



A few days have now passed since I shared my optimism that the weekend following the Tyre Nichols video release might provoke protests like the ones following the killing of George Floyd. Needless to say, I've been disappointed. How could four full days pass with no signs of serious demand for real change? No meaningful actions to shut down police like the ones in Minnesota and Washington in 2020, no occupations of local pigsties... nothing much at all besides vigils and calls to fire a few more collaborators in the assault, which I'm certain will be expeditiously heeded now that the power structure has learned how self-protective a little quick and visible sacrifice can be:

"You want more cops fired? Yessir!"

"You want more prosecutions? We're on it, Boss!"

I suspect that just about any demand for relatively minor departmental tweaks will be quickly agreed to, like how the infamous "Scorpion Unit" was disbanded as soon as the video was released, which must surprise no one, right? The worldwide protests ~~and riots~~ <sup>and riots</sup> of three years ago undoubtedly put the days of doing nothing at all about police misconduct behind us. From now on we'll probably see immediate "action" every time cops ~~murder~~ <sup>murder</sup> or maim on camera, because they've learned the value of "swift response" (coupled with the standard emotion-drenched and steely-eyed promises of yet another package of impotent reforms) for defusing the fury that leads to the violence that leads to the kinds of changes that politicians and police definitely do NOT want to see.

I'm sorry, but I really do gag every time I hear someone wearing a "Jail Killer Cops" T-shirt making comments like, "It's so sickening that it keeps happening over and over." Right. Because of course the solution to a fucked up system must surely be found in begging that same system to do MORE of the fucked up shit it does, only now please do it to those who represent it. Whatever.

Think of it this way: Pilots of troubled aircraft will toss out their cargo to try to avoid crashing, right? Well, police departments are no different when they face existential crises. These pigs and the politicians who fill their slop-troughs have been doing this for a very long time, and just like experienced chess players sacrificing pawns to protect their more valuable pieces, their goal is always to create a stronger ultimate position and win the end game. It's as simple as



that.

I'll defer to Editor of The Match! (and general Friend of Humanity) Fred Woodworth, for his inimitably stylish last word on the problem:

"From Archimedes, who was speared through by a typical 'low enforcer' in 212 BCE, to George Floyd, calmly strangled with a cop's knee on his neck in 2020, we have a 2232 year span of human suffering that tells an undeniable tale: police are a disaster and should somehow be eradicated from society everywhere on the planet."

It seems to me that any protests or reforms that do not ultimately aim at police eradication are a waste of time and a false hope serving to support the perennial lie that events like Tyre Nichols' deadly beating was somehow an aberration. It was not, and the solution to police brutality will never be found by trying to revamp a system that was explicitly designed for the ruthless suppression of marginalized people, whatever their skin color or other source of devaluation in the eyes of blue bullies.

That said, it really has been just a few days now, and who knows what next week will bring? I'm way behind the curve myself, these messages to you being written LONG before they are posted and read. Still, it looks unlikely that we'll see any radical actions in the name of Tyre Nichols to push the legions of Law & Order toward any significant concessions. Meanwhile, however, I've experienced a bit of a revelation myself. Last week, my post was critical of any post-Tyre approach not involving some destruction, because I'd assumed that nothing short of violence could ever get the attention of Power. That was and is a terribly distasteful position for me to take because I've always been peaceful at heart, and I truly WANT to believe in the efficacy of non-violent resistance. Incidentally, I suspect that all the time I've spent rotting in these dungeons full of docile mice is what has made me so pessimistic at this point, while seeing dissatisfied citizens acquiesce to their protests being ~~herded~~ <sup>offensively</sup> herded into useless "free speech zones" has only intensified my revulsion toward "well behaved" demonstrations. However, maybe I've been too quick to forsake the pacifist values I've always cherished.

In that first post, I quoted Dr. King to make a point about the misplaced denunciation of destructive demonstrations, and while I stand by that basic point, I've also come to realize that

there IS something between mobs trashing cities and mere milquetoast chanting in some cordoned-off corner of an empty park. Unsurprisingly, MLK once again illustrates the alternative far better than I can:

"Non-Violent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and establish such creative tension (in order to) dramatize the issue so that it can no longer be ignored."

Indeed. Dramatization to force unwilling attention is the point of any protest or demonstration, and violence CLEARLY dramatizes, but so can non-violent disruption, can't it? Sit-ins, occupations, strikes of every flavor... these all lead to creative tension, and I rather prefer the drama inherent in those distinctly non-violent options, for if the powers-that-be ultimately resort to violence to "restore order" — as they invariably will — well, they reveal their true nature then, don't they? And that, too, serves the ends of those seeking the eradication of authoritarian ideologies and institutions. After all, perhaps there's more than one way to skin a cop?

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You Likey? Then write me!

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You can also write me directly.

Mail to: 

|                    |
|--------------------|
| Dymitri Harszewski |
| AC2622 E-Yard      |
| P.O. Box 409090    |
| Ione, CA 95640     |