

- New Spangle Profile: <https://www.facebook.com/cm.spangle.9>
- Kick Ass News - Senator Ben Sasse on Political Division and America's Loneliness - <https://kickasspoliticspreview1.libsyn.com/senator-ben-sasse-on-political-division-and-americas-loneliness-epidemic#gbMAq58GFVGKrSrm.99>
- Liberty Memes Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/575184586207532/>
- WAL 326: The Swamp Explained - Political Violence Now vs. 60s, Is Trump Draining the Swamp? - <https://wearelibertarians.com/wal-326-the-swamp-explained-political-violence-now-vs-60s-is-trump-draining-the-swamp/>

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1. My ban on Facebook and the crackdown on new LM pages.
2. Gab being shut down in the wake of the shootings
3. The conversation around violent rhetoric. Is "conspiracy theory" and "hate speech" a convenient way to censor disliked speech and why is that bad?
4. How much does Trump's rhetoric affect people and why?
5. Why is Trump blamed for rhetoric when both, if not all, sides engage in aggressive speech and how much does this factor into tribalism and human nature?
6. Is America really more violent now than in the past?
7. Why is peaceful action the right way to persuade people?

Synagogue Mass Shooting

Overview: On Sunday October 28th 2018, a gunman entered Tree of Life synagogue during a baby naming ceremony, opening fire he killed 11 and wounded multiple others. The gunman the barricaded himself in the synagogue and was eventually detained by police and transported to a hospital to be treated for his wounds; sustained during the standoff.

Motivation?: Supposedly the gunman was motivated by the migrant "caravan", according to a Vox article by Dara Lind

" the particular moment he (allegedly) chose for his massacre, and the place he chose to do it, show that what radicalized the assailant to the point of violence was a specific manifestation of anti-Semitism: blaming Jews in America for bringing in an invasion of nonwhite immigrants who would slaughter the white race.

*His last post on the **pro-hate-speech social-media** site [Gab](#), posted minutes before the synagogue massacre, spells it out — with a reference to HIAS, the Jewish nonprofit that resettles refugees in the United States: HIAS likes to bring invaders that kill our people.*

I can't sit by and watch my people get slaughtered.

Screw your optics, I'm going in.

The obsession that appears to have tipped the gunman over the edge was a conspiracy theory insinuating that the migrant caravan currently making its way through southern Mexico, and which President Donald Trump and conservative media have treated as an existential threat to the United States, is a Jewish plot.” (Dara Lind, 2018)

The social media site Gab; while cooperating with federal investigators, was taken offline by internet providers shortly after the shooting. In a statement on their website, from the CEO of Gab, Andrew Torba:

“Gab has spent the past 48 hours proudly working with the DOJ and FBI to bring justice to an alleged terrorist. Because of the data we provided, they now have plenty of evidence for their case. In the midst of this Gab has been no-platformed by essential internet infrastructure providers at every level. We are the most censored, smeared, and no-platformed startup in history, which means we are a threat to the media and to the Silicon Valley Oligarchy.

Gab isn't going anywhere.

It doesn't matter what you write. It doesn't matter what the sophist talking heads say on TV. It doesn't matter what verified nobodies say on Twitter. We have plenty of options, resources, and support. We will exercise every possible avenue to keep Gab online and defend free speech and individual liberty for all people.”

Trump's response

Shortly after the attack, Trump condemned it stating

"evil Anti-Semitic attack is an assault on humanity. It will take all of us working together to extract the poison of Anti-Semitism from our world. We must unite to conquer hate."

President Trump said later in an interview with reporters that armed guards would have prevented the shooting, and that capital punishment should be stiffened. This drew the usual backlash from the left and late night comedy T.V.

Sources:

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/10/27/politics/trump-jba-death-penalty-pittsburgh/index.html>

<https://gab.com/>

<https://www.vox.com/2018/10/29/18037580/pittsburgh-shooter-anti-semitism-racist-jewish-caravan>

Political Violence in the U.S

Political Violence in the United States is as old as our country itself, and surely it could be argued that we were conceived in a politically violent climate. There are the more well-known incidences such as: The turmoil leading to the Civil War, the 4 presidential assassinations and more recently the Oklahoma City Bombing. These high profile historical events that are taught in our schools however, are only the tip of the iceberg. Some more obscure events include.

- Bleeding Kansas(1854-61)- An interstate “civil war” which took place in the years leading up to the American Civil war in Kansas. The conflict was fought between pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions. 56 people in total were killed.
- The Haymarket affair (May 4th 1886)-A bomb blast erupted during a workers demonstration: this caused the police, who were already attempting to disperse the crowd, to open fire. A total of 11 people were killed and many others wounded.
- The Wilmington Insurrection(1898)- Called the only successful coup in U.S history. North Carolina's Democratic party instigated a violent overthrow of the democratically elected “fusionist” government. The coup was carried out by a 2000 strong mob of white men. Black politicians from the Fusionist government were ousted, Black businesses destroyed. Death toll is estimated 60-300.

- Wall Street Bombing (1920)- 100 pounds of dynamite was detonated across the street from J.P Morgan and Chase headquarters killing 38 and wounding hundreds more. The bombing was never solved but anarchist and communist groups were blamed and investigated.
- Innumerable Klu Klux Klan lynchings, bombings and killings of African Americans in the South have taken place from 1865 through the civil right era. That's over 100 years that African Americans were murdered and lived in fear, and many times police and local governments turned a blind eye, or were KKK members themselves.

Notable Political Violence/Extremist groups in recent history.

- The Weather Underground (WOU) (years active 1969-1977)- Founded at the University of Michigan by members of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), a left wing campus group. The Weather Underground "formally" declared war on the United States Government, they were responsible for several bombings including a bomb that was set off in a womens bathroom at the Pentagon.
- Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) (Years active 1973-1975)- Most famous for the kidnapping of Patty Hearst, daughter of William Randolph Hearst, a publishing mogul. The group committed two murders and several bank robberies.
- Antifa(currently active)- Antifa has its roots in 1920s Germany as Antifaschistische Aktion a group that battled the organized fascist movement, *these were the guys fighting brownshirts in the streets*. Antifa is worldwide but in the United States is mainly involved in violent protesting. Antifa believes in "direct action" against any perceived fascism, This includes but is not limited to, inciting riots, and shutting down events, such as the recent incident at Kings College in London where Antifa shutdown a debate between Yaron Brook and Sargon of Akkad. Antifa activists are uniform in appearance, wearing all black and covering their faces. This is called "black block" and is used to preserve anonymity of the individual members.

- May 19th Communist Organization (M19CO) (years active 1978-1985)- A splinter group of the WOU, the M19CO was closely allied with the Black Liberation movement. The groups intended to work in conjunction to build a people's militia. They considered themselves a vanguard of the "revolution". The objectives of M19CO were to expropriate capital AKA rob banks, to fund their activity, then they intended to carry out acts of terror to incite revolution. M19CO fell apart by 1985 when all of the members were arrested in a series of FBI stings.
- Ruby Ridge Standoff (1992) - A standoff between the Federal Law Enforcement and the Weaver family. Randy Weaver, a former army engineer and white supremacist refused to become an ATF informant after he bought 2 illegally modified shotguns from an undercover Agent. Weaver became a fugitive when he failed to appear in court for the weapons charges, even though he was given the incorrect trial date by his probation officer. This resulted in a shoot-out between Weaver's 14-year-old son; who was killed, and a team of 6 U.S marshals who were conducting surveillance on the Weaver property. This led the Marshalls to request FBI assistance which in turn resulted in a week long stand off. 1 U.S marshall and 2 members of the Weaver family died before the standoff ended. They also killed the family's dog.
- Centennial Park Bombings (1996)- During the 1996 Olympics Eric Robert Rudolph carried out pipe bombings at the Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta Georgia, the bombings killed 2 and wounded 111. Rudolph claimed that his motivation was to embarrass the U.S Government for condoning abortion and homosexuality.
- Waco Siege (1993)- The Branch Davidians, a cult led by David Koresh were suspected of stockpiling firearms on their ranch northeast of Waco Texas. The ATF acquired a search warrant and attempted to raid the compound but was met with a fierce resistance from the cultists, the gun battle resulted in the deaths of 4 agents and 6 Branch Davidians. The FBI surrounded the compound and initiated a 51 day siege. The siege ended when a tear gas attack by Government forces started a fire which resulted in the deaths of 86 davidians ,women and children were among the dead.

- Oklahoma City Bombing (1995)- Timothy McViegh, a former soldier and his accomplice Terry Nichols detonate a truck bomb in Oklahoma city killing 168 and injuring hundreds more. McViegh cited the Ruby Ridge and Waco incidents as his primary motivation for the bombing.
- Planned Parenthood Shooting (2015) - A self described christian and anti-abortion extremist commits a mass shooting at a planned parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs, Colorado. 3 are killed and 9 are injured.

Is political violence in America today, worse than ever?

Nobody can deny that the United States has reached a period of divisiveness, but is it worse now than ever? Short answer.. No. According to a 2016 article by Joseph Trevithick and Matthew Gault of War is Boring.com low levels of political violence in recent years are actually fairly recent.

(Trevithick,Gault 2016) “ The objectively low levels of violence in 2016—brawls at rallies aside—is a relatively recent phenomenon. In 240 years, assassins have gunned down four sitting presidents. Myriad individuals have planned to kill at least 18 of the nation’s 44 chief executive. Of course, some would-be killers were driven by mental illness, cult beliefs or a desire for fame rather than politics”

The article then goes on to describe how full suffrage to all citizens; while a necessary progressive step in the evolution of our republic had one unfortunate by product and that is, political violence.

“ As the roles expanded, a larger politically-active populace grew more politically divided. Reports of voter-intimidation, vote-buying, ballot-stuffing and other forms of electoral fraud became more common. In the 1876 election, white-supremacist militias blocked Republican voters—supporters of Abraham Lincoln and the Union during the Civil War—from polling stations across the American South.

In South Carolina, white supremacists clashed with black citizens and National Guardsman. During the notorious Hamburg Massacre,

white militias executed black men and looted the city. In 1921, a white mob—backed by aircraft carrying incendiary devices—burned the black community of Greenwood in Tulsa, Oklahoma, killing around 300 people.

The Ku Klux Klan intimidated politicians and citizens during local and national elections. On the opposite end of the political spectrum, anarchists, communists and other leftist revolutionary movements promoted their own brand of violent political activism.”
(Trevithick, Gault 2016)

Then of course we have the turbulence of the 1960s and 70s where The Weather Underground and SLA are robbing banks to finance their plans to topple the U.S Government and detonating bombs at government buildings. The Weathermen even managed to set off a bomb in the Pentagon bathroom.

What is to come?

Evolutionary Anthropologist Peter Turchin believes that Political violence and its future potential can be analyzed quantitatively. He proposes that there are underlying factors in a society that all must mesh together in order for major violence or even revolution to occur, public discontent is simply not enough. One such process is called “elite overproduction” Turchin describes it in an article on Economics.com

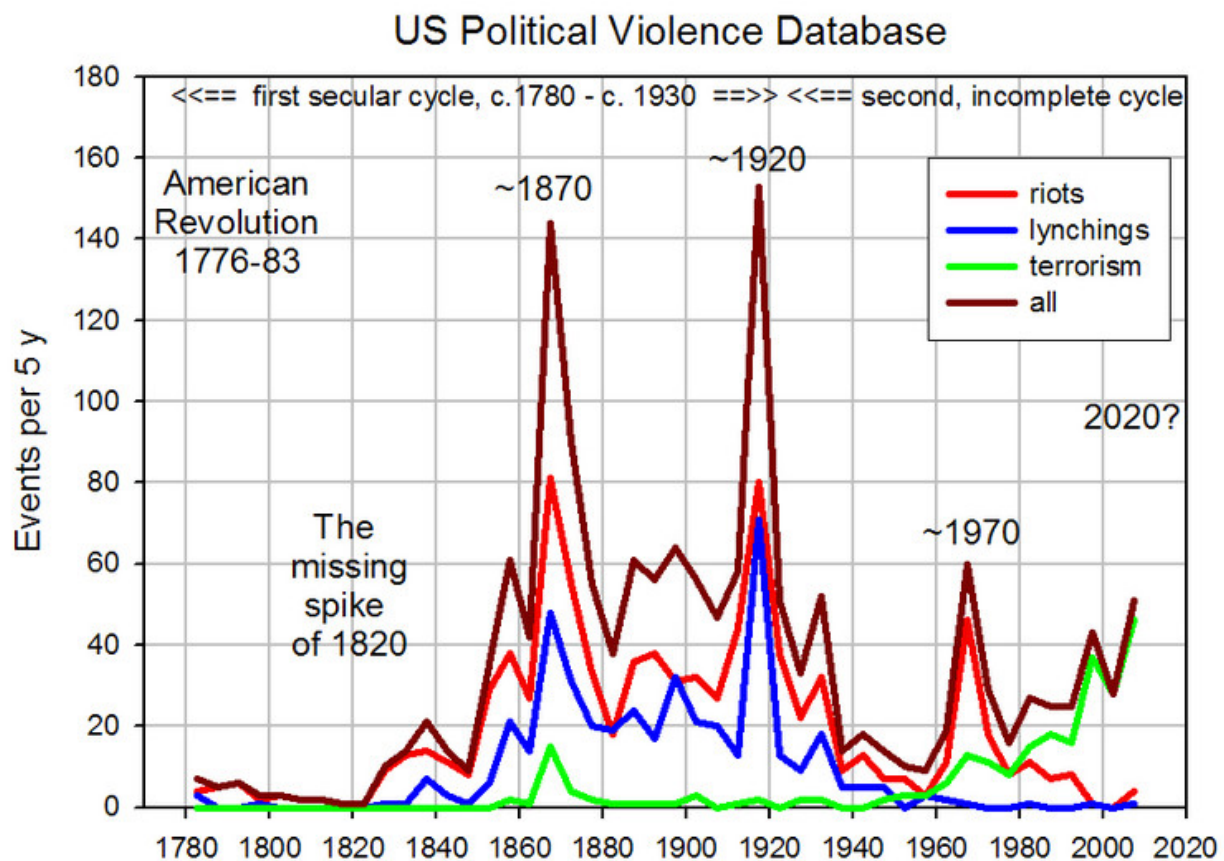
“A more important factor is what has been called “elite overproduction” – that is, the appearance of too many elite candidates vying for a limited supply of power positions within the government and the economy. As written about in my book War and Peace and War, elite overproduction results in intense intra-elite competition, polarisation, and conflict that ultimately takes violent forms.”

There are also other factors such as rapidly falling living standards. However it is impossible to predict the exact straw that will break the proverbial camel’s back.

“Think of a forest in which deadwood has been accumulating for many years. We don’t know what will start the fire – it could be a lightning strike during a storm, or a careless match thrown away. But sooner or later such a precipitating spark will arrive, and there will be a massive conflagration.

Nobody could predict that Mohamed Bouazizi, a fruit vendor in Tunisia, would decide to publicly immolate himself. But this act of a desperate individual had huge consequences because the structural conditions in Tunisia were ripe for revolution.” (Turchin, 2012)

Turchin even describes the political violence in the U.S, he quantitatively analyzes the interrelated social processes that led to the most violent periods in American history, stating that American history is a long timeline of events with a 50 year cycle superimposed within. Below is a graph that helps illustrate this.



(source Turchin 2012, economics.com)

Violence peaks in the reconstruction era, then declines then peaks again 50 years later in the 1920s then again in the 1970s, for those of us with a knowledge of American History it makes perfect sense. The decline is attributed to the people growing tired of the incessant fighting a violence after a period, once the generation that actually experienced the turmoil 1st hand or 2nd hand dies off, political violence gradually begins to rise peaking at 50 years.

Turchin also describes signs of “elite overproduction” that are relevant to today.

“In the last three or four decades real wages of unskilled workers stagnated. The incomes of the top one percent, on the other hand, grew explosively, leading to ever increasing economic inequality. Signs of elite overproduction include growing demand for educational credentials: tuition rates at elite colleges that rise much faster than inflation and the exploding numbers of new MBAs and JDs....Intra-elite competition and conflict are indicated by rampant polarisation within the US Congress and increasing legislative deadlock. Finally, the declining health of government finances can be traced by the growth of federal debt” (Turchin 2012).

Nobody can predict the future, and as of right now things are calm in comparison with the rest of U.S history. But things could be trending towards another flashpoint in the next decade or so.

Sources:

- Wikipedia (for the different extremist groups and instances of violence)
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Command Climate Summation

The official definition from Army doctrine: Army Regulation 600-100

organizational climate refers to the perception and attitudes of Soldiers and Army Civilians as

they interact within the culture with their peers, subordinates, and leaders. Observed policies and practices often drive climate, reflecting the leader's character. The greatest influence on an organization's climate is the quality of its leadership. The commander sets the example by establishing high standards and expectations for the organization and its members. The best commanders place a high priority on personally developing their subordinate leaders, caring for the welfare of Soldiers, Army Civilians, and their Families, while creating a rewarding climate of shared mutual trust and pride in team contributions to mission accomplishment. A healthy Army culture and organizational climate will exhibit six overarching characteristics:

- (1) The organizational culture and unit climate fosters unity, cohesion, and trust in accordance with the Army Ethic.
- (2) The culture promotes and rewards mental agility, the ability to break from established paradigms, recognize new patterns or circumstances, and adopt new solutions to problems.
- (3) The organization selects leaders and reward members who demonstrate the ability to sense and understand the environment quickly to exploit fleeting opportunities or counter unexpected threats.
- (4) The culture requires and rewards delegation of authority on the part of leaders, and the understanding and prompt, thorough execution of leader's intent (two levels up) by subordinates.
- (5) The organizational culture selects and rewards leaders who provide clear priorities and focus their unit's time and organizational energy on their mission.
- (6) The organizational culture is one of inclusion which demands and values diversity of knowledge and perspectives that members of different groups bring and shapes how the mission is accomplished.

Excerpts from Articles:

Army Regulation (AR) 600-100: Army Leadership defines climate as the “state of morale and level of satisfaction of members of an organization.” Command climate is a reflection of unit members’ perceptions about the unit, and creating a positive organizational climate is a core leader competency. To influence organizational climate effectively, leaders must understand the existing unit climate, develop a vision of how it ought to be, and then develop a plan to achieve the desired state. This requires effective feedback tools that remove information filters between leaders and unit members and also convey those perceptions accurately.

Command climate is the culture of a unit. It is the way a unit “conducts business.” The leader of the organization is solely responsible for the organization’s command climate. Commanders at all levels establish this climate by what they say and what they do. Character-based leadership is the bedrock requirement for a successful command climate.

My 2 cents:

A positive command climate is best described as an environment that fosters trust, open communication, and an overall positive mindset towards the mission at hand. The opposite of a positive command climate is always referred to as a toxic command climate. Within a toxic command climate, subordinates are typically micromanaged, belittled, there is no trust, there is no communication, and people dread coming to work. The Army puts a lot of emphasis on ensuring leaders create a positive command climate as it is believed that the actions and attitude are a direct reflection of its leader. A quick google search on toxic command climate will show many examples of the disastrous effects a toxic leader can have on an organization. Anecdotally, I have seen the effect a brigade commander has on the organization he leads (4500 Soldiers) as they embody his attitude.

I mention command climate because it is interesting to see the effect Trump has had on the republican party. He is also our commander in chief in the military, so his leadership has had an effect on our organization. The idea that the leader at the top sets the tone for the organization he leads is absolutely self evident for me. I would be very curious to look into the different climates set by obama and trump. Where they differed and what

the effects are on the close circle of people the president works for directly.

I hope this summation helps.

Peaceful Protest

Do non-violent campaigns even work?

(Psychology Today) “Nonviolent campaigns have a 53% success rate and only about a 20% rate of complete failure. Things are reversed for violent campaigns, which were only successful 23% of the time, and complete failures about 60% of the time. Violent campaigns succeeded partially in about 10% of cases, again comparing unfavorably to nonviolent campaigns, which resulted in partial successes over 20% of the time.

Why the difference? ...there are several interlinked answers. First, nonviolent campaigns typically attract more participants, including women, elderly folks, and others who do not want to take on the risks or the moral burdens of running around with guns and explosives, but are willing to pass on information about government atrocities, and to engage in boycotts, strikes, or nonviolent protests. Second, when a tyrannical government acts to suppress a nonviolent movement, it is more likely to backfire. Government security forces don't want to fire on unarmed civilians, especially when the crowd might include their mothers, daughters, friends, and neighbors. And if unarmed civilians are attacked, other citizens are likely to mobilize, and the government loses support from the international community and from the other pillars of its own society, such as the local media and the financial sector.

When a government is overthrown nonviolently, the new government is more likely to be democratic, and less likely to itself be overthrown, as compared to those that won using guns and bombs. All of this raises questions about the wisdom of government policies that involve sending arms to revolutionaries, who often replace the current violent and tyrannical government with another one (eliciting longstanding hatred for the governments that helped the current dictators take hold).”

That study sounds stupid and idealistic, do you have any real examples?

These examples are just a handful as listed from the Global Citizen-

“The Salt March- During the transition between the wet to dry season of 1930 Mahatma (Mohandas) Gandhi led a peaceful protest against Britain’s imposed law dictating no Indian could collect or sell salt in the country. Followed by dozens, Gandhi walked over 240 miles leading protesters to the Arabian Sea to pick up a small handful of salt out of the muddy waters of the sea. Seventeen years later, after this peaceful yet defiant act, India gained independence from Britain. “Nonviolence is an intensely active force when properly understood and used.” – Mohandas Gandhi”

“Suffrage Parade- “This message, “To ask for freedom is not a crime,” still holds true today. Peaceful protests like the 1913 Suffrage Parade shared the voices of over 5,000 courageous women speaking out for the right to equal political participation. This protest can remind us peaceful acts have the power to change the system.

“We are here, not because we are law-breakers; we are here in our efforts to become law-makers.” - Emmeline Pankhurst”

“Delano Grape Boycott- Cesar Chavez advocated for peaceful boycotts, protest, and a grueling yet nonviolent 25-day hunger strike which led to legislative changes to end exploitative abuse of America’s farm workers in the late 1960s. He led a five-year strike in Delano, Calif., bringing together over 2,000 farmers to demand minimum wage primarily for underpaid overworked Filipino farmworkers. This caused more than 17 million Americans to boycott California grapes, which helped secure unions, better wages and security for farmworkers. “I am convinced that the truest act of courage, the strongest act of humanity, is to sacrifice ourselves for others in a totally non violent struggle for justice.” - Cesar Chavez”

“Montgomery Bus Boycott- There are times when one person’s peaceful actions can bring about more change than anyone can imagine. Rosa Parks’ refusal to give up her seat to a white passenger on a bus in Montgomery, Ala., is one such example. Her defiant act symbolized greater civil rights, spreading the message that all people deserve equal seats. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled a year later in 1956, segregation on public buses unconstitutional. “People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically, or no

more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in.” - Rosa Parks”

“Singing Revolution- Music and social activism have long been “partners in [nonviolent] crime.” During the Singing Revolution, Estonia literally sang its way out of the rule under the Soviet Union. In 1988, more than 100,000 Estonians gathered for five nights to protest Soviet rule. This was known as the Singing Revolution. For Estonians, music and singing acted as a way to preserve culture while the small but fierce country held [its] own during invasion from Germany, Sweden, Denmark and others. In 1991, after decades of Soviet rule, a country with just 1.5 million people regained [its] independence. “Land of my fathers, land that I love / I’ve given my heart to her / I sing to you, my supreme happiness / My flourishing Estonia!” - lyrics from Mu Isamaa, On Minu Arm”

Peaceful protest does not mean that violence won’t happen. American Independence turned violent, but because Americans appeared as sympathetic figures, they found allies from all over the world. Conversely, France began a violent revolution shortly thereafter and, though they had the same goal as America, their method of protest scared off any potential allies. History would weigh heavily on the decisions between the two. Since 1776, The United States of America has had but one revolution and a single constitution. In that same timeframe, France created and lost 17 constitutions to tyranny. They did not regain their latest democracy until 1958, which, not coincidentally, came on the heels of non-violent protests.

Wow. So then what are the hallmarks of a non-violent protest?

(New York Times - The Art of the Protest)

“Plan, plan, plan- A half-century after the street struggles in Birmingham, no American movement has yet surpassed the strategic mastery of the civil rights movement. Civil rights leaders were fighting a war — nonviolently, but a war nevertheless — and they planned it as such. They mapped out protests to create escalating drama and pressure. They ran training schools for activists, teaching them how to ignore provocations to violence, among other lessons.”

“Provoke your opponent, if necessary- The turning point for civil rights came when the Southern Christian Leadership Conference allowed children to march in Birmingham (a decision criticized by many, including Malcolm X)... the city’s commissioner of public safety, ordered the police to turn attack dogs, nightsticks and fire hoses on children marching peacefully — some of them 6 years old. The scenes made the nightly news and the front page of newspapers around the country. The movement won by making a strong moral appeal to public opinion. It showed protesters making sacrifices for their cause. It lured opponents into violence that finally swayed the views of whites.”

“Think national, act local- Protests are most effective when they aim for an achievable goal in one location, knowing that the real battle is for national public opinion. Movements work on two distinct levels... On a local level, the civil rights movement often failed; for example, the concessions won by the Birmingham protesters were vague and modest. But it was Birmingham that finally gave momentum to the passage of federal civil rights legislation.”

“Use humor- In Serbia, the Otpor movement mobilized the country against the dictator Slobodan Milosevic by using pranks to cut through fear. Its daily fare consisted of street actions that painted Milosevic as absurd: When the tyrant dedicated a new bridge, Otpor built one out of Styrofoam and held its own ceremony. Srdja Popovic... calls this “laughtivism.”... It does more than counter fear. Humor breaks down defenses, creating an openness that allows people to consider your argument. “If the joke is good, even the police get it,” said Ivan Marovic, another Otpor leader.” I think this is a good time to examine why Social Justice Warriors have actually taken steps towards losing the good causes they fight for.

“Pull out the pillars- Gene Sharp... argues that every leader, no matter his power, relies on obedience. Without the consent of the governed, power disappears. The goal of a civic movement should be to withdraw consent. Pull out the pillars, and the whole structure falls. Senior citizens and his police were two of Milosevic’s most important pillars. Otpor members worked on both whenever they were arrested (which was quite often). Grandparents got angry when high-school students were repeatedly

arrested or accused of terrorism. And every arrest presented a chance to talk to the police. At the barricades, Otpor led cheers for the police. Over time, the police got to know the students they kept arresting, and some came to admire the youths' commitment to nonviolence. "Police officers would complain to us about their salaries," said Slobodan Homen, an Otpor leader. He offered some advice for Milosevic: "If later you order these people to shoot us — well, don't count on it."

"Exploit galvanizing events- During the 1970s, the United States built nuclear power plants. Lots of them. The first major protests came from the Clamshell Alliance, formed in 1976 to oppose the construction of the Seabrook Station plant in New Hampshire. The Clamshell Alliance failed to stop Seabrook's construction, but it gave rise to a grass-roots antinuclear movement. Groups around the country staged protests and sit-ins that slowed the pace of new reactor construction.

Then on March 28, 1979, Reactor Number 2 at the Three Mile Island station lost coolant and suffered a partial meltdown. The nuclear reactor industry never recovered.... Events that galvanize public attention occur frequently. Most lead to nothing. But a few become sparks for sweeping change. What makes the difference is the existence of a prepared movement. Thankfully, a galvanizing event need not be a nuclear meltdown. It does need to be an attention-grabbing drama where one side holds the moral advantage. When activists don't have one, they have sometimes created one: think Bull Connor's dogs, or Gandhi's Salt March."

I would add that seeking unification of as many allies as possible is imperative. If you don't have to make people mad, then don't. I look at the Kaepernick protest, which I am sympathetic to. The act of kneeling during the anthem angered good police officers, soldiers, and veterans. We can argue that they should not have been angered, but common sense tells us they will be. Because those potential allies did not join the movement, the kneeling protest just made each side louder than before, but the stalemate continued. MLK Jr planned the bus protests ahead of time when an unwed, pregnant black girl was kicked to the back of a bus. Instead of beginning his protest, he waited. He had every right to protest, but waited for a circumstance when fundamental Christians had no excuses to reject the movement.

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