

**HOW**

**PEACEFUL**

**PROTESTS**

**BENEFIT THE STATE**



LOOSELY BASED ON THE WORK OF PETER GELDERLOOS

**NARRATIVES OF NONVIOLENCE ARE  
BASED ON WHITEWASHED HISTORIES OF  
STRUGGLE.**

**VIOLENCE IS DIFFICULT TO DEFINE. IS  
SELF-DEFENSE VIOLENCE? PROPERTY  
DESTRUCTION? GRAFFITI?**

**WE ADVOCATE A DIVERSITY OF  
TACTICS, INCLUDING NONVIOLENT ONES.**

**THE COMMITMENT TO NONVIOLENCE  
ALONE EFFECTIVELY DECLAWS OUR  
MOVEMENTS.**

**THE COPS ARE NOT YOUR FRIENDS.**



**THEY WILL SHOOT YOU WHILE YOU KNEEL.**



IF IT'S NOT  
DISRUPTIVE,  
IT'S NOT EFFECTIVE.

# THE "VICTORIES" OF "NONVIOLENCE"



*Nonviolence is  
ineffective.*



MANY PROMINENT EXAMPLES OF "VICTORIES OF NONVIOLENCE" WERE

○ NEITHER OF THOSE THINGS. BRITAIN'S EXIT FROM INDIA IS ATTRIBUTED ALMOST WHOLLY TO GANDHI, THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT TO MLK AND ROSA PARKS, AND THE 60'S ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT TO AMERICAN HIPPIES.

○ THIS STRATEGY IS USED TO WARP THE HISTORICAL NARRATIVE IN FAVOR OF THE STATE AND DISAVOW THE THREAT OF REVOLUTIONARY VIOLENCE WHICH ACTUALLY BROUGHT ABOUT SYSTEMIC CHANGE (CHANDRASEKHAR AZAD, MALCOLM X, THE BLACK PANTHERS, VIETNAMESE RESISTANCE, ETC...).

○ MOREOVER, IN EACH OF THESE CASES THE STATE HAS MADE A DE JURE DISPLAY OF THEIR SUBMISSION TO NON-VIOLENCE, WHILE IN REALITY MAINTAINING THE VERY SAME DE FACTO SYSTEMS OF DOMINANCE.

# NON VIOLENCE IS RACIST

PACIFISM AS A PRINCIPLE IGNORES THAT IT CAN ONLY BE PRACTICED BY THOSE WITH A PRIVILEGED POSITION PROTECTED BY STRUCTURAL FORMS OF VIOLENCE (RACISM, CLASS/WEALTH, ETC...).

THE PRIVILEGED (USUALLY WHITE) PACIFIST ERASES THE REAL AND COMPLEX POLITICAL PLATFORMS OF PROMINENT NON-VIOLENT FIGURES AND REPLACES THEM WITH AN EMPTY SPECTACLE - IGNORING, FOR EXAMPLE, NELSON MANDELA'S INVOLVEMENT WITH BOMBING AND ARMED UPRISING OR GANDHI'S SUPPORT OF ARMED RESISTANCE IN PALESTINE.

IN DOING SO THEY ASSUME THESE ILLUSIONS CONSTRUCTED BY THE WHITE IMAGINATION MUST SERVE AS THE MODEL FOR ALL MINORITIES AND FURTHER EXTEND THE HEGEMONY OF WHITENESS.

## REMEMBER :

EVEN THOUGH MLK ADVOCATED FOR PEACEFUL METHODS, HE WAS STILL ASSASINATED. THE FEDS DO NOT REWARD "GOOD BEHAVIOR."



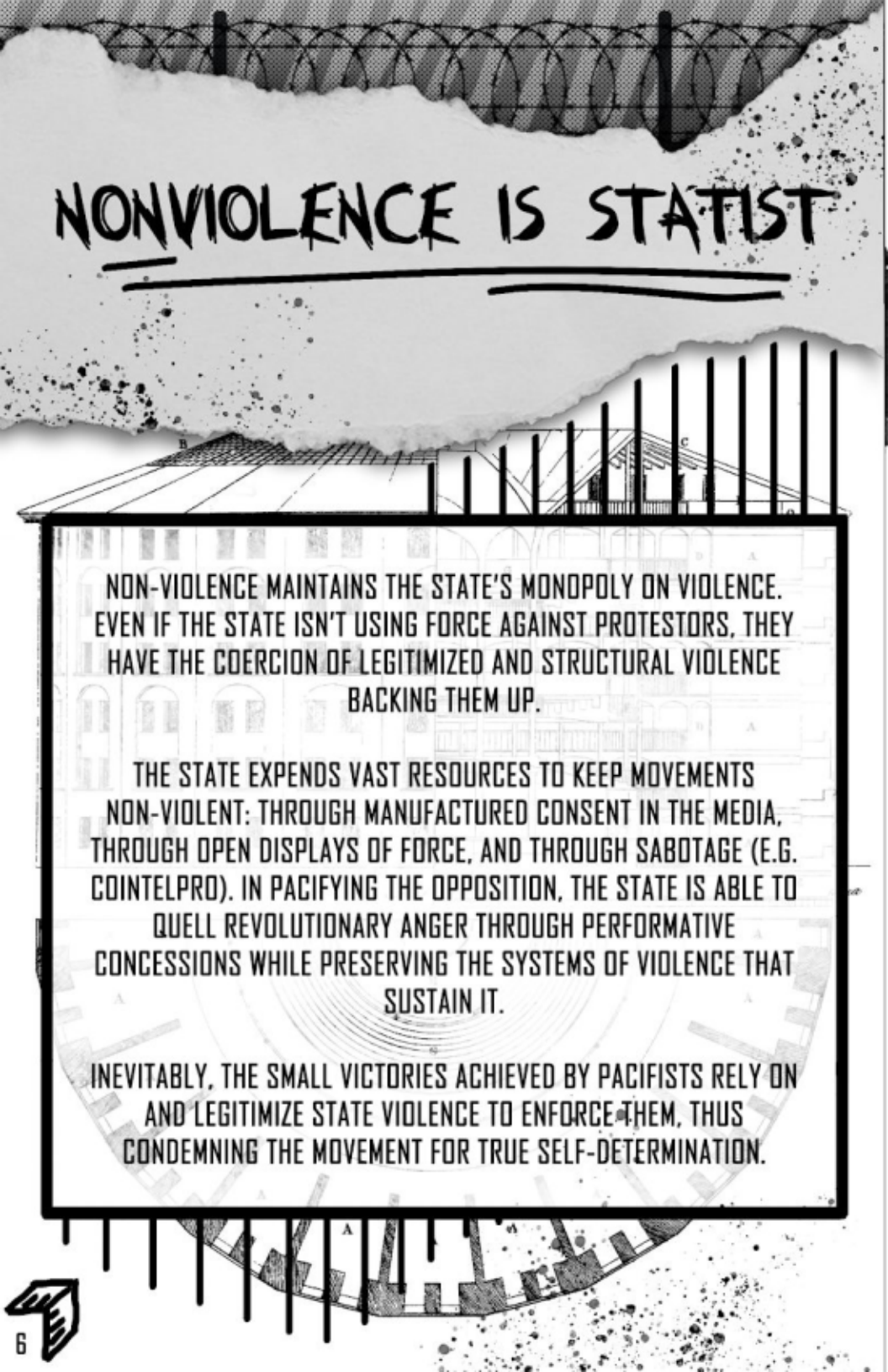
THE BELIEFS OF MLK ARE OFTEN MISCONSTRUED. THESE ARE THREE QUOTES FROM MLK.

"APART FROM BIGOTS AND BACKLASHERS, IT SEEMS TO BE A MALADY EVEN AMONG THOSE WHITES WHO LIKE TO REGARD THEMSELVES AS "ENLIGHTENED."

I WOULD ESPECIALLY REFER TO THOSE WHO COUNSEL, "WAIT!" AND TO THOSE WHO SAY THAT THEY SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR GOALS BUT CANNOT CONDONE OUR METHODS OF DIRECT-ACTION IN PURSUIT OF THOSE GOALS. I WONDER AT MEN WHO DARE TO FEEL THAT THEY HAVE SOME PATERNALISTIC RIGHT TO SET THE TIMETABLE FOR ANOTHER MAN'S LIBERATION."

"OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, I MUST SAY, I HAVE BEEN GRAVELY DISAPPOINTED WITH SUCH WHITE "MODERATES." I AM OFTEN INCLINED TO THINK THAT THEY ARE MORE OF A STUMBLING BLOCK TO THE NEGRO'S PROGRESS THAN THE WHITE CITIZEN'S COUNCILER [SIC] OR THE KU KLUX KLANNER."

"BUT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, A RIOT IS THE LANGUAGE OF THE UNHEARD."



# NONVIOLENCE IS STATIST

NON-VIOLENCE MAINTAINS THE STATE'S MONOPOLY ON VIOLENCE. EVEN IF THE STATE ISN'T USING FORCE AGAINST PROTESTORS, THEY HAVE THE COERCION OF LEGITIMIZED AND STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE BACKING THEM UP.

THE STATE EXPENDS VAST RESOURCES TO KEEP MOVEMENTS NON-VIOLENT: THROUGH MANUFACTURED CONSENT IN THE MEDIA, THROUGH OPEN DISPLAYS OF FORCE, AND THROUGH SABOTAGE (E.G. COINTELPRO). IN PACIFYING THE OPPOSITION, THE STATE IS ABLE TO QUELL REVOLUTIONARY ANGER THROUGH PERFORMATIVE CONCESSIONS WHILE PRESERVING THE SYSTEMS OF VIOLENCE THAT SUSTAIN IT.

INEVITABLY, THE SMALL VICTORIES ACHIEVED BY PACIFISTS RELY ON AND LEGITIMIZE STATE VIOLENCE TO ENFORCE THEM, THUS CONDEMNING THE MOVEMENT FOR TRUE SELF-DETERMINATION.





# NONVIOLENCE IS PATRIARCHAL



WITH GENDER, AS WITH RACE, NONVIOLENCE IS AN INHERENTLY PRIVILEGED POSITION THAT ASSUMES THAT THE PEOPLE SUFFERING THE MOST HAVE THE TIME TO WAIT FOR CHANGE THROUGH NONVIOLENT MEANS. THE DOCTRINE OF NONVIOLENCE, WHEN APPLIED TO EVERYDAY REALITIES, WOULD PREFER THAT A WOMAN PATIENTLY WAITS FOR HER ABUSER TO STOP RATHER THAN GANG UP WITH OTHER WOMEN TO FORCE HIM OUT OF HER LIFE.

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PATRIARCHY, UNLIKE OTHER OPPRESSIVE SYSTEMS LIKE THE STATE, HAS A DIFFUSE POWER STRUCTURE. NO PARTICULAR MAN UNDER PATRIARCHY DERIVES SIGNIFICANTLY MORE POWER FROM IT THAN ANY OTHER. AS SUCH, PATRIARCHY MUST BE FOUGHT BY CREATING A CULTURE THAT ACCEPTS PEOPLE'S SELF-IDENTITIES, ENCOURAGES RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS, AND FACILITATES HEALING FROM YEARS OF OPPRESSION AND THE TRAUMA ASSOCIATED.

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THERE ARE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT SPECIFICALLY HINDER THE CREATION OF THIS SORT OF CULTURE. VIOLENT FEMINIST ACTIONS SUCH AS SELF-DEFENSE FROM ABUSERS AND THE DESTRUCTION OF BUSINESSES THAT PROMOTE IMPOSSIBLE BEAUTY STANDARDS ARE NOT INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE CREATION OF A NON-PATRIARCHAL CULTURE. IN FACT, WOMEN AND OTHER NON-MEN TAKING FOR THEMSELVES THE RIGHT TO VIOLENCE DISRUPTS THE PATRIARCHAL NORM THAT ONLY MEN SHOULD WIELD VIOLENCE.

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NONVIOLENCE IS  
**STRATEGICALLY**  
**INFERIOR**

*The state is not compassionate.*

Non-violent tactics tend towards idealism, overestimating the power of ideas in bringing about change, while ignoring the material realities which give the state and ruling class widespread ideological dominance.

Attempting to win over "hearts and minds" without rooting out the structures which normalize oppression—which poisoned those same hearts and minds to begin with—is a losing strategy. At best, these strategies can only succeed at creating pressure through oppositional and passive masses. However, we are undoubtedly in a crisis; those in power are not the ones in danger of dying from COVID-19, economic depression, or police brutality, it's the people of the working class!

The state will not be leveraged to go against its own interests unless it's very existence is threatened, meanwhile the existence of the oppressed is constantly threatened. If our movements are forever constrained to a pacifist program, we will lose the war of attrition.





# NONVIOLENCE IS DELUDED



Pacifists will often point to the failures of violent movements to defend their ideology. This is absurd because we do not hold these failures to be victories.

No one can deny that movements with a diverse array of tactics have won (revolutions in North and South America, France, Ireland, China, Cuba, Algeria, Vietnam, etc.)

Rather than being a righteous or moral position, dedication to nonviolence is often just the safest and easiest way out. Movements that are actual threats to the state are more quickly repressed.

Violence is often portrayed as angry and uninformed, but on the contrary militants are educated about who their enemies are, and how to fight them.

Nonviolence uses clichés and platitudes in place of tactics which fit the material conditions we are met with.



# POSSIBILITIES FOR REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVISM

## THE ALTERNATIVE

Pacifist and nonviolent actions have their place in revolutionary movements, but only when they arise as a response to material conditions and when they act in solidarity with more militant aspects of the movement.

The seeming brutality of certain societies which arose from violent revolutions is not a result of the violence of their methodology, but other organizational aspects relating to hierarchy. Our organizations, much the same as our movements, must be liberating.

A liberating organization is defined as much by its concrete structures as it is by its culture. Building organizations which welcome diversity of thought and practice, and center the plight of the oppressed above an ideological program will inevitably achieve greater success in responding to material problems.





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