

RED STAR STATE: 2ND EDITION

**A PLAN FOR A NEW SOCIALIST
TEXAS**



**WRITTEN AND EDITED BY
THE DENTON LEFT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Roads, Infrastructure, and Transport	5
Healthcare & Trans Care	7
Landlords & Housing Rights	8
Art	12
Political Ideologies.....	13
The Workplace	22
Social Connection.....	23
Education.....	24
Self-Actualization	25
The Military.....	26
Law Enforcement & Prisons	28
Discrimination	31
What Socialism Will Change.....	41
How Do We Get There?	52
The Denton Left: Who We Are.....	56

INTRODUCTION

If you are reading this, you have probably heard the word “socialism” before. It’s a common word that’s used as a scare tactic or a recruitment tool to bring in voters. “Socialism” is used by Republicans and some Democrats as this hidden evil waiting to ambush the country into sharing the wealth. Capitalism, in contrast, is treated like the ultimate good. “Free market” is something you will hear talked about like it is a necessity of democracy and entrepreneurs are put on a pedestal. We are the Denton Left and we hate capitalism, the Republicans, and the Democrats.

We believe that capitalism is inhumane; but also ineffective as an economic system. It makes people labor their lives away in needlessly awful jobs that pay too little, give them no benefits, and give power to a shrinking circle of owners and bosses. It takes the value created by people around the world and turns it into money for people who don’t need it. It divides resources unevenly with one class of people constantly amassing wealth, while another is falling on harder times. If you are reading this, you are struggling with debt, most likely. You have people to care for, debts to pay off, and a job to work. You keep planning for the next couple of months, but things keep popping up that ruin your plans and your finances. This system is not an accident and it keeps you constantly teetering towards poverty if you don’t continue working long hours at your job. It needs you in that position so you can continue making profits for capitalists with little cost on their part. You are in the second class of people. We, in the Denton Left, believe that humanity should evolve away from capitalism just like we evolved away from feudalism and the rule of kings. Only then, can we truly move on to a brighter future.

All that said, we would like to clarify and address a few things before we get into the meat of the text. These are

common misconceptions and arguments that are lobbed at socialists that we would like to knock down now:

1. When we say “capitalist”, we don’t mean someone who politically agrees with capitalism. Capitalists are an economic class of people who own private property and the means of production (factories, farms, businesses, etc.). This means that they can be any ideology they feel they agree with. For example, a Republican can be a capitalist if they own a business, but if they don’t, then they are just a Republican and not a capitalist.

2. Capitalism is an economic and political system where goods and services are produced for a profit by private owners who control the means of production. When we say “capitalism” we are referencing a series of assumptions and policies that have followed a trend in the industrialized world since the 1700s. Capitalism is not the opposite of “the government” as the system encompasses the government, the economy, and many parts of culture.

3. Private properties are the assets used to extract profit, while personal properties are the things you own. When we say we want to abolish private property, that doesn’t mean we want to turn your home into a collective housing unit. It means that you cannot own another home and rent it out to people since housing will be guaranteed to everyone.

4. Socialism, generally, is a system in which private property is abolished. It is not a system where private owners still control the means of production but the government also provides some services. That is still capitalism.

5. The government is not inherently socialist. Governments work to preserve the existing order of things and are controlled by the ruling class. The United States government is run by capitalists for capitalist interests, its control of the post office does not make it socialist.

6. Humankind is not inherently selfish or capitalistic. While there could be an argument about self-interest and human nature, we, as a species have had many societies that aren't hierarchical, war-like, or dominated by a class system. These societies are ignored in favor of ones that fit the narrative that we are all out for ourselves. If our species were so selfish, then humanity would not have formed groups in the first place. We are social animals and we rely on each other for food, shelter, and protection. Yes, that does serve our self-interest for security, but that doesn't suggest that we all will bring that safety net down for the sake of selfishness.

The Denton Left believes that someday, humankind will reach heights that we cannot think are possible now. Capitalism stops us from achieving that goal. We hope that by reading this manifesto you will be convinced to join us or, at the very least, understand us.

You have probably noticed the fact that this book has the "2nd edition" subheader on it. That is there to clean up some embarrassing grammar and punctuation mistakes, add further context to some issues, correct inaccurate statements, and update some sections with our evolving political climate.

ROADS, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND TRANSPORT

If you've lived in Denton for any amount of time, it's hard not to notice our roads and the terrible shape they seem to be in all the time. It's not just a Denton thing, either - across the state of Texas, we can see poorly maintained roads, bridges that aren't safe, and cities that don't seem planned out properly. In a 2021 report from the White House, Texas received one of the lowest grades in the country when it came to our roads and highways. All these potholes, aging

bridges, and crumbling infrastructure costs Texas drivers approximately \$682 a year in repairs to their vehicles.

So, why is this? Well, it comes down to one simple answer: corruption.

Corruption in construction contracts and building programs is all too common. When central governments distribute funds to local units without maintaining centralized control or requiring local contributions, then money tends to disappear. This is why you see projects like Bonnie Brae Street taking much, much longer than they should, because funding that should be going to these projects keeps getting rerouted to other unrelated “projects,” which then makes the actual construction projects take forever to finish. We’re all very familiar with the eternally unfinished Interstate-35.

The American discipline of road engineering is dominated by highways, which are designed to move as many cars from point A to point B as fast as possible. This mindset also contributes to how our streets get designed. Think about University Drive: already it’s a crowded scar across the entire city of Denton, yet as of summer 2022 there’s talk of adding yet another lane to it. University Drive is a route for people to get to and from the shops, restaurants, and grocery stores that are lined up around it, with lots of stop lights for other traffic to flow, but it’s designed like a highway where people drive 40 or 50mph in between those stoplights. It’s a *highway* that’s trying to be a *street*.

This is also a result of the sprawl inherent in how we Americans build our cities. Everything is much too spread out, but why? The ultimate reason, which can be traced back all the way to the 1950s, is to facilitate the sale of cars. Combine this with the powerful force of land development capital, people started to like having single family homes with yards and fences instead of apartment buildings that could house many families and individuals in the same

amount of space, built upwards instead of outwards. Thus, for decades now homeowners associations and wealthy (usually white) landowners actively prevent these affordable housing complexes from being built “in their backyard,” further contributing to the sprawl and class disparity at the same time.

Transportation falls into the trap of corruption, too. Here in Denton, we’re pushing back against the new GoZone program that the City of Denton is trying to establish. Instead of investing in our existing public bus system, Denton officials like Chris Watts, Gerard Hudspeth, and Jesse Davis are outsourcing this important utility to Via, a private company based in New York City. According to an article in Local Denton, written by a user named Denton Transit Posting, Go Zone's internal dashboard shows that from September 2021 to January 2022, 165,000 requests were made. Of those, 49,000, or 30%, were not accepted by riders, cancelled by riders, or rejected by GoZone due to lack of capacity.

Infrastructure doesn’t just mean roads, either. Our internet water treatment, phone connections, and power grid all fall under this umbrella - and Texas isn’t doing great in those areas, either. Most famously in recent years is the power grid failure during the February 2020 winter storm. The entire state of Texas was offline for over a week, and as a result 246 people died, mostly from hypothermia. Despite this tragedy, brought on by staggering neglect, denial, and corruption, Governor Greg Abbott has still done nothing to fix our power grid. A winter storm isn’t the only thing that can cause this disaster - intense heat waves, which are becoming more and more common - can crash the Texas power grid as more people crank up the A/C to stay safe from the intense heat.

All of this paints a stark picture of the state that our roads and infrastructure is in right now. Our elected officials are failing us, choosing to prioritize making money and getting

re-elected instead of helping the people. At the root of this is one thing: *capitalism*. We live in a system that incentivizes this kind of behavior, and with no oversight or accountability, our elected officials have no reason to not stick their hand in the cookie jar and take everything they can.

We need a better system that exists to serve the people, not corporate interests. **Capitalism is not that system.**

HEALTHCARE & TRANS CARE

If you're struggling with your physical, mental, or emotional health, it can be very hard to get through each day. And it seems like America knows that, right? The United States spends more on healthcare than any other country, coming out to \$3.8 trillion in 2019 - and of course, that number has only skyrocketed since COVID-19. So, if we're spending all of this money, we must be doing pretty good, right?

Wrong.

Half of U.S. adults say they put off or skipped some sort of health care or dental care in the past year because of the cost. In Texas specifically, the problem is even worse, because Texas is one of the 11 states that rejected the expansion of its Medicare program. As a result, **1 in 5 Texans have no health insurance** - the highest rate in the country - and thousands of people fall in the "Medicare gap," where they make too much to qualify for the Medicare but make too little to afford private insurance. This is a story we've heard countless times from our fellow Texans.

Politicians like Governor Abbott have handwaved this important issue away by saying that the Affordable Care Act is "bloated" and "broken" without actually giving a good reason why he continues to deny coverage to families and children in need. Republicans say that they're trying to be

fiscally responsible with this rejection, but in reality, the 32 states that have expanded Medicaid under the ACA have had budget savings, revenue gains, and overall economic growth. States like Texas that have refused to expand coverage are actually *spending more money overall*.

This isn't the only way our fellow Texans are suffering, either. In March of 2022, Governor Abbott and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton issued an order that classified puberty blockers, hormone therapy, and surgical care as child abuse. There wasn't any danger from these things they were trying to "protect" us from - Republicans here in Texas and around the country are intentionally stripping away care options for trans kids and teens. Numerous medical organizations across the country, like the Texas Medical Association, Texas Counseling Association, and Texas Pediatric Society all agree that gender-affirming care is the best way to provide care to transgender children. Plus, not only is it cruel to deny healthcare to these children, banning things like puberty blockers actually harms so many other people as well - things like early onset puberty, infertility, and prostate cancer are suddenly much harder to treat with this blanket ban that came as a result of pure discrimination.

So, what's the solution here?

We need universal healthcare - full stop. The United States is the only developed country in the world that doesn't have some form of universal healthcare system, and the only reason why is **money**. Health insurance companies, bloated healthcare administration, for-profit hospitals, and ridiculous costs-for-care have snowballed into a money-making machine that chews up regular working people and spits them out.

Nobody should be left homeless and destitute because they needed to see a doctor. *Let's work together to abolish this cruel healthcare system* and establish one that prioritizes the

wellbeing of all people, both you and your neighbor.

LANDLORDS & HOUSING RIGHTS

In February 2022, the Texas Tribune interviewed 37-year-old Rebecca Brown of Carrollton, to learn about why her apartment complex suddenly increased her rent. Her two-bedroom apartment was already \$1,443, and now she was supposed to come up with nearly \$400 extra every month. This story is one happening all across the country - rent increased a massive 16%, from April 2021 to April 2022, meaning renters everywhere are feeling the pressure as their landlords add hundreds of dollars onto their monthly bill. Since Texas is a state that heavily favors landlords, these increases have been particularly huge.

A combination of factors are driving people to look for rental housing, but political and economic forces are limiting the construction of units. And in places where laws favor landlords, and rent control barely exists – renters are forced to take on second or third jobs, or cut other costs, or in the worst cases are pushed out of the community or become homeless.

In 95% of all U.S. counties, a person making minimum wage can't even afford a one-bedroom apartment on their own. Nearly half of all renter households spend almost a third of their income on rent. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, over half a million Americans were homeless. These days, the number is only growing, because workers are just one unexpected expense away from losing everything.

In a 2022 study conducted using data from the most recent U.S. Census, Texas alone has 1,216,084 vacant housing units—that's 11% of all housing in Texas, just sitting empty. In the United States as a whole, nearly 12% of all housing units sit empty - a total of 16,385,739. In the 2021 Annual Homeless Assessment conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing

and Urban Development, the estimated number of people experiencing homelessness in the country is around 326,000 people.

326,000 people without homes. 16,385,739 homes without people. This is unacceptable.

Texas only establishes rent control in an emergency caused by a disaster, and it's a definition that's blurred to mean almost nothing. Plus, rent control policy has to be signed off by the governor, and with someone like Governor Abbott who is extremely friendly with developers and other moneyed interests, he and his Republican friends have very little incentive to establish these rent controls.

With Denton in particular, our city has become a haven for developers and a hell for renters. Denton residents will be very familiar with the name Scott Brown Properties, and it's because he owns 1400 rental units today, mostly in Denton. Brown envisions himself as a salt-of-the-earth Texan, someone who comes from the same blue-collar soil as any other. In reality, Brown owns one-third of the earnings of Denton renters.

The Denton Left believes that housing is a human right, and profiting off of a human right is morally wrong. The amount of "work" a landlord puts into maintaining their properties (if they maintain them at all, which countless renters would argue that their landlords don't) is vastly disproportionate to the amount of money they get from their renters. It's a parasitic relationship, one where the renting party is inherently at a disadvantage.

Think about it: if you believe that housing is a human right, then landlords don't create or contribute anything to their community. If you think that landlords provide a "valuable service," then we encourage you to ask any renter about their experience with their landlord. It's doubtful that any of

them would describe what they experience as “a valuable service.” If landlords didn’t exist, housing would still exist. In fact, landlords take away a service by denying access to already existing shelter.

A house exists independently and separately from the landlord. The house was constructed by a plethora of workers, independent from the landlord, using resources that were also sourced independently from the landlord. Once the house was completed, it sits disconnected from existence of the landlord. The only time the landlord enters the picture is when someone tries to live in the house without paying the arbitrary fee.

All landlords - both big private equity companies and the mythological “mom and pop” landlords - are leveraging a human’s need for shelter in order to personally profit. At the end of the day, a tenant has to work extra hours to receive more money. All a landlord has to do is raise the rent.

ART

Art doesn’t pay well. You already knew that. Talk to any singer or painter that hasn’t made it in Nashville, New York, or Los Angeles and you’ll hear story after story of a person who has a passion for producing something beautiful for the world, yet they have to commit to the same work as the rest of us. This is because of the way capitalism has developed in America.

Musicians, writers, and other artists are not considered “serious”, their work is believed to be a hobby unless they are promoted by a record company, art museum, or publisher. The market, at least in the U.S., doesn’t believe that culture is something worth developing unless it’s marketable. And what’s more marketable than something that was already a success? Music becomes more generic, paintings start to

lose their symbolic significance, and Hollywood recycles the same stories over and over. Art becomes a tool to rake in money, not something to create for the sake of itself. Capitalism, especially the capitalism of today, has killed the old inspirations of art: religion, community, and history and has reduced it all to one single question: “So how much for it?”

Property is also viewed as superior to art and this is very visible in Denton. Our city is known for its works of art. Go to the Square or by Fry Street and you can see the murals that range from political statements to advertisements. Hang out on the weekends and hear the buskers singing and playing for your dollar. Come to the Arts and Jazz Festival and down a beer while shopping for paintings that suit your room. But while you are doing all of that, look at the apartments and townhouses, look at the complexes that tower over our city and the walls owned by landlords and you’ll notice the difference. They aren’t colorful or vibrant, maybe one will tolerate an ad for their company or a city-sponsored mural but the majority, especially those owned by Scott Brown Properties, are dull, solid colors. Like a cinderblock dropped on a garden, these properties aren’t owned by the people living there. They are made to be rented and rented again to different people. So, the landlords keep them drab and lifeless or safe and sanitized so they don’t offend any prospective tenants. Property is superior to art under capitalism. Since art doesn’t guarantee a profit, why even bother?

POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES

Let’s be real here. Right now, there are only two real political parties in America. Sure, we can always form our own parties, but we all know who is going to be duking it out for the presidency every four years. The Democrats rule the liberals with an iron fist while the Republicans control the

conservative movement. You may be asking why we aren't aligned with the former since both the Democrats and the Denton Left claim to be leftists politically. We will explain this later, but for now, we will simply say that we do not believe that the Democratic Party wants the same world we want. This section is for explaining the four main political ideologies in our country and their flaws.

LIBERALS

Liberals are probably the most popular ideology in the US. Liberalism, in the American context, believes in social welfare, some regulation of the free market, and fighting for the rights of everyday people. At least, this is what they tell us. In practice, they are the party of war, ineffective policy, and barely restrained corporations.

The Democrats, especially since the administration of Bill Clinton, have repeatedly pushed themselves as the “lesser of two evils”, only for their rivals, the Republicans, to whittle down liberal policies to nothing. Every two years, Democrats and their organizers parade out to get votes for their party holding up whatever Republican president as a bogeyman to scare people into voting blue. Meanwhile, their politicians bow down to any pushback from the right and backtrack on campaign promises. They have given up any hope of changing America for the better and feel that the people of this country can only look forward to a collapse of progressivism while politicians line their pockets with lobbyist money. Over the past forty years, the liberal ideology has only shown that it is incapable of any positive change. Its methods of compromise and gradual reform have left us all with a dark future ruled by geriatric racists and young venture capitalists with no personality. They are just as, if not more, responsible for the position the American people are in as the Republican party. The Democratic Party assumed the title of “leftist” after they took part in the suppression of communists, socialists, and anarchists in the labor and civil rights movements. They took this title only to

let abortion become illegal in half the country, to allow right-wing violence to explode, to fail at delivering a decent healthcare plan, to not even bother stopping corporations from killing the environment, and to let the police and prison system become militarized. They do not deserve our support.

Our policy on liberals is that we work with them where our interests intersect, but always cautiously. We will always expect a knife in the back due to their relationship with the system that we are against, but we do believe that the grassroots organizers are honest when they say they support social issues.

The politicians in the party can go to hell.

SOCIAL DEMOCRACY

These are your Bernie Sanders-style Democrats and are closer to what mainstream liberals claim to be. Followers of this ideology want to reform capitalism to something more suitable and help the poorest people in the country through social programs. We tend to agree with them on most things but our major difference is they want to treat the symptoms of the disease instead of the disease itself. Capitalism creates poverty, its structure necessitates it. Social Democrats can only treat the problems it creates, they can't stop the problems from happening.

Bernie Sanders, assuming he has the support, can give us universal healthcare, (and don't get us wrong, we would love that) but he can't stop the near-endless power of the rich in this country from stripping it away until it would be a shadow of what we would need. He would not be able to stop the right-wing groups from trying to eliminate it after he is out of power. The forces that keep capitalism in place would continue to push until they finally reconquer their lost territory. The point of socialism isn't a constant tug-of-war with the rich and powerful. The point is to finally win.

CONSERVATIVES

A powerful, well-funded ideology in the United States, conservatism is the juggernaut of right-wing ideology and runs the Republican party. Conservatives say their values are “small government” and a return to “traditional values”, but they also seem to be the same people that support wars, invasive policing, and for these “traditional values” to be enforced by the government. Unlike the Democrats, who make promises only to backtrack once in office, Republican politicians seem hellbent on pushing their policies through no matter what. Since the liberals have abandoned the south to the Republicans on a state level, conservative governors were pretty comfortable stripping away any rights that didn’t benefit the rich and powerful. Abortion bans, draconian voter identification laws, anti-labor union laws, and a militarized border have enforced a right-wing order that aims to centralize power into the hands of mainly rich, white capitalists.

Needless to say, we have no interest in working with conservatives nor do we find any common cause with them. Their policies are heinous and the future they want is directly opposed to ours.

RELIGIOUS EXTREMISTS

The most radical of the conservative base. These are the Qanon conspiracy theorists, the evangelical pastors, and the catholic lobbyists.

While conservatism has been mainly dominated by economic and racial interests, in 1979, Jerry Falwell Sr. and other conservative pastors decided, that to stop the integration of their churches, they would start organizing the evangelical movement. Evangelicals, which supported

Democrats like Jimmy Carter at the time, were transformed into something more right-wing and dedicated to a forcible Christianization of the country. School prayer, abortion, and “Christian values” became issues this group started battling over which then joined the anti-Muslim sentiments that spiked post-9/11.

A general and understandable distrust of the government developed in these circles that quickly evolved into conspiracy theories. This sentiment was embraced by politicians trying to distance themselves from what Trump would later name “the swamp” in Washington D.C. as a tool to go after political rivals, but only superficially. Since the dissatisfaction is so vague on who it’s targeting and lacks an analysis beyond “the people I don’t like”, the theories of Satan-worshipping child-eaters spread in a community that already didn’t trust mainstream media for its roles in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Enter Donald Trump who brought the evangelical conspiracy wing, the conservative catholic figures, and even New Age believers into a personality cult and then, eventually, an actual cult. This cult claimed Trump as a savior to the United States sent by God himself to save the country from a cabal of evil. Q, an anonymous online personality, provided cryptic messages online that were interpreted as a type of prophecy. Republican politicians who do not tow the Qanon line are treated as outsiders working with “the swamp” and are beaten by conservatives who do follow it in state primaries. Our Governor Greg Abbott makes constant overtures to the religious right with prayer days, anti-trans legislation, and his anti-abortion stance.

More can be said about religion and its effects on politics, but let us make something clear. Whatever god you worship is your business; *we have a problem when your god tries to dictate how other people live their lives.*

LIBERTARIANS

A relatively small group, libertarians believe in a market free from regulation and minimal government influence in daily life. They commonly say they are “socially liberal but fiscally conservative”, but we interpret this as “poor, gay people should suffer because they are poor, not because they are gay”. The ideals of libertarianism seem agreeable to people who don’t know much about the history of companies and their relationship with the government. We don’t need to tell you about the massive influence corporations have on politics, the power of lobbyists, the state of labor unions in Texas, or the fact that many of the most dystopian policies are being driven by massive tech conglomerates. We trust that you already know that. Deregulation of these companies would only allow them to commit their crimes more openly.

Libertarians make the mistake of believing that the government is some separate force from capitalism, that it is a tyrannical entity keeping the market from balancing itself out. What they don’t understand is that the government is the committee that manages capitalism and helps it thrive. Property can’t be protected without laws and laws can’t be enforced without the bureaucracy necessary for it (police, courts, contracts, legal tender, etc.). If the bureaucracy isn’t supported by a relatively neutral group, then it falls on the companies to provide their own bureaucracy, coming into conflict with one another. Today’s government plays mediator, not only between these companies but also between the capitalists and workers in an attempt to preserve capitalism as the prevailing system. Remove the mediator, and you only empower the capitalists or you let class war rampage until one side wins, risking capitalism’s existence. Libertarians would like to preserve that system, leading to a future of capitalist dominance of society that is even more than what they have now. If libertarianism promises us anything, it’s a return to the Gilded Age at best, and corporate feudalism at worst.

Fittingly, our opinion on them varies from person to person. Some are sincere when they say they want a free society that doesn't interfere with people's personal lives and we support that when it comes to the rights of the LGBT+ people, the right to get an abortion, the right to privacy, and opposition to police violence. That said, there are others that seem to cry more when a business gets looted than when a person dies. We have no respect for those types. It should also be noted, many have been increasingly aligning themselves with their right-wing brethren in attacks on what they call "woke culture", a worrying trend that will force us to treat them as we do the next section of political ideologies.

FASCISTS

Fascism is a far-right ideology that champions power, authority, ultranationalism, and "purity". Fascists believe that the "nation" is an organic thing that, if unified, will be free from conflicts except when testing its strength against other "nations". These ideas of "purity" and "nation" usually manifest in racial terms and express the idea that one race is "superior" to another. While you are probably familiar with examples of the Axis powers of World War II as examples of fascism, it should also be noted that many of the ideals, particularly of the Nazi party were exported to other countries. Namely, the United States.

There have been three major waves of the Ku Klux Klan. The first wave was from 1865-72, the second was from 1915-1944, and the third is from 1950 to the present day. While the Klan shared many ideas with the Nazis, they did not become explicitly fascist until Germany was defeated. Some other groups and parties sprang up in the USA, but none were as successful as the Klan.

The Klan's terrorism brought them into the prisons, forming gangs that retained their racist outlook but focused more

on criminal activity than their politics. But many were able to spread their ideas in the 90s when the internet became available. This led to a neo-fascist movement that has been coalescing on white supremacist websites. From these sites, they recruited more to their cause and were able to infiltrate others like YouTube and 4chan. All this new blood revitalized the fascists into forming new political organizations leading to the 2017 “Unite the Right” rally. In which, a woman named Heather Heyer was murdered by a white supremacist.

Since the election of Donald Trump, fascists have become more and more active. In Texas specifically, groups like the Atomwaffen Division plan for the violent establishment of a white ethnostate, that is a government that excludes anyone who is not white. The Proud Boys, a nationalistic and misogynistic group, act as bodyguards to right-wing speakers and attempt to attack activists. Patriot Front, a group that openly declares its fascistic beliefs, flyers in the DFW area. These groups are dangerous, they have killed people, but they also feed off the fear to promote their agendas.

Fascism itself relies on major misunderstandings of nationhood, power, leadership, and nature. The ideology relies on the idea that nations are a natural, inherent thing. This, historically, isn't true at all as many cultural identities formed over time through interaction with each other. Cajuns, Amish, and Latin identities all have histories that are built over time from the changing of locations, interactions with colonial powers, and mixtures of different ways of living. If “the nation” was natural, why were so many different Europeans in America not included in the definition of “white”? There was a time when the Irish, Italian, and Slavic peoples were discriminated against, why weren't they in “the nation” back then but are accepted as white people now? The fact that it is so liquid and changing proves “the nation” is a myth that only exists in the minds of humanity.

The notions of power and leadership are also full of errors. Fascism asserts that power is a natural goal in and unto itself. Power, to a fascist, is a club to beat your enemies into submission, the finish line to change a liberal capitalist country into one that serves fascism. Fascism has no real end goal, it simply wants to attain power and perpetuate its own existence forever believing that if it clobbers enough heads, their utopia will not only exist, they will be able to enjoy it. This is proven in their idea of the “leader”.

Every fascist movement has had a leader: a Duce, a Poglavnik, a Führer. In essence, the leader is the supreme commander of fascist society and the physical embodiment of their ideology. You see them embrace these figures and scream their name when saluting. Their leader is the state and nation, without him (and it is usually “him”), there is no fascist movement and to criticize him is to criticize the ideology. All this glorification of leaders makes the multiple fascist movements in the US rife with infighting. Everyone wants to be the Leader. What they don’t realize is that the governments they idolize weren’t united behind their leaders, they had multiple people all vying for the throne. Leadership always involves delegation of departments to others and with the narcissistic tendencies you find in fascism, all these other fascists tend to think they can run the government and so, absent an outside enemy, they eat each other.

Fascism, because of these power struggles, always has a crisis after the first leader dies which makes its collapse inevitable. There is no movement to keep it alive because the goal was always to attain power and all that social climbing steps on quite a few faces. Those people that get stepped on tend to get together and decide they don’t like being stepped on. Movements are made of people with an interest to change things, they aren’t subject to the will of one person. That is why dictatorship, and by extension

fascist leadership, is so flawed.

Our policy on fascism is very simple: it must be completely eradicated, and we do not tolerate or negotiate with fascists.

THE WORKPLACE

The workplace under capitalism is a dictatorship. Your input on the decisions of your job is not considered unless your *appointed* boss or *appointed* managers deem you worthy of advising them. Even if they listen to you, they can freely take credit for any idea you make. Anything you do is monitored, anything you create is stolen, and all your work lines the pockets of your superiors.

From 2000-2020, 632 cases of wage theft were committed by bosses in Texas totaling in \$632,000,000 in wages that were reclaimed. That is only the cases we know about. The capitalist workplace pressures you to work long hours, spend most of your life laboring for the benefit of someone else, keep quiet about safety hazards, and ignore abuses of power all in the name of keeping you out of poverty. Meanwhile, your labor goes to filling your bosses' pocketbook. Have you ever asked them how much your boss makes, reader? I'd bet \$7.25 they aren't feeling the weight of poverty like you are.

Any attempt at taking some sort of power such as forming a union is met with sabotage from the employer. We can see from the attempts at unionization in the Amazon warehouses and Starbucks shops that bosses will break any labor law they can to undermine workers because they know they will get a slap on the wrist for their crimes. Any attempt at democratizing the workplace is met with intimidation, threats, propaganda, and retaliation. Texas, being an "employment-at-will" state, allows your boss to fire you for any reason they see fit. While, legally-speaking, they can't fire you for organizing a union, they can fire you for anything else while you are organizing a union. Walmart shuts down

entire stores when they smell a whiff of unionization. McDonald's has been trying to automate their jobs as fast as possible to make their corporation a money printer instead of giving their workers a say in the store. The giants of industry know that their money comes from your exploitation, so they crush any attempts at a union whenever they can.

Even jobs themselves have become more demeaning. Wait staff have to act like obedient servants or they don't get badly needed tips. Uber and Lyft drivers have to constantly entertain the worst customers simply so they don't get a bad rating. Almost every service job requires you to stand or walk for hours on end without a break and smile to people that think they are owed your service. The workplace under capitalism is a place of drudgery. It's a stressful environment that only makes you exhausted and irritable at the end of the day. What kind of life is that?

SOCIAL CONNECTION

If you ask what is wrong with the world to any person over the age of fifty, they may say "people don't talk to each other anymore." In some sense, we'd agree. Capitalism has, over time, evolved to separate us from each other. A work day consists of driving to work, wasting away for eight hours or more, only to come home exhausted. It makes us tired and unwilling to put in the effort to socialize. Labor itself has become isolating and humans, as social animals, need connections to survive. With the development of technology and especially under the pandemic, some jobs have become separated by computer screens and cubicles. Separation creates a division

Even children suffer under this. Schools and public education have not only become political battlefields for conservatives attempting to erase any mention of racism or the existence

of the LGBT+ community, but the structure of education has also become focused on producing workers for jobs over developing the social skills of students. This lets the bigotry of older generations seep into the interactions they have with one another or leads them to socialize online which comes with its own myriad of problems. Racism, misogyny, homophobia, and discrimination against disabled people become the norm and marginalize kids at an age where they are the most emotionally vulnerable. Simply put, we are failing our kids and the isolation that both children and adults face alienates them from their fellow human beings, leading to a society that does not value humanity as it should and instead views it with either hatred or exploitation.

EDUCATION

Lower education provides an example of how the class system divides children. The difference in the quality of private schools versus public schools is the best evidence for this. Private schools, and even public schools in richer neighborhoods, have better resources which leads to more successful children. Parents unable to move to these neighborhoods get priced out while teachers struggle to buy supplies for their classrooms. Your quality of education and the ability to fully comprehend the world around you becomes limited by your class position.

Higher education hides knowledge behind paywalls and expensive time-consuming classes that not everyone can take. On top of the American tuition crisis, academic journals that could help educate people are locked behind subscription fees, making education a privilege for the rich. This has a tendency to centralize knowledge in the hands of experts. While there is nothing wrong with being an expert in something, the structure makes information less accessible to people for the sake of job security. This stifling of education limits the possibility of someone becoming

the person they want to be.

SELF-ACTUALIZATION

We mentioned before how the system has become something that isolates us from one another, but it also isolates us from our own labor and from ourselves. There is no connection to work anymore, there is no joy in the work we do under capitalism and the exhaustion it creates also keeps us from advancing ourselves mentally and socially. We don't enjoy our lives as much as we could. Think of every skill you wanted to develop, every language you thought it would be cool to learn, every time you missed out on events with friends or family, every book you wanted to read, and movie you wanted to see. What stopped you from doing those things? Was it your fault? Did you purposely deny yourself joy in life or did you simply have so much work that you couldn't do them? How many of these things just weren't in the budget with all the loan and insurance payments you had to make?

Capitalism reduces human beings to the marketable value they produce and by doing that, they reduce them to whatever they need to survive in order to have them work. This ignores that needs go beyond food and water, to have a truly fulfilling life, people need to realize who they are through culture, education, and community and that is something that capitalism can't give us when it can't even make sure the poor have clean water or a healthy meal.

THE MILITARY

American propaganda has been mostly pro-military since the days of 9/11. In the days of the 2000's, the phrase "support the troops" was plastered on every car bumper and wall, but how does this government "support the troops"? How do Republicans and Democrats support traumatized soldiers returning from the front lines? Abandonment, but

not before they serve the interests of the rich and powerful. Young people, teenagers, are recruited by the war machine to die in countries they may not have even heard about. They are told to swear a life or death oath to a flag that hides atrocity after atrocity behind its folds.

One glaring example of this tragic reality is the Iraq War (2003-2011). Thousands of American soldiers were deployed to a foreign land under false pretenses, based on lies about weapons of mass destruction. These soldiers, many of whom came from working-class backgrounds, were sent to fight and die in a war that had nothing to do with “protecting our freedoms” or “national security”. The war in Iraq was a prime example of an imperialistic endeavor that caused immense suffering, loss of innocent lives, massive destruction, and fueled the rise of ISIS.

Another illustration is the conflict in Afghanistan (2001-2021). For nearly two decades, soldiers had been deployed to a war-torn country, entangled in a seemingly endless and purposeless conflict. Many of these soldiers, who joined the military seeking a better future or to serve their country, find themselves fighting a war with no clear objective, while being subjected to the horrors of combat and the mental toll it takes. What was the goal of the Afghan War? The destruction of the Taliban? “Spreading Democracy”? Stop terrorism? Or was it about the weapon sales of private military companies?

When these soldiers come home, they are faced with the same problems former prisoners face: a struggle to reintegrate, a fight to forget what they saw, and an attempt to make sense of all of it. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a serious mental health condition and is a result of the traumatic experiences they encountered during their service. PTSD affects 7% of all veterans and 29% of veterans from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom have experienced PTSD at some point in their life. Unfortunately, accessing proper healthcare for PTSD and other mental health issues can be challenging for veterans. Limited resources and insufficient mental health services prevent many veterans from receiving the help they need. Ordinary fear-based memories are a normal and adaptive response to something aversive (e.g., you touch a hot stove and now

you know to be careful around the stove when cooking). In fact, the parts of the brain largely responsible for memory consolidation (hippocampus) and emotion (amygdala) are right by each other, and work in tandem. However, Traumatic memories differ from ordinary memories in several ways. They are often vivid, intrusive, and distressing, causing the individual to relive the traumatic event through flashbacks or nightmares. These memories can be fragmented or incomplete, making it challenging to process or consolidate the event and integrate it into their life story. Now think of how this affects a person that has seen war. This is what the US government does to its own citizens, all while claiming it is for the greater good.

Even the benefits of serving fail. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has faced numerous challenges and failures in providing adequate care and support to veterans. Issues such as long wait times for medical appointments, understaffing, and a lack of resources have plagued the VA system. Additionally, proposed budget cuts to the VA further exacerbate the problem, potentially compromising the quality of care veterans receive. The Post 9/11 GI Bill was introduced to provide veterans with educational opportunities, including the promise of free college. However, a significant percentage of veterans do not utilize these benefits due to various reasons, including the challenges of transitioning from military to civilian life, financial constraints, or being too traumatized to effectively pursue education. If a decision about schooling isn't made within a certain timeframe, the funds allotted for education may expire, adding additional pressure on veterans who are already facing multiple challenges. Still, people join the US military to receive the benefits while gambling with their mental health. This is why we can never receive free university education under American capitalism, because working-class people are pressured to serve military time to be granted education and the promise of escaping poverty, constantly providing fresh faces to become the spearhead of an American empire. This is called the "economic draft". These people aren't forced by threats of arrests, they are "incentivized" to sacrifice years, mental stability, and even their lives for even the possibility of escaping the bottom of capitalism's pit. "Support the troops", indeed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & PRISONS

There isn't much we can say about cops that hasn't already been said. They are dominated by a white supremacist disease that can be traced all the way back to the old slave patrols. They are an exceptionally brutal, militaristic force that kills more people than any other wealthy country in the world. They are a politically powerful organization that makes any attempt (yes, even defunding them) nearly impossible. If you have paid attention to the news in the past couple of years, you knew all of that. You know about George Floyd being suffocated on camera, you know about Daniel Shaver being gunned down in a hotel while he was crawling towards an officer, you know about Roxanne Moore being shot sixteen times and the District Attorney saying it was "justifiable". You have seen protests in the streets, football players kneeling, and cop unions defending every heinous act they can. We, dear reader, do not need to write about America's police and how violent and egotistical they are. You know already.

Every day you drive or walk past someone with the ultimate authority to kill you, and every one of their friends in the force will defend them, their union will protect them, and the politicians will congratulate them while shoveling them more money. News stations will come out of the woodwork and dig up any possible evidence to say you deserved it. Conservatives will march in support of your killer and say he deserves a promotion for gunning you down. Liberal politicians will attend your funeral and then give your murderer a raise. At any moment, your local police department, the FBI, the NSA, ICE, and every other alphabet organization could break your door down and drag you away.

Even their slogan, "to protect and serve", fails at almost every chance that presents itself. Darius Tarver, a student of the University of North Texas was shot and killed by Denton

police while he was in a mental health crisis. In 2020, police departments across the country deployed tear gas, which is banned by the UN's Chemical Weapons Convention, on protestors; and let's not forget Uvalde, Texas. Uvalde, whose 376 law enforcement officers, despite being on the scene, did not stop a mass shooter and lost 19 children and 2 teachers at their elementary school. They waited outside the school for an hour. What was the excuse of these people we are told are selfless heroes? "We might've got shot!"

The police aren't your heroes or your saviors. They are an occupying force that is given armored personnel carriers, chemical agents, and weapons of war on behalf of the rich and powerful. They are taught tactics of suppression and crackdown in the service of property owners. They are trained to think that, at every moment, it's kill or be killed and they take that training home to their spouses, abusing them at a 40% national rate. They are a state-sanctioned gang, harassing people in communities that they have no connection to and that is why they must be abolished as an institution.

We aren't ignorant; we are aware that Denton police are somewhat different than Dallas or even Fort Worth cops. Denton officers, unlike large metropolitan cities, recruit their deputies from the communities they police. If you live in the area, you may have friends or family on the force and they may honestly think they are helping their city. The problem is not with the character of these cops, the problem is the system itself. The police are tools of the government and are the enforcers of its laws - laws we find illegitimate and are made by politicians that we do not consent to. The cops are the club and lasso that beats and wrangles working people into prisons and early graves. Your uncle on the force may be a nice guy, but the fact he is willing to wield that baton of his, to be the boot on someone's back, or to fire rubber bullets into a crowd, says something about his character.

On the other side of law enforcement is the prison system. Amendment XIII of the United States Constitution states “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, *except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted*, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.” The government, after fighting a brutal war just to decide that forcing someone to work against their will was inhumane, decided to give themselves a little out: as long as someone is a prisoner, you can work them as long as you want for as little as you want! Private companies, wanting to make up for their recently freed laborers, used convict leasing to refill plantations with unpaid workers to get plantations moving again.

As you probably know reader, from the 1980s onward, the War on Drugs produced a plethora of new hires to work for pennies on the dollar! Thousands of people were arrested and processed so they could prepare for their new lives fighting small-scale race wars in a concrete yard, surviving sexual assault in a prison cell, or being sent out to extinguish fires for three cents an hour. After this process, they would get spat back into a world they have been isolated from and end up either back in the system or dead. These prisons provide us with no safety, only monsters of their own creation that churn out profit margins. They don’t solve the underlying causes of crime, only try to punish them after the fact as a deterrent, and fail at that.

DISCRIMINATION

Capitalism’s development in America, being an offshoot of European colonization, has been extremely discriminatory. While strides have been made in civil rights in the last century, the legacy of genocide, persecution, and domination in this country continue like ulcers on the insides of the United States. While many people would like you to believe we live in a new age of progress where we have moved past all these

crimes, we feel it necessary to show you that these sores are still bleeding.

PATRIARCHY

When the first European settlers came to North America, they believed in the supremacy of their men over women. With the Bible in their hands, they declared women as property of their fathers and husbands and then demanded their submission. While American misogynists have always relied on Christianity to justify their actions, globally, the oppression of women predates the religion. That said, having taken with them the worst superstitions of the Christian kingdoms, the colonists believed that God, in His divine wisdom, declared women to be inferior and any woman who strayed from the norm was deemed a witch or a servant of Satan. These accusations have led to some lucrative deals on property for their accusers considering these “witches” were executed but that’s neither here nor there. These beliefs wormed their way into every facet of life: home life, “masculine and feminine jobs”, and even love itself are all corrupted by sexism. Even with the political advancements of Feminism, women still are considered weaker and less intelligent by the political right-wing and are subject to more sexual assault and domestic violence, namely from cisgender men. It should also be mentioned that the United States government still passes regulations on the bodies of women and fails to act on the backward state governments that are waiting in the wings to subject them to men once again. This bigotry is intensified when it is directed towards transgender people which we will elaborate on.

Coinciding with the general oppression of women, the oppression of trans people is just as intense. Trans and nonbinary people, despite being around since the dawn of human society, have only recently entered into public awareness here in the United States. They have been fighting for recognition of their needs in healthcare and

safety from violence. With that, the forces of the political right have gotten together to throw them back into the closet. Conservatives have come out to label anyone beyond their narrow view of gender as deviants and pedophiles while attempting to purge any mention of anything other than heterosexual, cisgender people. Cisgender people, meaning people who identify with the gender they were assigned at birth, are viewed by the political right as the only correct gender identity and, by that logic, all other ones are invalid and should be demonized. This is similar to the tactics homophobic groups used against gay, lesbian and bisexual people in the last century. All of this stems from patriarchal norms as they are used to enforce gender roles and enforce the rule of straight, cis men.

All this is not to say that patriarchy, a society based on the rule of men, supports them on the ground level. Men suffer under it as well. They are pressured into ways of life simply because “that’s what a man does”. Soldiers, firefighters, engineers, construction workers, miners, and fishermen are all traditionally masculine jobs and are also very dangerous. Women are discouraged from these occupations which, combined with unsafe labor practices, lead to a high rate of fatality for these men. Men are also discouraged from expressing their feelings in healthy ways and are taught that bottling up these emotions is the manly way to go about things. It’s no wonder that these men are around four times as likely to commit suicide and much less likely to seek psychiatric help. Cisgender men, despite being the people most likely to benefit under this system, suffer from this system that seeks to use them as its enforcers. It’s because of these detrimental effects that Patriarchy brings to all genders that we believe that it should be done away with. It doesn’t need dismantling, it needs obliteration.

RACISM

After the colonists of Europe landed, they almost

immediately found out that this “newly discovered” continent was already inhabited by the people who had lived here for thousands of years. Lopsided deals and broken treaties led to large masses of land gobbled up by French, Dutch, British, Spanish, and American companies and governments, and the Native Americans either face a push into areas they had never been before or become a trophy of the colonization effort. Unlike the treatment of Black people in the United States, where they were forcibly excluded from society, the Indigenous people of this continent were forcibly included through “civilization”. The Europeans and their descendants believed then, just as they do now, that their society to be superior and the bringing in of Native Americans was to be the proof of this superiority. They sent out missionaries to convert the people into Catholics or Protestants while erasing their traditional beliefs. They set up schools, kidnapped children, abused them, and forced them to only speak the language of their empires. They launched “wars” where armies armed with cannons and rifles would annihilate tribes for the promise of gold or for some flimsy excuse. On top of all of this, the blood-soaked conquerors corralled the survivors onto reservations in “Indian Territory” for them to live out their lives in poverty. The final insult though, was for these empires to pretend that this tragedy could not be corrected because their victims were all gone into history.

The Comanche, Wi“hita, Caddo, Kar”nkawa, Kiowa, Jumano, Coahuiltecan, Bidai, Apache, Tonkawa, Tawakoni, Suma, Piro, Alabama, Cherokee, Kickapoo, Tigua Pueblo, Coughatta, and many other tribes have called Texas home. “Texas” itself comes from a Caddo word meaning “friendship” or “allies”. Many of these languages are lost now because of what the government has done, but the Indigenous people of this continent still live and they still suffer under American occupation of their land. The United States, a colonial empire, cannot exist if anything close to justice is to happen. Its traditions are too ingrained in domination and its structure

is too reliant on the exploitation of land, it must be decolonized.

In 1619, English privateers attacked a Portuguese ship, the San Juan Batista, and the pirates-for-hire took roughly 40-60 Angolan slaves from the ship and delivered them to Hampton, Virginia. This was the beginning of slavery in English-speaking America. Slavery was an issue during the American Revolution but instead of making the language of the rebellion mean something and extending freedom from becoming someone's property to all, they kicked the can down the road for someone else to deal with. Someone did deal with it though, and all it took was nearly 90 years of suffering and a massive war. Even with the Civil War and the Thirteenth Amendment outlawing most slavery, the practice of sharecropping and prison labor showed that the names of the institution changed, but the practices didn't.

Over the past century, we have seen Black people suffer at the hands of the United States government and racist gangs. In 1920, the College of Industrial Arts (now called Texas Women's University) president spoke to the Rotary Association and said the city should "rid the college of the menace of the negro quarters in close proximity to the college and thereby remove the danger that is always present so long as the situation remains as it is". Denton used to be home to Quakertown, a majority Black neighborhood. Two years after that speech, the city voted to demolish the neighborhood and the residents were paid less than the properties were worth. The Ku Klux Klan marched through Denton's streets declaring they would protect "the sanctity of the home and the purity of young girls", implying the Black residents posed some sort of threat to white women.

In 1972, four-hundred Black people were injected with syphilis without their knowledge in Tuskegee, Alabama. Twenty years later, the government gave an apology and nothing else. In the 1960s, Black leaders were either directly

or indirectly assassinated by police or the FBI: Malcolm X's and Martin Luther King Jr's locations were leaked by the federal government which led to them being shot. Fred Hampton, Chairman of the Black Panther Party in Chicago was murdered in his sleep by the police and FBI. In 1985, the MOVE group was bombed in their apartments by the Philadelphia police. All this happens while neo-Nazis and Klansmen terrorize communities and politicians attempt to keep segregation alive either in the letter of the law or by implication. As we entered the 2000s, these practices lost their racial language simply because they didn't need to rely on it anymore.

The politicians, mainly from the Republicans but also many from the Democrats, created policies that had all the discrimination of old ones but had it target communities without mentioning the color of the people in them. Redlining, the act of withholding services from people who live in financially "hazardous" places, majorly affects poor and Black people. You can see this in the Black neighborhood surrounding Fred Moore Park. Compare the ancient houses and broken streets east of South Bell Avenue to the well-maintained roads of the Square and the brand- new apartment complexes. See how few restaurants are near there and note the placement of the Denton County Jail. Redistricting also uses demographics as diluting agents for others, favoring one political party along racial lines. Even gun control targets Black people much more than whites. None of these policies particularly target any one race in the letter of the law, but the hammer comes down the hardest on Black and Indigenous people. Black people are a colonized people in the United States.

While the English, French, and Dutch were carving up North America, the Spanish Empire was colonizing what we now call Latin America. This forced mixture of cultures led to the creation of countries like Mexico, Cuba, Honduras, Nicaragua, and others. After the Spanish-American wars

of independence, the rising power of the United States led multiple interventions into the newly formed countries to secure markets for American fruit companies. This imperialism propped up what were called “Banana Republics” that did the bidding of these companies to maximize their profits. This constant destabilization continues well into the modern day, leading people from these countries to flee to the United States. Because of this, right-wing politicians saw these refugees and immigrants as a scapegoat. They blamed these people for the lack of jobs and low wages when it really was the companies themselves deciding that wages should be low and shipping those jobs overseas. You only have to look at the border the USA shares with Canada and the border with Mexico to see that the “white countries” are treated with much less hostility than the ones down south. Canada has an eternally open gate; Mexico has a wall. Governor Greg Abbott has already been deploying National Guard troops to the border, militarizing even further - a decision that is unpopular with the National Guard rank and file. This treatment of immigrants carries over to the Spanish-speaking people of this country. Families are put in cages while armed men treat them like dirt. ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) breaks into homes to drag out mothers, fathers, and children just to ship them off to facilities. The Spanish language is treated with animosity while some, spurred on by the willingness of Republicans and Democrats to blame these people for the collapsing economy, demand they conform to a society that shows them nothing but hostility. Americans, whose very ancestors came from countries to seek something better disparage immigrants for not going through the decades-long process that the United States has for immigration.

In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act to put a 10-year ban on Chinese laborers immigrating to this country. This anti-Asian sentiment has been a rising threat in America. US policymakers and pundits have repeatedly

hammered on about how China, Japan, and India are on the cusp of overtaking the country in terms of global dominance, economic power, and technological progress (we would like to point out that this sort of rhetoric is never used against Germany, an economic and political powerhouse in Europe, or France which still carries out military operations in its former colonies). While Congressmen pound their fist on the table about Red China, Asian people in this country have faced increased discrimination. This has heightened since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. From March 2020 to June 2021, 9,000 hate crimes have been reported in the United States while President Trump used rhetoric referring to Covid as the “China Virus” or “Kung Flu”. It’s clear that this sort of prejudice is growing at an alarming rate and needs to be stopped in its tracks.

While East Asians have been the focus lately due to anti-Chinese rhetoric, we would be doing you a great disservice if we didn’t mention the anti-Middle Eastern sentiment and anti-Muslim campaigns that have happened here. After September 11th, hate crimes against Muslims and Sikhs skyrocketed. The right-wing, aided by the mainstream media, stood up and started denouncing Islam as a violent religion while abortion clinics were burned by Christian extremists. Just as Christians as a whole are not responsible for the actions of its extreme groups, neither are Muslims. Nonetheless, conservatives and even some liberals called for a civilizational war against the Muslim faith. While this intensified because of 9/11, the real reason is that Islam doesn’t register as a “white” religion as Christianity does. Islam is most influential in the Middle East and North Africa, places that are foreign in the mind of a white American or European. The right-wing preachers say that it is a religious war but what they mean is “They do not look like Americans, they do not worship the same version of God as American Christians, so they must be an enemy”. This, along with the fact that Sikhs, which by tradition wear turbans and grow their beards out, were targeted proves that not only was

this anti-Muslim sentiment a form of religious persecution, but also racist persecution of those from the Middle East and South Asia.

A less obvious form of racism against Asian people is the idea of the “Model Minority”. South and East Asians especially, are held up as a racial success story. They are stereotyped as industrious, wealthy, and excelling in all that they do. What this implies is that if there is an overachieving group, there must be an underachieving group. It’s a hammer used against other minorities to say that their group is not performing well enough in racialized capitalism as well as not taking into consideration that many of this “Model Minority” do live in poverty and also suffer under the system.

When the colonists first came to America, they carried the prejudices of their homeland against other white people with them as well. England’s first experiment with colonization was with their neighbor: Ireland. To save you a course on Irish history, most of the British colonial policies were first tried in Ireland. The Irish were told that they were a race of lazy, stupid barbarians and needed “civilizing” by their overlords. While this discrimination briefly carried over into United States history, they were quickly assimilated into what we would consider “white” now. Discrimination against Italians, Slavic people, and Jewish people would also rise but some parts or all of these ethnicities would be brought into “whiteness” (Jewish people would continue to face violence and still do as antisemitism).

One “white” group that has been ostracized is the Appalachians and other poor people in the rural areas. Rednecks, hillbillies, white trash, and hicks, these people are stereotyped as unintelligent, inbred, and racist. This image is usually pushed by media that focus on appealing to middle to upper-class whites to enforce a sense of “You are better than these trashy country folk, you are educated and deserve your place in society”. By painting another section

of the white population as unworthy it enforces the logic of capitalism that wealth is the same as a virtue, that if you are rich, it is because you are an intelligent, hard-working person.

This discrimination is not as prevalent as racism against people who are not white, but it is noticeable in the talking points and propaganda of the liberals. Why does Texas mostly vote conservative in its counties? They will answer with: “Because of the stupid rednecks in this state that love to worship rich people while taking government subsidies!” Ironically, this mirrors conservative rhetoric about poor people voting for Democrats. The truth of the matter is that the right-wing gets its most substantial support from the upper and middle class. They buy the politicians, they run the businesses, they have the time and resources for their movement, and they run for office. Throwing blame of Republican domination onto the backs of poor whites does two things:

1. It tries to deflect the blame of Democrat incompetence in politics by blaming a massive, faceless group as “holding the country back from what Democrats *really* want to do”. They excuse the fact that Democrat politicians, once in power immediately water down their policies or walk back promises and say that poor whites are too numerous and too right-wing to get anything passed.

2. It distracts that the people denouncing them are, in fact, from the same economic class as the real enemy. Beto O’Rourke and Ted Cruz have much more in common than either has with the people of Texas.

They make the policies, plan them out, and attend the same cocktail parties after the bill passes, the only difference is the color of tie they are wearing.

ABLEISM

Our final section on discrimination will cover the prejudice against disabled people. Treated as helpless and unable to make their own decisions, disabled people in this country are faced with a society not built to accommodate them. While the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed, its standards for what is “ADA compliant” are low: loudspeakers to the hearing-impaired are muffled sounds, stairways are built everywhere without an alternative to going up or down, and people with dietary restrictions need nutritional information readily available which is lacking in restaurants; these are only some of the needs that are not provided. Even the way we build houses, while “ADA compliant”, can still make it difficult to even navigate a home for people with mobility issues and many buildings have no space for wheelchairs and walkers. If our society is to be accessible to everyone, these issues can’t exist.

WHAT SOCIALISM WILL CHANGE

So why did we tell you all this? Why did we list everything wrong with the world around us? Because we want you to realize what we are fighting. We want you to know, reader, why we do what we do and the society we want Denton and the rest of the planet to leave behind. We want you to know the purpose behind every protest, every meeting, and every piece of graffiti. The old world can't be allowed to continue. We can finally move forward and build a better society once the old one passes away. Let's now delve into how we would change these things.

ROADS, INFRASTRUCTURE, & TRANSPORT

As we've laid out here, under capitalism profit drives everything, even at the clear expense of the public good. There are few areas where this is more clear than our roads and infrastructure. Again, a system like Go Zone here in Denton is touted as a replacement to our existing bus system, but in practice it's massively inconvenient and poorly implemented. So how would we get around in a socialist Denton?

Instead of building our cities and neighborhoods to serve the interests of capital, we need to start building them to serve the interests of the people. In an anti-capitalist system, our politics would not be created to serve auto

sales. Vastly expanding public transportation and building more walkable cities helps everyone. Take a look at this list and see if you recognize anything that you've thought about yourself on your commute or while walking down a street:

Expanded public transportation would:

- Reduce carbon emissions, which also improves community health
- Reduce traffic fatalities
- Reduce traffic noise
- Reduce traffic in general
- Encourage smaller parking lots, leading to better use of land
- Save you money in commutes to work
- Create safer and more walkable streets

Walkable cities would:

- Be good for business, as they are proven to increase economic development
- Vastly cut down on commute times
- Have better use of land - imagine making all those empty parking lots into beautiful green spaces
- Be safer for pedestrians and cyclists
- Improve community health, both mentally and physically

So that's our roads and public transit. What about infrastructure? Like we said before, our communication network, water treatment, and power grid fall under this umbrella. The moneyed interests in Texas foolishly chose to isolate the state's electrical grid from the rest of the country, in the name of "freedom and independence," but even if it wasn't isolated our state, like the rest of the United States, still runs on fossil fuels. Coal, oil, and natural gas keep the lights on, but at a staggering cost to our lives. Air pollution, cancer, fracking-induced contamination of drinking water... the list goes on. It has been known for a century at this point that the use of fossil fuels is harmful. We need a new

solution.

Under an anti-capitalist system, we would make it so that oil corporations and powerful energy conglomerates will no longer have unlimited power over how we live. For decades upon decades, they have lobbied to stall or destroy efforts to invest in clean energy like solar, air, and hydroelectricity, all in the name of money. We must put a stop to this. Not only is clean energy cheaper than ever, it's also more necessary than ever. We must stop relying on dirty fuel sources that pollute our air and our water and heat up our planet year after year. Green and clean energy helps us all - fossil fuels only help the wealthy.

HEALTHCARE

Everyone here in America agrees our healthcare system is awful. On either side of the aisle, we can't think of anyone we've spoken to who is genuinely happy with their healthcare, whether they have insurance or not. Similar to how we have a "legal system" here in America and not a "justice system," it would be inaccurate to say that we have a healthcare system. Our hospitals, pharmacies, primary care providers, and specialists may have many people working in them who honestly want to heal and care for people, but the system they work under is, above all, created to make money.

An anti-capitalist approach to healthcare is absolutely possible, despite what news media pundits or pearl-clutching Republicans may tell you. The United States is the only industrialized country in the world without universal healthcare: Spain, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Japan, China, Russia, and so on. Only the United States refuses to guarantee healthcare to its citizens. Again, why is this? Because the powerful corporate interests that control our "healthcare" system would prefer to make billions of dollars instead of

giving you insulin that doesn't bankrupt you. And the majority of our politicians - both Democrat and Republican - are supportive of this outcome.

The common question posed by people who are against universal healthcare is "who will pay for it?" Well, consider this: in July 2022, President Biden proposed a record \$773 billion in spending for the military budget. The House of Representatives increased this by \$45 billion in their own proposal. In the end, the House passed a \$839 billion dollar military spending bill, which will almost certainly be passed and signed off by the President.

So, to answer the question "who will pay for it" - **WE** will pay for it.

We already pay tens of **BILLIONS** of dollars on tanks and F-15 fighter jets that sit in warehouses baking in the sun, waiting for a war that will never come. We pay tens of **BILLIONS** of dollars to military mega-contractors like Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman to build these things and pad their shareholders' pockets with taxpayer money while they build missiles that are used to murder children on a school bus in Yemen or a family at a wedding in Afghanistan.

The military industrial-complex is perhaps the most damning example of our tax dollars going out of control towards things that will never help everyday Americans, but it's not the only example. For example, large companies like Walmart deliberately lobby against minimum-wage increases because they know that the extra cost of not paying workers a living wage gets passed onto you, another worker, through programs like Medicare and SNAP. Working class Americans are subsidizing Walmart's greed, because they have the power and the politicians don't care enough to change it.

Trans care is included in this, as well. Aside from the cost of it being covered by a universal healthcare plan, we need

to make gender-affirming care a medical right. States like Texas and Florida that are pushing to ban gender-affirming care are harming *all* of us - not just our transgender comrades. For example, hormone blockers are used in many cancer treatments, but these outrageous bans have already affected cancer patients who have seen lapses in their medications because their providers are afraid that giving them this medication would be against the law.

Of course, even if these bans only affected transgender individuals, it would still be wrong. The overwhelming majority of experts say that when youth receive gender-affirming care it results in 40% lower chances of depression and 40% lower chances of suicide attempts. This is lifesaving care, and we need to fight for our fellow comrades to receive it like anybody else.

LANDLORDS AND HOUSING

For much of human history there has been a system of land owners and land renters. From the feudal system of a king owning the peasants and the land they live on, to the modern-day system of paying ever-increasing amounts of money for renting an apartment, the ownership of land and the profiteering of shelter has stayed with us for so long. It's almost impossible to imagine any other system than this.

As we've pointed out already, there are vastly more empty homes than people without homes. So what is the answer? Well, the answer is to remove housing from the market completely. Housing should not be a commodity - it is a right. To see this in action a little bit, let's look at Austria.

At the end of the first World War, the Austro-Hungarian empire broke apart into many smaller nations that we know of today - Yugoslavia, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and, of course, Austria. The destruction of the war had led to the destruction of the people, most especially the working

people, and despite previously being the 5th largest city in the world at the time, the capital of Austria, Vienna, was in shambles. In 1919, in the first elections in which all adults could vote (men and women) were held, and the Social Democratic Party came into power on a platform of radical reform. Perhaps the best of these reforms was the investment into affordable housing for all.

It began in 1923, and at the end of the year 60,000 new apartments had already been constructed. These weren't the kind of apartments that we Americans think of today when we hear the term "public housing" - these buildings had green spaces, shared utilities like laundry and post offices, even schools and doctor's offices. The reason we think of drab and under-kept buildings when we think of "public housing" is because of a deliberate effort by developers and other moneyed interests to keep investment in those buildings low, to let them deteriorate and collapse, so they can sweep in and buy the land up for themselves. It's a partnership between capitalism, racism, and classism that results in these projects consistently dying here in America - but in Austria they flourished. These housing complexes were funded by increased taxes on the rich, and in 1926 the average rent in Vienna was just about 4% of a monthly wage. Even after the destruction of World War 2, the country of Austria and the city of Vienna bounced back again, and today 62% of Vienna residents live in these kinds of social housing units, with the average monthly rent being between \$400 and \$600 a month.

Capitalists will tell you that these kinds of solutions, ones that we can see working in action in Europe and elsewhere, simply can't work here in America. The right-wing think-tank The Heritage Foundation (which was started by the ultra-rich Koch brothers) has multiple articles talking about how these kinds of programs would actually make housing unaffordable, and that homelessness is a result of individual choices like substance abuse and mental health disorders.

You aren't homeless because a system of increasing rents and unstable markets pushed you out - you're homeless because it's your own fault. Not only is that simply insulting and devoid of human empathy, it's just not true, as we've established so far.

A much more affordable system of housing is possible, as we can see in much of Europe. But those systems also still don't fully address the problem of housing being sold in the first place, and not everyone in those regions lives in public housing. There is still private housing and wealthy companies and individuals using the human need for shelter as a machine to generate profit. In capitalist societies even social housing is subject to the pressures of profit - we can look at the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire in London, England as an example of that. The managers of that building cut costs in building materials, and as a result 72 people lost their lives.

So, by and large, these social housing systems are vastly better than what we have in America, but the ultimate goal should be to *decommodify housing completely*. Again, even examining this problem from a purely mathematical perspective, the answer is clear. There are 326,000 people without homes in the United States, and there are 16,385,739 homes without people. We can provide housing to everyone who needs it - those in power choose not to. This is at the very core of the problem of capitalism, with basic human needs closed off from hundreds of thousands of people only because they can't afford to pay the owners enough for them to make a profit off of these basic human needs.

We can change this through socialist revolution. All we must do is rally together and tell those in power "Enough. No more."

ARTS

While art under capitalism is restrained by funding and restricted to the middle and upper class, art under socialism will be available to all people. Paintings, film, and sculptures will be accessible to everyone who wants that bit of culture in their lives. You will not be restricted by time or work in making what you love, in fact, your creations will be encouraged by your community. And through this freeing of art from the idea of money and commerce, new styles will emerge. Filming techniques, genres of music, and types of paintings will be discovered. While this is theoretically possible under capitalism, socialism, by making labor less exhausting and more rewarding, will accelerate this process. Socialists believe that artists are just as important as chefs and engineers because you deserve to enjoy your life just as much as you deserve food and shelter.

POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES

Under socialism, the old parties that we know will, more than likely, no longer exist. They would probably be made up of the old party bosses, politicians, and businessmen that would want to retake their economic and political power after we strip that from them. They are welcome in the new society, but they have to let go of the past before they can come into the future.

People, in general, would become more political. Democracy wouldn't be held hostage by the Democrats and Republicans anymore, but expanded into every facet of life. Your town, your union, and your job itself would have the workers and citizens talk and debate about how best to run things. These debates would be calmer as people would be fully informed on issues instead of media companies and politicians hoarding knowledge and spreading propaganda. Politics would change fundamentally from something we all despise, into a newer, more welcoming activity.

Finally, the ideologies that are talked about will evolve.

What we all debate will change from “How do we manage capitalism?” to “How do we, as a society, evolve?”. In the Denton Left, we have a lot of left-wing ideologies, all agree capitalism should be destroyed, but what happens after that? We would then split up into different factions that debate on where to go next. Ideas of the abolition of the state as a top-down, authoritarian institution would compete with those about a gradual dressing down and withering away of its existence. The organization of military power as a collection of democratic militias would go against the idea of a centralized command structure. We will debate on whether the economy should remain centralized or become more local. Our stances on other countries and their politics would be hotly contested as well. Politics won’t end under socialism, but it will be forever changed and the people will decide what their lives will be.

THE WORKPLACE

The workplace under socialism will be one of the most transformed spaces from the world of capitalism. As we mentioned, under capitalism, your job is a dictatorship of bosses and managers that are only accountable to their superiors. Your job under socialism will be democratic. Every worker in the store, factory, or on the farm gets a say in how the workplace is run either through direct democracy or elected representatives. No one will need to work in order to survive.

Every job will be a union job. Unions, being one of the most familiar ways for workers to democratize their workplace, will ensure safety to their members as well as represent their interests in larger councils of workers. That said, even unions will need to undergo more democratic transformations to sweep out the corruption that has taken some of them over.

“What about the jobs no one wants to do?”, you may ask.

Yes, there will be dirty jobs that someone needs to do, and that will be dealt with through organized community action. Local groups educated in the most effective measures will clean streets, keep sewers running, and make sure we can transition to a society that takes advantage of advances in technology to make our lives better.

Jobs will be progressively automated. Under Capitalism, this would threaten livelihoods, but in a system where you don't need to work to survive, it will signal the progression of our species to finally free our time up to doing more. Work hours will be shortened to only what is needed, something that can hardly be called "work" anymore. Socialism frees the working class from the profit motive and integrates technology to the benefit of people's lives, not the benefit of stockholders and capitalists.

SOCIAL CONNECTION AND **EDUCATION**

Education, after the fall of capitalism, will bring together social connections with learning. Capitalist schools teach that you must know all the answers yourself, while socialist schools will encourage your own development while also teaching how to find answers collectively. Both children and adults will be educated on history, philosophy, and science, but also on how to communicate with another person, how to connect with them, and how to cooperate towards a goal. Finding commonality in the human experience teaches people why causing suffering is wrong in a way that no computer program can. Children will be encouraged to explore their academic interests outside the classroom, expanding their minds and advancing their understanding of the world. Classrooms won't be constructed as small prison cells but will be more open and engaging. Teachers, of course, would not have to support the classroom themselves anymore since they will be properly supported

by the community.

Classes themselves will be regularly available to everyone. Knowledge should be shared with everyone and so seminars and lectures about topics will be available to anyone that wants them. If someone wants to know the history of the Texas Republic, the biology of insects, or the martial art of Tae Kwon Do, this knowledge would be accessible from local experts while research papers and scientific studies would be freely available to all. With that in place, people's general knowledge will grow and they will become more educated.

One policy that would be gradually introduced would be the teaching of a universal language. A majority of Texans speak either English or Spanish, but this creates a divide between people who don't speak the other language. Education, in the interest of bringing people together, will teach a universal second language. This language will likely be a constructed one such as Esperanto. Indigenous languages will also be taught to those who wish to learn them as a way to preserve the cultures that were nearly destroyed.

SELF-ACTUALIZATION

With knowledge so freely available and social connection becoming a major part of education, people will, over time, be able to realize the person they have always dreamed of being. The barriers to being a chef, computer programmer, astronaut, or doctor will begin to fall. Expertise will be achieved easily and people will no longer be locked into career paths as they are now as they will have the time and the means to support their interests. This massive change will not only change the way we work but also help people realize their ideal self.

THE MILITARY

First and foremost, the society we advocate for will never invade another country or society. Just as no person has a right to exploit another person, neither does any culture or nation have the right to exploit another. Under socialism, war will be a thing of the past. War between governments is a competition for resources and influence. We will have no need to send people to die in a world where necessities are met. Needless to say, without war, we will not have traumatized soldiers coming back from them.

For the veterans of the wars the United States has started, they will get the help they need. Therapy, food, housing, and reintegration will be provided without the bureaucratic red tape of the Veteran's Affairs office. They will never be left behind by an uncaring society again.

On the topic of a socialist military, obviously the status of that depends on how things shake out politically in the coming years. Whatever kind of martial power exists, it will not be the same one we know now. The restrictions that modern militaries undergo to ensure loyalty in the ranks will be lifted. All officers will be elected and all members will be unionized. Soldiers deserve a say in how their organization runs and the democratic values of socialism should be enshrined in every aspect of society. The ability to criticize superiors, if "superiors" even still exist at that point, will be guaranteed. Political debates will be encouraged as will education beyond military matters. The soldier under socialism will be more than a grunt, they will think on how they relate to conflict and what changes have to be made to avoid it. Most importantly, when they will be human beings and not tools to be used.

LAW ENFORCEMENT **AND PRISONS**

As a warning, we will be discussing sexual assault here. If you are not comfortable reading about this, we suggest you skip this section.

One of the most radical demands that socialism makes of society, at least in the minds of American politics, is the abolition of traditional law enforcement. Cops under socialism will not exist. The concept of crime as we know it will not exist as most crimes carried out under capitalism are because of capitalism. In a community where all needs are provided for and money has no meaning, thievery is unnecessary and robbery is impossible.

You are probably thinking about the worst crimes people can commit. You might say “people have hurt and killed each other since one caveman bashed the other with a rock! Are you saying that will just stop happening? What about sexual assault?”. We would argue that murder and rape are socially created crimes. Murder is usually a crime of passion while both it and rape are used as patriarchal acts of oppression. If someone is committing these acts, there is something in need of fixing. By addressing the causes of this behavior and identifying them before they come to a head, we can save much more people than prisons ever have. Our goal, under socialism, would no longer be the punishment of murder and rape, but the active prevention of it through community action.

If the act has been committed, rehabilitative practices that help victims and address the problems of the perpetrator will be the focus. While trial proceedings would probably still exist, the purpose of these courts would be to understand what has happened, repair the damage done, and have the perpetrator begin a process of atonement for their actions. This would need the cooperation of the psychological, sociological, and psychiatric sciences with the community, but by doing this we end the cycle of violence that happens under capitalist “justice”.

Needless to say, state-sponsored murder or “executions” will be a thing of the past. If no one member of a society has the ability to kill, we would argue that the society itself should not have that ability either. It’s a two-way street.

DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination is a poison that affects American society. Texas has a shameful history of racism, misogyny, genocide, and prejudice that will need special attention to repair.

One of the first things that must happen is the return of land to the indigenous nations of America. This means letting tribes return to their traditional territories and the restoration of all sacred places. It means allowing these communities, and the communities of others that have faced prejudice in this country, to direct their own lives without interference from colonial powers. It means prioritizing the rebuilding of these neighborhoods that have been discriminated against for centuries and providing reparations for the treatment they have endured. This does not mean that new nation-states spring up in America and the government ships all the white people back to Europe. That’s ridiculous. Funny but ridiculous.

Disabled people, will no longer be marginalized by architecture and will be included in building design. Healthcare and public services will no longer be such a chore to go through. Those with issues will have the appropriate aids they need. Under socialism, no one will be above another and no one will be below.

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

The most important thing that needs to happen is the building of institutions outside of traditional power structures. What this means is making ways for people to be involved in their city. The Denton People's Assembly, a group made up of different political groups, activists, and unions, is the beginning of this type of system. Eventually, through a building of democratic and grass-roots power, the DPA will become the beginning of a new way to organize society. Creating an apparatus that's capable of addressing concerns, concerns that the government can't or won't address themselves, will begin empowering the poor and working-class people of Denton and organize them into a much stronger force. This is also why the Assembly can't stay just a group of activists and organizers, it needs to expand to encompass Denton as a whole. If socialism is to come to Denton, the DPA must become a congress made up entirely of the people and not some politicians.

From there, we, as a city, can organize new and more effective ways to address community concerns. Disaster relief, child and elderly care, housing, public safety, and education will be problems solved by the people of Denton and we will emerge a stronger and better administration than we have had under any mayor or president.

But you, reader, can't wait for people to save you. Liberation is something you have to take into your own hands. You have to demand the dignity that has been robbed from you by the rich and powerful. You have to get up and say "I'm a person and I deserve to live, not just survive". You have to make the decision to take up that flag yourself. Nothing from the powerful was ever given to

you, reader. It was always surrendered to you. Relinquished. Ceded. There was always a fight for it whether it was desegregation or the eight-hour-day. You have to make the conscious choice to start that battle. Every strike, every protest, every act of visible, collective resistance pushes us closer to a new, better society, but you have to take the first step.

That is what we in the Denton Left truly believe and are willing to fight for.

THE DENTON LEFT: **WHO WE ARE**

The Denton Left was formed on September 8, 2019, at Aura Coffee. After many socialist and anarchist groups here had failed or collapsed, organizers and activists came together to form something that was unique to the city. The philosophy in our organizing has always been that we should always be open to all leftist ideologies while keeping Denton at the forefront of our minds. We are local and, while we support the actions or groups in other cities and states, we believe that our city has needs that aren't the same as Dallas or Fort Worth. Below you will find our Foundational Principles, these are our official stances as an organization.

1. The Denton Left is a revolutionary, anti-capitalist organization.
2. The Denton Left believes in extending democracy into the workplace. Workers should be in control of the means of production.
3. The Denton Left believes food, housing, health care, and education are human rights.

4. The Denton Left is a feminist, anti-racist, pro-immigrant, and pro-LGBT+ organization.
5. The Denton Left is anti-imperialist. We believe US intervention does more harm than good.
6. The Denton Left believes workers have the right to self-defense.
7. We are abolitionists who believe in building strong communities committed to transformative justice rather than relying on the police.
8. The Denton Left does not police gender. Gender affirming health care is a right. Trans, nonbinary, and gender-nonconforming people deserve full access to society.
9. The Denton Left believes in free abortion on demand, free childcare, and the ability for all children to grow up free from the threat of violence.
10. The Denton Left believes addiction is a health issue rather than a legal issue. Treatment should be freely available but not forced.
11. The Denton Left believes in disability rights. Society should be universally accessible.
12. The Denton Left believes Black lives matter. In addition to abolishing the police, we believe in reparations and amplifying Black voices in the community.
13. The Denton Left believes that crossing imagined borders is not a crime. Immigrants deserve full amnesty.
14. The Denton Left believes in the decolonization of the United States. This entails self-determination for Indigenous people as well as a return of land.

We, as an organization, want nothing more than the destruction of capitalism. We want strong labor unions, local worker's councils, and the working class of Denton to know that they aren't alone. Peace can only come with the collapse of the old order, and the birth of a new, red Denton and a red star state.

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