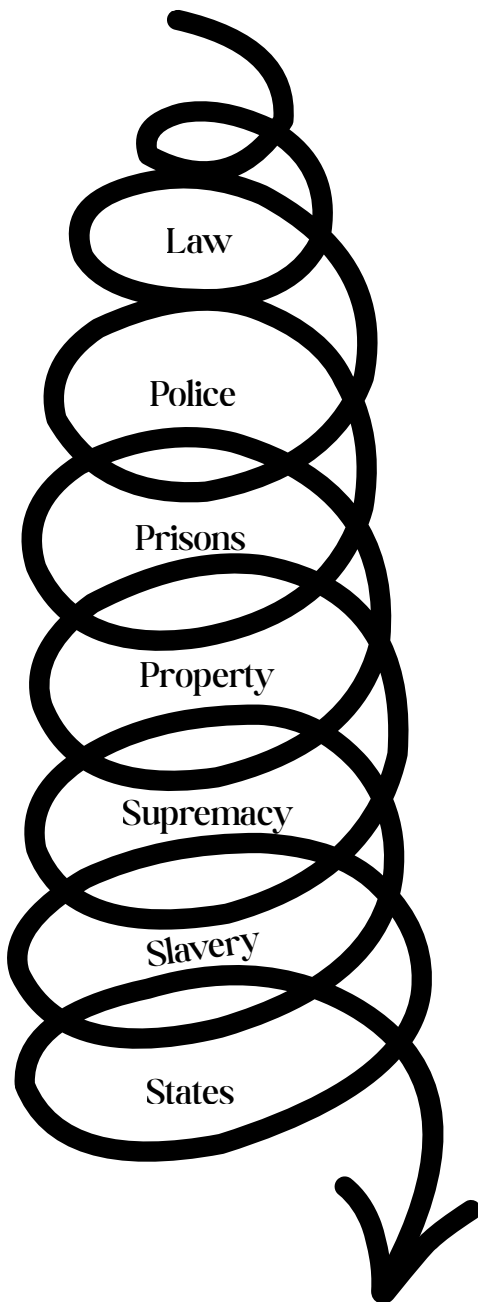


MOBILE BAY LABOR JOURNAL

Issue
#10

July, 2026

Break the downward spiral of domination.



Build the upward spiral of liberation

ISSUE #10

Mobile Bay Labor Journal

July 1st, 2026

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Go to our new website!

mobilebaylaborjournal.org

The event "Mutual Aid Celebration Day"
- advertised in last issue -
has been canceled.

By : rae

LEONARDO GARCIA VENEGAS

Leonardo Garcia Venegas v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security

On May 27, 2026 in Mobile, Alabama, Leonardo Garcia Venegas had a hearing for his lawsuit against the federal government. It challenges this current iteration of “immigration related” state abductions, border policing, and inhumane incarceration — all which is fundamental to the United States of Amerika.

He is a U.S. citizen who has been detained three times in Baldwin County, despite being born in Florida, a Robertsdale High School graduate, and a citizen with his REAL ID in his pocket. This case is a reminder that these horrific conditions require more than reform; government laws are enforced to control the public and are made to be broken by the government and its enforcers. It was truly upsetting to watch a man and his lawyers tirelessly explain why it is inhumane for him to be assaulted, kidnapped, and forced to prove “credentials” to validate his existence within Amerika.

On May 21, 2025, ICE officers arrived at a construction site, got out of the car, hopped over the fence (past a no trespassing sign), and chased Hispanic workers exclusively (Transcript, page 18). Leo was videoing his brother being detained at the construction site, and the video quickly became a video of his own detainment.



**straight from alea.gov: STAR IDs are
“SECURE, TRSUTED, AND RELIABLE”**

The video shows him being aggressively handled by an officer as he tells them he is a citizen. A third person perspective video from a coworker showed 3 ICE agents attacking Leo at once while his coworker also screamed “he’s a citizen”. The ICE agents ignored declarations of his citizenship from all angles, putting him on the ground and handcuffing him instead. We watched these videos over and over as his lawyers tried to highlight the ways DHS lied about these events within their testimonies.

As someone who was in the courtroom for 4 hours, I cannot unhear or unsee the panic of him and his coworkers pleading for justice from these cruel pigs who only cared that Leo was a Brown construction worker.

Leonardo Garcia Venegas
v.
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

The second time he was detained was on June 12, 2025, while he was finishing up final touches on a construction site by himself. Out of nowhere ICE agents came into both entrances of the house to arrest him. Again, failing to care about his citizenship status.

“Instinctively, I pulled my driver's license out to verify who I was. And they told me that it didn't matter; that I had to go with them so that they could verify that I was a citizen.”

(Transcript, page 24, Line 3-6)

On May 2, 2026 he was detained for the **THIRD** time. Officers in an unmarked car followed Leo on his way home from a store. They pulled him out of his car, shackled his hands and feet, and made him sit in their car. Around 30 minutes later, after they confirmed his citizenship status they conducted a drug search on his car. The story repeats: they profile him, deny his status, humiliate him, and leave him fearful that his citizenship will never be enough. These agents of cruelty have shown that even one's home is not a safe space.

Gehovani Alvirde-Ruiz, a fellow construction worker in Alabama who has similarly faced detainment, despite his status, gave testimony of his experience. Gehovani similarly was detained outside of his home in Jefferson County, despite showing his green card and social security card. He was then taken to an immigration jail because the officers did not trust his documents. While he waited, officers made comments about how realistic his “fake documents” were.

The most horrific part of this hearing was watching Philip Lavoie, Acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) of the Mobile, Alabama DHS Office unrelentingly preach that the ICE officers followed protocol and handled the first arrest appropriately, even when it was proved factually incorrect to all of us through the continuous replaying of videos from both angles. When asked about REAL ID, he showed a concerning amount of confusion around REAL ID protocol.

Leonardo Garcia Venegas v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(Testimony, page 86, lines 3-14)

Lawyer: Okay. But you would agree that the REAL ID Act -- that's just a federal law, right?

 : I'm not -- I believe it's a federal law. I'm no expert in REAL ID law, I should say.

Lawyer: Could you remind me what agency you work for?

 : Homeland Security Investigations.

Lawyer: And what agency does that fall under?

 : We fall under the Department of Homeland Security.

Lawyer: Are you aware of which agency administers the REAL ID Act and certifies REAL IDs?

 : Homeland Security?

Lawyer: That's correct.

It is impossible to unpack the 4 hours of the hearing that I watched, to explain the anger I felt as I listened to Lavoie and the government's lawyers, the looks of outrage that Leo's supporters communicated to each other in the silent room. In real time, we saw the government in their fancy suits say things that make absolutely no sense. Giving us all secondhand embarrassment as they attempt to justify their inhumane actions and practices. While we must all support Leo's case in every way we can, this cannot be the end. Our fight against borders must be local, national, and international. The colonial attack on Black and Brown immigrants on land occupied by settler colonies reaches farther than the limits of Alabama and the fake borders of Amerika.

Abolish ICE! Abolish prisons! And free all of our incarcerated community members!

Sources

Legal complaint: <https://ij.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Alabama-Construction-Raids-Complaint.pdf>

Institute for Justice summary:
<https://ij.org/case/alabama-construction-site-raids/>

Transcript:
<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/28214973-052726a-garcia-venegas-pi/?mode=document&q=Philip#document/p10>

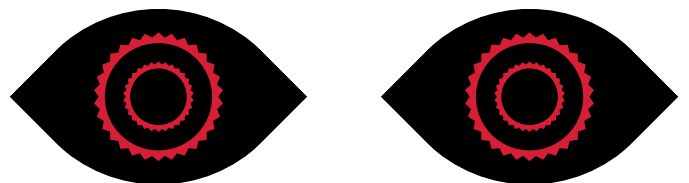
READ BETWEEN THE LINES

A Guide to Leftist Media Literacy

By Gracchus

In my previous article for our May 2026 issue, “Johnny Bowman Did Nothing Wrong”, I briefly touched on the way in which media frames information. I would like to continue that conversation here with a brief essay on media literacy. Today, we are constantly bombarded with media, consuming it, willingly or not; actively or passively, like bacchanates and satyrs. Americans of all classes are gluttons in this respect. It is a topic of heavy debate as to whether our frenzied, gluttonous state is that of ignorance or enlightenment. Are we vastly more informed than our ancestors, or are our senses overloaded to the point of exhaustion and indecision? Are we ascending to omnipotence, or falling before the altar of Dionysus?

In the modern age of allegedly impartial media, bias is represented as ignorance at best, and perfidy at worst. Every major news outlet purports itself as the unbiased Truth, neutral observers of the comings and goings of society. I will tell you that this is obstinacy and vanity. All people are biased, as is that which they create. Bias is not a problem in and of itself, but becomes one when it is concealed or misrepresented as impartiality. Impartiality is not a gold standard to which all must be held, but one of many lenses that should be utilized.



Oftentimes, people are biased because they are passionate about the topic at hand. This bias may appear in many ways, even in the presence of facts. It is not only the presence of opinion, however well informed, but can betray itself in what facts are presented, as well as how they are presented. In other words, bias can be not only the omission of information, but also the manner in which it is framed. Again, this is not in and of itself problematic, but becomes so when it is represented otherwise.

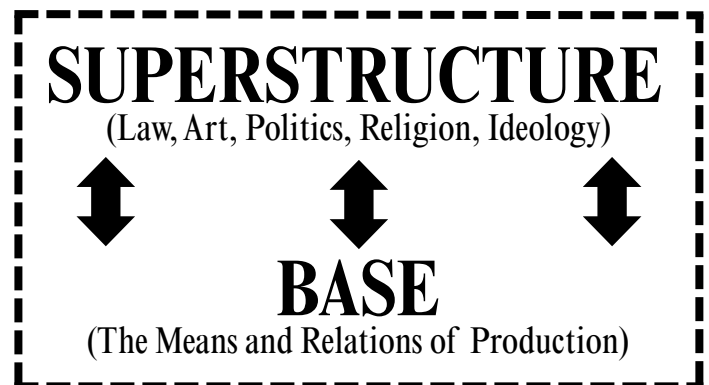
The *Mobile Bay Labor Journal* is a biased publication, and intentionally so. We write and publish what we do because we believe in its efficacy and truth, however we freely admit to being a left-wing outlet. We will not represent alt-right or conservative viewpoints in the interest of maintaining impartiality, however, if our readers are inclined to entertain such views they can pick up some rag such as Fox News or 1819 News to their own detriment. We may, at times, utilize impartiality to present the raw facts of a given matter or topic, but those facts are just that, raw. They have little to no value if not interpreted.

My aim here is not to provide our readers with a stale and dogmatic list of what media they should and should not consume, but rather a metric by which all media, including this publication, might be held. All media is biased and presents its consumers with sets of facts which are either pre-interpreted or framed in such a way as to guide the consumer towards a particular interpretation. A good writer is not a passive observer within a panopticon, but rather a shepherd. Well informed, well equipped readers have the tools at their disposal to understand where they are being led to, and therefore the

ability to stray from the path if they choose.

Base and Superstructure

The most fundamental and basic tool a modern reader has to parse through the daily deluge of information is the concept of base and superstructure. This concept was originally posited by Karl Marx, and later refined by Friedrich Engels, to explain how culture reinforces modes of production, though not in a strictly causal way. In short, the base is defined as the economic structure of society, consisting of both the means and relations of production. The current base is neo-liberal industrial capitalism. The superstructure is defined as the cultural sphere, encompassing law, art, politics, ideology, and even religion.



The base essentially creates the character of the superstructure, though the relationship between base and superstructure is two-way. Just as the mode of production influences society and culture, so too does society and culture influence the mode of production. Other theorists, such as Antonio Gramsci, further developed this concept to emphasize that the model is not static or hierarchical. Base and superstructure as they are interpreted here are in constant flux where the dominance of one over the other changes based on material conditions.

Why is this important? As D. Musa Springer explains in their essay “A Materialist Guide to Media Literacy”, understanding that mainstream media (i.e. corporate funded media) is part of the superstructure, and therefore influenced by the base, allows us to truly understand the role media plays. Media is not solely confined to news outlets, it is music, theatre, film, advertisements, etc., it is, in short, culture. All of those forms are shaped by ideological and economic motivations. Media is a means of disseminating ideas. This is a unique function as ideas shape cultural norms, perspectives, and ideologies. Antonio Gramsci developed the concept of cultural hegemony, which essentially states that the ruling class uses media (as well as other aspects of culture) to reinforce its own power.

Springer quotes Walter Rodney to further drive home their point on what corporate media is. To paraphrase their example, the proliferation and adoption of racism and white supremacy is a product of European capitalism, which found great success in the exploitation of the African continent. The deeply racist views that were widely disseminated throughout European society in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries (and beyond to today) regarding African society were justifications for the exploitation of the continent and its peoples. This can also be seen in the Americas through the Spanish Casta system and the French Code Noir. Colonial exploitation of indigenous peoples and black Africans pre-existed the legal framework that would come to define European colonialism, the legal codes not emerging until the 17th and 18th centuries respectively.

Once the exploitation proved profitable and a sustainable way of propping up colonial power structures, it was codified into law. From there, the laws often became the invisible cultural norms governing society. In this way, white supremacy and all forms of media that perpetuate it can be understood as tools to uphold existing power structures. The power structure itself may somewhat change, moving from the old metropole to the formerly colonial elite in the case of the Americas, but the ruling class which insists on it and is protected by it remains largely the same.

Understanding that media is not separate from power structures, but is instead a core mechanism of establishing and maintaining them is critical. This should immediately explain, to some extent, the ways in which events such as the Ferguson protests in 2014 or the George Floyd protests in 2020 were covered. These events, smaller pieces of the larger Black Lives Matter movement, were incredibly destabilizing to the power structure of the US state, calling into question racial policies, police militarization, and use of force by law enforcement. This was not the narrative perpetuated by corporate media, however. Instead many outlets sensationalized violence and looting on the part of the protesters while downplaying, or outright ignoring, the broader context behind the unrest. This is by all definitions intentional. Corporate media thrives under the current system, and is even created by it. Why would corporate media advance narratives which question the current system, and by extent itself?

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The Propaganda Model

The bottom line of every major media outlet is profit. It is incredibly difficult and time consuming to produce media of any kind, and often the production quality of media influences its success far more than its content. Think of how often you have started listening to a podcast or watching a video only to turn it off because the audio quality is intolerable. What is more engaging, a video of someone simply speaking towards a camera, or one with zany animations and cutaways? Quality audio and animation take time and dedication to produce. They are worth the cost in time and money, but may be out of reach for smaller independent outlets.

News outlets especially are not known for large profit margins, in fact they are notorious money sinks. Many of the earliest newspapers operated at a loss and survived on free labor or wealthy benefactors. However, early mass media pioneers understood this as an investment. Early newspapers may have operated at a loss, but they were highly effective in disseminating information. The money lost in operating them was often in the larger pursuit of purchasing public opinion, even as smaller independent outlets focused on informative pursuits.

Today, we can see this in the form of advertisers. How do large corporate media outlets afford “top tier” journalism, cutting edge graphics, high tech equipment, and large salaries? They sell advertisement space. In this way, the entities that purchase these advertisements have immense control over what media outlets publish. Media outlets cater their content to what advertisers find acceptable or profitable. This can manifest in a variety of ways, from media choosing to avoid certain topics deemed too

controversial, sensationalized reporting, discussion panels drawn from unqualified experts, and even controlled opposition figures making interview and panel circuits.

This forms the basis of the propaganda model of communication, which is further expanded upon in *Manufacturing Consent* (1988) by Edward S. Herman and Noam Chomsky. The model is fleshed out through the recognition that once a particular media outlet has grown large enough, size being a representation of invested capital, it begins to receive privileged access to certain sources such as White House press briefings, as just one example. If a media outlet runs afoul of these privileged sources they may be excluded, which can impact viewership and advertisement revenues, thereby influencing how certain sources are approached.

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Finally, there is the lens of anti-communism, which unites corporate media across the board. Yes, CNN and MSNBC may be opposed to the Trump administration, but they do not alter their coverage to favor working class politics or give any serious weight to anti-capitalist views. The common enemy is the overturning of the current corporate backed system, the spectre of socialism. Both liberal and conservative media have contributed to the ANTIFA scare of recent years, as well as deriding unspecified populism during the primaries preceding the Clinton-Trump race. Neither side will openly recognize the true extent of their corporate backing, nor take the moral stand of stepping away from it.

The infernal union of liberal and conservative media can best be seen in the response to the 2019 political crisis in Bolivia, please indulge me in this brief field trip. As the 2019 Bolivian general election approached, incumbent president Evo Morales of the Movimiento al Socialismo (Movement for Socialism, abbr. MAS), sought a controversial fourth term. While far from a perfect leader, and certainly controversial in many respects, Morales and MAS had used the previous three terms to advance workers rights, build a sustainable welfare state, and empower indigenous peoples. Despite being a majority indigenous country, the indigenous peoples of Bolivia have had a long and difficult road to political power, with Morales being the first indigenous president in 2011.

The 2019 general election is mostly remembered for the ensuing political crisis, which was set off by what has been termed irregularities in vote counting. As votes were initially counted, Morales was lagging behind in the polls and after a

brief interruption in counting he surged ahead with a clear majority. The first votes to be counted were from metropolitan and urban areas, where MAS has the least support. The sudden surge is explainable by the rural votes, which take longer to process, being counted. The bulk of support for MAS is in the rural areas of Bolivia. Both liberal and conservative media in the US labeled this as clear manipulation and condemned Morales, citing the Organization of American States's (OAS) report on the election. The OAS is a multinational organization headquartered in Washington DC and founded in 1948 for the explicit purpose of fighting communism in the Western hemisphere, far from an impartial body. The aim of this reporting was not to provide an impartial transfer of information, but to generate domestic support for what became a US backed coup against a popularly elected socialist government in a foreign country.



Read Between the Lines

I feel that in closing I should reiterate my overall point. Readers would be doing themselves a disservice by completely avoiding corporate media. High production quality can be extremely appealing, and those who wish to produce their own media can learn a lot from examining big budget outlets. Just because something is objectionable in content does not mean that its aesthetics and methods are without merit. Corporate news outlets retain privileged access to certain sources. While this privilege is granted as a means of control, that does not mean that every last syllable of the reporting should be ignored. Corporate media often publishes stories as they are happening, or at least long before some independent outlets may be able to. In fact, many independent outlets and writers use corporate media as source material, though with a healthy dose of skepticism.

My intention is not to say that the Mobile Bay Labor Journal is the unequivocal truth and the only source of media that should be trusted, this extends to other sources as well. Corporate media is unavoidable and instead of shunning it altogether, readers should have the tools at their disposal to critically engage with all forms of media and form their own opinions on the topics presented. All good, or rather proficient, writers use the same toolbox. It is the ends to which these tools are used, not the tools themselves, that prove problematic.

.....

Recommended Reading

A Materialist Guide to Media Literacy (2025),
D. Musa Springer

Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media (1988),
Noam Chomsky, Edward S. Herman

Inventing Reality: The Politics of News Media (1993),
Michael Parenti

How Europe Underdeveloped Africa (1972),
Walter Rodney

Prison Notebooks (1947) (1971 - English),
Antonio Gramsci

A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy (1859)
Karl Marx

The Sublime Object of Ideology (1989)
Slavoj Žižek

Be Aware of Framing

Framing is possibly the most vital tool a writer has. The way in which information is presented directly influences how readers/viewers interpret it. This can be subtle or direct. Was Johnny Bowman brought out of his property, or was he taken away in an ambulance? Both are technically true, but tell a very different story. Similarly, pay attention to accompanying pictures. When someone is accused of a crime is the media outlet showing happy pictures of them with their family, or a mugshot? Why?

Examine the Sources

This should be somewhat self-explanatory. The sources used in crafting a piece of media will drastically impact what information is presented and how. If a news article relies solely on quotes from law enforcement officers, it will heavily favor their point of view. If a piece of media is highly reliant on government sources which are not questioned, it is effectively a statement by that government, which is not at all impartial.

Beware of False Balance

Just because there are two sides to an argument or debate does not mean that both sides are equally valid. Sometimes both sides are presented as equal in an attempt to maintain impartiality, other times it is a deliberate attempt to misdirect people. The most often cited example of this is the climate change debate. The fact that climate change is referred to as a debate or controversy is a false balance. One side is drawing from decades of hard research and expertise while the other side is rambling on about baseless conspiracy theories. These are not equal.

Be Aware of Profit Motives

Always question how a media source is able to function, especially if it is motivated by profit. Wherever the money comes from is who that outlet is beholden to. Outlets that generate the majority of their revenue through advertisement will cater to their advertisers over concepts like integrity or morality. Profit motives often drive false balance and manufactured controversy. Corporate media will often platform dangerous or fringe views alongside more rational speakers to drive viewership, which increases advertisement revenue. News outlets have little stake in platforming climate change deniers, anti-vaxxers, and anti-LGBTQ+ spokespeople other than it is controversial to do so, and people will watch the controversy. This legitimizes harmful rhetoric which fuels societal divides.

Engage Critically

Always engage the media from your own standpoint. Do not accept everything that is written or presented as fact, but instead question it and demand verification. Do not analyze through emotion alone. Ask yourself why information is presented and why it makes you feel the way that it does. Question everything and analyze information through not only your own established knowledge, but also through opposing viewpoints.

Research the Author

This cannot always be done but is a good practice, especially if it is an author you engage with often. What other media have they produced? What outlets are they associated with? What views do they espouse in interviews or on social media? What is their life story? Thoroughly researching an author can provide vital context to any work that they produce and potentially expose bias that might otherwise go unseen.

PRISONERS ARE WORKERS

TOO!

Incarcerated workers in the Alabama Prison Industrial Slave Complex (PISC) have for years went on strike in protest to the deplorable, unsanitary, and unsafe working conditions and for wages. The organization Inmates For Action (IFA) actually staged a strike in 1971 in protest of the conditions and absence of wages. The PISC from its inception was/is the continuation of the chattel slavery-convict leasing era, enabled by the 13th amendment of the u.s. constitution prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude "except as punishment for a crime". More people in prison means more forced labor means more profits, which is what it is all about. In Alabama, most prisoners do not have jobs. But entire prisons are operated by prisoners, so as to avoid having to pay outside salaries and hire outside staff.

Prisoners do the cooking, cleaning, plumbing, electrical, etc. Those who are paid are paid pennies because they don't have to pay us minimum wages or abide by health and safety standards. Pay ranges from \$8-\$80 a month. At the prison I'm at now, prisoners are paid \$2.00 a day and haven't been paid in the last three months.

On the outside, one supposedly has the right to unionize and engage in collective bargaining.

by: Michael Kimble

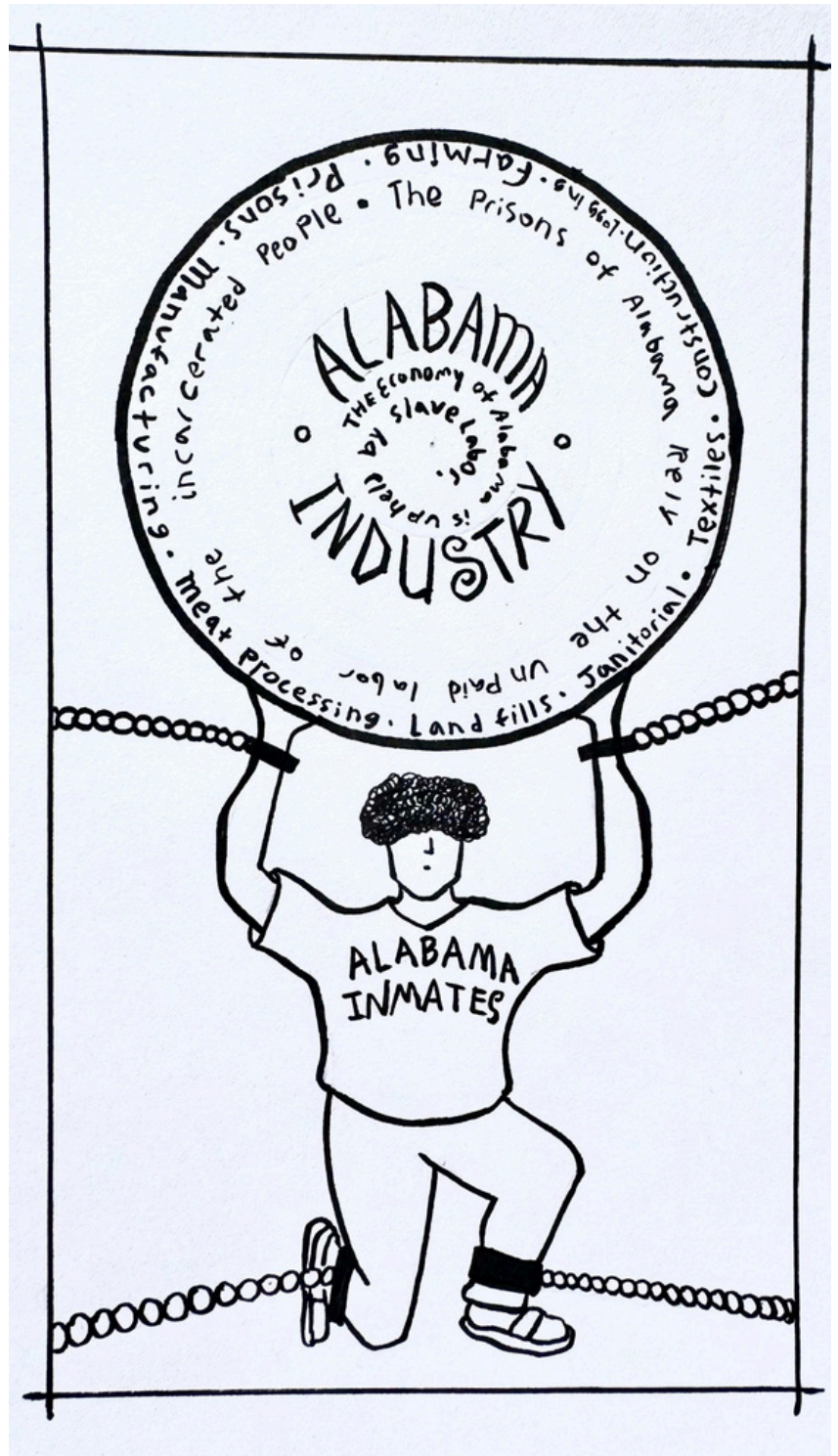
Inside the PISC we have none of these rights at all. This shows the true nature of the PISC. In 1883, approximately ten percent of Alabama's revenue came from convict leasing, and state-run mines exceeded \$3 million. This practice continues today with what's called carceral imperialism, where private business has found new markets for everything from candy, tennis shoes, toilet paper to even food within the prisons. They have extended their bloody and greedy tentacles into the prison economy. We must remember what W.E.B. Du Bois said

**slavery was ended
by a general strike
when Black
workers walked off
the plantations.**

PRISONERS ARE WORKERS TOO!

Organized labor has historically neglected incarcerated workers, but in recent years the organized labor movement has played a major role in prisoner resistance here in the south. During the 2015-2016 work strikes here in Alabama, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) became involved in solidarity actions in support of striking prisoners in Alabama. From this, the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee was born.

The slaves of yesterday had the abolitionist movement to help them do battle. The slaves of today (incarcerated workers) and organized labor can bring this greedy beast to the ground with a general strike today. Workers of the world must unite. One weapon all workers have in common, whether they be incarcerated or not, against this beast is the withholding of our labor power and bring a halt to the exploitation going on in the name of society. Incarcerated workers and the organized labor movement needs to build a united front. No longer can organized labor continue to be silent in the face of the exploitation of incarcerated workers. Abolition Now!



THE MORE THINGS CHANGE

**How Old Mobile Money
Built a \$93 Million
Data Center Out of a
Bankruptcy Scrap Heap**

**THE MORE THEY
STAY THE SAME**

Article by S. Chandler

Art and Photos by Gracchus

There is a parcel of land at 214 Telegraph Road in Prichard that nobody thought was worth much of anything for the better part of a decade. It sat next to a working telecom facility, behind a chain link fence, abandoned. In 2024 a company called Edged Energy looked at it and saw dollars. The land didn't change. The story behind who controls it did, and that story is worth telling, because every piece of it explains the next one.

It all starts with a bankruptcy.

McLeod USA was an Iowa telecom company that built fiber infrastructure across the Gulf Coast, including a switching facility at 208 Telegraph Road. McLeod went under. In bankruptcy liquidations, the valuable stuff gets kept and the leftovers get sold for whatever somebody will pay. The adjacent parcel at 214 Telegraph went for \$33,000 in 2011 to a man named Mark A. Haynes.

The detail nobody in Prichard was handed at any community meeting? Mark Haynes was not a random bankruptcy speculator who happened to be paying attention to a liquidation docket in Iowa. Mark Haynes incorporated a company in Mobile in 1984 called Coastal Inter-City Health Services. He served as its registered agent for twenty five years. The man who is listed as the current registered agent of that same company, Michael David Langan, took over for him in 2009.

In 2013, two years after the bankruptcy purchase, Haynes sold 214 Telegraph Road to a company called Earthworx Environmental Services for \$61,873, nearly double what he paid. Earthworx, run by Noel C. Moser Jr., claimed an environmental remediation purpose. Documented evidence that any remediation ever happened remains elusive. This makes sense, because nobody buys a telecom switching building with raised floors and redundant power when they're in the business of cleaning up contaminated soil. They buy it because it sits next to a fiber hub.

Three years after that, in May 2016, in a single month, the Moser family formed a new company called TranSouth Holdings LLC, and Earthworx transferred the Telegraph Road parcel internally to TranSouth for \$80,000. Same family, different shell, a little more markup baked into the paper trail. TranSouth still owns it today. TranSouth is the entity Edged Energy wants to buy from.

\$33,000 from a bankruptcy fire sale to \$93,000,000 on the table thirteen years later. Nobody at any of those three transfers told the people of Prichard what they were sitting on.

While all of that was happening on Telegraph Road, a different story was unfolding at the crumbling 1905 mansion sitting on 962 Government Street in Mobile. The building is gorgeous on paper. Architect George B. Rogers, 4,600 sq. ft, the kind of historic property that exists specifically to receive state and federal historic tax credits. The building today is gutted. No windows. No doors. No interior. Just a shell. It sits on the City of Mobile's nuisance abatement list, on the demolition track, and it has been there since at least 2017.

According to the deed history, a Mobile County probate sale in June 2015 sent the property to a man named Kevin A. Cross for \$7,885. Cross flipped it in November to a man named Jean Marc Prescott for \$13,262. One month later, in December 2015, a company called 962 Government Street LLC took the property from Prescott through a vendor's lien foreclosure valued at \$159,900. Ten weeks after that, in March 2016, Prescott sold the same property to Noel C. Moser Jr. for \$35,000, a paper loss of \$124,900 in under three months.



962 Government St.,
currently for sale.

Jean Marc Prescott is not a stranger to the Moser family. Property tax records show Prescott paying taxes on Brenda Moser's property out in Wilmer. He was inside this family's orbit before he ever touched 962 Government Street. He is, by every indication available in the public record, a pass through. So is Haynes. Two men, two separate property chains, both functioning as the hands that hold the asset for a few months before it lands where it was always going.

The Mosers sold 962 Government Street in September 2017 to a company called Spring Hill Insurance Company for \$59,931. Spring Hill Insurance is the family company of Michael David Langan. His father was Joseph N. Langan, finance commissioner of Mobile for sixteen years, mayor of this city more than once, a colonel who earned a Bronze Star in two wars, and one of only two members of the Alabama legislature who voted against the Boswell Amendment, a law built specifically to keep Black Alabamians from voting. Mobile named a park after him.



Here is where the threads cross. Mark Haynes, the paralegal whose name sits at the bottom of the Telegraph Road bankruptcy purchase, has spent four decades inside corporate structures controlled by the Langan family. And the Langan family company is the one that bought the condemned Mobile mansion straight from the Mosers.

In October 2020, two deeds recorded on the same day moved 962 Government Street through a Mobile historic preservation consultant and into an LLC organized by a Birmingham real estate developer named John Chapman, who has no documented presence in Mobile otherwise. \$72,000 changed hands in one deed, \$135,000 in the other, same day, back-to-back. That is not how regular people sell houses. That is how a historic tax credit deal gets structured at closing, with the consultant taking title for an instant before passing it to the investor entity. The credits that structure exists to generate were never claimed. The building never got fixed. It got worse.

Keisha Lee Burks bought it in November 2021 for \$175,000. She has been trying to sell it since 2025 for \$199,000. Nobody has bought it. And then, on December 30th, 2025, Spring Hill Insurance Company sold the property one more time, for \$180,000, to Michael D. Langan himself, acting as trustee of a memorial scholarship fund for military veterans. Five days later, on January 5th, 2026, the Alabama Secretary of State recorded Spring Hill Insurance Company as dissolved.

The company's final act, before it ceased to exist, was selling an asset to the man who ran it. You do not accidentally dissolve a company five days after its last transaction. You plan that.

This is not the Moser family's first rodeo. Public records produced not one but TWO Alabama Department of Revenue tax liens against Noel Moser Sr. in the 1990s, as well as a Mobile City Council vote in 1999 that pulled Moser Automotive's towing license off of the city rotation list for charging customers \$260 in a city where the ordinance capped the fee at \$75. Noel Moser told the Mobile Register his brother Brad ran the company with him, that the city's ordinance was unconstitutional, and that they were going to sue. The Council President told him to go ahead.

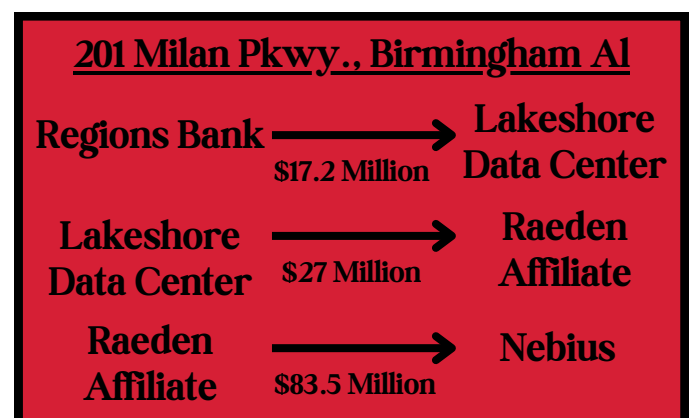
Brad Moser, meanwhile, had his own date with a courtroom. In 1996 a couple named Crayton sued him after he took possession of their property through a vendor's lien deed and then simply stopped paying. He blew through three different attorneys, refused to give the court his own address, and got hit with a \$23,193 default judgment for what the court called his willful failure to comply with discovery. He appealed. He lost. The Alabama Court of Civil Appeals affirmed it in 1998 and denied his request for a rehearing that December.

Add to that an entity called Prayer Center Network, incorporated in 2018, registered to a residential house at 169 Saint Stephens with no church, no website, no public ministry activity, and no 990 filings on record anywhere. Noel Moser Jr. is its director.

This family has been running the same play for sixty years. Take something, hold it through a maze of shell entities, let government oversight lag a decade or two behind the paperwork, and cash out when the market finally catches up to what you already knew you had.

If any of this sounds familiar to anyone who has been following the data center boom across Alabama, it should, because Birmingham is currently in federal court over almost the exact same maneuver.

Nebius, the Amsterdam based AI company spun out of the ashes of Yandex, wanted a data center site in Birmingham. A building at 201 Milan Parkway sold three times in roughly twenty five hours at the end of September 2025. From Regions Bank to a company called Lakeshore Data Center for \$17.2 million. Lakeshore to a Raeden affiliate for \$27 million. Raeden affiliate to Nebius for \$83.5 million. Sixty seven and a half million dollars of pure markup, manufactured through a chain of LLCs in a single calendar day, while the City of Birmingham stood by. Residents filed suit in May 2026 calling it a coordinated scheme dressed up as a series of independent arm's length sales, built to inflate the basis and make the deal look bigger and more legitimate than it was.



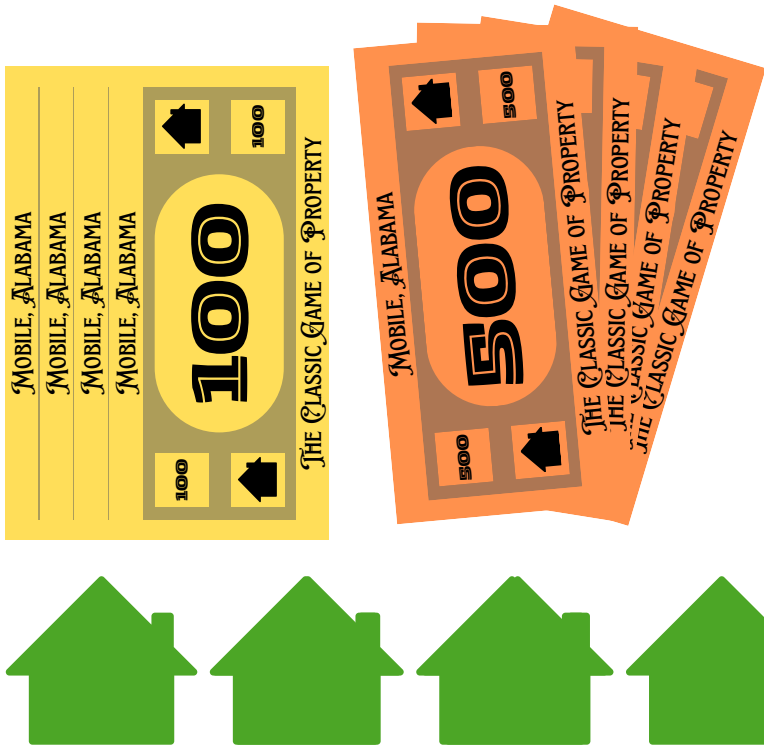
Mobile and Prichard do not need to invent a legal theory here. Birmingham's plaintiffs already wrote it down and filed it with a federal court. The structure of the inflated chain sale, the LLC shell game, the absence of any public disclosure to the people who actually live next to the site, all of it is sitting in an amended complaint that anyone can read.

A family with a documented history of government sanctions and civil judgments holding onto a worthless looking bankruptcy scrap parcel for thirteen years through a chain of shell companies, one of which still lists a condemned, demolition bound building as its legal address with the state of Alabama and the federal Department of Transportation to this day. A separate but related chain runs that same condemned building through Mobile's most storied political family, a Birmingham developer with no other footprint in this city, and a tax credit structure that produced no tax credits and no repairs, only profit on paper. The family company that handled the final piece of that chain dissolved itself five days after its last transaction closed.

Nobody asked Prichard or Africatown, which sits merely feet from where the bulldozers would go. The deal was never about whether this was good for the people who would live next to it. It was about who already owned the dice before the game started.

Old money in this state does not build wealth. It waits on wealth that already exists, structures it through enough paper that nobody outside a courthouse can follow it, and collects when the rest of us finally notice what was sitting under our noses the whole time. Joseph Langan voted against disenfranchising Black Alabamians in 1946. His son's company spent the years since helping move a condemned building through a tax credit scheme attached to a network that now sits a quarter mile from the descendants of the Clotilda. That is not an accusation. That is the deed record.

Perhaps Mobile should take a page out of Birmingham's playbook.



TITLE DEED
214 TELEGRAPH RD.

RENT \$50

With 1 House
With 2 House
With 3 House
With 4 House
With DECAYING MANSION

TITLE DEED
962 GOVERNMENT ST.

RENT \$50

With 1 House \$ 200.
With 2 Houses \$ 600.
With 3 Houses \$ 1400.
With 4 Houses \$ 1700.
With DECAYING MANSION \$ 180,000

FREE EACH OTHER

ONLY BY OUR OWN HANDS, TOGETHER, SHALL SUCH THINGS COME TO PASS.

COME ALL YE PEOPLE OF THE EARTH : THE WORLD HAS ASKED FOR YOUR ATTENTION : GIVE CARE AND CONSIDERATION TO ALL THINGS: THIS IS THE MEANING OF LOVE.

SPEAK FOR THINE OWN SELF. FROM AUTONOMY SPRINGS TRUTH.

WE ARE ALL PART OF THE SAME WHOLE - EACH A UNIQUE FACET - EACH PERSPECTIVE ELABORATING ON THE OTHERS

LONG LIVE

ACTUALLY

THE HAND THAT CURES
IS THE HAND THAT NEEDS

DECOLONIZE EVERY ASPECT OF REALITY

END PATRIARCHY AND DOMINATION

**NO MASTERS
NO FLAKES**

RESTORE THE COMMON LAND

**LIVE WITH
THE ECOSYSTEM**

**NO LEADERS
MANY ORANIZERS**

UNIFY ENDS AND MEANS

**BUILD THE WORLD
YOU WANT TO SEE**

BUILD STRUCTURES OF VARIANCE

FLATTEN EVERY HIERARCHY

**LET JOY FLOW
LIKE THE WATER**

END STRUCTURES OF CONFINEMENT

**ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WELLBEING OF THE WORLD
ABANDON THE NOTION THAT YOU COULD EVER CONTROL IT.**

ABOLISH CAPITAL, STATES, PRISONS, & POLICE.

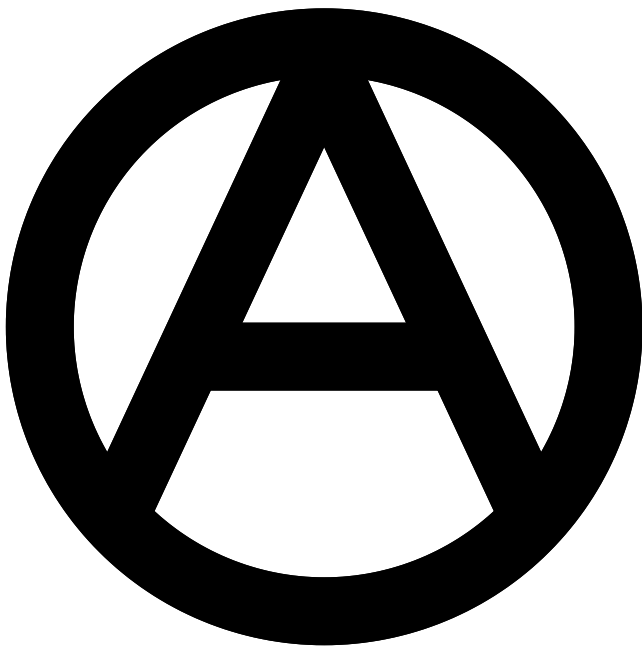
CAN WE WIN?

A World Where:

- everyone is fed,
- no one is in bondage,
- humans and ecosystems can coexist into a sustainable future.

Demand Everything

But we must want everything in order to achieve anything.



It is easy to convince ourselves that we have already lost.
The enemy is at the door,
The fascists hold power.
We know that much of this has been the case since the beginning of civilization.
There has never been utopia, no model to return to. And yet.
Everywhere we look, there are examples.

To even begin to see them, we must ask ourselves
What would it mean for us to win?

Without goals, we have nothing.

It is easy to be *against*. Against the state, against hierarchy,

But to be against is to always play defense. It is to let the other side set the tone. They will define the direction of the future, and your againstness will add attrition, friction, slowing it down and changing its shape. But to end capitalism, the state, policing, and white supremacy, we will need to build something new. something better.

TRY!

Imagine a world where every problem is solved.
Imagine them solved in relation to each other.
Imagine Utopia.

A World Where:

- Harm is reduced to almost nothing, and that reduction is maintained without creating further harm.
- Help is offered from everyone and to everything, in ways that cause no strain to each other.
- Joy is everywhere, even in you.

Build the new world Choke the old world.

Do everything for free for people who do everything for free.

Freedom is when we don't need to spend. We only need to give, and get, freely. If you try to make money, the world will cost more.

Money is death.

Mutual aid is life.

There are two spirals in our world, and we contribute to both of them.

The upwards spiral - which grows whenever we provide for each other and the world without relying on capitalism, power, hierarchy, and dominion.

And the downward spiral - which grows every time we are forced back into the state apparatus to pursue justice, or the legal system to hold land, or the money apparatus to meet our needs.

Build the first through infrastructures of mutual care, based in communal land holding.

Provide,
from each their ability,
and to each their need.
Provide,
from the needs of the world,
to your desire.
From your desire, to my desire.

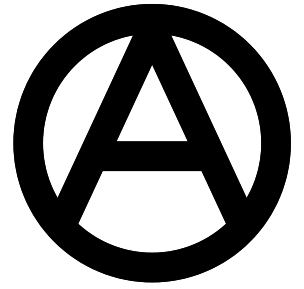
The future we want will come when we learn how to give help to the world without hurting ourselves - and when we learn how to accept the help given to us by community and by the earth, without destroying either.



We can build an infrastructure of mutual care so thorough that we no longer need to rely on capitalism, or the state.

If I grow your food, you need not work for money to buy it. You have time again. You have security, for the first time. Now, you can afford to do something for someone -for free- and save them time, and money, and energy. Every ounce of this is revolutionary work. Share childcare. Build each others houses. live as though you don't own the land, and you will have access to so much more of it.

Partway There and a Long Way To Go.



Accept Every Victory. Accept No Victory.

Every moment of your life has something in common with the world you seek to build.

Find The Seeds of Utopia In Everything.

No matter how perfectly we reshape the world, there are things you do today that you will also do then.

Even if all land is held in common, you will still need to work out conflict with your neighbors and housemates. Even if everyone is fed and much labor is made easy and painless, someone will still need to do some dishes.

Find reverent joy for the moments in your life that are the same as they would be in your ideal society. Spend time in intact ecosystems. Eat local, native foods. Smile and laugh with lovers and friends.

Abolish money. If you cannot abolish it today, share it, and use it towards pursuits which allow the whole community to rely less on money tomorrow. Have goals. Step towards them in zig zag patterns. Seek utopia. Live in today.

Each goal achieved on the path to liberation is incomplete.

Imagine the best possible tomorrow. Imagine how someone would fight for even that world to improve.

In a well laid plan, it is understood that doing the next step is necessary if we are to ever do the last step. It is also understood that to stop after the next step is complete will mean the work is still unfinished.

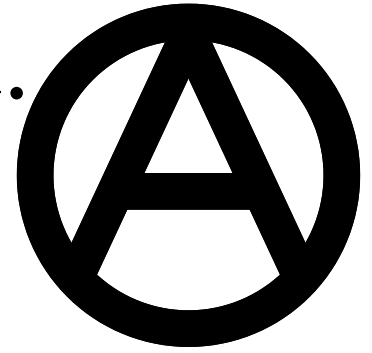
There is a seed of utopia to be won in every struggle. Universal healthcare is one possible stepping stone on the path to liberation, but it is not liberation in and of itself. Liberation of our bodies from eugenicists and ableist institutions must be more thorough than that.

A labor union will not abolish the exploitation of capitalism, but it is better to have than to not have.

Feeding someone food salvaged from the wastes of capitalism is its own form of utopia. It is also very far from where we truly want to be.

We seek to abolish property over all, and end the legal mechanisms of ownership. In the mean time, simply creating infrastructures to share what we already have goes pretty far.

Defend the world you build. Be accountable to your dream.



Those who seek to profit off of us will always try to force us from the land, and keep us from providing for each other. They will break us time and time and time again. We gain resiliency by building systems where we do not rely on them. But when we do not rely on them, they will try to capture us again. We must be ready to defend ourselves.

We can't just kill the right people and make the problems go away. We have to have real systemic change in every aspect of our lives and our society; and in ourselves.

The revolution is not the moment of violence. The revolution is the building of mutual aid infrastructure. But violence may come.

"Those without swords can still die upon them"
- JRR Tolkien.

Justice is the art of making things right.

It will not always come from outside. A gun is not enough to defend ourselves. Nor is a militia. We must go upstream of every problem. We must face every problem with a balance of abolition and accountability.

To be compassionate towards those who do harm is necessary to end harm. Having expectations of real steady, thoughtful, thorough improvement is necessary to end harm.

It is possible for us to offer endless compassion to those who are harmed, and to those who do harm, all while ensuring the harms are thoroughly addressed and prevented from continuing; all while avoiding the creating of further harms in the process.

Each of us has the capacity for harm. Each of us has the capacity to cease harm. Each of us can help another cease harm.

What is done cannot be undone, only made different by further doings. No harm is ever truly erased. All actions in context.

People who are hurt do hurtful things. Soothing pain soothes the world. It often prevents an untold path of violence. Spiral towards community wellbeing, and watch harm fall away.

When you fuck up (you will) own that shit. We all harm. We can all harm less again.

Everyone can be helped.
Not everyone can be helped by me.
Not everyone can be helped with the resources available at the time.

We can choose to become the people who can live in the world we want. We will always be flawed. We can build a world that encourages the best versions of ourselves, and still allows us to grow within our flaws.

Abolitionist toolbox:
<https://abolitionist.tools/>

Transform Harm:
<https://transformharm.org/>

Creative Interventions:
<https://www.creative-interventions.org/>

The revolution starts at home.
It begins in our own hearts.