



THE EIGHT PRINCIPLES OF UNCIVILIZATION

We must unhumanize our views a little, and become confident as the rock and ocean that we were made from.

1. We live in a time of social, economic and ecological unravelling. All around us are signs that our whole way of living is already passing into history. We will face this reality honestly and learn how to live with it.
2. We reject the faith which holds that the converging crises of our times can be reduced to a set of 'problems' in need of technological or political 'solutions.'
3. We believe that the roots of these crises lie in the stories we have been telling ourselves. We intend to challenge the stories which underpin our civilization: the myth of progress, the myth of human centrality, and the myth of our separation from 'nature.' These myths are more dangerous for the fact that we have forgotten they are myths.
4. We will reassert the role of storytelling as more than mere entertainment. It is through stories that we weave reality.
5. Humans are not the point and purpose of the planet. Our art will begin with the attempt to step outside the human bubble. By careful attention, we will reengage with the non-human world.
6. We will celebrate writing and art which is grounded in a sense of place and of time. Our literature has been dominated for too long by those who inhabit the cosmopolitan citadels.
7. We will not lose ourselves in the elaboration of theories or ideologies. Our words will be elemental. We write with dirt under our fingernails.
8. The end of the world as we know it is not the end of the world full stop. Together, we will find the hope beyond hope, the paths which lead to the unknown world ahead of us.

- The Dark Mountain Project: dark-mountain.net

Venezuela: The Domino that Won't Fall

The USA and its allies are backing the fascist forces in Venezuela - the upper-class elites that governed with impunity and now lead the opposition. The USA is applying a new war strategy: hybrid warfare - a military strategy that blends conventional warfare, irregular warfare and cyber-warfare - with other influencing methods, such as fake news, diplomacy, and foreign electoral intervention.

Venezuela's vulnerability has been its economy. The country has been subject to brutal economic sanctions that severely restrict the import of food, medicine and essential goods, drastically reduce the export of oil, and prevent Venezuela's participation in international financial markets. Economic sanctions are tantamount to a blockade; they are not "instead of war," they are war. The USA, Canada and their allies are truly terrorizing the Venezuelan population, trying to starve them to death and keep crucial medicines from the most vulnerable people, the infirm, children and the poor. Due to the sanctions, 180,000 medical operations have been cancelled and 823,000 chronically ill patients are awaiting medicines. Economists Mark Weisbrot and Columbia University Professor Jeffrey Sachs estimate that between 2017 and 2018 the sanctions killed 40,000 Venezuelans. Unsurprisingly, their report has not been given the media attention it deserves.

It is indeed a serious blow to democracy to discount elections before they have taken place and urge that they do not take place, and yet that is exactly what the opposition and the USA and allies did: they told Venezuelans not to vote. On May 20, 2018, Nicolás Maduro was re-elected with 6.3 million votes (67%). Six opposition candidates representing 16 democratic opposition parties also took part in the elections. But let us not accept the farce that the quarrel with Venezuela is about legitimacy and democracy. This is a blatant neo-colonial war against Venezuela to reduce it to a puppet state, balkanize it and take possession of its plentiful oil, gold and other resources. These are modern pirates acting on behalf of corporate capital.

The Venezuelan extreme right is a violent opposition, not engaged in ordinary politics but in a desperate class struggle trying to provoke chaos and/or civil war, which would give the excuse for foreign military intervention that would then hand power over to them. If they should succeed in this manner, the only way they could retain that power would be by brutal oppression, just like Pinochet in Chile. The overwhelming majority of the Venezuelan population is black, brown, indigenous, and knows that whatever its shortcomings, the Bolivarian government is their government. It is a government that has striven to pull them out of poverty and exclusion and Venezuelans would not acquiesce to a dictatorship.

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Small farms in Crosshairs

It's ironic that Governor Gavin Newsom found Trump's troops at the southern border so abhorrent, then rerouted those troops, putting them on an illusionary *front line* against small north county family farmers - already under attack from every angle.

Before Newsom moved the National Guard to Humboldt County, he shared his thoughts on the troops at the border, saying, "**This whole thing is the theater of the absurd, and California has had enough, and we will not perpetuate it,**" he said. "**We are, however, interested in doing the right thing and supporting efforts that are real, not manufactured.**" He failed to notice the war waged against small farmers in Humboldt is also "*political theater of the absurd*" and a "*manufactured crisis.*" Where are our local representatives to defend our community (crickets: chirp, chirp, chirp), **oh yeah**, that's right! They're the one's who helped craft this nightmarish scene.

Watch Humboldt County Sheriff Honsal's recent we're-coming-for-you video (posted on kymkemp.com July 9th, 2019). Honsal says, "**The National Guard is here on my request and they are working with us to assist us with the illicit marijuana industry that has been a problem here in Humboldt County for years.**" Problem? You mean the backbone of the economy for longer than you've been alive? The Humboldt County Government's incompetence and greed should be called illicit, not cultivating a plant and/or living off grid. Honsal continued, "*I want you to know we are targeting those who are outside the permit process. So if you are outside the permit process you have a target that is on your marijuana grow.*"

Our military is currently targeting its own citizens, spying on them, terrorizing them, scaring their children, livestock and pets, at all hours of the day and night, often below 500 feet elevation, all based on false assumptions: Are small farmers *choosing* to not get permitted, deserving military attack, **or**, is the Humboldt County Government's system of compliance a dead end dirt road, impossible to navigate and afford, especially for small farms?

Getting permitted is a completely exhaustive and complex task that can be confusing for legal experts, consultants, and paid government employees. Yet the average farmer is expected to understand the laws clearly and risk their entire lives on a government program that is a high-risk gamble at best. I spoke with one farmer who has spent over \$200k to come into compliance. He doubted he would ever get his money back. I spoke with several longtime locals who after exhausting upwards of 50k and tons of energy dealing with the county government, had to sell their property and leave town, with no permit or anything to show for their efforts.

It is shortsighted to pretend that your average small farm has \$200k, 100k or even 10k to give with no promise of a return, or any guarantee at all that when cannabis is federally legal their farm will survive.

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SAFETY SHUFFLE: Cost-Cutting Moves Promoted by the Nuclear Power Industry

Last month the staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission proposed certain changes to the Reactor Oversight Process to the Commission in:

"Recommendations for Enhancing the Reactor oversight Process"

(SECY-2019-067) reducing the time and scope of some annual inspections at the nation's 90-plus nuclear power plants. Some other inspections would be cut from every two years to every three years. cost-cutting moves promoted by the nuclear power industry. Overall, these changes, if approved by the Commission, will result in a net reduction in the amount of time the **NRC** spends on planning and implementing certain inspections, and how it addresses the results of those inspections.

Proposed focus areas include:

- Eliminate the minimum requirement for consideration of greater-than-Green inspection findings
- Change the description of a White inspection finding from "low to moderate" safety significance to "low" safety significance, and change the description of a Yellow inspection finding from "substantial" to "moderate" safety significance
- Revise the sample sizes for several common inspections

The staff review identified several changes that it believes require Commission approval, some enhancements that require Commission notification prior to implementation, and some actions that it believes can be implemented by the staff without Commission approval or advance notification.

Some of the staff's recommendations would require a vote by the commission, which has a majority of members appointed or reappointed by President Trump, who has urged agencies to reduce regulatory requirements for industries.

The nuclear power industry has prodded regulators to cut inspections, saying the nuclear facilities are operating well and that the inspections are a financial burden for power providers.

Nuclear power, like coal-fired power, has been struggling in market completion against cheaper natural gas and rising renewable energy.

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