

REVOLUTIONARY RAGE !!!!!!!!!!!

-ROSA UNITING NEWSLETTER-

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!!!!!!!!!!!!-ISSUE 4-!!!!!!!!!!!!

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Revolutionary Rage

Editorial Note



Dear Readers,

We welcome you to the fourth issue of R.U.N., ROSA Uniting Newsletter.

In the last edition, we focused on the theme of **revolutionary love**, bridging critical perspectives on individualistic forms of love and nuclear familial structures to foster a communal and communitarian understanding of love.

We want love and care to be collective. We want to stand together in love and companionship, as it is together that we will build alternative futures.

If it is true that, throughout our struggles, we recognised the value of revolutionary love, it is also true that, looking at our faces, we see and find ourselves enraged.

We feel RAGE towards our university,

which crushes dissent with armed forces when it endangers or questions the status quo of an institution which looks more and more like a pipeline to specialise workers for the job market, and which turns a blind eye towards the consequences of its actions and partnerships.

We feel RAGE towards the political hegemonic class;

its warmongering, its exploitation and its cognitive, social and physical extractivism damaging the working classes.

We feel RAGE towards those who do not expect it,

those who do not understand that repression and silencing cannot only produce love as the conduit for revolution, those who expect us to abide by the maintenance of a violent and imperialist structure.

Thus, in this issue, we question how **RAGE** can be connected to the revolutionary struggle, and how we can learn to make **RAGE** a vessel for activism and change. When western capitalist imperial powers and their military-industrial-media complexes are quick to dismiss any instance of 'unstable' dissent as violence, terrorism and extremism, we must ask ourselves how we can fuel and utilise our **RAGE** for revolutionary purposes. In other words, we want to understand not only why we are angry, why we want to 'RAGE against the machine', but also how we can maximise our revolutionary potential in doing so.

In this issue, we begin exploring **revolutionary rage** with **a piece on female rage**, questioning how capitalism dismissed and subjugated rage in women when their behaviour didn't fit in the model of the calm and obliging housewife. We continue with showing **how revolutionary rage can be conveyed through and with art, with one art piece and one poem**.

We didn't forget, nevertheless, about those who make us angry once again. For this reason, we continue with **a piece on the higher education cuts (of 1 billion euros) approved by the Dutch government**

, showing their hypocrisy and warmongering mentality. Along these lines, we additionally focus on **the demolition of the W&N building at VU** where student spaces are being sacrificed.

Rage is of course conflict, **a second poem recentres attention towards the question of perception, judgement and representation of bodies and femininity**

We follow with a **focus on the US context**, reflecting with **two articles on the upcoming elections**, both from contemporary and historical perspective, with the latter interpreting the US political landscape by referring to the novel 'The Grapes of Wrath'. We then focus on **Anti-Canteen, and the quest for better alternatives in our universities'** cafeterias that centre students and slity before profit.



We conclude with our 'community' rubric, intended to share our experiences as students within the university and create a mutual understanding of our conditions and what we wish to change, and our 'alongside ROSA' rubric, where we showcase ^{some} of our activities and forward a very important announcement, in which we welcome the new Central Committee members. Finally, we end with the comic you all know and love, with the hope that, this time, it might make you angrier than usual.



We hope you will enjoy reading this issue of R.U.N., in revolutionary spirit and RAGE!

WOMIEN'S RAGE

EMMA MAZZANTI

Rabbia

Zitta e buona

Devi stare zitta e buona

Accondiscendente

Sempre

Che si fa per ridere

Per scherzare

I vostri scherzi mi entrano nelle viscere

Vorrei urlare

Zitta e buona

Come ti vogliono

Che sennò sei una rompicoglioni

Puttana nevrotica

Non sai stare al gioco

È solo un gioco

Gioca

Anger

Shut up and be good

You have to be quiet and good

Condescending

Always

It is just to laugh

To joke around

Your jokes get in my gut

I want to scream

Shut up and be good

How they want you

That otherwise you're a pain in the ass

Neurotic bitch

You can't play along

It's just a game

Play



HYSTERICAL WOMEN

I decided to write these words because I was angry. It was not new to me that my anger is not perceived neutrally but rather as an irrational female anger that contrasts with how a woman should behave in our society. Freud has built a career on the medicalization of women's anger. Does the word "hysteria" ring a bell? The father of modern psychology founded his initial prestige and celebrity on the invention of a mental disease that medicalized women's behaviours that didn't fit in the model of the calm and obliging housewife. Hysteria has been one of many tools of control over women's bodies. It was used as a means of reducing women to irrational beings whose behaviour is moved solely by their hormones and their uterus. The very word hysteria comes in fact from the Greek hysteron, which translates to uterus. According to this image, women are portrayed as untrustworthy, intellectually inferior, physically, and morally.

HOW DO THEY WANT US?

The question arose: if this irrational, angry, hysterical woman needed to be cured, what was the cure? How was the perfect, healthy, good woman supposed to be? I am sure that any reader that has been socialized as a woman can quickly find examples from their lives where their behaviours were considered appropriate for a woman or not. A good woman learns to keep irrational impulses at bay, is calm and has no excesses. A good woman respects men regardless. A good woman does not make scenes, does not try to overpower a man. A good woman does not yell. She excuses and forgives. A good woman appreciates a comment, can laugh at a joke. A good woman is patient and shows gratitude. And certainly a good woman does not get angry at anything, however uncomfortable she might feel.

Recently I have been told by a man that he could see that I was one of the good women: that does not get angry, that can laugh at a joke, in short one that would not be a pain in the ass. I felt frustrated at that comment, even guilty for not having had the courage to show him that I was indeed a "pain in the ass". But that, as many other comments, reminded me in a daily moment how this image of the perfect, calm, good woman is not a legacy of a past long gone, but is still very much present. And it is everywhere. Women are these irrational human beings that need to keep their emotions under control to not let them take over. Men on the other hand, are moved by rationality: they are violent, yes, but rational. They can follow their instincts, we cannot. They are allowed to get angry because their anger is valid. Our anger is not. Dismissing our anger, our frustration, is functional to the survival of the patriarchal society. Not fitting into the box of the good, calm woman is problematic. Our anger is dangerous: the oppressed rage has always been a threat to the patriarchal capitalist society. Therefore, I strongly believe that we should allow ourselves to get angry, we should not dismiss our anger even if others do so. Our rage is legit. We have plenty of reasons to be angry at how we are treated, at everything that contributes to maintaining the misogynist and patriarchal structure of our society.

OUR ANGER IS REVOLUTIONARY RAGE OUR ANGER IS REVOLUTIONARY RAGE OUR ANGER IS REVOLUTIONARY RAGE

NOT ONLY DO I THINK THAT WE SHOULD LEGITIMIZE OUR FEELINGS OF ANGER AND RAGE, BUT WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND WHERE THESE FEELINGS COME FROM, WHY WE CAN ALLOW OURSELVES TO EXPRESS THEM. BY THAT I MEAN THAT WE SHOULD NOT JUST GET RANDOMLY ANGRY AT EVERYTHING, BUT THAT OUR RAGE CAN BECOME AN IMPORTANT MEANS TO FIGHT PATRIARCHAL OPPRESSION. WE NEED TO FIND OUR WAYS TO DIRECT THIS ANGER AND USE IT AS A DISRUPTIVE TOOL. I DO NOT HAVE ANY STEP-BY-STEP RECIPE TO FOLLOW ON HOW TO DO THAT. BUT MAYBE WE CAN START BY QUESTIONING EVERYTHING. QUESTIONING EVERY TIME A MAN CALLS US "CRAZY" OR TELLS US "TO CALM DOWN", OR NOT EVEN ADDRESSES US AND ASKS SOMEONE ELSE (PROBABLY ANOTHER MAN) TO CALM US DOWN. QUESTIONING HOW MEN AROUND US TALK ABOUT AND TO WOMEN. FROM A LARGER PERSPECTIVE, WE SHOULD REFLECT ON THE WORLD AROUND US, EMBRACE OUR ANGER AND TRANSFORM IT INTO RAGE AGAINST ANY FORM OF OPPRESSION. WE CAN USE THIS RAGE TO FIGHT IN OUR STREETS, IN OUR UNIVERSITIES, AND IN OUR WORKPLACES, AND LET IT BECOME REVOLUTIONARY RAGE.

USE THIS ANGER

'I HAVE NO CREATIVE USE FOR GUILT, YOURS OR MY OWN. GUILT IS ONLY ANOTHER WAY OF AVOIDING INFORMED ACTION, OF BUYING TIME OUT OF THE PRESSING NEED TO MAKE CLEAR CHOICES, OUT OF THE APPROACHING STORM THAT CAN FEED THE EARTH AS WELL AS BEND THE TREES. IF I SPEAK TO YOU IN ANGER, AT LEAST I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU' -
AUDRE LORDE, 'THE USES OF ANGER' (1981)

GUILT IS THE EVER-PRESENT, SPITEFUL FRIEND SITTING ON MY SHOULDER
IT'S EASY TO REACH, PANTING LIKE A DOG INTO MY EARS
IT'S THE FEELING I CAN TOUCH MORE EASILY IN CONFLICT, AND OUTSIDE OF IT AS WELL:

I FEEL GUILTY ABOUT MY ENTIRE EXISTENCE,
WONDERING IF THE SPACE I TAKE UP IN THE WORLD COULD BE FILLED BY SOMEONE BETTER.

I FEEL GUILTY FOR ALL THE PRIVILEGES I GET HANDED BY AN UNJUST SYSTEM.

I FEEL GUILTY THAT MY LIFE IS SO MUCH EASIER THAN THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE.

I FEEL GUILTY AND IN DOING SO I ROLL AROUND IN MY OWN EGO AND SELF-PITY.

SO?
WHAT DO I DO WITH ALL THIS GUILT?
WHERE DO I PUT IT?

AUDRE LORDE SAYS: GUILT IS USELESS - REACH OUT FOR YOUR ANGER INSTEAD.

ANGER KNOWS THAT THINGS COULD BE BETTER AND ACTS TOWARDS IT: ANGER IS A RUSH, A CONSTANT MOVEMENT, IT'S
A FIGHT,
IT'S THE UNSHAKEABLE BELIEF IN IMPROVEMENT
- IT DOES NOT SIT STILL, IT RUNS AND RUNS.

MY ANGER IS SHARED, IT IS COLLECTIVE,
A WARM FORCE THAT BINDS ME TO MY COMRADES AND MAKES US ACT, TOGETHER-
IT IS CARING.

GUILT IS SELF-CENTRED, IT IS ANGER THAT CENTRES THE OTHER.

SO LET'S LEAVE GUILT SITTING IN ITS PUDDLE OF CROCODILE TEARS
AND LET'S ALL TAKE THIS ANGER, TAKE THIS RAGE, AS HOT TO THE TOUCH AS IT IS,
LET'S TAKE IT AND FEEL IT ALL,
SHARE IT.

MAKE IT BREAK AND RUN THROUGH
MAKE IT TRANSFORM AND REBUILD
- THE REALITY AROUND US.



Education not War

Oskar Zach

The Government is planning to cut 1 billion Euros from higher education. At the same time, the military spending of the Netherlands is going up by 2,6 billion Euros.

How is the government screwing us students and young workers over with their new budget plan?

TAKING OUR MONEY...

On the 16th of September, the “prinsjesdag” (eng. “budget day”), VVD politician Bruins announced that there will be **severe cuts in higher education** state funding from the 1st of January 2025 onwards.

The cuts amount to 1.000.000.000€ in total, mostly affecting research grants and implementing a long-time study fine.

This fine is supposed to pressure students into finishing their study in three years and **give financial penalties if failing courses prolong the study**. How exactly this fine will look is still undecided, but what is certain is that it will lead to overworked students and **make it almost impossible to work while studying**, leading to **precarity and poverty for students**. The new plans also include a **significant decrease in international students** at the universities. This is not only bad news for international students, but also for the quality of education and research as it will be nationally limited. Not only are students affected by the planned cuts, but **staff will also receive less grants for their research and work**. Many **teachers will lose their jobs, while work facilities, teachers' pay, contracts and general working conditions simultaneously worsen**. The cuts in higher education will severely affect both staff and students at all universities and higher education institutions in the Netherlands, a group of several million people.

... SPENDING IT ON WEAPONS

At the same time that these cuts are being implemented, **the military spending of the Netherlands is being increased by 10%**. **2,6 Billion Euros** are additionally being allocated this year to the Dutch army, navy and air force and **each year another 1,5 Billion Euros of extra funding is going to be allocated**. This money is not coming from nowhere, and

It is us, the students and young workers that have to pay for the war machine.

Over the last year, the cuts did not only hit education, but also **the grants and support for young people and health care**.

The **student basic grant** was reduced by one-third from **465€ to 302€**.

The **health insurance support** was reduced from **154€ to 123€**, while at the same time, many health insurances increased their prices.

It is us, students and workers, that have to pay for the new F-35 fighter jets, the new tanks and drones, with our health and education.

The cuts in higher education serve the protection of capital, the war mongering and military industry and not us students and workers!

We want education, work and liberation, not war, genocide and oppression.

We need our student spaces! - demolition of the W&N building on VU campus - Ania

One of the oldest buildings on the VU campus is being torn down this year. The W&N building is over 60 years old, housing the Natural Sciences Faculty and providing space for numerous study associations on the ground floor. These communities have been a vital part of the campus life for over 25 years. However, following the demolition, study associations will be relocated to much smaller rooms, reducing their communal space drastically. VU had at first guaranteed 736 square meters, but went back on its promise and decreased the number to 350 square meters. This means spaces that are 2 to 3 times smaller. On top of everything else, the university board avoids giving clear information on the specific rooms that will accommodate the associations, prohibiting them from responding to these changes.

Why demolish the W&N building?

The stakeholders involved in the decision-making process for the Zuidas district have chosen to free the so-called 'underdeveloped' center of the area to realize their vision of a bourgeois finance and research hub. The soccer fields of SC Buitenveldert and VU campus stand in the way of these plans, so the university board traded land with the municipality, relocating the soccer fields to the space currently occupied by the W&N building to prepare the central part of the district for new constructions. However, only a maximum of 40% of this area will be allocated to social housing, despite the fact that municipal land is the most suitable and necessary location for such housing, especially given the housing crisis that is severely affecting students. While the renovation of the W&N building is set to improve campus facilities, it is evident that the overall plan prioritizes private investors' interests over the needs of students, especially when looking at the consequences faced by study associations.

The university board uses its power to undermine the students who have been at the forefront of social life – from organizing community gatherings, to offering cheap lunch alternatives, educational workshops and introductory events for new students. Study associations also provide career opportunities by arranging meetings with prospective work environments. This greatly benefits the university board by raising the prestige of the institution and attracting new students, with minimal effort on their side. We notice that the associations do not necessarily recognize the importance of class struggle. They tend to overlook the exploitative capitalist motives of the businesses that are taking advantage of students in such networking environments. However, their efforts are fostering strong student bonds and creating a powerful, cooperative community. This is necessary not only for our wellbeing on campus, but, as future workers, we have to encourage these bonds for creating a united workers' movement.

Why is this space so important?

Study association members, along with other students, feel frustration, deep concern and disappointment regarding the university's actions.

“We will get a space that is 2 times smaller, and we might have to share it with other associations. Nobody really knows yet.”

“Here, we can hold meetings with all members... Yeah, the new room is 3 times smaller.”

The university board's actions sabotage the organizational structures of student societies by reducing the meeting spaces and access to facilities. Can we be a part of the community if we sit on the other side of the door, because the room does not fit all the members? Where can we get cheap lunch if a fridge does not fit into the new room? Where can we spend our break if the space is taken away from us? This situation complicates scheduling with other study associations, sparking conflicts over limited space, hindering communication, and making it harder to access these areas. This is the recipe for destroying any student community.



Hiding from responsibility

It seems that the VU board has been getting comfortable in not responding to students' calls; they postpone important discussions to an unspecified date and hide behind empty promises long enough for everybody to forget about the issue. The same strategy was used to avoid mediations with VU for Palestine. But we won't forget our demands. Although the demolition plan has been talked about for over 10 years, the students' ability to respond was prevented, because the university board withheld crucial information about the relocation of associations' spaces. Last year, when the university board went back on its promise of 736 meters, the students sent a petition asking for a just allocation of space. They did not get any response.

Meanwhile, the university board is preoccupied with orchestrating a parade of moving vans for outdated lab equipment, as the natural sciences laboratories are relocated to a brand new research building, while the students stay in the old one. This shift creates a significant divide between faculty and students, further highlighting that the student body has never been a priority. We have to emphasize that the problem does not lie in the renovation of the building itself, as new research facilities are essential for students. However, the disregard for students' demands and the university board's withdrawal from responsibility shows that the university's loyalty lies with the bourgeoisie and benefits the investors, not us.

As the oppressive dynamics unravel, the associations and us, the students, can clearly see that the university board surrenders to the interests of investors, allowing them to shape the space according to their economic priorities. It fails to recognize the needs of the student community. This motivates the study associations to bring forward a collective struggle, fighting our interests as students. The university's dismissive actions serve as an example of how the capitalist institutions' goals are never supposed to serve the people. We are once again reminded that the campus does not belong to us, and our voices remain unheard when we ask for a fair guardianship of the space that we use and care about. This issue highlights that whether you are politically active or not, in a situation like this, you realize that you're being betrayed by a public institution serving private interests. Students are angry, and through this anger, we unite.



Magenta Heels: The Transgender Experience

By Ariana El Houti

**No one has ever truly loved me
And no one has ever truly wanted me
They want the image of me
And see nothing more than my body**

**This breaks me into pieces
And it messes with my head
I need to know your true intentions
If you're gonna be laying in my bed**

**I just wanna be held
I just wanna be loved
I wanna be seen as the woman I am
And I wanna be enough**

**I'm not an object of sexual curiosity
And I don't come for cheap
Nor am I a perverted fantasy
That you can dress up and keep**

**"What if everyone finds out?"
"What will the boys say?"
I don't keep myself a secret, baby
And your homies hit my line every other day**

**Yet I envy all the normal girls
For the attention they receive
So I deck myself out in pearls
And make sure all eyes are on me**

**I do it for the adrenaline
I do it for the kick
And since I get all the attention
This must be what womanhood is**



**But it doesn't feel good
And it doesn't feel right
I don't wanna have to play this part
For me to catch your sight**

**I try so hard with no success
And every time my heart breaks some more
So I try to make up for it
And pretend to be a whore**

**I get high to forget the loneliness
I get high to numb the pain
I tried to find the key to eternal happiness
But was it all in vain?**

**So here I go again
In those fucking magenta heels
Waiting for the catcalls
And wondering if this is how it feels**

**How it feels to be a normal girl
And how it feels to be treated like that
But I'm not the same as those normal girls
And I'm not at peace with that**



A Critique of Lesser Evilism

o.

US elections are coming up and many progressive Americans are struggling with the question of whether they should be supporting the Harris campaign against Donald Trump, especially considering the enthusiastic and bipartisan support for the genocide in Gaza. Nevertheless, since Biden disgracefully dropped out of the presidential race, handing over his spot to Kamala Harris, there has been a renewal of enthusiasm and support from many progressives for the Democrats' campaign.

The primary argument invoked in support of Harris is the necessity to “save democracy” in the face of her opponent Trump. We hear slogans such as “vote blue no matter who” and “if you don't vote for Harris you're voting for Trump”. So why is this election once again being labeled “the most important election of our life”? Because it will bring the end of liberal democracy and the rise of fascism, that is if we believe the Harris camp.

This leaves us with two questions. First, we have to investigate whether it is correct to characterize the Republican Party as fascist. Second, we have to investigate whether the democrats are a force that we can count on to oppose fascism.

Liberals who fear for the fall of liberal democracy following a win by Trump point towards the so-called “Project 2025”, a political project proposed by the Heritage Foundation, one of the most prominent conservative think tanks in the US. The original 800+ page document outlines a variety of policies to be implemented by the next Republican president, most importantly strong restrictions on the power of the administrative state, composed of government agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or the Federal Reserve (FED). Such policies would make the administrative state even more subservient to the executive than it is now, where the president directly appoints the highest offices within the respective government agencies. This essentially amounts to a loosening of restrictions on capital, allowing the propertied ruling class to wreck even more havoc on the environment and the living conditions of the working class. For example, if the President was given more direct control over the EPA they could increase the maximum amount of lead permitted in the groundwater, enabling capitalists who's factories produce lead as a byproduct to spend less on filtering, instead dumping it into the groundwater and increasing profits.

While this is certainly scary, it is important to highlight that Project 2025 can be implemented entirely within the bounds of US liberal democracy, begging the question why Republicans would even consider establishing a fascist government. This question is further underlined when we look at the emerging far-right parties within Europe, especially in cases such as the Netherlands, Italy, or Poland, where those parties are (or were) in government. In none of these examples liberal democracy has been abolished, and there is no indication that it will be under their current governments.

Fascism is capitalism in decay. It emerges once the liberal democratic system becomes too unstable for the ruling class to ensure a firm grasp on power, usually due to the emergence of widespread popular unrest, catalyzed by economic crises. We don't see any of this, which leads me to argue that, as of now, the liberal democratic system remains the most effective tool for the ruling class to hold onto power, especially because it relies on more indirect and invisible violence than fascism, thus making it more marketable.



The historical record of European far-right parties casts considerable doubt on the assertion that Trump will establish a fascist state, notwithstanding the fact that he didn't do so in his first term. Therefore, we should also consider the consequences of warning of a fascism that fails to materialize. In such a scenario, we would not only be seen as instrumentalizing the threat of Fascism, but also we would have wasted all resources mobilized to rally our base in support of alliances with liberals. Resources that could have instead been utilized for the socialist cause, for building organizations and structures that increase the working class's ability to wage effective class struggle.

As socialists, we cannot let ourselves be dragged into a debate on how humanely liberal democracy should be organized, especially considering that we know that liberal democracy itself breeds and necessitates fascism when faced with a serious threat to the capitalist mode of production. Instead, our fight is for the advent of socialism as the only viable economic system which is able to provide peace and prosperity to humanity. Considering the virtual absence of evidence that the US ruling class is facing a situation that necessitates fascism and the big cost of mischaracterizing the Republican party as fascist, supporting the Harris campaign as the "lesser evil" is a grave political mistake.

But even if we characterize the Republican party as fascist, we have to assess whether the Democrats constitute a political organization that can be depended upon in the fight against fascism. To investigate this we can turn towards the historical record of the Democrats, and more generally of the US political system, which seems to consist of two opposing parties with different ideas about how to run the country. But is this really the case? On the surface, it seems so: Harris' campaign website highlights issues such as "supporting American workers", "investing in affordable child care", and "restoring and protecting reproductive freedoms", certainly a break with the xenophobic and misogynistic rhetoric we see coming from Trump. But then again, in his last campaign, Biden pledged to get a \$15 federal minimum wage, cancel \$10,000 in student debt per student, and codify Roe v. Wade. None of these policies were implemented, leaving us wondering why we would believe the Democrats to deliver on their promises this time. Conveniently for the Democrats, there are always a few Democratic senators who end up voting against bills proposed by their own party, usually following a "compensation" (aka bribe) from various lobbying groups. These individuals then serve as scapegoats, while the Democrats can reuse their promises to implement progressive policies in the next election. In this sense, the US political system functions similarly to the good cop bad cop tactic, with the Republicans as the bad cop who has to be stopped by voting for the good cop, the Democrats. The Democrats actually have an interest in letting the Republicans pass reactionary, anti-worker legislation. This way, they can build their program on being the good cop without actually having to implement any of their progressive policy proposals or genuine pro-worker legislation, thus avoiding upsetting the Wall Street banks or big oil corporations which fund their campaigns and careers. As Julius Nyerere once said: "the United States is [...] a one-party state but, with typical American extravagance, they have two of them."

Behind this historical backdrop, it seems idealistic, if not delusional, to expect the Democratic party to stand in the way of fascization, considering it depends on reactionary republican policies to coerce the American voters into giving them their trust. As socialists, we cannot legitimize the liberal democratic system of the US by participating in it. Instead, our task is to agitate against this system by highlighting how liberal democracy is merely a democracy for the ruling class- a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, while building the organizational structures that enable the creation of a socialist state, and finally the global realization of communism.



I WANT YOU !!!

TO READ

THE GRAPES OF WRATH

-MARTINOS



Nowadays, the center of the imperial core, the United States, can easily be dismissed when thinking about or discussing radical politics. With the presidential and various other elections coming up next month at the time of writing, the two parties dominating the political scene are also dominating any discussion around the issue, apart from vague references to some 'third party'. This groups together the alternatives into an obscure category, where the various political parties that operate either at a local, state, or federal level, are rarely named, if ever. I'm not writing this piece about electoral politics in the U.S.

nor do I care much about any of these alternative parties, but it's important to point out how the discourse around mainstream politics shapes the public's consciousness of what can be considered possible to achieve. If any alternative option is placed within a vague frame of third parties, then it might as well be non-existent, keeping the average Joe hostage to choose who to vote for, Giant Douche or Turd Sandwich, as South Park beautifully put it. What's important to remember is that these parties are first and foremost serving the interests of the empire they're representing, and their encroachment of institutions runs so deep, that no electoral process can meaningfully change that. If anything can be achieved in the center of the imperial core, it has to come from elsewhere.

AT THIS POINT, TWO QUESTIONS EMERGE (PLUS A BONUS THIRD ONE, SEE IF YOU CAN GUESS IT BY THE END OF THIS PIECE). WAS IT ALWAYS LIKE THAT? IS THERE ANY HOPE FOR MEANINGFUL CHANGE?

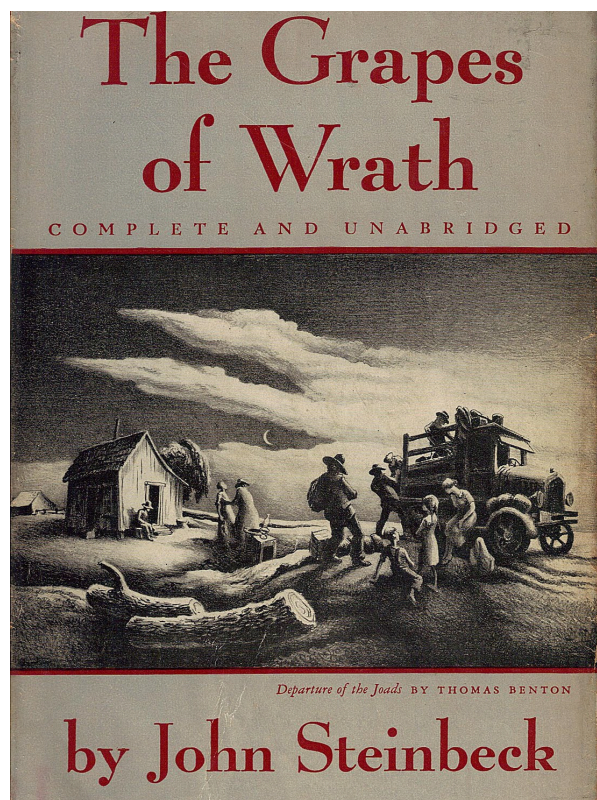
In answering these, a distinction needs to be made between the mainstream political landscape in the States, and the wider American public. If we look at the parties making up the country's "two-party system", it's quite easy to determine that yes, the situation has always been ridiculously bad. We don't have to go too far in the past to find ourselves in a time period in which the Democrats were the "right-wing" (pro-slavery) party and the Republicans the "progressive" (a little less lenient on slavery in comparison) party.

Yes the bar really was that low. There is also the absurd concept of party realignment, where certain voter demographics simply switch over to the opposite party. It is evident based on these facts alone that the mainstream parties don't have any values, don't hold anything sacred, they don't really stand for anything, other than bourgeois interests and serving the ruling-class of the empire. Of more concern is the steadfast rightward movement of the American political landscape (and of the global north in general). The Republicans introduce reactionary policy, the Dems fiercely oppose it while they're out of power, only to end up endorsing it once it's their turn in the White House and Congress. By the next election cycle it's no longer an issue, and the pattern begins anew. Finally, their imperial endeavors receive bipartisan, almost unanimous support, and the war machine keeps turning. The ongoing genocide in Palestine is the most glaring example, with the Zionist settler colony receiving unlimited support in funds, arms, munitions, and propaganda. So yes, on that aspect, the

situation has always been that bad. It should also be clear to everyone that there is absolutely no hope for any change, no matter who gets elected.

The empire must fall.

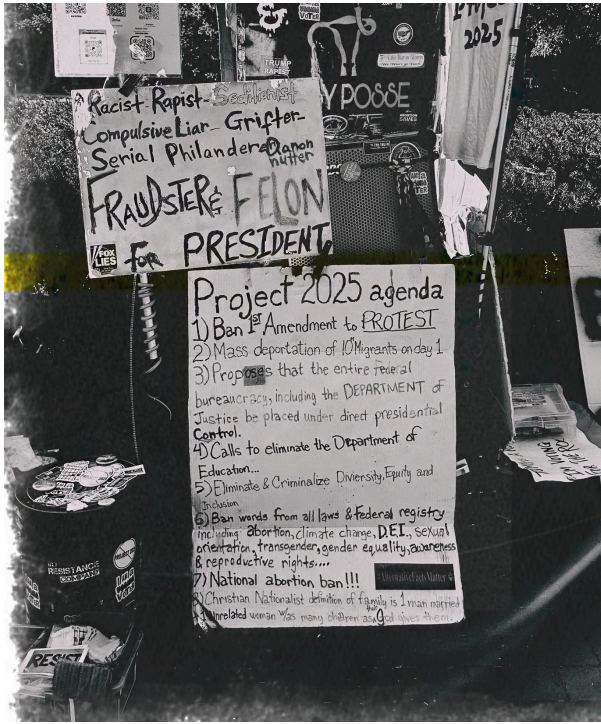
The political leadership of the country, however, is rarely an accurate reflection of its people. There's no need to avoid addressing the elephant in the room here; the US was built as a settler colony, founded on the genocide of the Native population of the continent. This inevitably shaped the societal make-up, with Europeans and their descendants assuming a central role. As such, the US as an entity has no alternative ending other than its dismantling, and anyone who does not acknowledge this supports the perpetuation of the empire. There are still some salvageable, radical elements in American society. Even if the movement, generally speaking, seems particularly weak nowadays, it hasn't always been like that. The indigenous peoples of the Americas, an often forgotten section of society, have shown time and time again their opposition to the American empire, with their adamant support of Palestinians being the most recent example.



The Black Panthers, a Marxist-Leninist organization, is another notable example of which the importance and achievements could be mentioned at length, but I want to focus on something else instead: radical literature. Although the media sector is controlled by the bourgeois, with Hollywood and publishing houses concentrated into a tiny number of monopolies, numerous radical works have managed to see the light of day. A few notable examples include Upton Sinclair's (1878-1968) *The Jungle* (1906), *King Coal* (1917), and *Oil!* (1927), depicting working-class life, poverty, and the harsh working conditions in the meat-packing, coal mining, and oil industries. John Steinbeck (1902-1968) also wrote extensively about the working-class and the Great Depression. *Dubious Battle* (1936) deals with harsh working conditions, exploitation, and the difficulty in attempting to unionize and organize a strike. *Of Mice and Men* (1937) depicts the challenges faced by migrating ranch workers of the era, and their aspirations to one day work for themselves and enjoy the fruits of their labor - breaking away from the exploitative wage labor.

All these ideas are more coherently and extensively explored in Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939). Devastated by the Dust Bowl and the economic crisis of the 1930s, having their farm repossessed, a family from Oklahoma begins the long journey to California, following the massive wave of westward migration. Through promotional flyers, they're promised work, high wages and a luxurious life. However, the problems start to appear early on in their journey, foreshadowing the crashing reality of false promises in the Golden State. The grandparents die on the road, while one daughter leaves the family with her husband. The author alludes to the growing individualization observed under capitalism, leading to the dismantling of the family. On the road, we come across disillusioned migrants on their way back from California, revealing the devastating reality they faced in California. Those still on their way refuse to be deprived of their bright future. They keep going.

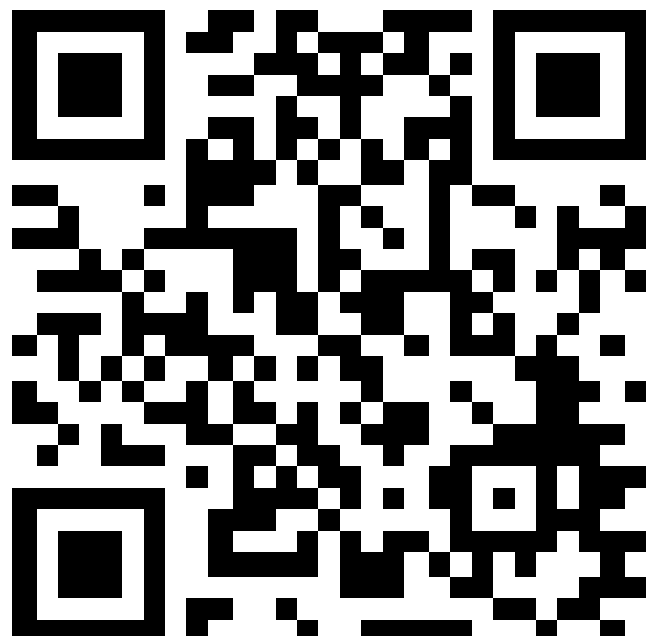
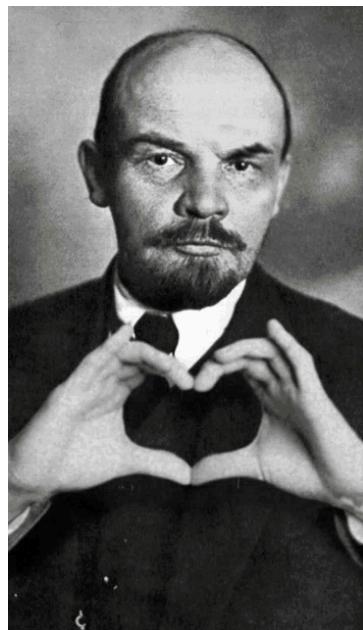




Once in California, reality comes crashing down on them. The poor migrants and workers from Oklahoma are called 'Okies' in a derogatory manner and face the locals' class-based discrimination, being barred from venues and services such as movie theaters. They come across 'Hooverilles' - shanty towns with horrid living conditions named after then President Herbert Hoover - populated by people withering away due to starvation. The oversupply of labor, exacerbated by the promotional flyers distributed by employers themselves to lure more workers, keeps wages down and forces the workers into fierce competition with each other for the breadcrumbs. The novel portrays the concept of the reserve army of labor, which allows employers to pay starvation wages. The inefficiency of profit seeking in the market is portrayed through the massive food waste enforced by producers, dumping huge amounts of produce to keep the prices high, while the workers picking that same produce going to waste are dying of starvation.

The essential component tying together the works I've mentioned is class consciousness, becoming the decisive factor with the potential of elevating the depicted characters out of their destitute. To answer the second question posed in this piece, the only hope for meaningful change lies within the people, the workers themselves. Gaining class consciousness is the decisive factor in this process. In various degrees of subtleness, literature can arouse class consciousness, situating theory within real life representations and situations. For me, reading *The Grapes of Wrath* some five years back initiated this arousal, so along with urging you to read theory and get organized, reading this novel should also be added to your radical bucket list.

BONUS THIRD QUESTION REVEAL: WHAT IS TO BE DONE? (READ LENIN!!!)



For the Students, Against the Capitalists: Rise Up and Reclaim Our University!

The University of Amsterdam's (UvA) response to the anti-kantine movement in March 2024 was striking:

"WE DO NOT PROVIDE FOOD, AS WELL AS WE DO NOT PROVIDE HOUSING"

This statement came in response to a student-led action where, for one week, students organized to provide free meals on campus.

The irony is hard to miss – how crazy is it that students want affordable food?!

The demands of the students were simple: we want healthy, affordable food on campus. The anti-kantine movement proved that it was possible to feed a large number of people without charge. Now, compare the anti-kantine movement, formed by a small group of people with very limited funds, to the University of Amsterdam; with its enormous access to resources and capital. Where does the money we pay for tuition go? The University of Amsterdam has an annual budget of 850 million euros. The last financial report the UvA shared with us shows a positive result of 19 million. Additionally, 190 million euros of the equity were earmarked as a general reserve. The general faculty reserves are well above the standard of 10% revenue established by internal financial management regulations. So, why does the UvA refuse to provide affordable food?



For the Students, Against the Capitalists: Rise Up and Reclaim Our University!

The answer is simple: **PROFIT**. The University of Amsterdam's main priority is not the well-being of its students. This is clearly demonstrated by its refusal to provide affordable food and housing and to issue permanent contracts to staff members, while simultaneously overworking them. The demands of students and staff are constantly overlooked and there is no access to decision-making structures. And, if, after being constantly silenced, students express dissent in the form of protests, they are violently repressed! The University of Amsterdam prioritizes generating revenue over meeting the basic needs of its students, which leads to a situation in which the tuition fees are high while essential services are lacking. The revenue that the University of Amsterdam generates does not go towards improving the situation of the students and staff (despite relying on their labor), but towards university administrators and shareholders.

But, dear reader, this is not a problem that is limited to the University of Amsterdam. The truth is that, in the system we live in, education is commodified, meaning that it can be bought and sold in the market, just like food and housing. These basic goods, which are a right that should be accessible to all, become a privilege reserved for those who can afford it. Every decision in a capitalist system is driven by one thing: the relentless pursuit of profit. The provision of basic needs will never be guaranteed if it threatens the capitalist's goal of accumulating wealth. This, tragically, is just as true for the University of Amsterdam.

If this truth fills you with rage, if it ignites a fire within you, then the path forward is clear. It is not enough to simply demand affordable food—you must organize against the exploitative capitalist system itself. Build unbreakable bonds of solidarity with your peers, stand united, and confront your exploiters together. We are the majority, and united, we hold the power to create real change. **The time for action is now!**

WHAT MAKES YOU **ANGRY** AT YOUR UNIVERSITY?

WE ASKED THIS QUESTION TO STUDENTS AND STAFF AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM AND THE FOLLOWING ARE THE RESPONSES THAT WE RECEIVED.

**NO SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS
OVERWORKED HYPOCRACY**

COFFEE PRICES

REACTION TO PROTESTS

PALESTINE

WORKLOAD CANTEEN PRICES

CUTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY

SUPPORT OF GENOCIDE

“There is no support from the University regarding sexual assault. It is impossible to report students for sexual violence.”

Margot, BSc Political Science

“You have to overwork yourself, and there is no way around it”

Kacper, BSc Political Science

“The long time study fee will put a lot of pressure on students and will make student life impossible. The same goes for the cuts of funding for higher education. It won't work and it will have devastating long term effects.”

Jelle, MSc Computational Sciences

“The Genocide in Gaza and the response by the university to the protest & encampments for Palestine.”

Ida, Student & Employee

“Angry because you are left alone in pressure to work on projects all the time and there is no space for a personal life and fun.”

Desiree, BSc Interdisciplinary Social Sciences



MANY OF US ARE ANGRY AT THE DISMAL RESPONSE OF THE UNIVERSITY TO THE ONGOING GENOCIDE IN PALESTINE, AND THEIR TREATMENT OF THOSE OF US WHO PROTEST FOR LIBERATION. THEY HAVE SHOWN TO BE A VESSEL FOR THE IMPERIALIST FORCES THAT TURN THE GEARS OF COLONIALISM - *AN APOLITICAL SPACE, THEY SAY, WHILE CUTTING TIES TO RUSSIAN INSTITUTIONS IN A HEARTBEAT.* THEY LABEL US AS ANTISEMITIC, DANGEROUS RIOTERS. THEY SHOW US THE SAME TREATMENT AN EXTERMINATOR SHOWS VERMIN - BULLDOZED TO THE GROUND, ARRESTED, SPIED ON. THEY PRIORITISE THEIR "ACADEMIC TIES" TO INSTITUTIONS THAT INNOVATE NEW GENOCIDAL TECHNOLOGY OVER THE TENS OF THOUSANDS KILLED; ERASED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH IN THE ZIONIST NAME.

WE MUST HOLD ONTO OUR RAGE.

THE HIGH CANTEEN PRICES ARE ALSO A FREQUENT POINT OF ANGER. WHY IS IT THAT THE UNIVERSITY DOES NOT CARE ABOUT ITS STUDENTS? THEIR CAPITALIST GREED RESULTS IN A PRIVATISED, EXPENSIVE AND INACCESSIBLE CANTEEN. THE ANTI-KANTINE MOVEMENT ON CAMPUS HAS PROVEN *TIME AND TIME AGAIN THAT IT IS FEASIBLE TO PROVIDE FREE MEALS TO STUDENTS.* IT IS THEIR ACTIVE CHOICE TO BARR THOSE OF US WHO CANNOT AFFORD 7 EURO RICE MEALS EVERY DAY FROM ACCESS TO FOOD ON CAMPUS. NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THE LACK OF SUFFICIENT STUDENT FINANCE WITH THE BUDGET CUTS DISPLAYS SO WHOLLY THEIR COMPLETE APATHY TOWARDS STUDENTS STRUGGLING TO STAY IN UNIVERSITY.

WE MUST NOT LET OUR ANGER DISSIPATE.

IN A FEW DIFFERENT WAYS, THE VOID OF STUDENT DEMOCRACY ON CAMPUS IS FELT WIDELY. FROM OVERLOADING STUDENTS WITH WORK, WITHHOLDING LECTURE RECORDINGS, NOT PROVIDING SUFFICIENT COLLABORATIVE SPACES - ALL THIS BOILS DOWN TO THE *HIGHLY BUREAUCRATIC STRUCTURE OF THE UVA.* THEY TAKE OUR VOICES AWAY, THEY SAY THAT THEY KNOW BETTER HOW TO STRUCTURE OUR OWN EDUCATION. THE FEW POCKETS OF STUDENT DEMOCRACY ARE SEVERELY RESTRICTED AND NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY.

THEY CAN TRY TO SILENCE US, BUT THEY CANNOT SUPPRESS OUR ANGER.

WE CHANNEL ALL THIS RAGE.

WE MUST FIND SOLIDARITY IN THESE STRUGGLES, FOR THEY ARE ALL CONNECTED. GET ORGANISED. START ACTING ON YOUR ANGER. DON'T LET THEM DIRECT IT INTO NOWHERE. STAY SENSITIVE TO BLATANT MANIFESTATIONS OF IMPERIALIST INJUSTICE.

IT IS NOT ONLY PRESENT IN ABSTRACT CONVERSATIONS IN LECTURES AND SEMINARS, IN OTHER COUNTRIES, FAR AWAY. IT IS ACTING HERE, RIGHT BELOW OUR NOSES, IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST.

MAY OUR REVOLUTIONARY RAGE MAKE THE RULING CLASSES TREMBLE.

***IN SOLIDARITY,
ROSA AND THE COMMUNITY***

Welcome to the central comiteee :)

On the 16th of September we had our General Assembly (GA) for the coming semester. In this GA, we legitimized our new Central Committee and passed the Resolution of Aims and Goals for the coming months. We want to give a warm welcome to our new Central Committee constituted by Brady (UvA Social Sciences), Nuria (UvA Social Sciences), Rose (UvA Humanities), Elia (UvA Humanities), Len (VU) and Maria (VU). We put our trust in these comrades to coordinate and lead us this year and make sure that we fulfill our goals and aims. We have noticed that war is spreading over the world and that anti-imperialist movements are gaining strength, while at the same time being more and more violently oppressed. The effects of imperialism are most aggressively visible in the genocides in Palestine, Congo and Sudan, but are also visible in the struggles in the Philippines and Kurdistan, and the war in Ukraine. But a growing resistance is reaching for liberation. We also see that these imperialist ambitions are connected to reaction and repression at our universities and lives as students in Amsterdam. The repression against resistance is most directly put into light in police violence, but also in the erosion of our democratic rights. Reaction is also growing in the form of social cuts for education, health care and student loans, as well as through heightened racism and sexism. Given that these struggles are interconnected, this semester we will focus on these imperialist contradictions, combat war mongering and support the liberation of oppressed nations. We want education, work and liberation, not war, genocide and oppression! These are the demands we want to carry throughout our struggles this Semester.

ANTIFA BOXING CLUB

have you ever dreamed of beating up a fascist? learn how with ROSA's ANTIFA boxing. come box with communists- get strong and get organized. no prior experience or strength level needed! join and forever be able to protect yourself from mansplainers and French art house cinemaphiles

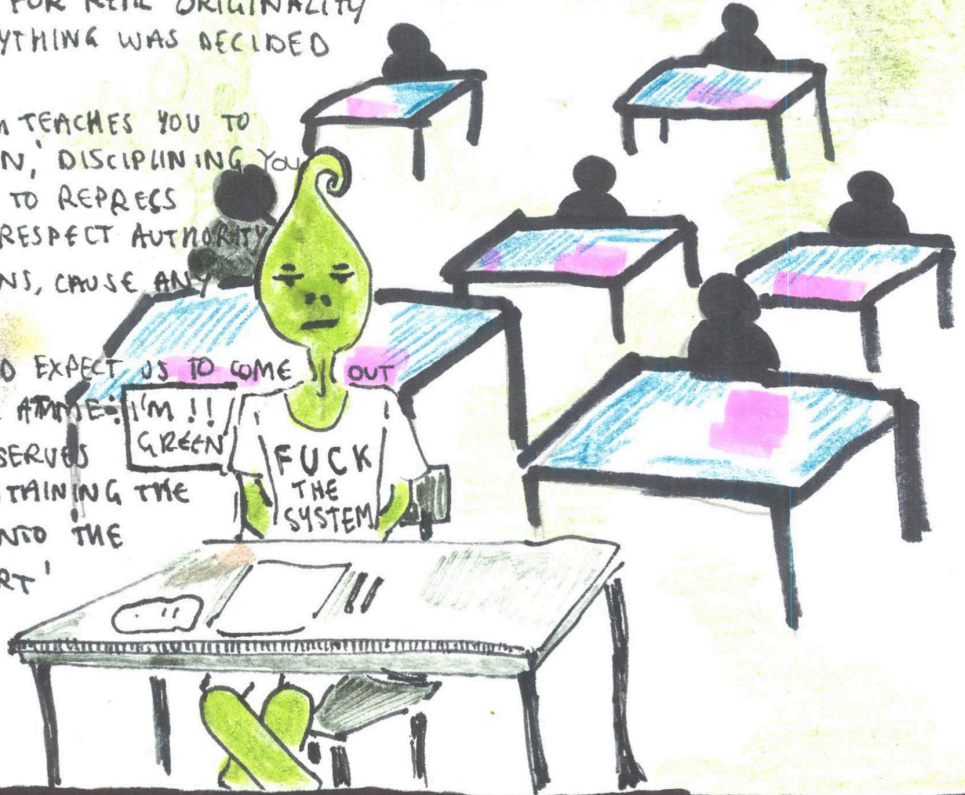


AT SCHOOL I WAS TAUGHT TO SIT STILL AND MAKE SURE I DIDN'T TALK TOO LOUDLY. THERE WAS NO SPACE FOR REAL ORIGINALITY NOR CREATIVITY. EVERYTHING WAS DECIDED ALREADY.

THE EDUCATION SYSTEM TEACHES YOU TO BECOME A 'GOOD CITIZEN,' DISCIPLINING YOU FROM A YOUNG AGE TO REPRESS 'EXTREME' EMOTIONS, RESPECT AUTHORITY AND NOT, BY ANY MEANS, CAUSE ANY DISRUPTIONS.

THEY PUT US IN A BOX AND EXPECT US TO COME OUT ALL THE SAME. BUT LOOK AT ME: I'M !! GREEN

THIS INDOCTRINATION SERVES THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO: GOING INTO THE WORKFORCE TO 'SUPPORT' ECONOMIC GROWTH & NATIONAL INTEREST. ONE SHOULD NEVER LOOK FARTHER.



1

LEBANON IS INVADED.
ISRAHELL STRIKES AGAIN:
DEATHTOOL INCREASES DUE TO U.N-NEUTRALITY AND COMPLICITY.

THE TALIBAN ORDERS WOMEN TO WEAR HEAD-TO-TOE CLOTHING IN PUBLIC. AFGHAN WOMEN ARE IN

DESPAIR

TRY PRAYING

FAR-RIGHT THUGS ATTACK MOSQUES IN ENGLAND

OUT OF DATE DOCUMENTS CHASES SINGLE MOTHER OF 3 FIRED FROM MULTI-BILLIONAIRE COMPANY WITHOUT NOTICE

my mother thinks I am being 'EXTREME'

'NEVER AGAIN': STUDENTS EXPELLED FOR PROTESTING GENOCIDE

40,000 CHILDREN SLAVES WORKING IN THE COBALT MINES OF CONGO IN TERRIBLE CONDITIONS FOR YOUR NEW ELECTRIC CAR BATTERY OR YOUR 50TH VAPE.

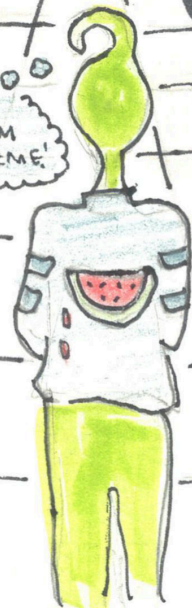
BUY NOW

MY MOTHER THINKS I AM BEING 'EXTREME'. NO HOPE FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH WHILST IMPERIAL POWERS ASSASSINATE EVERY LEADER THAT CARES OF THE PROSPERITY OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE.

OVER 500 DAYS PASSES SINCE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN SUDAN BEING BLOCKED, ETHNIC AND HUMANITARIAN AID AGAINST NON-ARAB GROUPS CONTINUE. 25 MILLION IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN AID. YOUR SILENCE PERPETUATES THE PAIN & FEAR

FANNING

2



I FEEL RAGE BECAUSE I FEEL SILENCED AND OPPRESSED.
 I FEEL LIKE I AM IN A COSTANT BATTLE
 BETWEEN EXPRESSING AND SUPPRESSING MY
 FEELINGS BECAUSE WHEN A THOUGHT
 CONTESTS THE STATUS QVO, IT IS WRONG,
 IMPOLITE, LOVD AND RADICAL.
 BUT THE STATUS QVO IS THE ULTIMA
 TE MURDER MACHINE THROUGH
 CAPITALISM AND IMPERIALISM.
 OUR REVOLUTIONARY RAGE WANTSDO
 SOCIAL INJUSTICES THAT DAILY AFFECT
 FIND OURSELVES SUPPRESSED AND
 STATE - WHO ARE WE RESPECTING WHEN
 THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION AND

WE MUSTN'T BE RESPECTFUL
 AND POLITE! COMMUNITY RAGE
 AS A CARRIER FOR MOURNING
 AND SOLIDARITY CAN BE A
 TOOL TO FIGHT.
 ALL TOGETHER, IT IS NECESSARY
 TO GET OUT OF CONTROL ③
 AND SCREAM YOUR RAGE!



DISRUPT THESE
 OUR LIFE, EVEN THOUGH WE
 CONTROLLED BY THE
 WE CONTROL OURSELVES?
 MANIPULATION?



WHY
 AREN'T U
 ENRAGED?



④





UPCOMING EVENTS

K.A.R.L (KITCHEN, ARTS & CRAFTS, AND RADICAL LEARNING)

17TH OF NOVEMBER

18:00 AT MKZ

MOVIESCREENING WITH UVA FILMCLUB: MATEWAN

14TH OF NOVEMBER

UNIVERSITY THEATER

VU GENERAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY

26TH OF NOVEMBER, 18:00



FIND US ON INSTAGRAM!

@ROSARADICALSTUDENTS

DO YOU LIKE OUR ZINE?

SEND A LETTER TO AN EDITOR:

RUN.ZINE@PROTON.ME