



'WOKE' WAS KIDNAPPED & HAS DIED

Once upon a time, the past tense of "wake" left its life as a verb and became an adjective of sorts, a term for describing the quality of having awakened, especially to injustice and racism. Like other vernacular words in the English language, Woke's youth was among young Black people but its illness and decline came after it was kidnapped by old white conservatives.

They were often angry at words, especially new words, most particularly words that disturbed their rest – awakened them, you could say – and Woke was such a word.

This fairy tale ends badly. Rather than kill Woke, they tried to turn him into a zombie mercenary sent out to sneer at those who were concerned about racism and other injustices. This backfired and "woke" became a marker of the not-OK Boomer, a bilious word whose meaning was more in who said it than in what it meant or mocked. In other words, Woke died.

Cool young people were not sad that Woke was dead, because he was no longer their word, and mean old people were not sad because they did not know he was dead.

The End.

- Rebecca Solnit

UN GETS SERIOUS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE!!!

All three of the key United Nations agencies- Climate, Meteorological, and Environment - produced damning reports in October. The UN environment agency's report found there was **"no credible pathway to 1.5C in place"** and that **"woefully inadequate"** progress on cutting carbon emissions means the only way to limit the worst impacts of the climate crisis is a **"rapid transformation of societies."**

Collective action is needed by the world's nations more now than at any point to avoid climate tipping points. The world is coming **"very, very close to irreversible changes...time is really running out very, very fast."** Prof Johan Rockström, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany, said: **"It's a really bleak moment, not only because of the reports showing that emissions are still rising, so we're not delivering on either the Paris or Glasgow climate agreements, but we also have so much scientific evidence that we are very, very close to irreversible changes – we're coming closer to tipping points."**



US B52's Headed Down Under

The US Will Soon Base Six Nuclear-Capable B-52 Bombers in Australia.

The upgrades to the Tindal RAAF base, dedicated facilities including a squadron operations facility and parking areas for the aircraft that will allow it to house B-52, will be financed by the US government and are expected to cost \$22.5 million.

The **B-52H Stratofortress** is a long-range, heavy bomber capable of dropping or launching the widest array of weapons in the U.S. inventory, This includes gravity bombs, cluster bombs, precision-guided missiles and joint direct attack munitions, and has an unrefueled combat range in excess of 14,000km. states the US Air Force's website.

The US currently has a fleet of 76. The aircraft type has been in operation for more than 60 years. During the first Gulf War, it dropped 40% of the coalition force's weapons. The Air Force currently expects to operate B-52s through 2050.

Emissions must fall by about half by 2030 to meet the internationally agreed target of 1.5 Centigrade of heating but are still rising, at a time when oil giants are making astronomical amounts of money.

Shell and TotalEnergies both doubled their quarterly profits to about \$10 billion. Oil and gas giants have enjoyed soaring profits as post-Covid demand jumps and after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The sector is expected to amass \$4 trillion in 2022, strengthening calls for heavy windfall taxes to address the cost of living crisis and fund the clean energy transition.

Current pledges for action by 2030, even if delivered in full, would mean a rise in global heating of about 2.5 Centigrade, a level that would condemn the world to catastrophic climate breakdown, according to the UN's climate agency.

Rockström was pessimistic about any breakthrough in the speed of climate action at the Cop27 UN Climate Summit, which he said would be dominated by nations such as Pakistan demanding funding to rebuild their countries after climate disasters. Rich, high-emitting nations have long rejected such claims, fearing unlimited liabilities.

Only a handful of countries have ramped up their plans in the last year, despite having promised to do so at the Cop26 UN Climate Summit in Glasgow in 2021.

Cop27 is a 'scam' for 'greenwashing, lying and cheating'.
Says climate activist, Greta Thunberg

This comes after the US sent six of its batwing, B-2 Spirit stealth bombers to Australia this year to train with RAAF F-35s. The UFO-like Spirit can also carry nuclear weapons and is thought to be the most expensive aircraft ever made, valued at around \$2 billion each.

Their visit amounted to the biggest-ever deployment of the US's most important military jet to Australia, with the country's active fleet only numbering 20.

It came as the US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan. China retaliated by testing ballistic missiles over Taipei for the first time.



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NO, I WILL NOT

"A point of view can be a dangerous luxury when substituted for insight and understanding."

– Marshall McLuhan,
The Gutenberg Galaxy

There are some stupid mistakes that only very smart people make, and one of them is the notion that a sensible argument seriously presented can compete with a really good piece of theatre.

Every day, people on the internet ask why I won't "debate" some self-actualizing gig-economy fascist or other, as if formal, public debate were the only way to steer public conversation. If you won't debate, the argument goes, you're an enemy of free speech. You're basically no better than a Nazi, and certainly far worse than any of the actual Nazis muttering about not being allowed to preach racism from prestigious pulpits. Well-meaning liberals insist that "sunlight is the best disinfectant," anti-fascists disagree, the far right orders more popcorn, and round and round we go on the haunted carousel of western liberal thought until we're all queasy.

There's a term for this sort of bad-faith argument: it's called the justification-suppression model. The theory is that bigots refrain from directly defending their own bigotry but get hugely riled up justifying the abstract right to express bigotry. So instead of saying, for example, "I don't like foreigners," they'll fight hard for someone else's right to get up on stage and yell that foreigners are coming to convert your children and seduce your household pets.

Focusing the conversation on the ethics of disseminating speech rather than the actual content of that speech is hugely useful for the far right for three reasons. Firstly, it allows them to paint themselves as the wronged party – the martyrs and victims. Secondly, it stops people from talking about the actual wronged parties, the real lives at risk. And thirdly, of course, it's an enormous diversion tactic, a shout of "Fire!" in the crowded theatre of politics. But Liberals don't want to feel like bad people, so this impossible choice – betray the letter of your principles, or betray the spirit – leaves everyone feeling filthy.

There's no way to come out of this convinced of your own political purity. The thing is, though, that establishing your own political purity isn't what progressive politics is supposed to be about. As Ms. Marvel says: Good is not a thing you are, it's a thing you do. This is not about censorship. It never was. It's about consequences, about drawing a line in the sand.

That can be harder in practice than it sounds. The problem with taking a stand within and against respectable organizations is that however righteous you may feel, you create a lot of work for people in that organization – especially people lower down the chain of command who don't get to make the big ethical decisions. And it takes rather a lot of courage to defy the customs of polite society, especially if it means compromising social capital you yourself have worked hard for.

There's a good case to be made for what anarchists call "prefigurative politics" – the idea that part of the way you build a better world is by creating a version of the world you want to see. The Occupy movement did this, creating microcosms of sharing societies based on mutual aid and consensus, before the camps were summarily squashed by police. The culture of "debate" operates on similar lines but at a much higher budget: it's live-action roleplaying of a Classical fever-dream of a society where pedigreed intellectuals freely exchange ideas in front of a respectful audience, the sort of society that would have made certain ancient Greek philosophers drop their hemlock in excitement.

Personally, I prefer an exchange of ideas that is less hierarchical and performative, because I've found that a lot of the people whose voices matter most are people who don't put themselves forward as spokespeople, if they are invited at all. Or written dialogue, because it gives all parties more time to think and reflect. Or any format where good ideas are what count, not how good you are at showboating and humiliating the other guy.

Remember the U.S. presidential debates of 2016? Remember how the entire liberal establishment thought Hillary Clinton had won, mainly because she made actual points, rather than shambling around the stage shouting about Muslims? What's the one line from those debates that everyone remembers now? It's "Nasty Woman." What's the visual? It's Trump literally skulking around Hillary, dominating her with his body. **Continued >>>**



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