



Rebel

Perspectives From The Red and Anarchist Action Network

War, Economy and Class: One of many communications from RAAN

It is economic position that so many of us have in common. The struggles of our daily lives are the connecting fibers that enable us to relate to one another. How many times have you shared your frustrations with those around you? Sometimes kicking back after work and talking about how miserable your job makes you is the only type of therapy we get. It is no secret to any of us that being on the short end of the economic stick is complete struggle. Living paycheck to paycheck, getting your water turned off, late notices and every other variety of ridiculous stresses have become the norm. It is our position that this cycle of poverty, war and crisis is intentional. Without poor people the rich would have nobody to build their wealth for them. Without war it would be impossible for this country to push its agenda onto every other continent on the planet, and without crisis our lives might just be stable enough for us to get a solid look at the world around us.

We assert that building a community between one another is the best way for us to live. If we continue to live *fragmented* from one another then we will continue to struggle *fragmented* and feel isolated and alone. It is with this understanding that we share these perspectives with you. These communications paint a picture of a larger world that we find undesirable. Whether you like it or not, we are in this mess together.

Foreclosure and Eviction Can Be Resisted

It is completely possible to resist eviction and foreclosure. One goal of the RAAN tendency is to create communities in existing neighborhoods. One end of this goal is the ability for neighbors to protest each others evictions. This can be done by holding signs and voicing dissent or even by physically occupying houses that are being evicted or have already been foreclosed on. It is ridiculous to think that many people in our own neighborhoods live paycheck to paycheck and fear homelessness while real estate investors try and snatch up cheap houses in our own neighborhoods. It is possible to bypass power meters, to manually turn on water and help keep people in their homes. Necessity is the mother of innovation, it is necessary for us to form our neighborhoods into more close knit communities and begin to make decisions on the functioning of the neighborhoods ourselves. This is a goal of the RAAN tendency and one that should be shared and made a reality.

You may be asking "What Is RAAN?" The Red & Anarchist Action Network (RAAN) is a community of people dedicated to increasing our awareness of how the world around us functions and in what ways we might be able to organize ourselves towards making it a more beautiful place in which the primary measure of value is not the acquisition of symbolic wealth. The main goal is the destruction of capitalist society and the restructuring of the current fractured empty neighborhoods into communities free from exploitation and based on self determination.

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Cops, Pigs, Murderers! Why do cops always get paid vacation when they kill someone?

In our world, we are told that any violence that is not approved by the government is crazy or criminal. However, we are faced with violence, or threats of violence, everyday, from the economy and the government. If we are not born into wealth and property, we will work our entire lives at a job, selling our time and energy for money. If we do not have free housing, we will be forced to pay rent or a mortgage in order to get a place to stay. If we do not have access to free food and drinking water, we will be forced to shell out money that we have made working just to buy these products. In short, we are made to have a relationship to work and things that we need to survive that is based upon violence. It is under the threat of poverty and hunger, starvation and despair, eviction and homelessness, that we are forced into all of this. The police as a class, or a social and economic group that has similar interests, want this relationship to continue. They want it to continue because this strain and stress gives them a job. In a society where many people do not have all that they need, even though their labors create the worlds wealth, crime and anti-social violence arises. The government creates jails and detention centers to hold us if we do drugs that they deem illegal, steal from stores or each other, or cross lines in the sand agreed on by heads of state. The police enforce the greatest violence in all of society: that of the government.

Many police officers receive very good pay. Many make close to or over 100,000 per year, and receive excellent benefits. Statistically speaking, more garbage truck drivers are hurt on the job than police officers are, and plus, police don't have to take drug tests when they mess up at work. When one of them kills or hurts someone in our neighborhoods, they are put on paid vacation until the case is worked out. If one of them has a complaint filed against them, generally someone from within the police department investigates the complaint. The police have a history of not outing each other and of maintaining silence even in the most brutal cases. They have even named the non-cooperation the blue wall of silence. This is why it is so ironic to hear police talk about "gang task forces" and anti-gang units.

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Parting Words From RAAN

Simply put, they are the biggest gang there is. Police have a very solid support base to do what they do: enforce and maintain the status quo and the inequalities that exist in this divided society.

Across the United States more people are dying. Since the now infamous police murder of Oscar Grant in Oakland CA, scores of people have died. Some non-white, some with mental problems, but most, if not all, simply non-wealthy and affluent people that happened to be in the wrong place, at the wrong time, and happened to get in the way of the police. For instance, in Seattle on August 30th, a nearly deaf Native American was shot dead on the street as he worked on a wood carving. He had not heard police commands and police stated that they thought he was 'wielding' a knife. Pick up the local paper or listen to stories of friends and you will hear often the same thing. One of police murdering people that could have been anyone of us and then making up a story later to cover up the killing. One of police evicting people from their homes. Of police deporting people from where they live. Police arresting someone attempting to take food from a store in order to feed them family, and so on. The police get away with murder, because they are not like us. The working class takes orders, the police helps enforce them.

In places like Oakland, and most other cities, police are the absolute last public service to face any sort of budget cuts, even healthcare for children and abused women's shelters get cut before the police will face a pay cut. Yet officials imply, and we believe, that without police our communities will fall into chaos. So instead we lose our county medical, our dental and the only safe spaces we have against abusive situations. Libraries get closed and after school programs get axed but the police, they can feel comfortable. We can't go to the hospital but we know the police will protect us. This logic acts against our own self-interest and is only enforced by a mixture of media and public officials making us believe that we do not have the ability to control our own neighborhoods. We trade the only healthcare we have for the oppression of police.

It is important to build a localized power in our own neighborhoods, to stand up and say "No, we will not settle for bargaining of politicians!" We can trust that the same officials who bargain these deals don't rely on low income health care, food banks or crisis centers. We see the police as a fraternity of people whose interest is social control. It is our position that we have the ability to localize responsibility. Our neighborhoods must become self determined and self interested.

We wish to rely on ourselves.

This publication is meant for you. We don't feel that we are revolutionary leaders or really specialists that should be listened to. We are like any collection of people. This perspective comes from a truly diverse group of people. All we have is a perspective. RAAN is a banner under which some friends operate. We came to many similar conclusions on our own and then we found each other. The goal of this publication is to find more potential RAANistas. We are not a club to join, but merely a perspective that can be shared. If these words are ever to be utilized, to be more than just text on paper, then it is our desire to put our perspectives into action. If you have agreed with what you have read, if you found yourself nodding in approval, it was not by mere coincidence or that our perspectives are evident and easily readable. It is more so because you too have struggled, you have felt frustration and have also asked, "Why"?

We have thought and theorized, screamed in anger and laughed in joy. Life is found within every emotion. These communications are important for a few reasons, one of those reasons being that we have a position, and have recognized a larger picture. In some sense we feel it is our personal duty to share what he have learned. It is also our desire to communicate our perspectives, and we will not deny ourselves that. The other reason is that we all at one point or another have felt beaten down and unhappy and I'm sure that all of us who identify as RAANistas remember picking up that piece of paper that just made sense, that put our thoughts together and, most importantly, forced us to realize that none of us are alone.

If this project falls on deaf ears then I would definitely consider it a shame, but if just one person recognizes the power that is our own humanity and willingness to cooperate and help each other, then every minute writing these pieces, every late nite conversation and every frustration with computers crashing and nights with no sleep would have been more than worth it.

We're seeking more than allies, we want friends.

