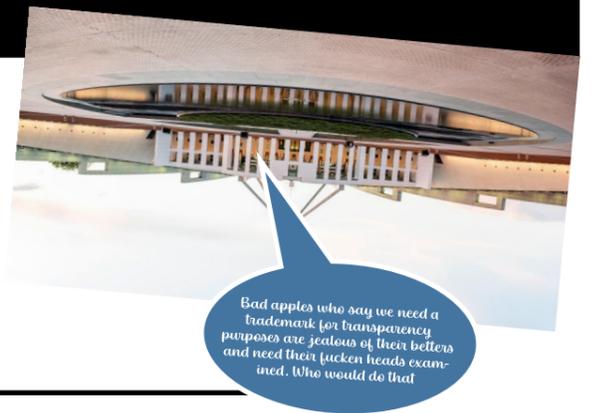


THE BATTLER



Bad apples who say we need a trademark for transparency purposes are jealous of their betters and need their fucken heads examined. Who would do that

SOME OF THE NEWS THE CORPORATE MEDIA WON'T PRINT || THEBATTLER.ONLINE

ISSUE No 4. SEPTEMBER 2025 "EXCITINGLY IRREGULAR"

PRICE: A BILLION DOLLARS NO HANG ON THAT'S HOW MUCH CORPORATE DARK MONEY IS WASHING AROUND FEDERAL PARLIAMENT. HOLY SHIT. THAT'S LIKE A WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY RIGHT THERE. THAT'S FUCKED UP. FUCK THAT SHIT RIGHT IN THE EAR



TOUGH-LOVE TORIES KNOW LOVE OF ANYTHING OTHER THAN MAD POWER AND MMM MON-NEY, WHO KNEW

The MAGA cult and its war on empathy

RIGHT-WING BELIEFS are ultimately attempts to rationalise and justify selfishness. Fascism, 'conservatism', US Republicanism—call them what you will: the differences are essentially procedural. "My needs matter. Yours don't". But in order to explain much of what motivates those in the MAGA cult it's necessary to understand the state which precedes selfishness. That is the primacy of the self devoid of empathy.

Slaves of the MAGA cult thrive on the stark clarity of its identity and their adherence to it... badges, merchandise, flags, clothing. This applies less to other (far right) systems imposed on majorities in most other polities and other shades of élite, hierarchical, coercive political opinion—notably the Democrats in the US. But they use selfishness too.

For that self (or selves) to be distinct first there have to be 'others', who are not the self. Secondly there has to be a qualitative comparison between the two. This drive to compare may originate in the psychology of their childhood wounds, in ongoing brainwashing, in fear, in ignorance, insecurity and so on. For cult members' biographies (individual or collective) to make sense no two (or more) things can (co-)exist without being compared.

Once the apparent 'need' to compare is admitted, it becomes inevitable and compelling. This adherence to the dogma of comparison for those in the MAGA cult often bypasses assertions of perceived 'right' vs 'wrong', 'good' vs 'bad'. The very act of comparison (between races, sexes, classes, ideas of soci-

ety etc) replaces rational analysis. Defining superiority-inferiority becomes an end in itself. This is much more than pragmatism: justifying selfishness and oppression becomes its own goal.

Objectivity, tolerance, compassion, caring, empathising are all irrelevant and play no part in advancing such agendas as those which Trump/MAGA is now imposing on the US. The self (individual or collective) is the sole arbiter of such qualities as 'strength', 'ruthlessness', 'bullying determination'; so they are more readily adopted when compared with such perceived opposites as 'weakness', being 'soft on crime' than for their innate qualities. If those in this camp subjected their perceived need to come out on top to logical or rational analysis, they would fail. So a spurious teleological element is (unconsciously) introduced: a wilful conviction that "history is on our side; we have the untrammelled right to impose".

This sense of historical inevitability both has its genesis in, and reinforces and encourages, the millenarian streak with which current US foreign 'policy' has been shot through at least since the élite upped its 'war on terror' a generation ago. It grew more harshly through the anti-Muslim fanaticism propagated by George W. Bush after the events of September 11 2001. It can still be found in establishment antisemitism and the Islamophobia of Trump and his fellow cultists.

The need to capture, torture, and kill the 'bomb-carrying Middle Easterner' around eve-

CNN Politics Trump Facts First CNN Polls 2025 Elections Watch

Trump says he had 'never heard' Shylock as an anti-semitic term after using it at rally

By Kevin Liptak, CNN
3 minute read · Updated 10:07 AM EDT, Fri July 4, 2025



It's better to be thought of as incompetent than evil

ry corner is readily satisfied by the élite's assertion of white-male-American superiority over everyone else. Even when the hunts produce spurious results—or none—someone has to be punished. The same thing is happening now as ICE kidnaps and traffics many who fail to look 'white'—in comparison with everyone else, especially the hunters.

Such binary 'decisions' ("I belong. You don't") are endpoints. It's easy to bask in the approbation which they receive—in propaganda outlets and legislative echo-chambers. After all, again, the 'superior self' is sole arbiter of what to subscribe to.

Circular logic

Belief (as opposed to reason) also has its

I SAVE MONEY STAYING HOME AND BEATING MYSELF UP, WHERE THERE'S SNACKS AND TV. I'M BROKE EITHER WAY ANYWAY

Opting Out: Anti-Work and the Great Resignation

ADBUSTERS.ORG: Americans quit Their crappy minimum-wage employment this summer at rate never seen before. Gen Z led the charge.

"This is a fight response," a career coach told *The New York Times*. When people are triggered, they go reptilian: fight or flight. And flight's not an option when you're cornered. Across a scorched-earth economic landscape employees looked their bosses in the eye, and their bosses blinked. Because the power dynamic was reversed and everyone knew it. For once it was the workers who had the leverage.

"We are short-staffed. Please be patient with the staff that did show up. Nobody wants to work anymore."

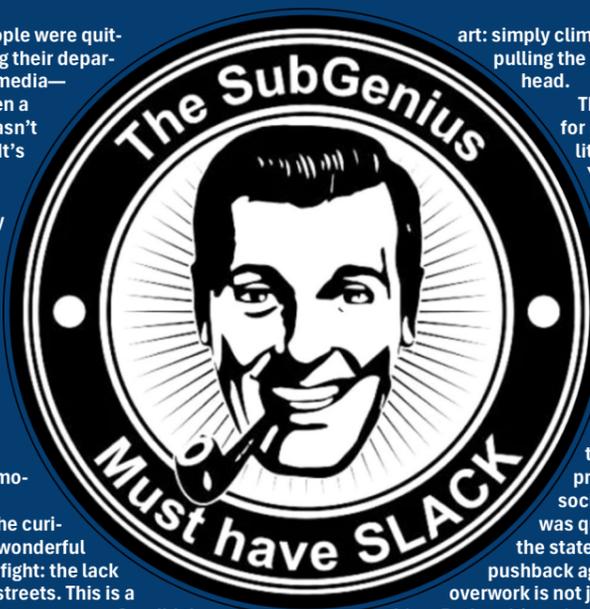
That sign on a McDonald's drive-through this spring was revolutionary tinder. That last sentence in particular—a noisy blurb by some manager pissed off by the coddled youth and their lack of stick-to-itiveness—did exactly the opposite of what was intended. Instead of sympathy for the management class, it inspired a wave of parodies.

And then the former US labor secretary Robert Reich called BS with a definitive series of tweets: "Let's get one thing straight: there is no labor shortage. There is a shortage of employers willing to pay their workers a living wage. Instead of: no one wants to work anymore. Try: no one wants to be exploited anymore."

The way people were quitting—trumpeting their departures on social media—should have been a clue that this wasn't about laziness. It's the opposite of lazy to quit out loud. That is fury talking. It's a statement that this is not about me. Something much bigger is happening, something historic, and I'll be damned if I'm going to miss a moment of it.

But here's the curious and kind of wonderful thing about this fight: the lack of blood on the streets. This is a new kind of resistance, more Gandhi than Robespierre. No blades, no bullhorns, no threats.

It's more like a martial art: you absorb the violence of your aggressor without having to be violent yourself. In fact, this may be the apex of the



art: simply climbing into bed and pulling the covers over your head.

The Mandarin word for it is "tang ping"—literally "lying flat." Young Chinese, beaten down by an authoritarian system and yearning to live a more relaxed life, spread themselves against the earth like a measuring tape, becoming "the metric of all things," as one protester put it in a social media post that was quickly deleted by the state. Clearly the pushback against degrading overwork is not just a Western thing. Rather, it's a sign, as one tang ping enthusiast put it, of a "global unraveling."*

"I opt out." Those are powerful words. Consider the mighty, status-quo-toppling impact of this passive gesture if everybody did it. The new activ-

ists have found magic in inverting the old mantra of the capitalist hustle.

Don't just do something: stand there.

To do nothing, even for a short while, is an active rebuke of the creation of capitalist value. You've re-routed your attention from the distraction economy (which always ends up with you buying something, usually online) into something dreamier and more exploratory, which might ultimately compel you, when you do get up from your prone position, to lace up your shoes and walk right past the car in the driveway and continue on, just walking, beyond where the sidewalk ends.

A lot of people came to the same conclusion: Why the fuck should I take the prime of my life and simply hand it over? So you stand down and take a breath. And survey the landscape. And you realize that what you've been doing so doggedly, committing to so loyally, giving the best of your energies to, is what David Graeber called a "bullshit job."

In the eyes of the corporate vassal who signs your cheques, you are fungible, interchangeable—meaning you have no particular value, and nothing you're doing has any lasting value, except to shareholders (of which you are not one). And that's when you raise the white flag. Because a totally predictable sequence of events happens when you strip people of their dignity: they get depressed. And then they get mad. And then they get even. ■

The MAGA cult (cont)

own circular justification. This is hardly surprising when you recall that fascism is a system which seeks to 'solve' a problem which it has itself created. Once the primacy—and so the perceived necessity—of binary comparisons has been accepted (as it is in fascist beliefs), then condemnation of the other is even more compelling and convincing to the likes of the MAGA/Trump cult: non-whites are undesirable because they are criminals (not even remotely true, of course). This means that they are criminals because they are non-white. Analogously "We whites are better than 'illegal aliens' because... we are not 'illegal aliens'".

This horse-before-cart assertion of white superiority (currently, with ICE, towards all LatinX communities) uses such circular logic: "We kidnap them because they are immigrants. If they get kidnapped, they must deserve it because they are immigrants who have been kidnapped".

This is analogous to much back-and-forth, tit-for-tat threads on social media when attempts are made to denigrate all opinion which the right lumps together as 'liberal':

"You are bad because you are socialist; but the reason why you hold socialist views is that you are 'bad'; and—while we're at it—you're bad because you do not belong to or with us". Then "Liberals' (socialists) are bad and evil because they believe in taking away what we've striven so hard to accumulate; therefore believing in equality is bad because it's what bad people like socialists believe in!"

But this is where it gets even more frightening: the immediacy of accepting and acting on selfishness also makes a nuisance of both facts and nuance. Who needs facts when what individuals say must always be right because it would be a breach of my freedom to stifle that.

Once fascist dogma has (successfully) rendered decisions based on falsity and false 'logic' acceptable, popular even, the need to examine phenomena such as climate collapse and the efficacy of vaccines against verifiable facts is removed.

The mere act of pronouncing on these issues is sufficient for what's said to appear true to those who want it to be true. To hold a 'position' is itself a valid and worthy end. What's more, fascist belief is both immature and simplistic. So it's all too easy, for example, to justify climate denial by saying "Well, I can't see evidence of the collapse that all of you keep saying is upon us; so it doesn't exist."

Similarly, the White House issues reports almost daily about 'necessary' actions against immigrants and to combat crime, the rates of which are not rising. The unsophisticated fascist system accepts them at face value because to do otherwise would run counter to its anti-intellectual stances. Facts mean less than dogma.

It seems likely that many cult members probably do know that much of what the cult stands for is based on sand. But shame and hero worship (the psychological aspect again) and the pressure to adhere are so far eclipsing any chance of their revising their views.

freedomnews.org.uk

THE MIDDLE CLASS HAS A MONOPOLY ON INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AS WELL AS MORAL PIETY, FREAKSHOWS. GET A CLUE

The individual vs class hierarchy

THE ETHICAL NORMS around the concept of individual freedom were perhaps best articulated by the liberal German philosopher Wilhelm von Humboldt, who argued that *Whatever does not spring from a man's free choice, or is only the result of instruction and guidance, does not enter into his very being, but still remains alien to his true nature; he does not perform it with truly human energies, but merely with mechanical exactness.*

Despite the gendered language of his day, von Humboldt's critique of autocracy remains true of the free choice of all individuals. Freedom, he might have argued further, is the critical precondition for personal growth and self-actualisation—developing our own independent value systems through reflection, introspection, and the resolution of past conflicts into insight to empower us moving forward.

The problem for those of us looking to remedy the pernicious ills of autocracy, of course, have always been the desire of some, on the one hand, to remove the rough edges of autocracy in the name of saving the principle, or, on the other, to make autocracy the core of the strategy to transcending itself. Both strategies have proved remarkable failures.

Not least of the problems with these strategies is, in the first place, the fact that the liberal critique of political autocracy also extends into the economic sphere—not least in these days of transnational corporations and investment fund monoliths like Vanguard and Blackrock. Underwriting the economic autocracy of transnational corporations is the economic autocracy of class hierarchy. Politically, autocracy is an evil because it constitutes an illegitimate monopoly over power, one based on birthright.

Under 'equal personhood' laws, for which no formal legal judgment was ever made, however, corporations enjoy immortal power on the basis of birthright: as legal persons, they can never die. The monopolism of transnational corporations cannot be questioned or challenged, however, the more completely national governments are reduced to wholly-owned subsidiaries. This presents something of a quandary for those assuming national governments responsive to reformist political agendas.

Political economy tells us that autocratic social relations of production are also autocratic social relations of reproduction. In embodying this fact, advocates of autocracy as the solution to itself also embody their own ignorance. In trying to be clever and weaponise ruling class state monopolies over the means of

violence in defense of class monopolies as the solution to class monopolies, they reproduce even more terrible versions of the problem.

We see this well enough as statist deflection of responsibility for their misrule using the logic of the 'false dilemma.' In the market capitalist sphere, the deflecting mentality can be summed up as, 'if you think for yourself, the communists win.' In the state capitalist sphere, the same turns up as 'if you think for yourself, the enemies of communism win.' In either case, the individual who dares think for themselves is sacrificed to the cause of autocrats reinventing themselves as solutions to problems of their own making by conflating doubt with aggression. Domestic abusers are notorious for much the same. It is notable of the economic autocracy of social and class hierarchies that they fall within the spectrum of the normal within a social order nominally opposed to constraints on the freedom of the individual. We live in a democracy, and yet speaking of social and class hierarchies is so taboo that even raising the topic for discussion triggers all of our authoritarian conditioning even against speaking its own name. Social and class hierarchies are positively sacred, personal boundaries not so much.

By contrast, defending the cause of the individual arguably requires acknowledging individual responsibilities to go with individual rights. This points to our first responsibility being arguably to reflect on and resolve our understanding of our collective past, as each of us must do as individuals, and so rise above the past instead of acting out on, and reproducing it, instead. If our past is dominated by a habit of trying to reconstruct autocratic harms as beneficial to its victims, we might start by rising above the mythology of altruistic outcomes from selfish means. Trickle-down economics is no more able to resolve the problems it creates than domestic abuse. Ditto Net Zero, for the same reasons.

The difference between freedom and license, or privilege, after all, is the difference between doing what you want as long as you respect the equal rights of others, and doing whatever the fuck you feel like regardless of the consequences for

others. We can't try to diversity-wash racial autocracies with people from a wider demographic than the supremacists who founded them. Leopards don't change spots. We can only declare personal boundaries of the individual sacred, social and political hierarchies not so much, and make a choice not to become what we claim to oppose as an ongoing exercise in due diligence, if not becoming the living facts of a survivable future. Arguably.



THE BATTLER: NOT JUST A BUTT-TONNE OF TYPOS

We fucked up. It's legit not a habit

EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES. Sometimes some of us can even admit everyone makes mistakes. Not *The Battler* but, ya boi the anarchist manchild shits sunbeams. No it kills me to say but *The Battler* made a mistake, one of a lifetime habit in truth, and not just nonconformity with the toxic equilibriums of dysfunctional villages disappearing up their own moralistic rectums, and many, many, man y typos.

The fact is, really, it was a terrible mistake, with potentially disastrous ramifications. It can not stand.

Okay, we can do this *beats chest in front of mirror because self-loathing, macho thimble-dick* WHOS THE MAN YOU ARE THE MAN I AM THE MAN RAWR etc

OKAY this is the thing: Neckbeard Deathcamp is *not* grindcore as reported in TB#3—Neckbeard Deathcamp is in fact *black metal*. PHEW! Oh boy am I glad that's out. Ha, boy do I feel stupid.

No, for real, Neckbeard Deathcamp actually classes as black metal. It's pretty grindy for black metal but, fair's fair. Well-disguised as grindcore with epic pis-

stake styles but. Like "Napalm Death," which means the *victim*, not the perpetrator—not unless you're some kind of psycho who loves the smell of napalm in the morning. Ditto *Brujeria*, which translates to "Witchcraft"; they started with the bassist from Faith No More, who were all satire lyrically. Brujeria (RIP Juan Brujo) are/were Latino metalheads from LA. The entire first LP was done in unreliable narrator as the band pretended to be a Satan-Worshipping Mexican drug cartel to take the piss out of xenophobic stereotypes from across the border. The cover was a police photo of a suicide-by-train; they meant people to take them seriously as heathens. The LP had to be sold in a bag for years hahaha. *The Battler* tried and failed to order it from L'Espresso at one point. It was a classic with skaters, metalheads and bogans alike. All the best people in other words.

If this isn't your cup of tea, there's likely something seriously wrong with you. Maybe local MC Sprog Dog will see you better; check the QR code. It's not grindy satirical black metal for all the Negative Nancies out there. It is a tune but. The last few lines are lyrical gold. Sprog Dog is a Bill Hicks fan too; all the wins you could ask for right there.



THE BATTLER PHILOSOPHY CORNER

Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

WHAT IF you can't answer the question because the premises are false? We might as well ask which came first, babies or humans. Humans or Palestinians. Same logic, same underlying false binary.

It's immediately obvious that someone who poses such a question is smoking crack. It definitely seems a bit that way with this humans or Palestinians conspiracist Othering and scapegoating they have blasting through all the channels of corporate-controlled masse communication. It's almost as though the old Osama-bin-Laden-vintage-in-new-Hamas -bottles hoof-wank for totalitarian bunglecuts is a good source of that binary-driven schism in the collective unconscious researchers like Val Plumwood talk about in the context of positively sacred gender hierarchies, and the misogynist toxic masculinity that, you

know, in one form or another enslaves everyone involved.

What if buying into false binaries behind the group psychoses of wolf-packs is a deal with the devil that means we get burned in the end? Philip K Dick, Koestler, Baudrillard, Marx and the Wachowski sisters were all big on the individual held hostage to a split collective unconscious one way or another. Refer to them for notes on performative spectacle, cultish bounded realities and false consciousness buried in collective narcissism maybe.

In any event, doesn't it seem like he world presents us with an absurd set of parameters, and we just accept them, assuming that an answer exists, but is somehow beyond our knowing. Like the point is just to make us feel too stupid for the mysteries of the universe.

What if the moral of the story is actually just to trust our own intuition and question everything?

CAUSE THE TRUTH OF AN IDEA IS DETERMINED BY THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IT ON PLANET FUCKING NORMAL. THE CULT OF NORMALITY ISN'T A BOUNDED REALITY WHERE ETHICAL RIGHT IS DETERMINED BY THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE WHOEVER HAS THE POWER TO SHOVE THEIR OWN WARPED NOTION OF REALITY DOWN EVERYONE ELSE'S THROAT AND CALL IT CONSENT BUT. FAIT ACCOMPLIS OF COLONIAL CONQUEST IS FREE CONTRACT. GET A CLUE SHITBIRDS. SAYING BAD THINGS ABOUT CULTS MEANS YOU HATE FREEDOM. HERES A VISACARD AND SOME IDF THIRST

TRANSLATING

Newspeak dictionary

Nationalist, Christian, n.



1. A bootlicker willing to enable the orthodox views held by corporate and government leaders in the face of competency, heterodoxy and doubt.

2. A craven, servile moron whose internal narrative entertains 'taxation is theft' but also 'Render unto Caesar' simultaneously.

3. A toxic, hateful POS willing to apply the Just-World fallacy to try to explain away positively sacred social and class hierarchies, personal boundaries not so much, as beneficial to their victims, who are being emotional and difficult, and need to grow up by conforming ideologically, and should be saints before they want equality and respect.

Usage: The corporate skill internalized the value system of the transnational corporate oligarchy, who thus platformed him. The skill took every opportunity to derail rational, dispassionate understanding of current events, and to deflect from the ongoing consequences of trying to make an endless-growth economy work on a finite planet (i.e. encircling ecocide), by alleging a tyranny of woke that isn't the mentality that saying bad things about crimes against humanity means you hate Jews. Mmm conspiracist moral panic