

"When you have privilege, anything else seems like oppression"

How can we be anti - fill in the blank without giving up the privileges we consider "rights" we have "earned"/"worked for"? Short answer - we cannot!

Lesson from the book "Animal Farm" by George Orwell - whoever is downtrodden is destined to be the leader and the process then repeats.

Lesson from the book "Do not fear the oppressed. Listen & work to obtain equity - equity for all."

Lesson from the HBO / HBO Max miniseries "Exterminate the Brutes" by Raul Peck #1. We have to realize there is worldwide systemic racism. #2. We have to work to have Social Justice.

Lesson from the HBO / HBO Max series "Watchmen" done in a Marvel Comic Series mode starting with the Black Wall Street mass killings of 1921 gives insight to a deep, complicated, society.

V (Eve Ensler)"In the 21st Century, men still control, torture and abuse women in their lives. Masculine Harassment - example, a man asks the waitress to pull down her mask to see if she is pretty enough to get a tip; a tenant needing to have sex with her landlord to pay the rent; greater financial pressure has caused more abuse; COVID has revealed Patriarchy is here - if we (society) don't address it now, we will be spinning our wheels forever."

Religious Persecution - whoever is in power - Historically "The Church" has oppressed those not of "The Church"'s beliefs (dictates).

- The Crusades (1095-1271)
- Spanish Inquisition (1478 - 1834)
- The Doctrine of Discovery

The infamous Sugar Cane to Rum to Slave Trade

"Police" against coal miners made infamous by Tennessee Ernie Fords lyrics, "Another year older and deeper in debt, . . . I owe my soul to the company store"

"Police" against "Black Wall Street" June 18, 1921

"Police" against George Floyd May 25, 2020 (and proportionally multiple times more people of color killed by police historically than white people)

The United States, a Country that has sought "Justice for All[people that are white]"

- Jim Crow
- Separate but Equal
- Redlining
- Voting discrimination
- Between January 1 and May 14, 2021, at least 14 states enacted 22 new laws that restrict access to the vote. (Brennan Center for Justice, May 2021)

From <https://www.hbo.com/extermine-all-the-brutes>

Part 1

In the series premiere, "The Disturbing Confidence of Ignorance," filmmaker Raoul Peck sets out to illuminate the intertwined currents of hate and bigotry running through history. Focusing on the United States' legacy as a colonial power, Peck explores how race first became institutionalized, the Nazi

program of “elimination” and its antecedents in the West, and the looting of the African continent in a “gentlemen’s agreement.”

#### Part 2

In the second episode, “Who the F\*\*\* is Columbus,” Peck revisits the stories of Christopher Columbus, the Alamo, and the Trail of Tears from an indigenous perspective, showing how “official” history is shaped by those in power and solidified by myth and popular culture. Next, he examines the “doctrine of discovery” used to justify the enslavement of millions of Africans and questions his own story within these narratives.

#### Part 3

In the third installment of the series, “Killing at a Distance or ... How I Thoroughly Enjoyed the Outing,” Peck looks back at human migration, trade, and weaponry, and shows how Europeans used industrialized steel to conduct warfare from ever-greater distances. Then, he explores the endless cycle of militarization throughout the centuries – from George Washington’s efforts to jumpstart American arms manufacturing, to the Monroe Doctrine, and finally, to the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

#### Part 4

In the series finale, “The Bright Colors of Facism,” Peck explores the challenge of reconciling America’s true history with its ideals of freedom and democracy, pointing to the struggle for native representation and the legacy of slavery in institutionalized racism today. Reflecting on his time in Berlin, Peck links the modern resurgence of white nationalism with fascism, slavery, colonialism, and Nazism

[Watchmen on the other hand is a series in typical Marvel Adapted Comic Book Style](#) opening with the realistic depiction of the killing of masses of people in Black Wall Street in May 1921. I have only watched the first two episodes. It is very disturbing to me as I try to apply this fictional work to our real world. It seems to imply there is a group of "watchmen" but who they really really are is not revealed for sure at the end of episode 2.

The bottom line: We need to treat one another with respect and dignity. We cannot apply mastery over any other being. Going to <https://www.facebook.com/cara.bissell> may give more up to date articles and opportunity to communicate.

\*\* Shifting baseline syndrome (SBS) describes a gradual change in the accepted norms for the condition of the natural environment due to a lack of human experience, memory and/or knowledge of its past condition.

The classic book, "Animal Farm" illustrates the slippery slope of regime change. When is the line crossed where changes in freedom (and war practices) happen gradually over time? President Eisenhower's "Beware of the Military Industrial Congressional Complex" is more credible than ever! "Man's Inhumanity to Man - HOW LONG?" was the cry in placed in the Congressional Record daily during the Viet Nam War. We are in deeper now - AND IT IS SPILLING OVER TO MILITARIZING OUR POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN THIS OUR UNITED STATES!

**The offer for each of us to live a M. Gandhi's, Martin Luther King's, Nelson Mandela's, Dolores Huerta's and Cesar Chavez's nonviolent life-style is each of ours to chose!** It is not easy to chose the way of peace even without personally loosing loved ones or seeing / **being** maimed. Atrocities can and do drive us at times to feel the - uncontrolled - need for violent solutions.. **Publicity that makes the "enemy" inhuman flourishes and has been used throughout history**, BUT, each person is human. Can each of us forgive the "enemy" within ourself? With time, yes we can! Si Se Puede!! "When a person has privilege, anything else seems like oppression [even if the privilege is known to be at the expense of other people]"

**For everyone, the secular, agnostic or athiest included, "We do the right thing [pause] because [pause] you never know" Dahr Jamail at the 2020 Veterans For Peace Annual Convention via ZOOM this year of COVID-19. Additionally for religious people, by God's grace we are forgiven and enabled to live peacefully within ourselves and further outward to all levels of social involvement. The choice is ours.** That each of us has a variety of perceived right ways is yet another of the infinite mysteries. That we each have individual purposes and talents is more easily seen. **May it be we each listening to "Our [good] Higher Power" will come to a common point of understanding and progress from there.**