uncompromising faith say:  
Every statement must be either true or false.  
Never both. Never neither.

*The law of the excluded middle.*

They're like: Decide. Move from zero to one.  
Be not false. Be completely true.  
Be authentic. Be for real.  
So are you pure? Full-bred? Natural-born?  
Organic? Certified? Are you allowed to do that?

And we're like: Nah. Stay less than 100.  
Be a few fractions. Parts of a whole that don't add up.  
Deficient in multiple ways yes, that's you.  
Empty in places. Missing some pieces.  
Longing for your lacking parts.

Holy.