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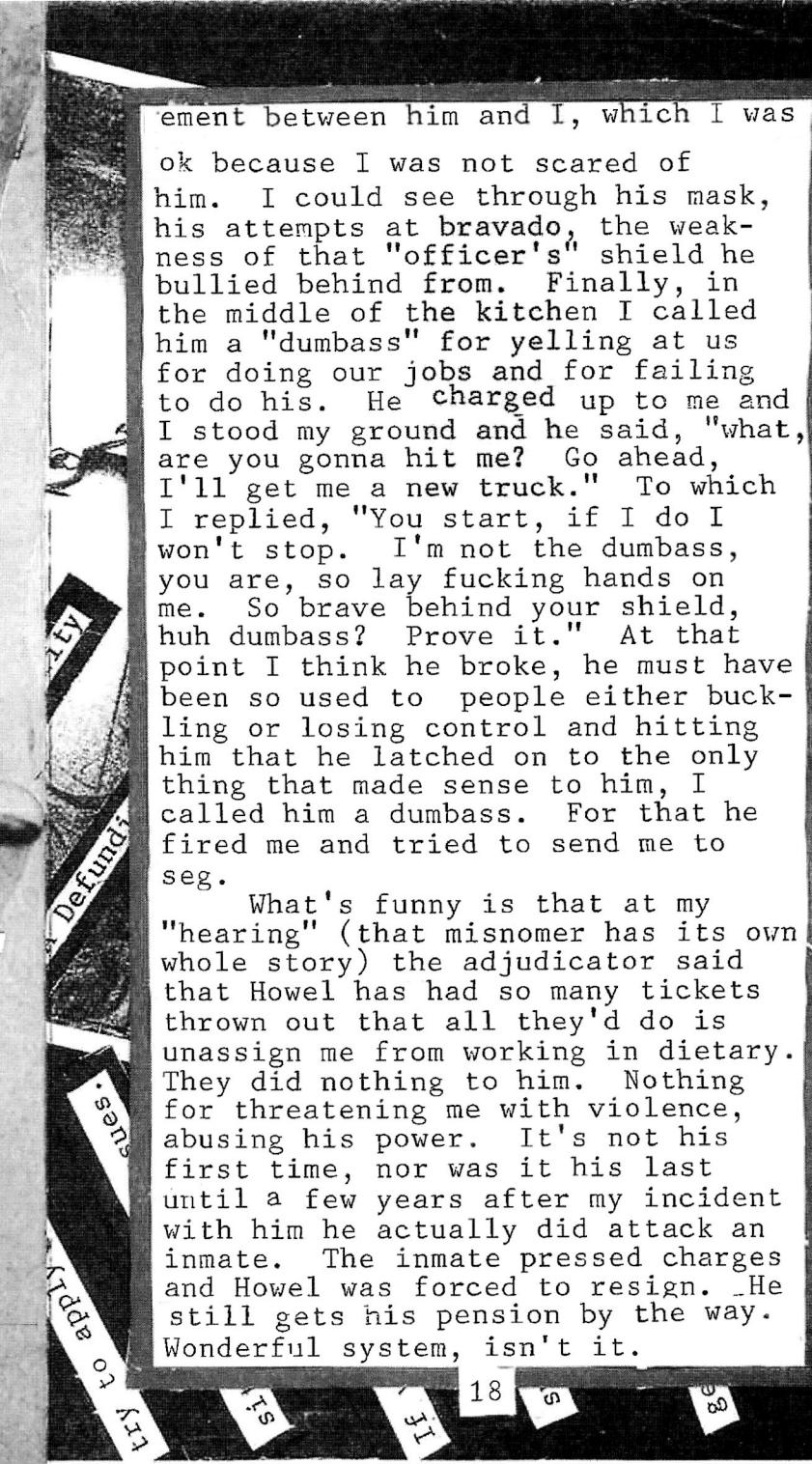




Welcome to the second issue of Shrapnel! This time we have a few more contributors to this issue than the last one did. Sometimes with differing or even conflicting opinions, but none the less still generally anti-authoritarian in nature. If you have something that you would like to submit for future issues we now have a P.O. Box to write to. We are really looking for artwork, essays, and real life stories written by prisoners. So get in touch if you have a voice that you would like to have heard. Thanks and enjoy!

Shrapnel  
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ement between him and I, which I was ok because I was not scared of him. I could see through his mask, his attempts at bravado, the weakness of that "officer's" shield he bullied behind from. Finally, in the middle of the kitchen I called him a "dumbass" for yelling at us for doing our jobs and for failing to do his. He charged up to me and I stood my ground and he said, "what, are you gonna hit me? Go ahead, I'll get me a new truck." To which I replied, "You start, if I do I won't stop. I'm not the dumbass, you are, so lay fucking hands on me. So brave behind your shield, huh dumbass? Prove it." At that point I think he broke, he must have been so used to people either buckling or losing control and hitting him that he latched on to the only thing that made sense to him, I called him a dumbass. For that he fired me and tried to send me to seg.

What's funny is that at my "hearing" (that misnomer has its own whole story) the adjudicator said that Howel has had so many tickets thrown out that all they'd do is unassign me from working in dietary. They did nothing to him. Nothing for threatening me with violence, abusing his power. It's not his first time, nor was it his last until a few years after my incident with him he actually did attack an inmate. The inmate pressed charges and Howel was forced to resign. He still gets his pension by the way. Wonderful system, isn't it.

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environment. But off the bat I knew this pond scum was deranged and enjoyed being the bully after a lifetime of being the victim, or most likely, of being always the bully. It definitely was no help to his demeanor that he was probably an undiagnosed bipolar, or at minimum unmedicated. He once tried to make me clean a wall with a toothbrush - a small, thumbsized toothbrush. When I was arguing about not being allowed to do my assigned job, the job I was given by another supervisor to work the kitchen in the first place. It was around this time one of my tenets became encased in adamantine: 'Respect is earned, NEVER given.' And no, I did not fucking clean that wall.

From then on the only thing I allowed Howel was the standards for communication that day. If he called me any name "stupid", "bitch", "moron" that became his name for the day. Once he had pissed me off so much that on the line, in front of everyone I said, "I'm sorry, I could't understand you, all I heard was bitch, bitch, bitch and I don't speak that language. Try speaking to me when your balls drop, Bitch." Ah, (smiles), so you see we were having problems, and it came to a head a few weeks later when the entire back room crew were doing their job without his "supervision."

We were all in dry storage when Howel comes in and starts yelling at us, calling us names for no fucking reason. I looked around and no one was arguing with him and I'd had enough and said, "Check your attitude asshole." Then began an argu-

\$4.00 cash

## The Illusion of Law

When we think of illusions we usually conjure up images of magicians in top hats aided by smoke and mirrors however, the truth is that illusions come in many disguises and forms. There are times, more often than we would care to admit, we don't even recognize that we are being duped at all. That is until we get a peek behind the proverbial curtains or when we really contemplate what it is we are being presented with and stop blindly believing what it is we are told to believe in. In addition to the illusions we must already contend with in life, there is usually a second component to it that makes it even harder to see through the illusions we are force fed, and that is indoctrination. Indoctrination automatically compels us to hold those beliefs of illusion as absolute truths and with no other alternative point of view present, makes them to be unquestionable no matter what evidence proves them to be wrong. With that being said, what is one of the largest illusions that we are indoctrinated to believe in? That laws prevent crime.

We are often force fed by our political ruling class that laws and regulations make our world a safer, more harmonious place to live and thrive in by protecting us and preventing crime from happening.

Whether this illusion comes from the left or right side of the political spectrum the lie becomes so often repeated that it becomes dogmatic in a sense. In doing so, it prevents people from thinking outside its narrow confines because nobody ever stops to question its logic and reason. Surely, without laws in our lives we would devolve into chaos and disorder, right? But that does beg the question whether laws really prevent crime or do they just create new classes of criminals out of normal ordinary people, doesn't it? I think in order to understand this fallacy better I believe we should look back to our own history. Especially with regards to the prohibition policies of the past and present as the two major prohibitions in our country expose this lie for exactly what it truly is, a lie.

The first prohibition targeted alcohol consumption and manufacturing during the 1920's because, "Social reformers blamed alcohol for poverty, health problems, and the neglect by husbands of their wives and children." In 1874 protestant Women established the womens christian temperance union which urged temperance - that is the reduction or elimination of the use of alcoholic beverages while also advocating on behalf of victims of domestic violence to make alcohol illegal in 1920 by pressuring law makers to enact laws in their favor. Their reasoning behind it was, if alcohol were banned there would be far less domestic violence and because many were influenced by religion they believed that general moral behavior could also ben-

You know what most every single C.O. says when things seem to be inching towards a physical altercation? "Go ahead, hit me. I'm gonna get me a new truck." C.O.'s seem to think that getting into a fight is a good thing, something they'll be rewarded for when they are often the catalyst that brings all potential physical altercations to a violent boil. Where's the attempt at deescalation? Where's the check on their abuse of power? That leash that yanks those uneducated, logically challenged posers off their imagined pedestal of "justice."

There is something so wrong when those officers get trained. The idea of abusing their "authority" becomes a virtue, a fucking operational standard. What's even worse is that if they do get called out or even caught on occasion, their punishment is often just a suspension and/or a change in scenery. They are never retrained, taught to deescalate, or simply to be empathetic and recognize that all these bipedal mammals they assume authority over are actually humans.

Fortunately for me there are only a few incidents where I've personally experienced an officer abusing their power. The first, most asinine experience accurred when I worked in dietary.

Supervisor Howel, what a piece of shit. This supervisor swung his crusty dick around and no one, NO ONE, would call him out on his shit. And lamentably, initially, I was one of those. I was still new to this

"Please don't do this. Please don't." I said with the most calmest tone. As I finished my statement the officer darted his attention towards the officer that just pulled up, which happen to be a white shirt, a lieutenant. I immediately turned to the lieutenant and said "Sir, please I didn't do anything wrong." After I made my statement to the lieutenant, the officer attempting to plant the drugs on me stated "you guys are clean, I believe you guys are good to go." There were small talks exchanged by all parties involved afterward.

Back inside my vehicle I became terrified with all the what ifs that could have happened. In my view the officer attempting to plant the drugs didn't care I just had a beautiful little girl two weeks ago or that I just got a promotion at my job six monthes ago. All he wanted was a collar, a merit on his record. It wasn't about community safety, it was all personal interest. Because of his action I am in forever fear of all officers. I am aware now that at any moment my life can be derailed because of someone elses personal interest. Truly the whole system should be re-evaluated.

It has went from keeping peace between citizen's into an officer promoting his/her own personal agenda. Personal agendas only opens the door for police brutality on all scales. Don't be misguided by only physical.

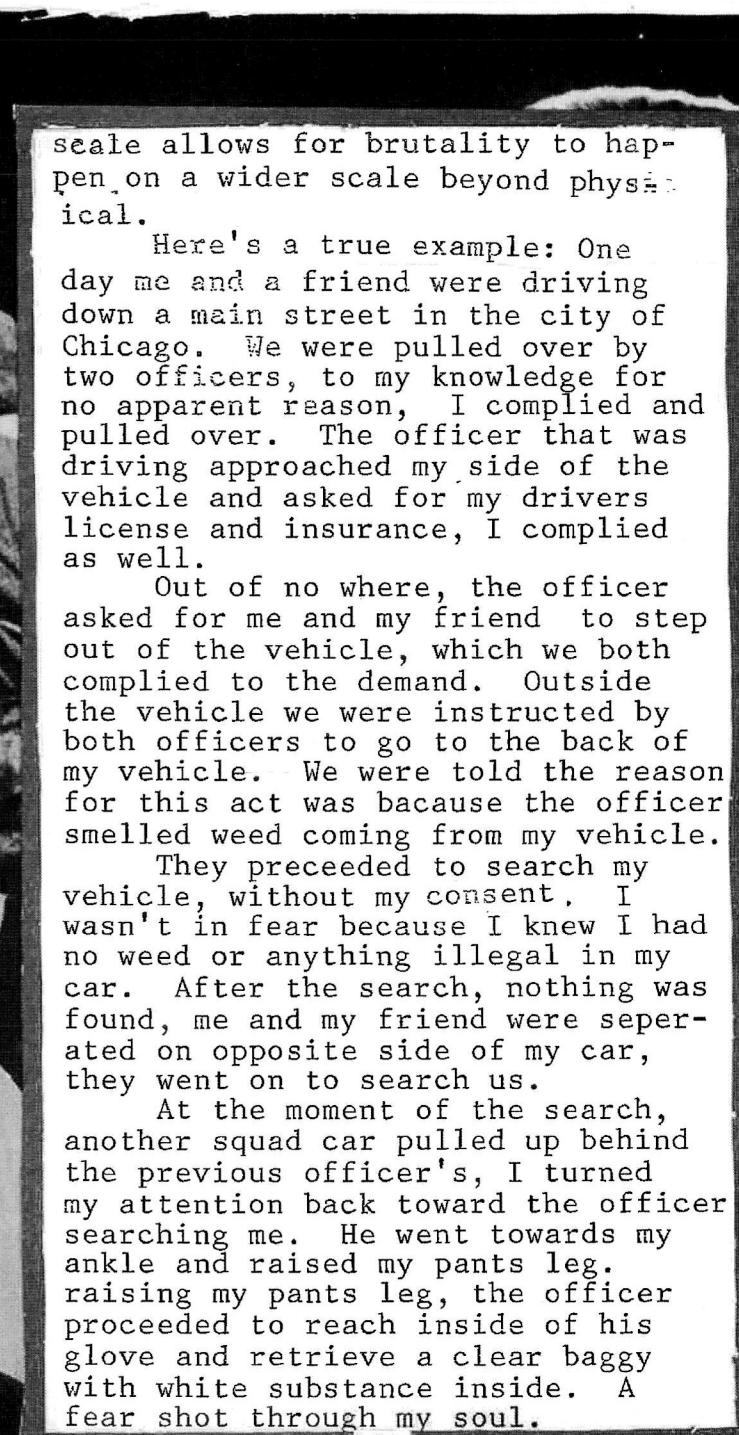
By: Many Kingdoms

efit as well from the ban. To me this is all to idealistic in nature and not at all rooted in reality with realistic expectations, so what really happened? Did any of those prohibition policies actually prevent violence or improve moral behavior? Most people familiar with this period of history would disagree. For one thing, even though alcohol was illegal it was still readily available, therefore no real change happened in that respect. For another, because it was illegal it created black markets which added violence solely by their nature. Whenever there is a market need which is outlawed with stiff penalties you can expect criminal organizations to fill the void to make a profit and knowing what the consequences are, will use violence to protect their illegal enterprise from anybody who gets in their way or even the government itself. This is exactly the way in which the mob rose to the high level that it did. So in short, not only did those wife beating drunks keep doing what they were doing before, but then criminal organizations sprung up and let violence run rampant throughout the country. Laws created criminals out of everyday people who just wanted a drink while also encouraging violence. Luckily the 21st amendment was ratified on Dec. 5, 1933 and undid some of the damage done, unfortunately though it could not undo the rise of the mob which still has influence to this day.

Much the same is true about our prohibition on narcotics, just substitute the mob for any one of the cartels or narco states. The ins-



istence on keeping them illegal creates the very lucrative markets that politicians seek to destroy while giving the cartels and narco states a sizeable income and the influence that comes with it. Once again it is the laws that create problems while fixing absolutely nothing and often times exacerbating current problems. The "War on Drugs" is its self just another illusion because if they were truly serious about alleviating our drug problems and the violence associated with it and the cartels all they need to do is decriminalize or better yet, legalize narcotics. In doing so it would make transporting them long distances, as they do now, unprofitable considering that domestic dispensaries would crop up to compete against them in the open market. Just look at how the legalization of marijuana hurt the pocketbook of the cartels and how that market changed from violent black market in every American city to a thriving non-violent open market. Unfortunatly though, just like the mob the cartel still plagues us and were forced to switch to other illegal substances to stay profitable, what would they do if we legalized all narcotics? Now some would worry about increased drug use but the simple truth of the matter is that if somebody were already so inclined to partake in drug usage today, very little currently stops them anyway. Drugs are already here and readily available so the arguement of increased drug use seems pretty thin. All these laws do is promote violence while punishing people with



scale allows for brutality to happen on a wider scale beyond physical.

Here's a true example: One day me and a friend were driving down a main street in the city of Chicago. We were pulled over by two officers, to my knowledge for no apparent reason, I complied and pulled over. The officer that was driving approached my side of the vehicle and asked for my drivers license and insurance, I complied as well.

Out of no where, the officer asked for me and my friend to step out of the vehicle, which we both complied to the demand. Outside the vehicle we were instructed by both officers to go to the back of my vehicle. We were told the reason for this act was bacause the officer smelled weed coming from my vehicle.

They preceeded to search my vehicle, without my consent. I wasn't in fear because I knew I had no weed or anything illegal in my car. After the search, nothing was found, me and my friend were seperated on opposite side of my car, they went on to search us.

At the moment of the search, another squad car pulled up behind the previous officer's, I turned my attention back toward the officer searching me. He went towards my ankle and raised my pants leg. raising my pants leg, the officer proceeded to reach inside of his glove and retrieve a clear baggy with white substance inside. A fear shot through my soul.

## A Police Encounter

The police force, formally known as peace officers, were created to protect the community it served. They were intended only to keep peace if needed. It was also a body of men created by the power at hand to bring forth citizens in front of a judge to answer for the potential crimes committed against another citizen. The legislative body created laws that are intended to make society a safer and productive environment for all citizens.

Fast forward to present day, the police force has characteristically changed dramatically. It's no longer a body of men created to maintain peace and bring a citizen to answer in front of a judge, now it's a body of men and women created to enforce laws by any means and are rewarded with promotions which only serves as a personal agenda. They are giving the opportunity to advance their career on how many arrests are made and crimes solved. This opportunity only opens the pandoras box to an abundance of police brutality.

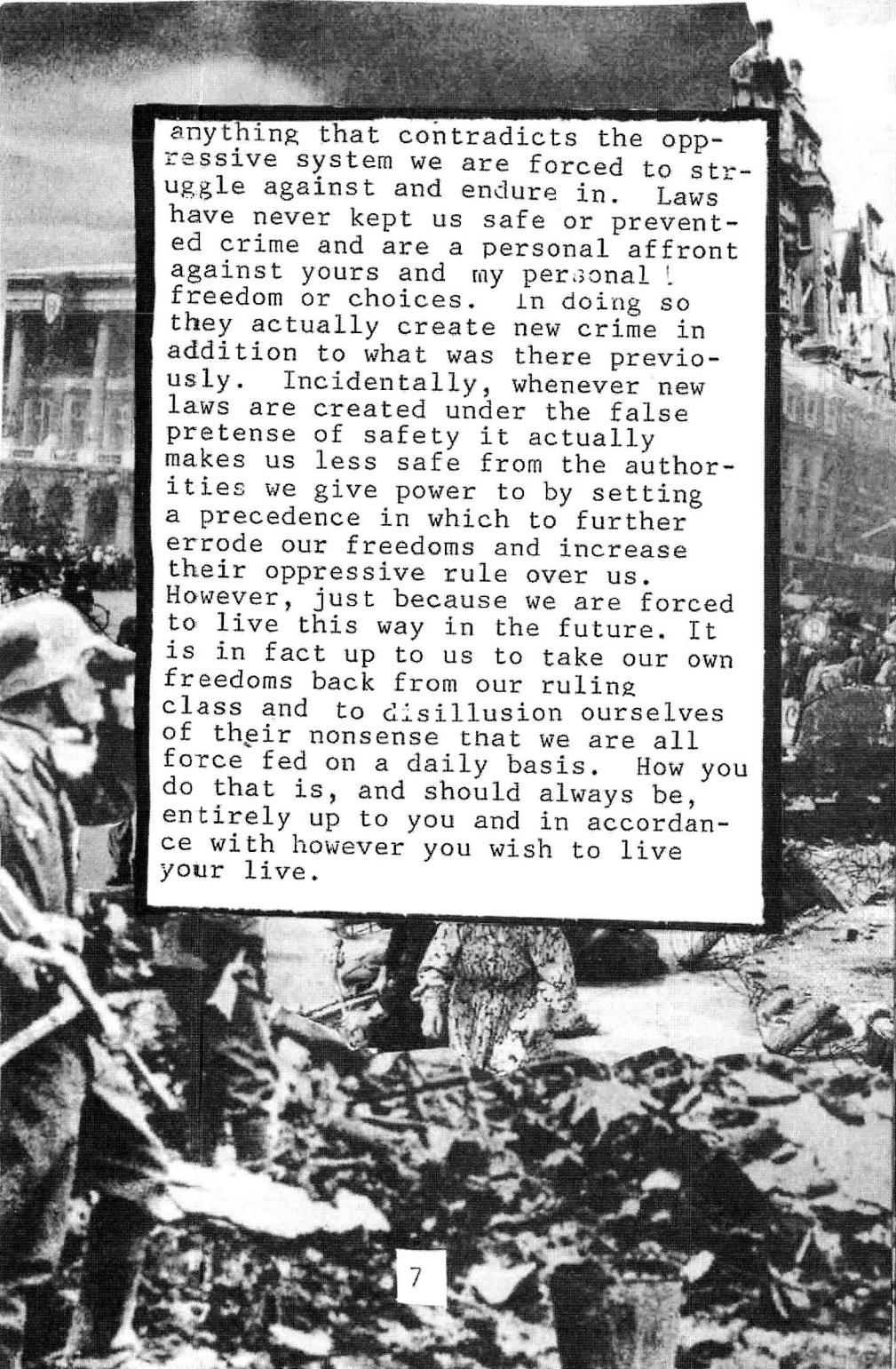
If you are thinking police brutality is only physical you are highly mistaken. A death or physical beaten by the hands of an officer should not be the only things considered for police brutality. Telling an officer he/she has to make so many citations or arrests a day to rise up in rank and pay

| Prison Population by Year |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| 1980                      | 330,000   |
| 1990                      | 771,000   |
| 2000                      | 1,382,000 |
| 2010                      | 1,612,000 |

prison time who should have the freedom to decide what they put in their bodies.

If laws really did prevent crime as they have all crammed down our throats wouldn't you expect to see a decrease of convicted criminals in correlation to increased laws? Instead, what we see is the exact opposite, since the 1980's we have significantly increased laws and length of prison sentences only to see the prison population and criminal convictions in general explode to unprecedent levels. In 1980 we only had 330,000 prisoners in the whole country by 2010 we had over 1,612,000, that's a five fold increase in less than 30 years! Only in the last few years has that trend changed (in 2019 the prison population dropped 14%) and at the same time there has been big pushes to legalize or decriminalize some things. See the correlation here? The only things that laws prevent is freedom while simultaneously creating criminals out of average people like you and I by making new legal definitions of what is or not acceptable in the eyes of the law.

It is these illusions coupled with indoctrination and narrow viewpoints that causes us to dismiss

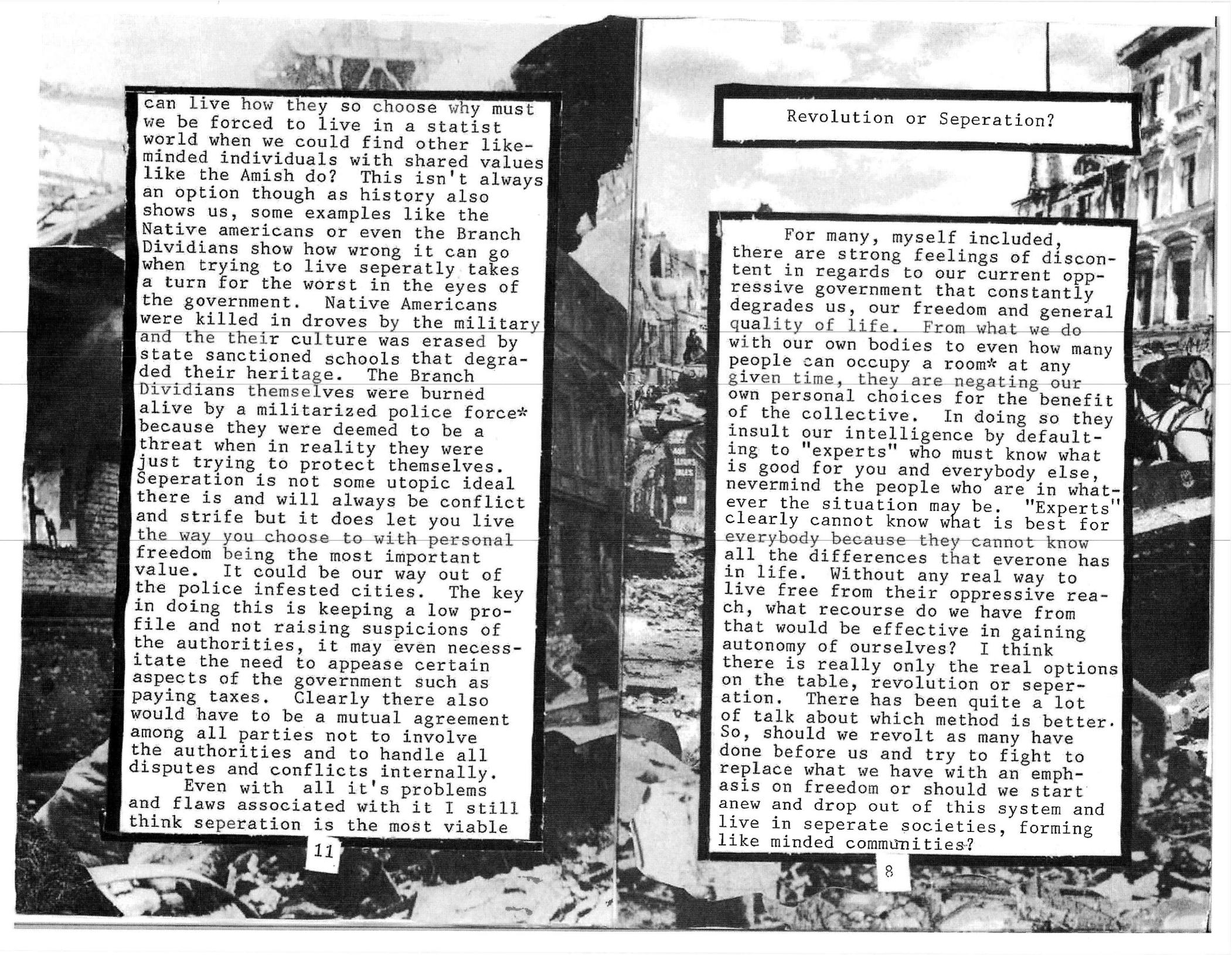


anything that contradicts the oppressive system we are forced to struggle against and endure in. Laws have never kept us safe or prevented crime and are a personal affront against yours and my personal freedom or choices. In doing so they actually create new crime in addition to what was there previously. Incidentally, whenever new laws are created under the false pretense of safety it actually makes us less safe from the authorities we give power to by setting a precedence in which to further erode our freedoms and increase their oppressive rule over us. However, just because we are forced to live this way in the future. It is in fact up to us to take our own freedoms back from our ruling class and to disillusion ourselves of their nonsense that we are all force fed on a daily basis. How you do that is, and should always be, entirely up to you and in accordance with however you wish to live your live.



option to revolution while still ditching the system we have today. The best part of it all is that because it's not a one size fits all attitude you can live in any way you can imagine so long as others have similar value systems. Isn't that better than forcing others to live a certain way? It is to me, what about you?

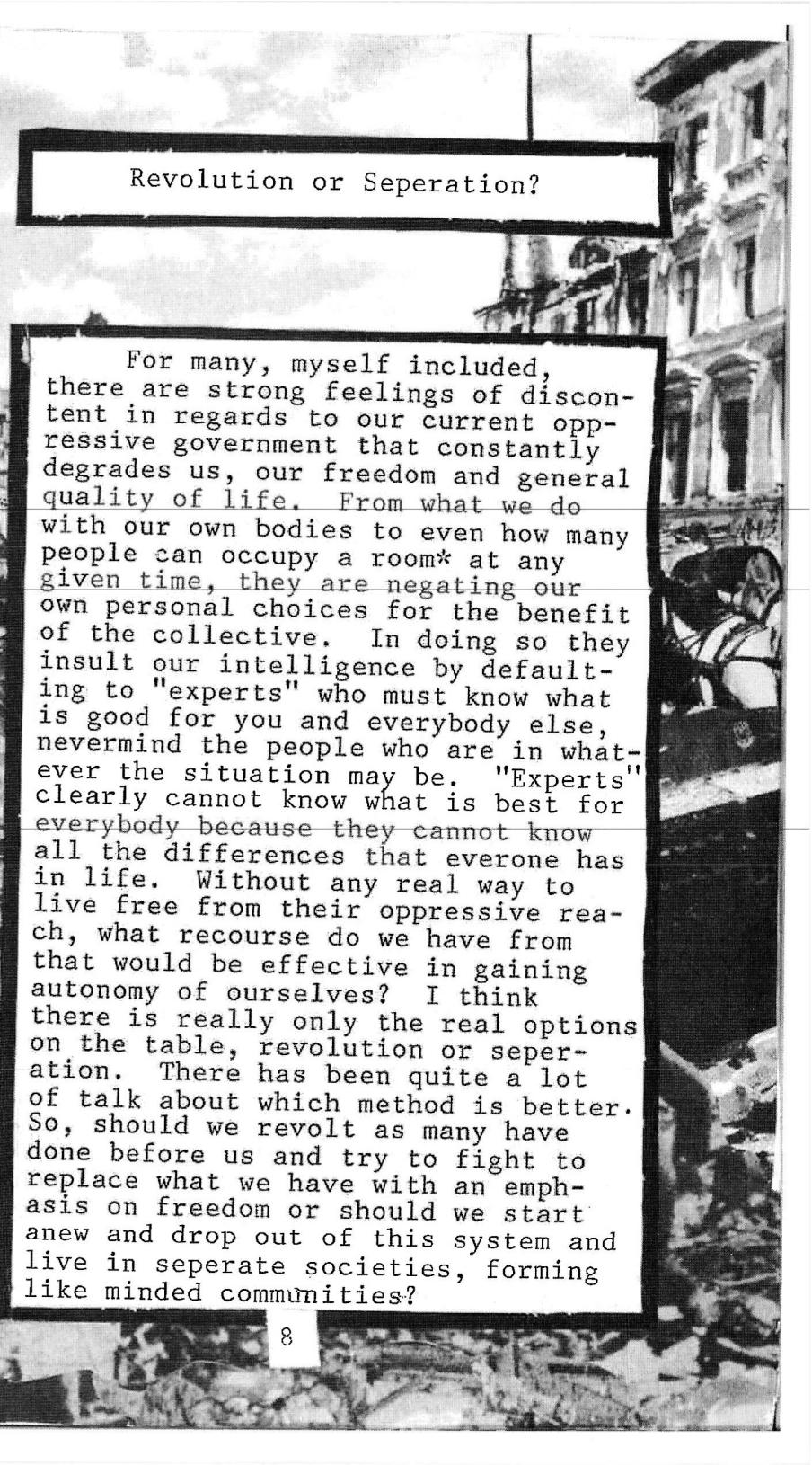
- \* covid mandates
- \* How is a mobile armory rolling, into your neighborhood safe? It's like somebody driving a ticking time bomb around your house.
- \* They say this was an accident, I call bullshit.



can live how they so choose why must we be forced to live in a statist world when we could find other like-minded individuals with shared values like the Amish do? This isn't always an option though as history also shows us, some examples like the Native Americans or even the Branch Dividians show how wrong it can go when trying to live separately takes a turn for the worst in the eyes of the government. Native Americans were killed in droves by the military and their culture was erased by state sanctioned schools that degraded their heritage. The Branch Dividians themselves were burned alive by a militarized police force\* because they were deemed to be a threat when in reality they were just trying to protect themselves. Separation is not some utopic ideal there is and will always be conflict and strife but it does let you live the way you choose to with personal freedom being the most important value. It could be our way out of the police infested cities. The key in doing this is keeping a low profile and not raising suspicions of the authorities, it may even necessitate the need to appease certain aspects of the government such as paying taxes. Clearly there also would have to be a mutual agreement among all parties not to involve the authorities and to handle all disputes and conflicts internally.

Even with all it's problems and flaws associated with it I still think separation is the most viable

### Revolution or Separation?



For many, myself included, there are strong feelings of discontent in regards to our current oppressive government that constantly degrades us, our freedom and general quality of life. From what we do with our own bodies to even how many people can occupy a room\* at any given time, they are negating our own personal choices for the benefit of the collective. In doing so they insult our intelligence by defaulting to "experts" who must know what is good for you and everybody else, nevermind the people who are in whatever the situation may be. "Experts" clearly cannot know what is best for everybody because they cannot know all the differences that everyone has in life. Without any real way to live free from their oppressive reach, what recourse do we have from that would be effective in gaining autonomy of ourselves? I think there is really only the real options on the table, revolution or separation. There has been quite a lot of talk about which method is better. So, should we revolt as many have done before us and try to fight to replace what we have with an emphasis on freedom or should we start anew and drop out of this system and live in separate societies, forming like minded communities?

Revolutions have had a lengthy history throughout the world, even here in the U.S., our own historical foundations are based on revolting against an oppressive and controlling government. So it seems fitting that it should be a viable option today and many people do rally behind this call currently. I however, believe that the days of revolution as a corrective measure may be numbered, especially in western societies such as our own. This is partly due to the fact that many western countries have become oppressively overbearing while being aided by advancements in modern technology in surveillance that the idea of a successful revolution seems so slight as to be improbable.

In revolutions past they never had to contend with the monitoring we do today and were able to organize. With everything from license plate readers and facial recognition software to internet surveillance how could any modern revolutionary ever organize effective numbers, without being detected, to confront them? Obviously once found out and labeled in it's infancy as a threat or potential threat it would stymie the movement's progress. One of the reasons the American Revolution was possible was the British inability to actively monitor the situation in the colonies due to the vast physical distance between them. In my opinion that revolution would never have happened if the British would have had the capabilities that we do today.

A second reason revolution seems improbable to me is the ceaseless militarization of the police force. Today every cop car is a rolling armory equiped with side arms, tazers, shotguns, AR's, bulletproof armor and more all under the false pretense of public safety\*. Let's also not forget they use to get ex-military MRAP's for free from the government to use against civilians. Much like the military who pioneered the use of drones in warfare, the police themselves are using them to surveil us in certain situations like New Years eve in timesquare but there have also been times they have been used to kill such as in stand-off situations. While there is much debate about an individual's right to arm his or herself, the fact remains that firearms enable the meek to challenge tyrants, and every law passed restricting them is just another nail in the coffin for revolution as they may be our only defense in the most dire of circumstances against a militarized police force.

With all that being said about revolting, it seems that the only viable option to me is separatism. It too however, is not without its problems but there is actually some precedent for it here in the U.S. Many religious organizations already live in seperate communities within the U.S. A perfect example is the Amish who have their own laws and customs to live by, without much need for the rest of society, government or even the police. If they