

the SHADOW

INFORMATION IS STRENGTH • KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (REVISED)

By Frank Morales

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all people are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among the people, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

But whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

The criminal wanna-be king trump has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good:

- He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.
- He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people worshiped his tyrannical rule.
- He has endeavored to obstruct the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither.
- He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.
- He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.
- He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of ICE Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.
- He has kept among us, Standing Armies of Militarized Police whose primary function is to terrorize and repress dissent.
- He has overseen the seizure of fields and farms throughout America, facilitating their despoilment by Big Techs' wa-

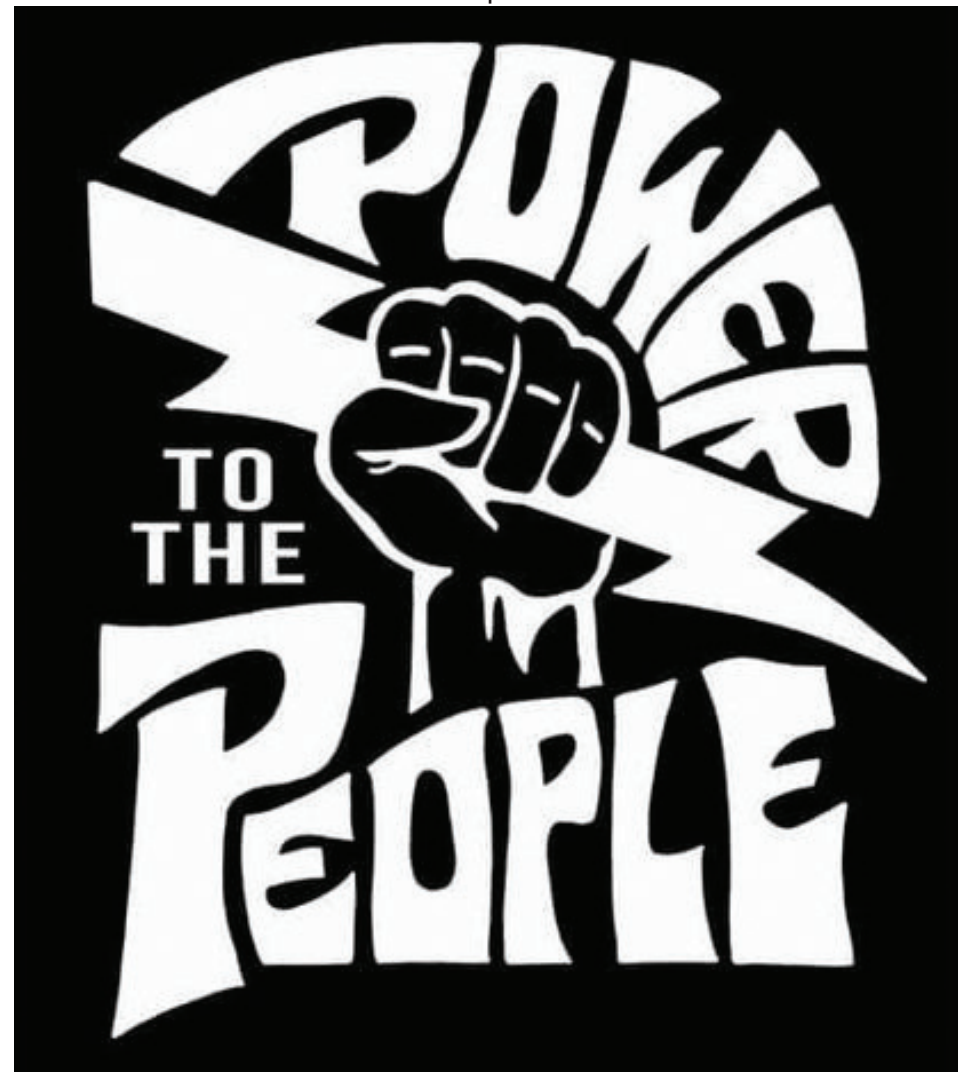
ter depleting, air polluting, and air toxifying AI Data Centers, draining electric grids from coast to coast.

- He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power, in 2026 awarding it \$1.5 trillion dollars, a 50% annual increase, to execute its domestic and imperialist agenda.

Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury

- He has plundered our seas, ordered the Military to ravage the Southern Coasts of the Americas, burning towns and murdering the innocent inhabitants of these lands.

- He has, while ignoring all Constitutional restraints or moral considerations, overseen the explosion of immigrant concentration camps, torture centers of men, women and children completely in violation of basic human rights and Divine mandates.
- He has cut off life sustaining resources in health and welfare for the poorest of Americans while driving up the cost of living for working class families, all the while enriching himself, his family and the Oligarchic Class he represents.
- He has sought to destroy the historical heritage of African and Native Americans, seeking to desecrate the evidence of past perfidies and violations and the case for reparations.
- He has orchestrated attacks upon the right to vote, for women, African Americans and all those perceived as his enemies, rendering the engine of democracy null and void.
- In every stage of these and many other Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury, fallen deaf upon the ears of the sycophantic stooges inhabiting our Congress.
- A billionaire thug and grifter, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, trump is a soulless and narcissist bully, unfit to be the ruler of a free people.



- He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: For Quartering large bodies of armed troops and militarized police among us: For protecting them, by a mock Trial, or no trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States.
- He has, with abject incivility pardoned the thugs that criminally ravaged the Capitol and committed murder on January 6, 2020 under the 'big lie' that the election was stolen.
- He is guilty of cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing

- In collusion with the nation of Israel, has transported Resources of War to foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon, while embarking on reckless and illegal military incursions against the nation of Iran, threatening the well-being of the entire world, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy of the Head of a civilized nation.
- He has excited and supported domestic insurrections and terroristic violence amongst us executed by white supremacists, neo-nazis and other so-called christian nationalists.

Therefore, the American people, living under absolute Despotism, and the willful illusions of violent and aspiring tyrant, it is our right, it is our duty, to throw off such Government, to bring down the powerful from their thrones, and to provide new Guards for our future security.

To this end, to the end of Popular Revolution in America, for the triumph of Love and Justice in this Land under Nature's God, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

July 4, 2026

THE 13TH AMENDMENT: FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY OR FREEDOM TO ENSLAVE?

By Chris Flash



Contrary to popular belief, slavery never truly ended in America. The Thirteenth Amendment to the US Constitution, ratified in 1865, says:

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

In 1935, Black scholar, writer, editor, and civil rights pioneer W. E. B. Du Bois wrote: "Slavery was not abolished even after the Thirteenth Amendment. There were four million freedmen and most of them on the same plantation, doing the same work they did before emancipation, except as their work had been interrupted and changed by the upheaval of war. Moreover, they were getting about the same wages and apparently were going to be subject to slave codes modified only in name. There were among them thousands of fugitives in the camps of the soldiers or on the streets of the cities, homeless, sick, and impoverished. They had been freed practically with no land nor money, and, save in exceptional cases, without legal status, and without protection."

As the amendment's "punishment" exception permitted labor as punishment for convicted criminals, Southern states responded with what historian Douglas A. Blackmon called "an array of interlocking laws essentially intended to criminalize Black life".

Southern business owners sought to reproduce the profitable arrangement of slavery with a system called "peonage," in which disproportionately Black workers were entrapped by loans and compelled to work indefinitely due to the resulting debt. Peonage continued well through Reconstruction and ensnared a large proportion of Black workers in the South. These workers remained destitute and persecuted, forced to work dangerous jobs and further confined legally by the racist Jim Crow laws that governed the South. Peonage dif-

fered from chattel slavery because it was not strictly hereditary and did not allow the sale of people in exactly the same fashion. However, a person's debt—and by extension a person—could still be sold, and the system resembled antebellum slavery in many ways.

Mississippi was the first state to pass "Black Codes," with an 1865 law titled "An Act to Confer Civil Rights on Freedmen." The Mississippi law required Black workers to contract with White farmers by January 1 of each year or face punishment for vagrancy. Blacks could then be sentenced to forced labor for crimes, including petty theft, using obscene language, or selling cotton after sunset. Other states passed strict vagrancy laws that were selectively enforced against Blacks without White protectors. The labor of these convicts was then sold to farms, factories, lumber camps, quarries, and mines.

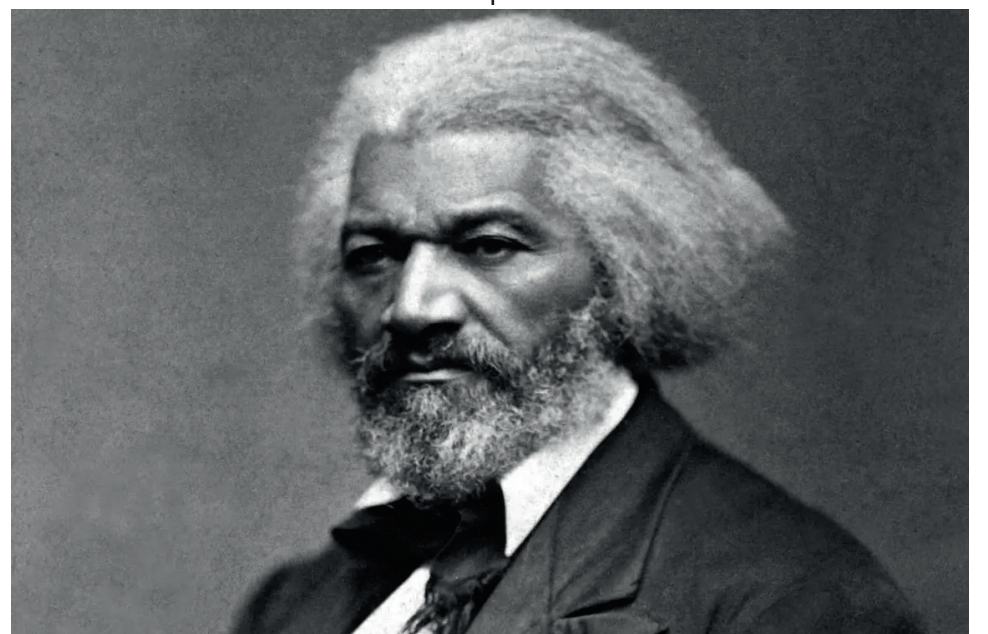
While a 1935 law makes it illegal to transport goods made by "convict labor" across state lines, an exemption exists for agricultural commodities, a small portion of the labor performed by incarcerated people nationwide. In addition to farming, prisoner labor is used for making license plates, park benches and picnic tables, military jackets and uniforms, helmets, shoes, and even flak vests. For police officers, prisoners craft body armor, holsters and even human silhouette targets for law enforcement training. Prisoners also make canoes, college dormitory desks, bookshelves, jeans, jackets, T-shirts, and hats.

Currently, countless laws are on the books designed to keep persons imprisoned for the sole purpose of involuntary servitude. That includes work in prisons, for prison industries, and prisoners who are leased out to work in the free world. For the vast majority, that work is barely paid, if at all, with the average prison salary maxing out at about 50 cents per hour. Prison labor is also performed without health and safety protections, even for extremely unsanitary or dangerous work, like fighting wildfires.

State and federal institutions that profit from prisoner slave labor include: CORCRAFT, UNICOR, the Department of Defense, Colorado Correction Industries [CCI], Federal Prison Industries [FPI] and Florida's "Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified Enterprises" – [PRIDE].

Today's prison slaves are mostly convicted persons of color, and/or persons too poor to mount a successful defense against what they were charged with, and/or persons who are set up by the State by way of false evidence and testimony that make cops and district attorneys appear "tough" on crime, innocence be damned. Now they are going after homeless persons who have committed no CRIME.

A new law signed into law on June 9, 2026 by Gov. Jeff Landry of Louisiana will criminalize homelessness, setting the stage for forced treatment or labor. The new law makes it a crime to sleep on public property. An un-housed person could face a fine of up to \$500 or jail for up to six months for a first offense. Jail could be avoided by entering a 12-month treatment program (for which the prisoner would have to pay) or by performing unpaid labor. The National Homelessness Law Center calls this "one of the cruelest, most extreme anti-homeless bills anywhere in the country."



"What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciations of tyrants, brass-fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade, and solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy -- a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices, more shocking and bloody, than are the people of these United States, at this very hour."

-- Frederick Douglass (July 5, 1852)

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SAY SOMETHING!!**



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THE PRAIRIELAND NINE: TRUMP'S FASCIST REGIME AND THE WAR AGAINST ANTI-FASCISTS

By Paul DeRienzo

President Donald Trump has escalated his war against anti-fascists in the United States, with the June 23 sentencing of eight protesters to between 30 and 100 years in prison by Federal judge Reed O'Connor, a Trump appointee, who relied on anti-terrorism enhancements personally ordered by Trump. A ninth protester is awaiting sentencing.

The activists were found guilty of "material support for terrorism," for setting off fire works during a "noise protest" on the Fourth of July last year at the Prairieland ICE detention prison near Ft. Worth, Texas. The "terror" charge freed judge O'Connor to ignore the fact none of the activists had a criminal record before the protest.

Trump's "terrorism enhancements" allow the government to hit American citizens engaged in constitutionally-protected first amendment free speech protests with years of added sentencing.

Benjamin Song was sentenced to 100 years for firing his AR-15 rifle at an ICE agent whom Song, in a statement, said: "was staged to shoot an unarmed protester." Song, a firearms instructor and a United States Marine veteran, shot at the ground, causing the cop minor injuries from a ricocheted bullet.

In his statement, Song said he saw the cop "aiming his gun at the back of a running protester," and was "terrified," adding that he didn't want to see "another Renee Goode or another Alex Pretti," referring to two activists killed by ICE agents in Minneapolis last January.

Song took responsibility for the shot, and said he was alone in his actions and understood the implications. In his statement, he added that other protesters had nothing to do with his actions, "This is mass punishment, collective punishment, guilt by association, this is injustice," he said.

Draconian punishments were also handed out to Zachary Evetts, Autumn Hill, Savanna Batten, Elizabeth Soto and Meagan Morris, who were each sentenced to 50 years in prison for alleged "riot."

The husband of one of the political prisoners Daniel Sanchez Estrada wasn't at the noise protest, but was sentenced to 30 years in prison anyway for "conspiracy to conceal documents," stemming from his allegedly moving a box containing zines and pamphlets at the request of his wife Maricela Rueda, who was sentenced to 70 years for "material support of terrorism and attempted murder."

Rueda had left the protest before the shooting, but an extra 20 years was tacked onto her sentence for the moved box of zines. Her appeal has been taken up by the National Security Defense Center.

Chief of Advocacy for the Freedom of the Press Foundation Seth Stern says that Judge O'Connor's decisions allow prosecutors to "link a person to a conspiracy," based on any written materials, anarchist newspapers like *The SHADOW*, for example, or pamphlets and zines.

Usually, manifestos or documents exposing plans to carry out violence are used as evidence, not free speech materials like books and magazines, but Stern says that the administration is not trying to stop protest in America, but protests specifically targeting Trump's policies.

Stern, speaking on Counterspin, a radio show hosted by Janine Jackson on WBAI, compared the Prairieland Nine case to 61 people recently vindicated of conspiracy charges for participating in Stop Cop City protests in Atlanta, Georgia.

Activist attorney Stanley Cohen, who defended one of the Cop City activists, told *The SHADOW* that the Georgia conspiracy, federal racketeering and terrorism charges were trumped up to link a network of organizers to individual protesters who allegedly damaged construction equipment. Zines were also used as evidence in the Cop City case.

Stern said the Prairieland case is much more serious than Cop City because the defendants are accused of terrorism. The implication is that the tactic could be used against protesters not just locally, but throughout the country.

Stern said Trump has blurred the line between protesting his government and the legal definition of terrorism. Trump's National Security Presidential Memorandum-7 broadens domestic terrorism investigations to include politically-motivated intimidation, non-governmental organization involvement in civil disorder, and actions linked to "hostility towards those who hold traditional American views."

The Prairieland case threatens establishment opposition to Trump as well. Journalists Don Lemon and Georgia Ford are also facing conspiracy charges after an anti-ICE protest at a church run by a pastor, who moonlighted as an ICE agent.

The fact that the two were in the church to cover the protest is being cited as evidence they had prior knowledge. They were indicted under an 1871 civil rights law aimed at the KuKluxKlan for allegedly obstructing a church service.

Lemon and Ford were also charged under the FACE Act, a law meant to protect access to abortion clinics often blockaded by anti-abortion fanatics. FACE also protects places of religious worship from disruption. Ironically, anti-abortion forces on Capitol Hill have been trying to overturn that law, apparently to facilitate harassment of people trying to get health care.

Stern says the government has subpoenaed a list of thousands of subscribers to Lemon's Youtube channel in an attempt to link them all to Lemon as part of an anti-Trump conspiracy. He says that the Prairieland case is not about a box of zines used as evidence against an anarchist, but is aimed at press freedom for everyone.

Judge O'Connor was also able to extend the sentences against the Prairieland Nine by the unusual practice of stringing sentences consecutively, one after another, rather than concurrently, or all at once. Usually, if a person is convicted of a string of related crimes, they serve the longest single sentence, not the total of all the sentences.

Donald Trump's former lawyer and currently interim Attorney General Todd Blanche was ecstatic over the harsh sentences levied against the Prairieland Nine. "ANTIFA terrorists," Blanche said, "will face swift and uncompromising justice," adding, "the DOJ will continue to aggressively investigate, disrupt and prosecute protesters."

Blanche's insult mirrors the FBI's Counter-Intelligence Program [COINTELPRO], used during the civil rights and anti-war movements, when police and federal agents infiltrated political movements with

provocateurs and spies, crafted "snitch jackets" turning people against each other, including the outright assassinations of leaders like Chicago Black Panther Chairman Fred Hampton.

COINTELPRO was revealed when activists broke into an FBI office in Media, Pennsylvania in 1971 at the height of the Vietnam War and purloined boxes of documents, many marked as COINTELPRO. Hearings in the late 1970s led by Senator Frank Church uncovered a massive conspiracy against political activists involving the CIA, NSA and military intelligence.

Stern compares the terrorism enhancements used against the Prairieland Nine to the charges brought against the January 6, 2021 U.S. Capitol invaders who were blamed for the deaths of five police officers. Soon after being re-elected Trump pardoned 1,500 individuals charged for the J6 invasion, including Proud Boys leader Enrico Tarrío, who had been sentenced to 22 years, the longest stretch of all the invaders.

The Prairieland Nine are appealing the convictions and the sentences. While in prison, they are continuing to stand fast with immigrants and others who have been targeted by the United States government for standing up against fascism.

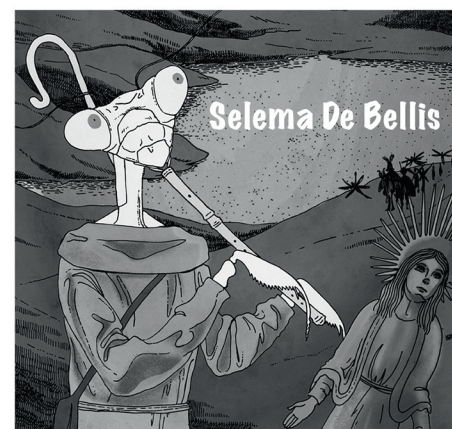
Anxiety Attack

A KOMIXKONCERT FEATURING:

JEFFREY LEWIS



SETH TOBOGMAN



Selma De Bellis

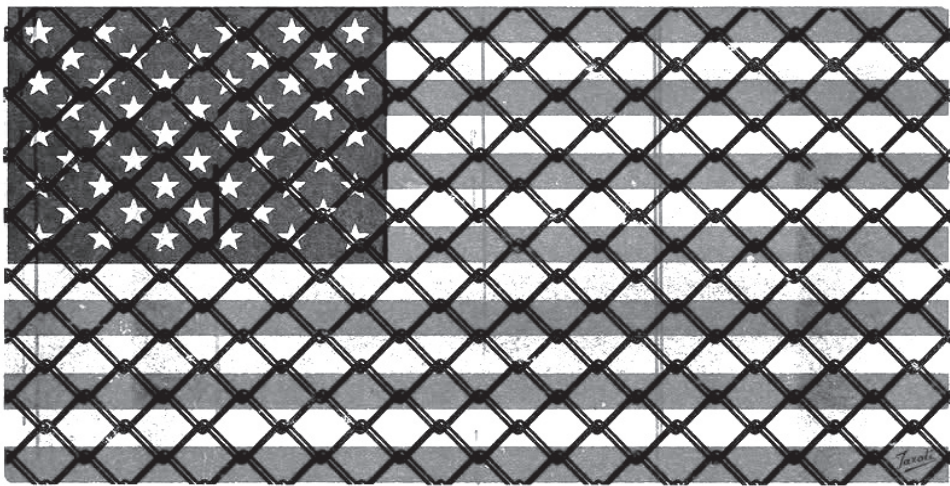


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The Fourth Amendment and The Surveillance State

By A. Kronstadt



The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution reads: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

George Orwell warned us that the State does not assume power in order to give it up later; the State exists for its own interests and purposes. Power is designed to seek out more power. Because the articles and amendments of the Constitution were written in the interests of the wealthiest people of their day, they contain language which enables the government to renege on the rights bestowed on the people at will.

In this special July 4th issue of *The SHADOW*, we refer to "weasel clauses" in various amendments that serve this purpose. In the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits "unreasonable search and seizure", the weasel factor lies in the use of the word "unreasonable". "Unreasonable" according to whose reasoning? The answer is clearly the Supreme Court.

Supreme Court decisions have eviscerated the Fourth Amendment by refusing to update its protections into the automotive or digital age. Yes, police need a warrant to search your brick and mortar home and perhaps the saddlebags on your horse, because these are the only things that the men who wrote the Constitution knew about. You would think that by analogy, one would have a similar right in regard to one's auto, but by the time cars came along, the founding fathers were dead and the Constitution was in the hands of a right-wing and racist Supreme Court determined to preserve State power over the rights of the people.

In the case of *Carroll v. U.S.* (1925), the court came up with an "automotive exception" to the Fourth Amendment, allowing cops to search motor vehicles without a warrant. This decision came amid Prohibition and a growing hysteria about drugs, and, as people became more and more dependent on cars, the government, in the form of traffic cops, gained more and more

control over people's lives. It was the origin of the crime of "driving while black" and random drug searches by cops on highways.

Something similar happened at the dawn of the digital age, when the Clinton and Bush I administrations carved out a "terrorism exception" that further gutted the Fourth Amendment. National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden let us know about the NSA's PRISM program, which allows the government to secretly order internet service providers to turn over stored records of visited websites and e-mails of their customers, and which prohibits these internet service providers from informing the affected customers of the surveillance. Microsoft, Yahoo, Google, Facebook, YouTube and Apple, were exposed by Snowden as having cooperated with PRISM.

Because PRISM is overseen in general terms by the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act [FISA], a court that convenes in secret and that hears only arguments from the government, the requirement for a warrant under the Fourth Amendment is satisfied.

Separately from PRISM, the government may issue a National Security Letter to any communications carrier, like your cell phone company, demanding stored records of numbers called and texted. Courts have simply refused to apply the Fourth Amendment to digital searches and seizures in the post-911 world.

In his landmark decision defining the limits of the First Amendment [*Schenck vs United States* (1919)], known as "the clear and present danger test", Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes stated: "the Constitution is not a suicide pact", in which the government cedes power in favor of democratic rights. But, for ordinary people, the law very often assumes the form of a one-sided suicide pact, in which the state has the right to send us off to war and destroy our environment and our health.

The ruling class of America will never agree to commit suicide for the people whom they expect to commit suicide for their nation and their masters. The Supreme Court is in place to protect the wealthy from the rest of us.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT : FREE SPEECH

By Norman Siegel

The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Free speech is a bedrock principle of our constitutional democracy. It is taught in schools from grade school through college. Unfortunately, too often, the principles of free speech are not fully understood and are violated repeatedly.

The First Amendment limits the power of any government entity – Federal, State, city, town, or village – to violate the right to generally express oneself, regardless of the content of the view or whether its offensive, repugnant or politically incorrect. That means the government is prohibited from determining which views are permitted and which are not. It is based on the premise of neutral principles. It guarantees all of us the fundamental right to express ourselves. Its meaning and significance for a free society cannot be misunderstood nor minimized.

Individuals who profess to believe in free speech demonstrate their commitment to the principle of free speech, not merely when they support the right of the speaker with whom they agree, but also when they show that support for a speaker whose viewpoint is antithetical to their own.

Historically, the struggle to achieve freedom, justice, equality and fairness – Civil Rights, women's rights, the labor movement, LGBTQ+, climate change, criminal justice, affordable housing, homelessness, and many others – have always depended on the right to free speech. As my friend, John Lewis, said, "without freedom of speech and the right to dissent, the civil rights movement would have been a bird without wings."

However, the First Amendment is neither absolute nor unlimited. For example, the First Amendment does not limit the power of private, non-governmental actors. Moreover, defamation, harassment, threats to an individual, and obscenity are exceptions to the general principles of free speech.

You probably hear the following: "This is America. I have the right to say whatever I want." These words are often spoken by one of the participants in a heated argument. You may ask, what is the origin of that sentiment? America prides itself on being a nation that is committed to the principles and values of free speech/expression. The right to speak freely, to express yourself freely, to peaceably assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances are fundamental freedoms that

are part of this country's national identity. They are the means by which we are able to achieve all our other rights. We would not be America without these crucial freedoms.

Regarding the right of the people to peaceably assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances, i.e., protests, rallies, demonstrations, and other First Amendment activities, the rules allow for reasonable time, place and manner limitations.

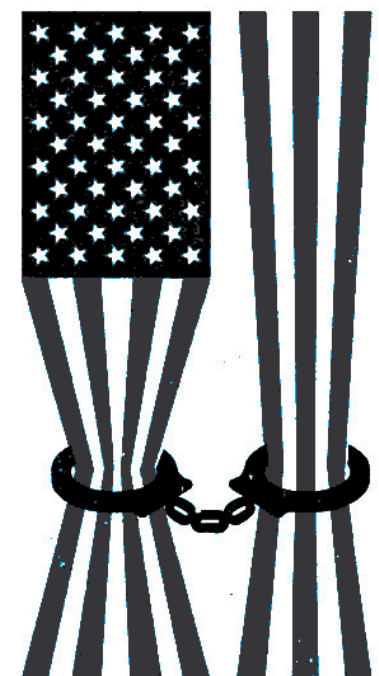
For example, a demonstration on the sidewalk does not allow demonstrators to block the entrances and exits to buildings, nor does it allow protesters to block the entire sidewalk. For a protest march in the street, a permit usually granted by the police department is required. A First Amendment march in the street might not be granted for Fifth Avenue, but under the reasonable time, place and manner rules could be granted for Sixth or Eighth Avenue for their march.

The First Amendment provision providing for the guarantee of free speech applies to public colleges and universities. Private colleges and universities generally provide the right of free expression for their students. However, unfortunately, we hear about and read about stories where colleges and universities do not respect the principles and values associated with free speech/expression. This is an area that we need to be eternally vigilant about.

What happens today at the universities and colleges across the USA has an impact not only on the present but also on the future because what our young people are learning today in college sets the framework for future leaders across this country.

Free speech/expression sometimes is controversial and not welcomed. But we, as Americans and New Yorkers, have historically generally committed to the principles and values of free speech/expression. We should not change course now.

[Norman Siegel is a Civil Rights Lawyer]



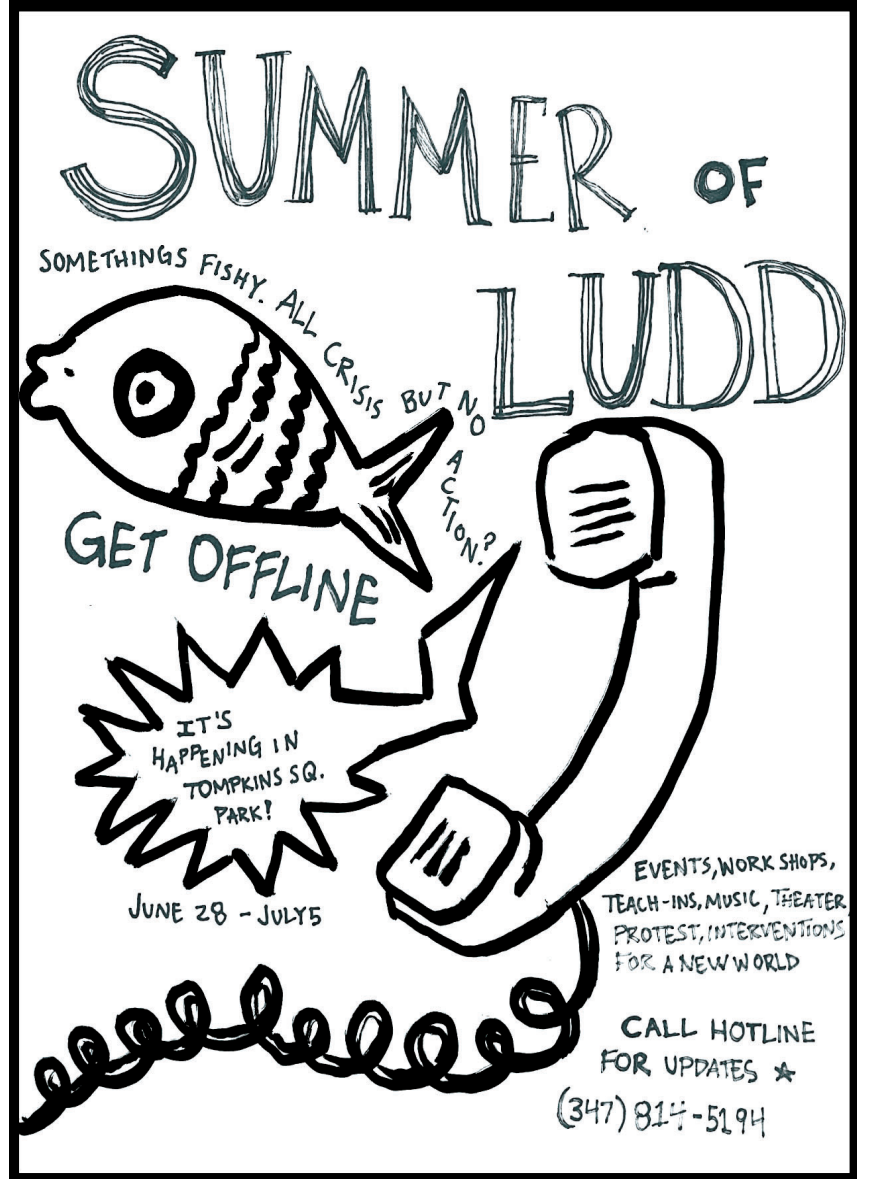
** SUMMER OF LUDD **

The first-ever, free-to-the-public SUMMER OF LUDD will take place in New York City from June 28 through July 5, 2026.

Drawing from a rich tradition of social movements and growing out of a burgeoning community of hundreds of organizers, artists, and concerned citizens, SUMMER OF LUDD will be a joyous celebration of the organic and unpredictable connections that arise and flourish when we reject the extractive surveillance technologies that have increasingly come to dominate our lives.

New York City has become the national center of a dynamic "Luddite Renaissance" that expresses itself in kaleidoscopic prose, political activism, poetry, phone-free dance parties, app deletion events, Luddite tribunals that put tech on trial, and other events of refreshing relevance, all aimed at getting people off Big Tech platforms and into public space.

SUMMER OF LUDD will include more than 120 events at assorted venues throughout New York City — a week long "movable feast" with ongoing, and often simultaneous, pop-up actions, such as teach-ins, an original theatrical production telling the story of the original Luddites, a concert series, film screenings, ritualistic ceremonies, workshops, and actions against Big Tech platforms — including the flagship



ask a friend • ask a stranger • ask your mom

SUMMER of LUDD

JUNE 28 - JULY 5 **NYC** TOMPKINS SQUARE PARK

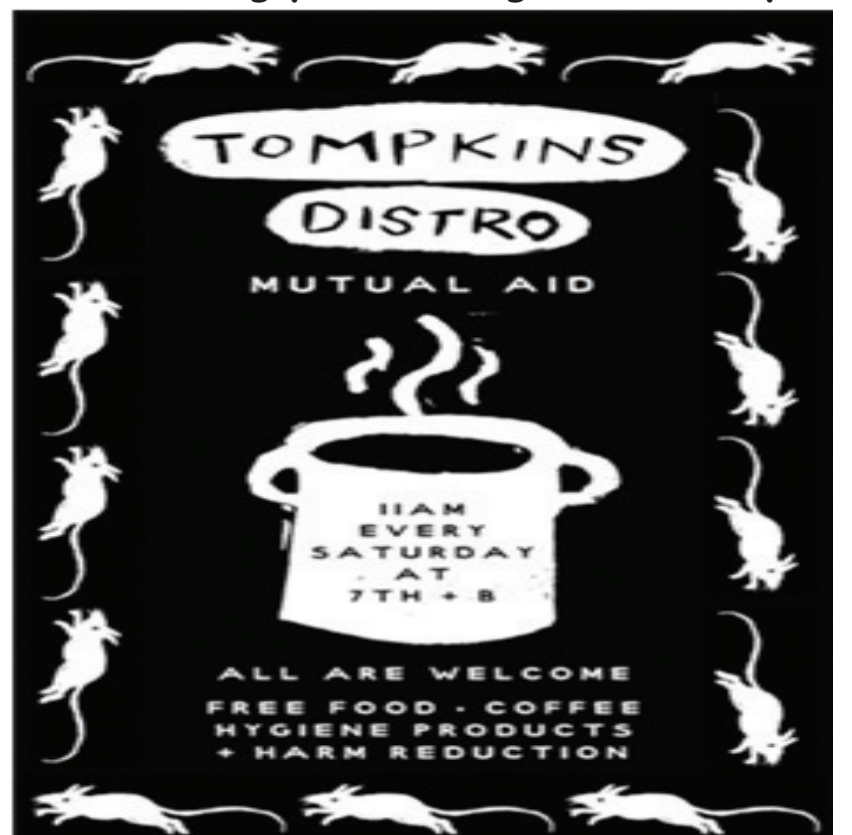
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S.H.I.T.P.H.O.N.E. event (acronym for Scathing Hatred of Information Technology and the Passionate Hemorrhaging of Our Neoliberal Experience).

The festival will connect the dots between addictive algorithms, social isolation, data center ecocide, automated warfare, job loss, data extraction and surveillance, and accelerating inequity.

Come to Tompkins Square Park each day that week to plug in and connect with events taking place throughout the city!



THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT AND THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE

By Frank Morales

The 15th Amendment asserts that, "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

Five years following the conclusion of the Civil War with the "articles of surrender" on April 9, 1865, the Fifteenth Amendment was ratified on February 3, 1870. It was the third and final of the so-called "Reconstruction Amendments," the other two being the 13th and 14th Amendments.

According to historian Eric Foner, African Americans called the amendment the nation's "second birth" and a "greater revolution than that of 1776", which speaks to the importance accorded to the "right to vote" by newly-freed former slaves who put their newfound freedom to use during Reconstruction [1865-1877], with 16 black men elected to Congress and 2,000 black men in elected local, state and federal positions.

White supremacists who used paramilitary violence to prevent blacks from voting caused Enforcement Acts to be passed by Congress in 1870-1871, authorizing federal prosecution of the Ku Klux Klan and others who violated the amendment.

Supreme Court decisions in the late 19th century interpreted the amendment narrowly, giving breath to the defeated forces of white supremacy. From 1890-

1910, the Democratic Party in the south adopted new state constitutions and enacted "Jim Crow" laws that raised barriers to voter registration. These were a collection of state and local statutes that formalized and legalized racial segregation and discrimination, lasting until the mid-1960s, during the Civil Right movement. These laws were designed to marginalize African Americans by enforcing physical separation and denying basic civil and political rights.

Segregation laws mandated the separation of races in nearly all public and private spaces, including schools, transportation, restaurants, hospitals, and water fountains. "Separate but Equal" laws claimed to offer "separate but equal" facilities, though accommodations designated for Black Americans were almost universally under-funded and grossly inferior. "Jim Crow" laws specifically targeted voting rights with measures like poll taxes, literacy tests, and restrictive registration requirements that were used to prevent Black citizens from casting ballots.

Groups like the KKK and Citizens' Councils, along with racist elected officials, oversaw the enforcement of harsh fines, arrests, or devastating violence for defying these laws. Many people lost their lives simply for attempting to vote and defending the right to vote.

Eventually, this formalized system of

racial apartheid was dismantled during the Civil Rights Movement. Landmark legal victories and legislative action—such as the Supreme Court's ruling in Brown v. Board of Education, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965—finally struck down these discriminatory statutes.

Now, in this era of class struggle from above and the ascendancy of the idiot king trump and his coterie of corrupt rich benefactors, we are seemingly being cast back in time to the reactionary violence of white supremacy which once again are, for the moment, in the driver's seat.

Accordingly, this past April, the Supreme Court acted once again, this time issuing its opinion in the Callais decision, a 6-3 ruling that severely weakened Section 2 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which prohibits any voting rule or procedure that discriminates on the basis of race, color, or language minority status.

Since 2008, states across the country have passed measures to make it harder for Americans—particularly black people, the elderly, students, and people with disabilities—to exercise their fundamental right to cast a ballot. These measures include cuts to early voting, voter ID laws, and most especially, purging of voter rolls, which has been covered in depth by journalist and SHADOW contributor, Greg Palast [See more at: GregPalast.com].

As reported by Palast, states have been purging rolls of hundreds of thousands of names without notifying voters beforehand. Those voters do not know that they have been purged until they show up to vote on Election Day, by which time it is too late for them to re-new their voter registration.

Most recently, the latest threat to voting rights was the SAVE Act [the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, which was passed by Congress in April, but voted down by the Senate (48-50) in June. The Act would have added a new layer of documentation requirements on top of a verification system that is already in place for voters to prove their US citizenship to register to vote or update their voter registration.

In a direct threat to women, the Act mandated that women who have changed their name after marriage and do not have a birth certificate that matches their current legal name would be purged from voter rolls.

We cannot allow a turning back to the bad ole days – we must mount a new and powerful movement to overthrow the criminal organization in the white house, not only to protect the right to vote, but to extend it through a progressive, revolutionary revision of the entire Constitution and Bill of Rights, thereby manifesting a true and thorough "demokratia" in America.

JURY NULLIFICATION?

YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE
YOUR CONSCIENCE



BE A FULLY
INFORMED
JUROR

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★ LOATHE SILICON VALLEY BILLIONAIRES? ★

SCATHING HATRED OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE PASSIONATE HEMMORRHAGING OF OUR NEOLIBERAL EXPERIENCE

NEED LUDD WANTS YOU

SHITPHONE 4TH

JULY 4TH ★ TOMPKINS SQ PARK ★ 2 PM

THE OFFICIAL SUMMER OF LUDD @ PROTON.ME

OUR NEOLIBERAL EXPERIENCE ★ SCATHING HATRED OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE PASSIONATE HEMMORRHAGING OF OUR NEOLIBERAL EXPERIENCE

— 38TH ANNUAL PIG RIT CELEBRATION OF 1988 —

SUNDAY 2ND
AUGUST 2025

3PM-7PM FIRST BAND AT
3PM SHARP!

HERBET

DRUMKEN
RAMPAGE

THE GOONS

CITIZEN ARREST

GIBBEROCLATS



DJ ECN SPINS
THE VIBE
BETWEEN BANDS

COMEDY BY
JONAS
BARRANCA



THE SHADOW
PRESENTING THE FINAL EP

ALL
AGES

TOMPKINS SQUARE PARK

the SHADOW

INFORMATION IS STRENGTH • KNOWLEDGE IS POWER



the SHADOW

INFORMATION IS STRENGTH • KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (REVISED)

By Frank Morales

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all people are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among the people, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

But whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

The criminal wanna-be king trump has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good:

- He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.
- He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people worshiped his tyrannical rule.
- He has endeavored to obstruct the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither.
- He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.
- He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.
- He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of ICE Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.
- He has kept among us, Standing Armies of Militarized Police whose primary function is to terrorize and repress dissent.
- He has overseen the seizure of fields and farms throughout America, facilitating their despoilment by Big Techs' wa-

ter depleting, air polluting, and air toxifying AI Data Centers, draining electric grids from coast to coast.

- He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power, in 2026 awarding it \$1.5 trillion dollars, a 50% annual increase, to execute its domestic and imperialist agenda.

Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury

- He has plundered our seas, ordered the Military to ravage the Southern Coasts of the Americas, burning towns and murdering the innocent inhabitants of these lands.

- He has, while ignoring all Constitutional restraints or moral considerations, overseen the explosion of immigrant concentration camps, torture centers of men, women and children completely in violation of basic human rights and Divine mandates.
- He has cut off life sustaining resources in health and welfare for the poorest of Americans while driving up the cost of living for working class families, all the while enriching himself, his family and the Oligarchic Class he represents.
- He has sought to destroy the historical heritage of African and Native Americans, seeking to desecrate the evidence of past perfidies and violations and the case for reparations.
- He has orchestrated attacks upon the right to vote, for women, African Americans and all those perceived as his enemies, rendering the engine of democracy null and void.
- In every stage of these and many other Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury, fallen deaf upon the ears of the sycophantic stooges inhabiting our Congress.
- A billionaire thug and grifter, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, trump is a soulless and narcissist bully, unfit to be the ruler of a free people.



- He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: For Quartering large bodies of armed troops and militarized police among us: For protecting them, by a mock Trial, or no trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States.
- He has, with abject incivility pardoned the thugs that criminally ravaged the Capitol and committed murder on January 6, 2020 under the 'big lie' that the election was stolen.
- He is guilty of cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing

- In collusion with the nation of Israel, has transported Resources of War to foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon, while embarking on reckless and illegal military incursions against the nation of Iran, threatening the well-being of the entire world, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy of the Head of a civilized nation.
- He has excited and supported domestic insurrections and terroristic violence amongst us executed by white supremacists, neo-nazis and other so-called christian nationalists.

Therefore, the American people, living under absolute Despotism, and the willful illusions of violent and aspiring tyrant, it is our right, it is our duty, to throw off such Government, to bring down the powerful from their thrones, and to provide new Guards for our future security.

To this end, to the end of Popular Revolution in America, for the triumph of Love and Justice in this Land under Nature's God, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

July 4, 2026