

Capturing the Outlaw: Was there a Real Robin Hood?



And a look at
Modern Resistance Movements
at the College of Complexes

And a Look at Opposition to Subjugation and Servitude Today



“If he be a pore man, Of my good he shall have some.”

Lecture Topics

1. Sources of the Legend
2. Ethical Considerations
3. Others Who Resemble Him

Shires, a county, governed by an ealdorman or a royal official known as a "shire reeve" or sheriff



1066 Battle of Hastings,
French speaking
aristocracy takes over

1099 Jerusalem was
taken and crusaders
begin to return home

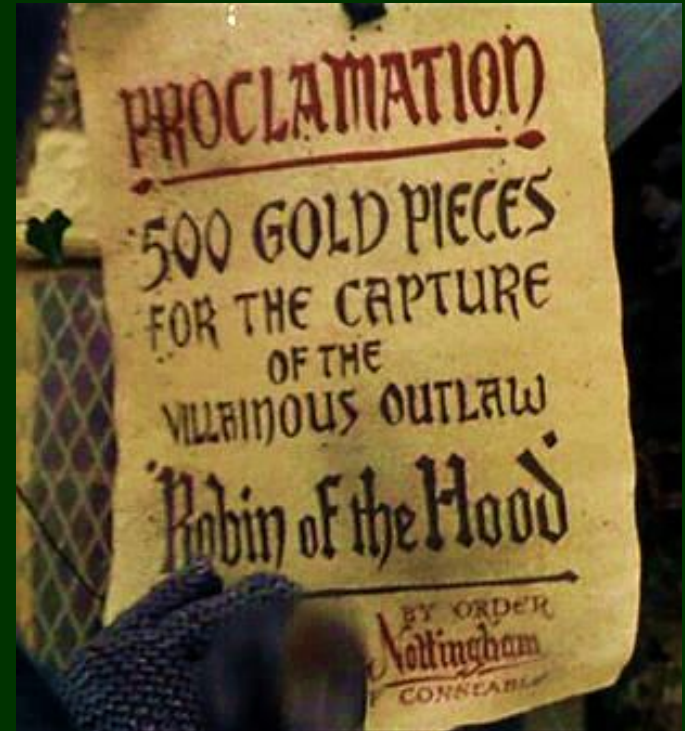
1215 Magna Carta

local political insurrections

Robin Hood goes to live deep in Sherwood Forest, attracting other societal outcasts

He is the leader of a band of men who are outlaws, hiding from the Sheriff of Nottingham, not because they are bad, but because they are mistreated by authority.

Killing the king's deer just to eat for the winter, or having to commit violence in self-defense, the outlaws become a band of brothers. They strike back by taking back the wealth that has been extracted from everyday people.





Was there a real Robin Hood, or is he a pure creation of myth and folklore?

The rulers of the medieval English kingdom discouraged resistance to authority by the widespread use of execution, outlawry, and exile. Yet medieval English society also applauded such resistance.

Encapsulated in the tales of Robin Hood, the good outlaw is loyal, courageous, and clever; while the authorities he outwits are disloyal, cowardly, and stupid, using the cover of the law to behave corruptly.



1. Robin Hood is only a legend or mythology, a term and not a name, archetype of banditry, occupational surname of a villain



2. a literary character, in lyrics, and in plays, a poetic expression of popular aspirations



3. an individual, historical personage referenced in chronicles



Modern Movie Adaptations

40 large / 20 small screen
versions

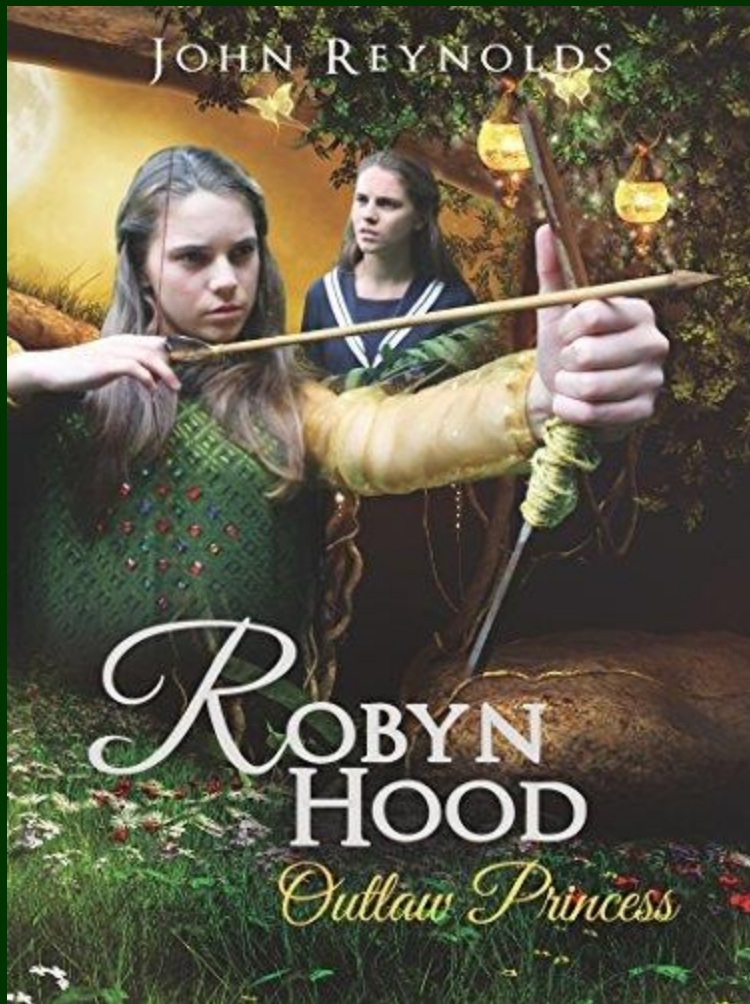




“Out of the shadows, a legend returns to save her people from the tyranny of the disgraced Sheriff of Nottingham”
(UK Digital Release: May 9, 2022)



Robyn Hood: Outlaw Princess



Robyn Howard is a teenage schoolgirl who dreams of making a difference and wonders why there are so few famous women in history



In the 12th Century

terms such as Robert / Robyn Hode appear in legal records to identify any petty criminal / common epithet for criminals

Robin, Robyn, Robert, Rabunhod, Robehod, Hood, Hude, Heud, Hoad, Hobbehod, Wood, Whoad and Whod

The lyrics of popular ballads began
“Robin Hood in the Sherwood stood”
i.e., once upon a time

Stories about the “Merry Men” lurking about Sherwood forest began to be used in plays performed at pageants

Common Proverb – many written references
people boast of their accomplishments
“Many will talk of Robin Hood
who never shot his bow”





SCRIPTORIUM MONK AT WORK. (From *Lacroix*.)

The concept
of a
"Dark Age"
refers to a
period with
a lack of
any
contemporary
written
history

A Peasant, Knight or Fallen Noble?



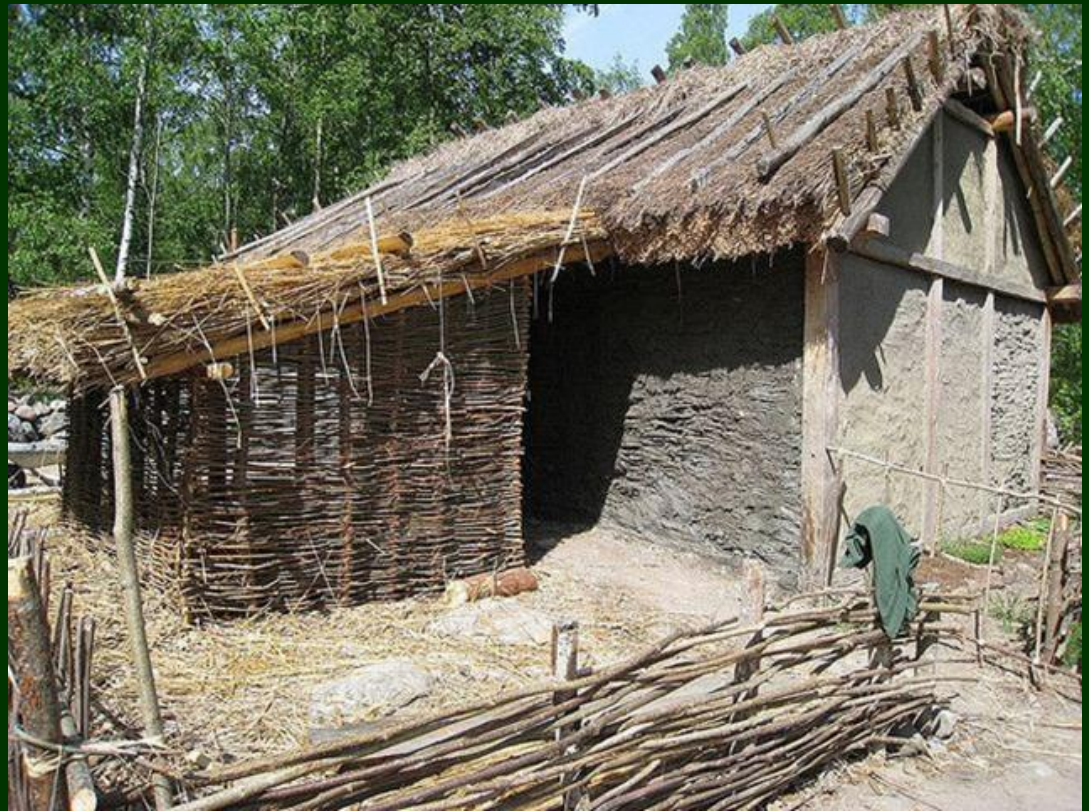
In the late Middle Ages in England, where agrarian discontent had begun to chip away at the feudal system, he appears as an anti-establishment rebel, a violent yeoman who lived in Sherwood Forest with his men who murders government agents and wealthy landowners.

The practice of building castles dates from the 9th to the 12th centuries, establishing and solidifying class separation government consisted of hereditary feudal estates





Almost all of the people were
Serfs, with only perhaps 10%
Yeoman
living in “wattle and daub” huts



Oral Tradition

troubadours' songs that reported news and events

The first known reference in English verse to Robin Hood is found in a poem in which a poorly educated priest repents and confesses that he is ignorant of Latin:



“Although I can’t recite the
Lord’s Prayer (Paternoster),
I do know the rhymes of
Robin Hood.”

in *The Vision of Piers
Plowman*

Little John – Robin Hood's lieutenant

Much – the miller's son

Will Scarlet – he is a skilled swordsman

Arthur a Bland

David of Doncaster – went by the nickname "Bull"

Will Stutely

Friar Tuck – The resident clergyman of the band,
more ale-loving and jovial than belligerent

Alan-a-Dale – A roving minstrel, a skilled archer nearly equal to Robin

Reynold Greenleaf – tricked his way into the Sheriff's service

Maid Marian – Robin Hood's romantic interest, a cross-dressing tomboy and a capable fighter, works as a double agent, feeding Robin critical information about the Sheriff

The Tinker

The Cook – A cook who lived in the household of the Sheriff

The Ranger – A forester who was responsible for protecting the king's deer

The Pinder – A pinder, an impounder of stray animals

The Scotchman

The Three Yeomen – landowning farmers who were about to be hanged by the Sheriff of Nottingham for poaching until they were saved by Robin and a company of archers



The
Merry
Men
known
members

Several modern adaptations add a member to the group who is a Moor or Saracen

Friar Tuck

Friars were religious men devoted to wandering, preaching and spreading the Christian word, vs. monks



royal writs were issued demanding the arrest of a priest who led a band which robbed, murdered and committed other acts of general mayhem

Collected Comments from the Academic Community



**A Big Think from the
College of Complexes**

He was Declared to be an Outlaw



an implacable menace
set apart from ordinary society
a man without a polis
who lives in the wilds
contrary to nature / god ordained order
appalled and feared

Represents the Wilderness / Nature



primitive and primal
cast out from civilization into arcadia
forest is a place of wild beasts
dispossessed

OBEY



creates his own society
never alone,
still a social creature



not an anarchist but building his own world,
his own order

a utopian primal society
a commonwealth of the woods
noble spirit of defiance to tyranny



Sheriff and his posse stand for law and order
a nemesis
distrustful and defiant to representatives of higher
authority
by yeomen (a farmer who cultivates his own land,
a class of small freeholders in England)
challenges them to live up to their oath
obedience is not absolute but conditional



a celebration of independence
power is contractual agreement based upon consent
not absolutists, not anarchists
liberal individualism but not a manifesto
Robin has no theory of society
most performed unpaid work as, in Latin, a "servus"



Robin Hood Paradigm
stands for an honorable code
rooted in moral calculus, situational ethics, and a
categorical imperative
against the odds stands against authority
while serving a higher good
tallage – a special tax which could be imposed at any
time

“when injustice becomes law, resistance becomes a duty”
e.g., institutionalized privilege ”



normative
deontological
ethics
(from the Greek,
“obligation, duty”)
the morality of an
action should be
based on whether
that action itself is
right or wrong

Represents the Triumph of
Good over Evil
per the belief of many that we live in
a world where justice prevails



There is No Justification for Theft (at the workplace)

all one can do is to possibly mitigate the penalty
(suspension, demotion, removal)





Peasants' Revolt or the Great Uprising of 1381
a contingent of rebels advanced on London to end serfdom
a Fin de siècle - the "end of a century"
the closing of one era and the onset of another

Pop Quiz:
Robin Hood is
someone
who stood up
against:



- 1) a local lord or current monarch
- 2) taxation / tallage / regulation
- 3) exploitation by the rich and a corrupt system
- 4) all of the above

Green Feather Movement

Mrs. Thomas J. White (who is not referenced by her first name) of the Indiana Textbook Commission called for a ban of Robin Hood in all school books for promoting communism.

The Legend of Robin Hood

Narrative Writing

Lesson 1
Character and Setting

How They Met.
Pisr Luck was a monk who was very honest and fair. He was an expert wordsman. He was always kind to the abbey for not...
Robin heard about him, and decided he would like to invite him to join the Merry-Men. He planned a trap...
It worked! He caught Robin, but then he challenged him to a duel. The fight was a draw, and Robin invited him to join his crew.
Pisr Luck was a great addition to the team. Because... he could gain the trust of...
Masters etc.

ROBIN HOOD
Robin Hood lived in Sherwood Forest, in Nottingham. He was an expert archer and swordsman. He lived with his band of friends who he called his 'Merry-Men'. His Arch - enemy (the sheriff of Nottingham) thought he was a villain. However, the poor people of Sherwood Forest believed that he was a HERO!

Complete and Ready To Teach Lesson.

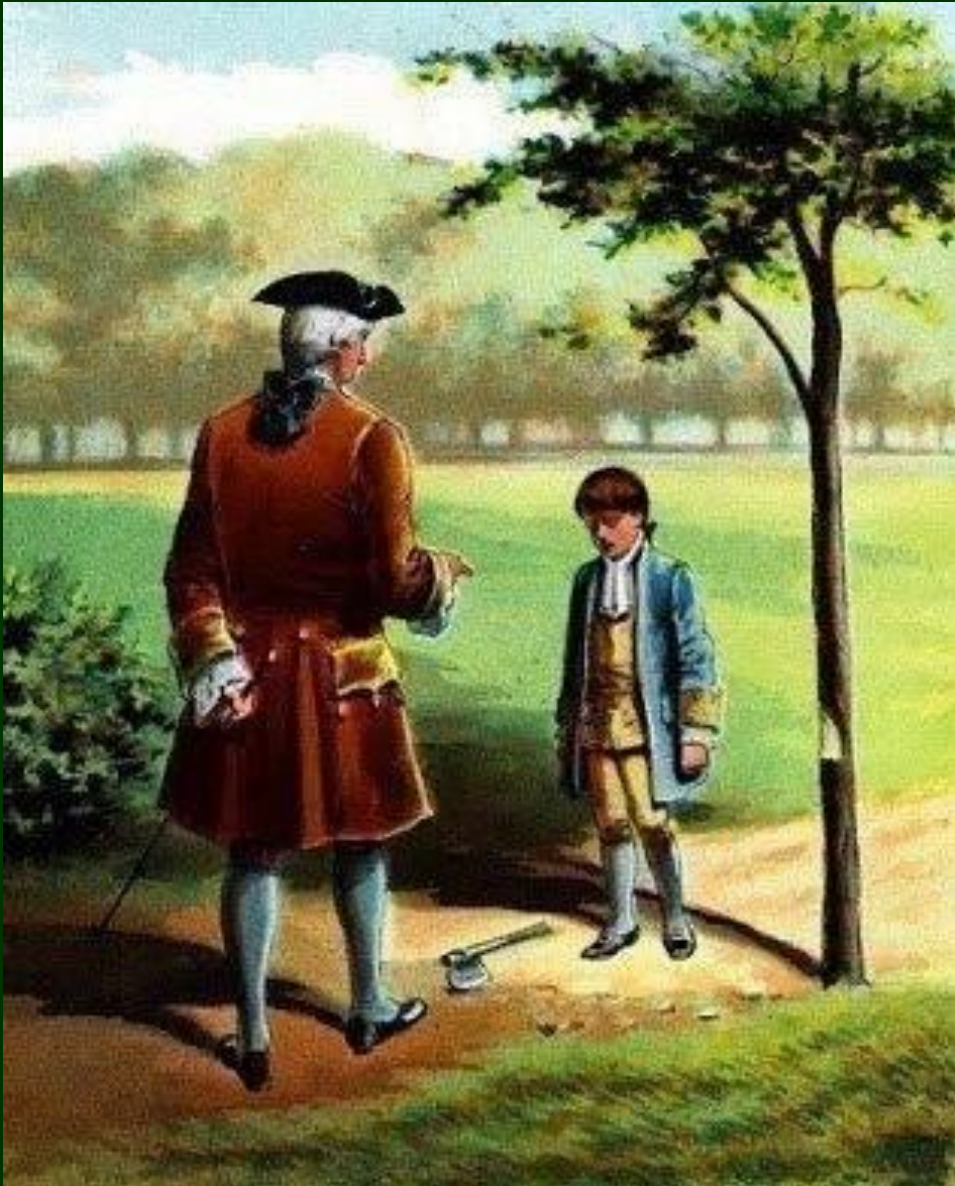
Social Banditry / Group Identity
wealth, power and privilege are based
on a tyrannical system or social order



While one thief would take the strong box, he never robbed any of the passengers



In “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight”
a traditional adversary of King Arthur,
who challenges and tests his
court



Parson Weems, was
an American
evangelical minister,
bookseller and
author
who wrote (and
rewrote) the first
biography of George
Washington
immediately after
his death



Stories that
Transcend Time
the great strength of the
Robin Hood legend is its
ability to change for
relevance and
applicability

story-telling by minstrels
lyrics of 38 ballads

<https://www.boldoutlaw.com/rhbal/>





1 A bonny fine maid of a noble degree,
With a hey down down a down down
Maid Marian calld by name,
Did live in the North, of excellent worth,
For she was a gallant dame.

2 For favour and face, and beauty most rare,
Queen Hellen shee did excell;
For Marian then was praisd of all men
That did in the country dwell.

Here begynneth a gest
of Robyn Hode



Lpthe and listin gētilmen þ̄ he of fre bore
blode ꝛ shall you tel of a gode pema his
name was Robyn hode Robyn was a pudeoue
law as he was one was ueuer non foude Ro
byn stode i bernesdale ꝛ lenyd h̄ to a tre ꝛ bi h̄
dode litell John a gode pema was he ꝛ alsoo
d̄d gooe Scarlok and much þ̄ millers s̄ The
re was none puch of his hodi but it was wor
th a grome. Than bespake l̄tell John all un
too Robyn hode Maister and pe wolde d̄pne
h̄c̄p̄me it wolde doo you moche gode. Thā be
spake h̄ gode Robyn to d̄pne haue ꝛ noo lust
till that ꝛ haue s̄bolde barō or som vnkoutg
gest that map pay for þ̄ best, or som knyght or

Robin says, “If he be a pore man, Of my good he shall have some.”

Among the first printed broadsides and books in England

A Gest of Robyn Hode

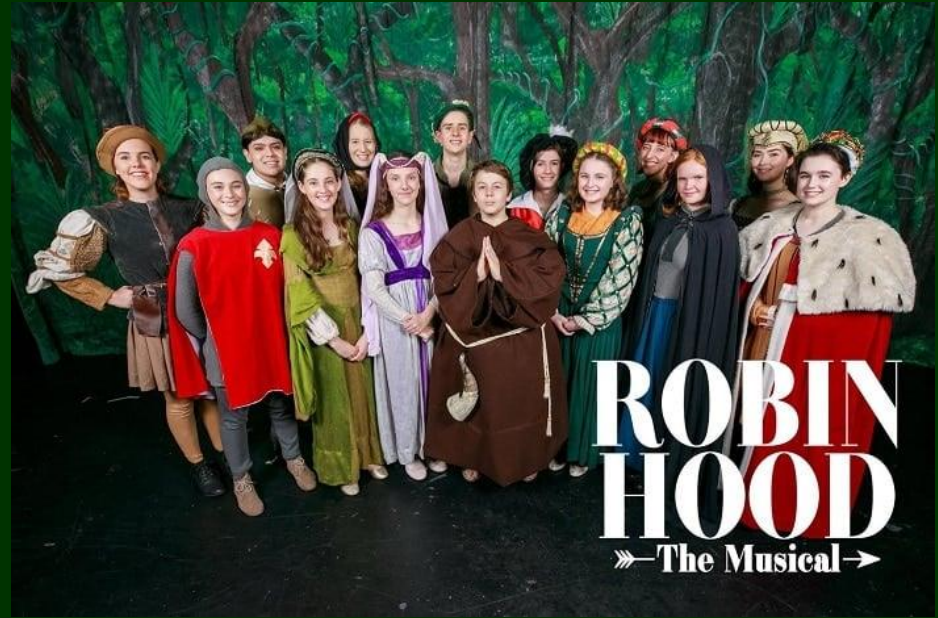
gest
(which meant tale or adventure)
is a compilation of various Robin Hood tales, shortly after the first printing press was set-up

May Games / May 1st Holiday Plays and Procession for Poor “Lord of Mis-Rule”

By 1600, there are more than 130 references to performances of the Robin Hood legend -- more references than to any other kind of British folk drama.



Stage Performances

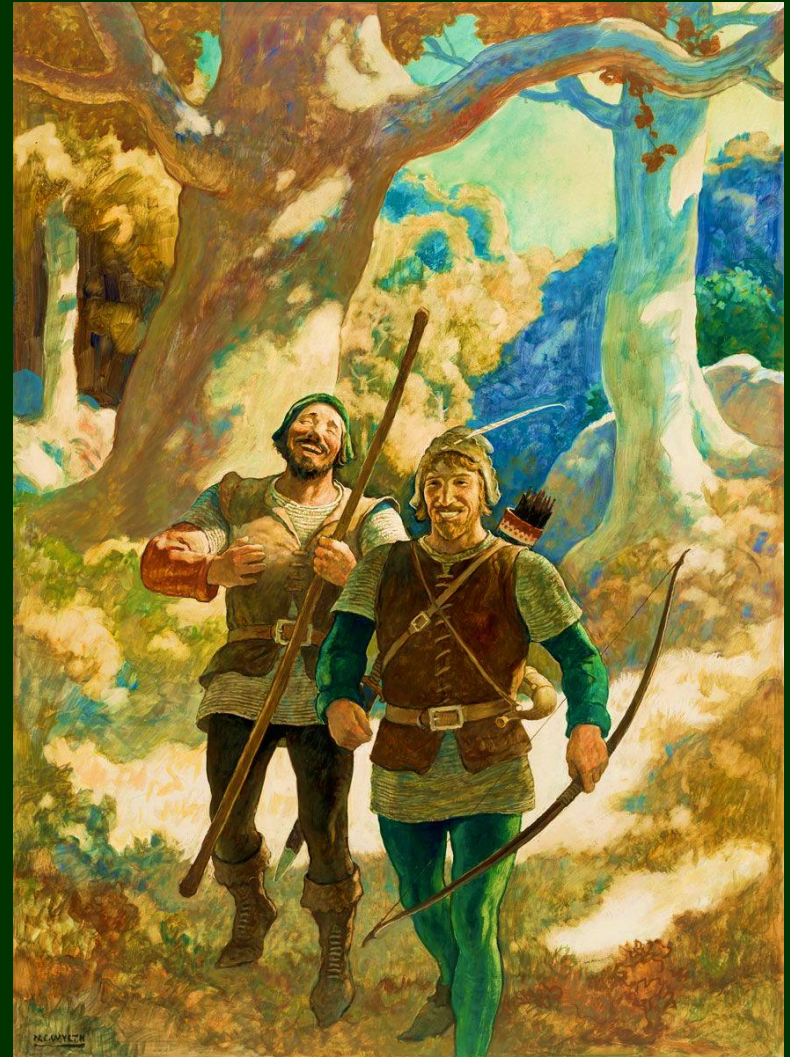
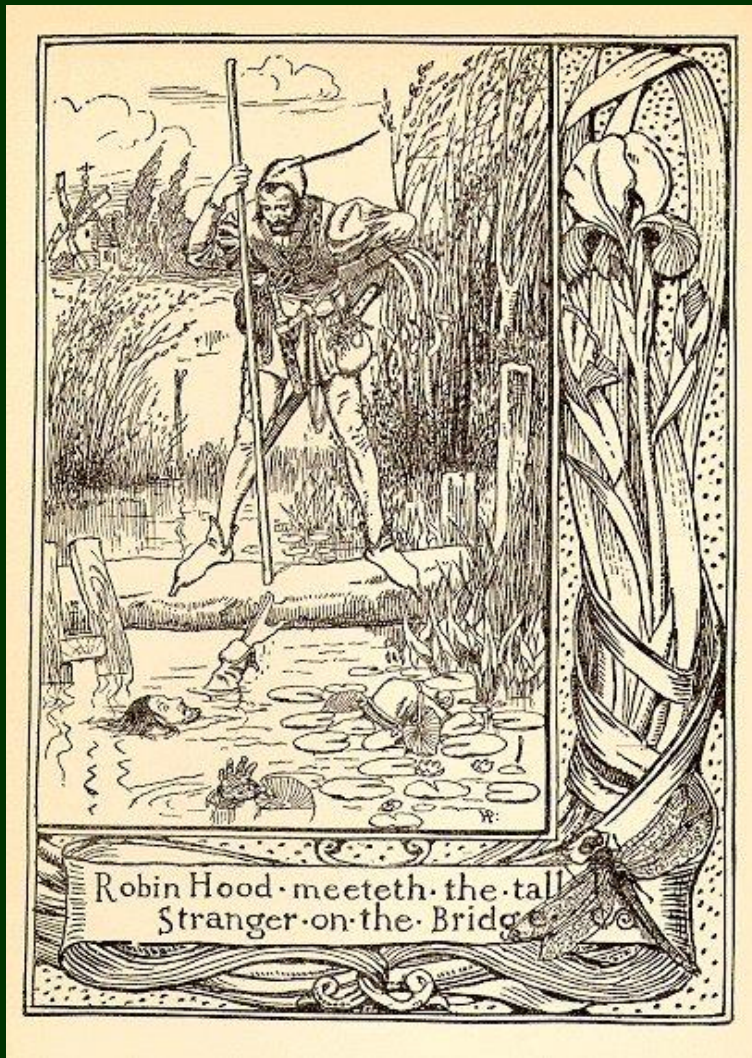




Symbolism
Robin Hood Tax

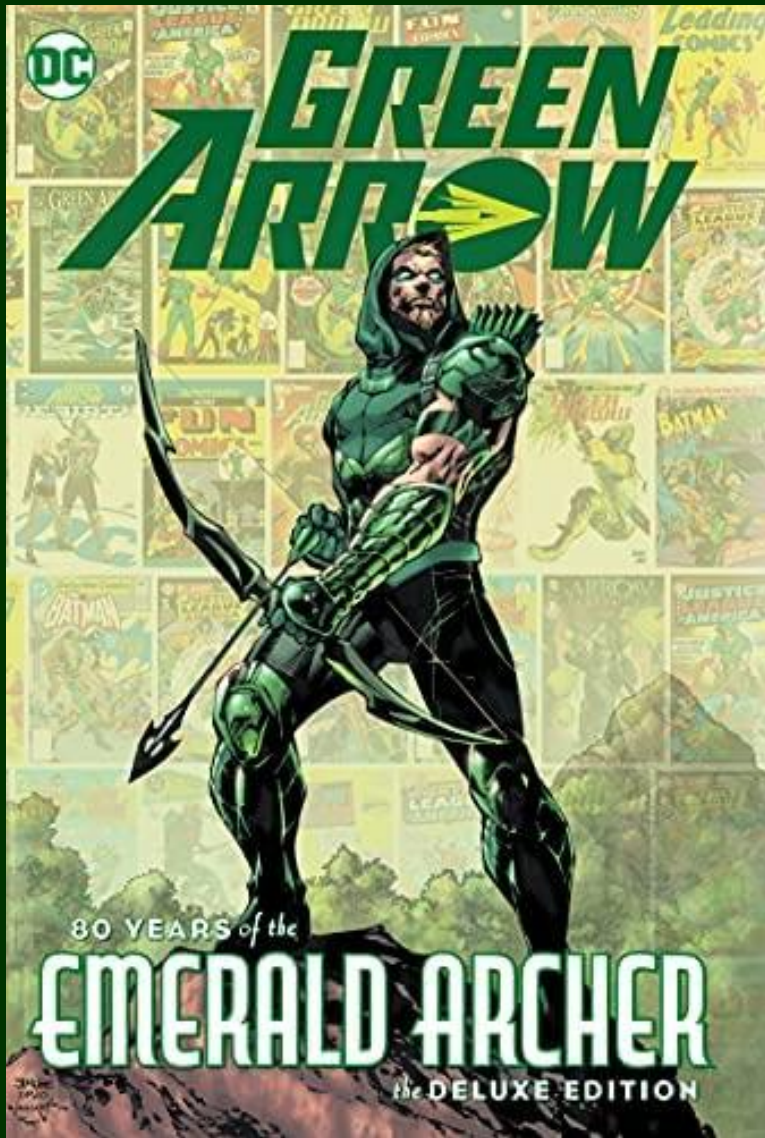


Howard Pyle / N. C. Wyeth



Book Illustrations

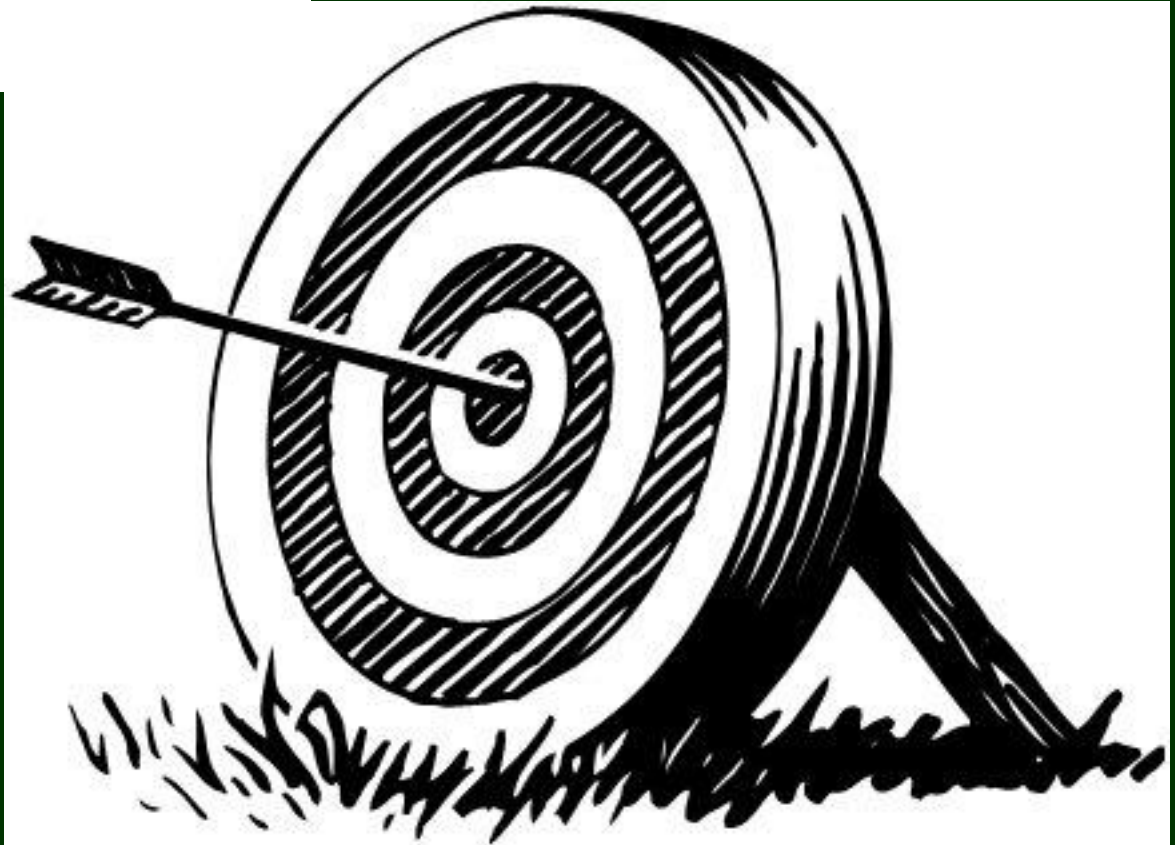






Appropriate Use of Force?

Bank robber
to teller
“Just hand
over the
money and
there won’t
be any
trouble.”





Longbows are around 6 feet long, can shoot an arrow between 250 to 300 yards and are able to puncture armour

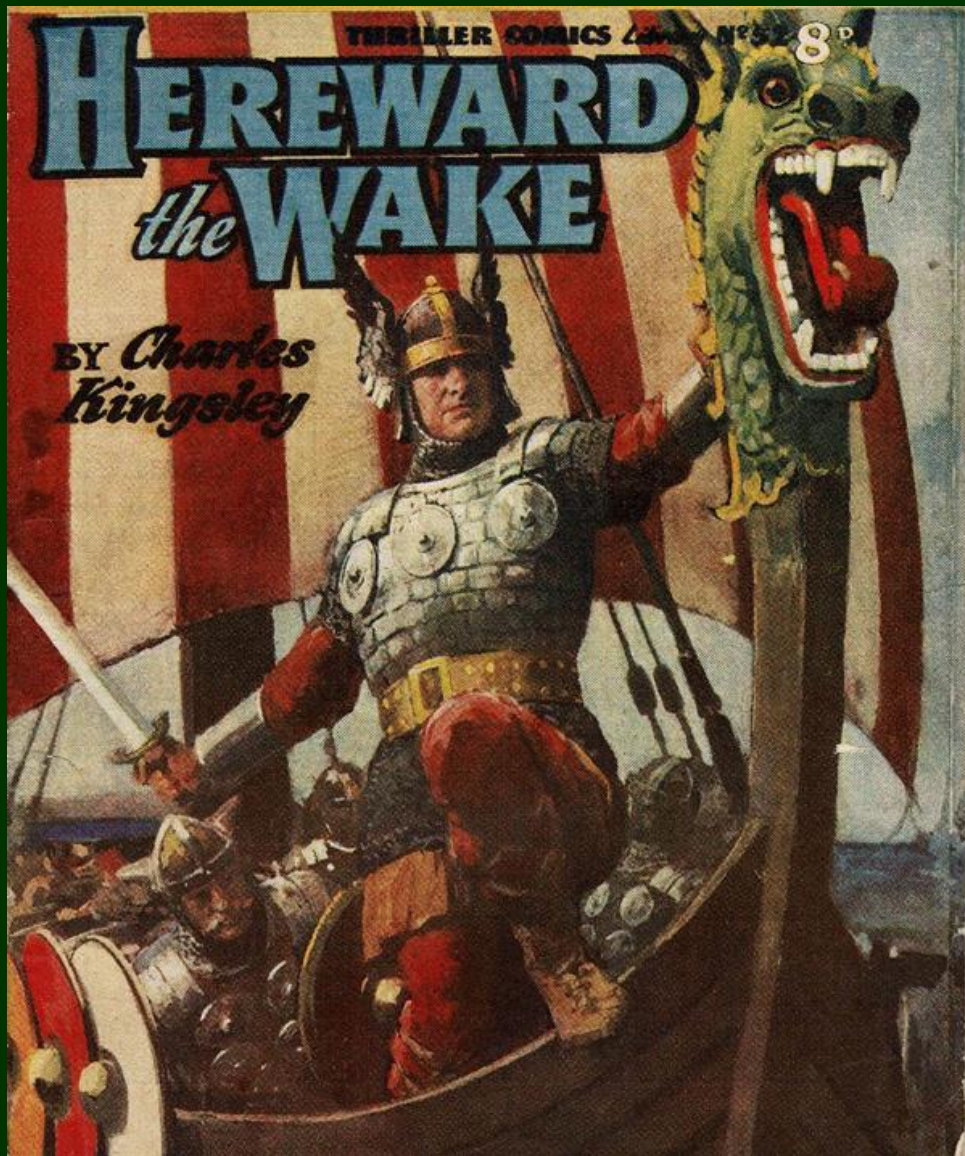
Archers do plant arrows in the back of other arrows—it's a rare but not uncommon occurrence called "telescoping"

Due to their specialized training, English longbowmen were sought as mercenaries in other European countries

More than 3,500 arrows and 137 whole longbows were recovered from the Mary Rose, a ship of Henry VIII's navy that capsized and sank at Portsmouth in 1545.

Willikin of the Weald - a guerrilla force of bowmen he recruited fought against the invading French Army of Louis VIII, and may have served at least in part as the inspiration for legendary figure Robin Hood.





Hereward
the Wake
the exile
Establishing
an English
Identity
Northumbria
marshy area, as a
nation conquered,
as a people never
defeated

Forests Outside of London



although a legal
jurisdiction
the areas were
considered to be
dangerous



Edict to cut back on
forests near roads
leading into market
towns in order to deter
thieves

There's many a forest in the world,
In many lands leaves fall;
But Sherwood, merry Sherwood,
Is the fairest wood of all.



Major Oak

The largest in England is said to have been the hideout of Robin Hood and his Merry Men. Due to a fungal infection, the interior is mainly hollow, which leads many to believe it was used as a secret base.



A global chemicals company wants to frack Sherwood Forest, an investigation by Friends of the Earth has revealed





Historical
Examples
of
Civilian
Resistance
to
Authority

The History of Revolutions



By Charles Paidock

College of Complexes on July 14th

Eugene Debs



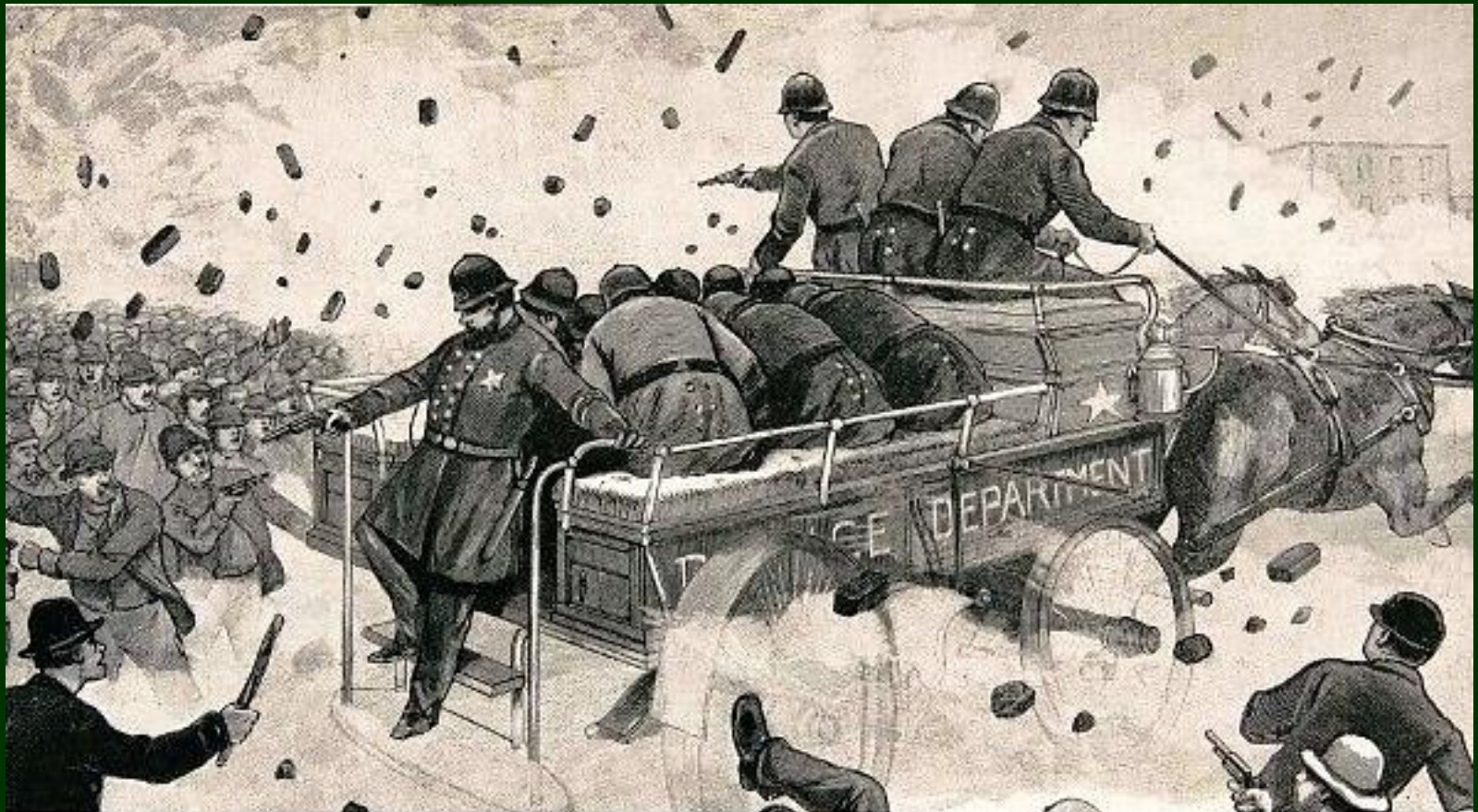
Jane Addams



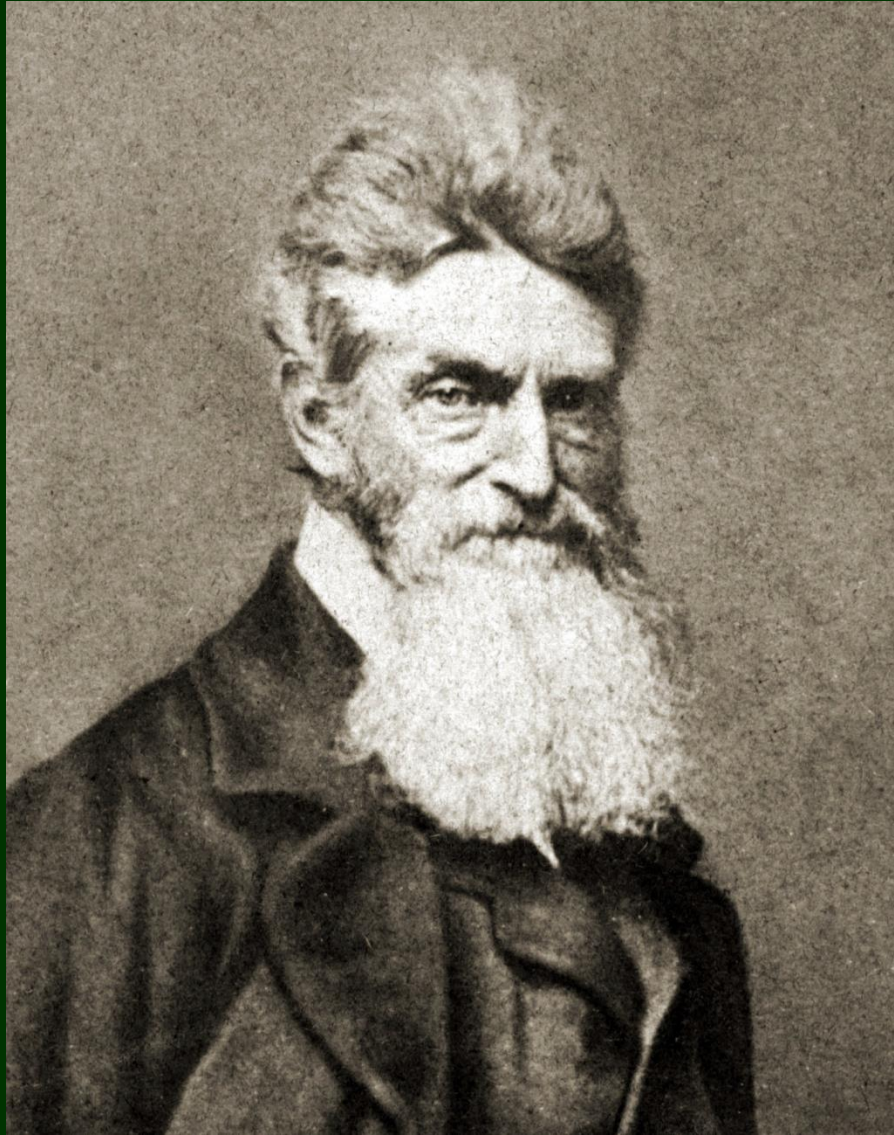
Mother Jones



Haymarket Martyrs / Lucy Parsons



Chicago Police Arrive to Restore Order at Haymarket



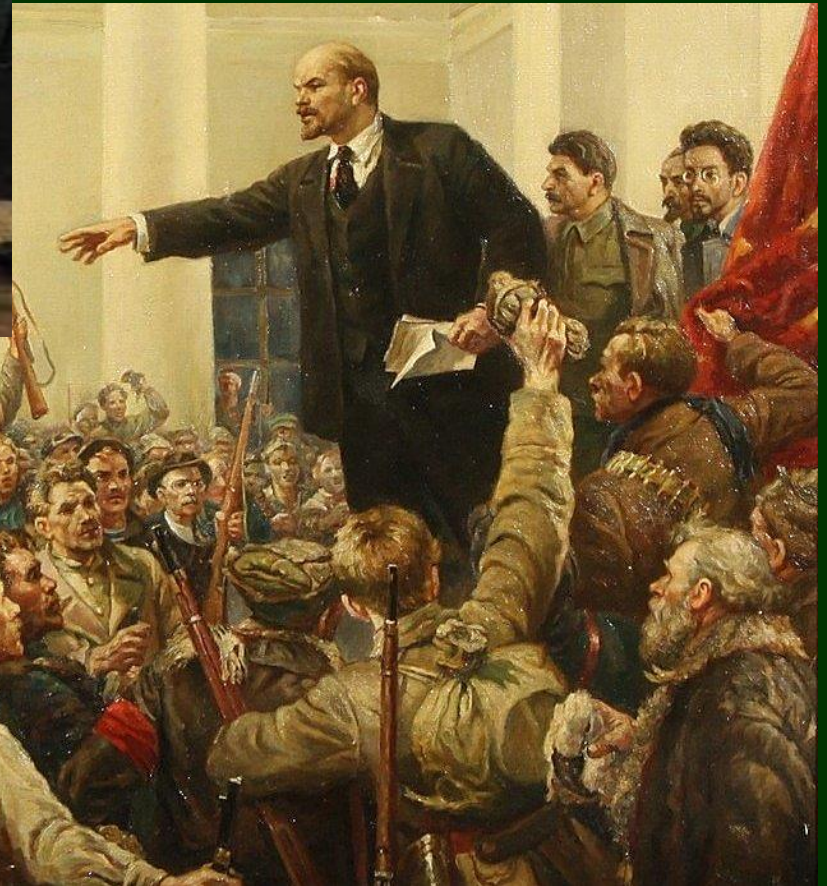
John Brown
the leading exponent
of violence
in the American
abolitionist movement

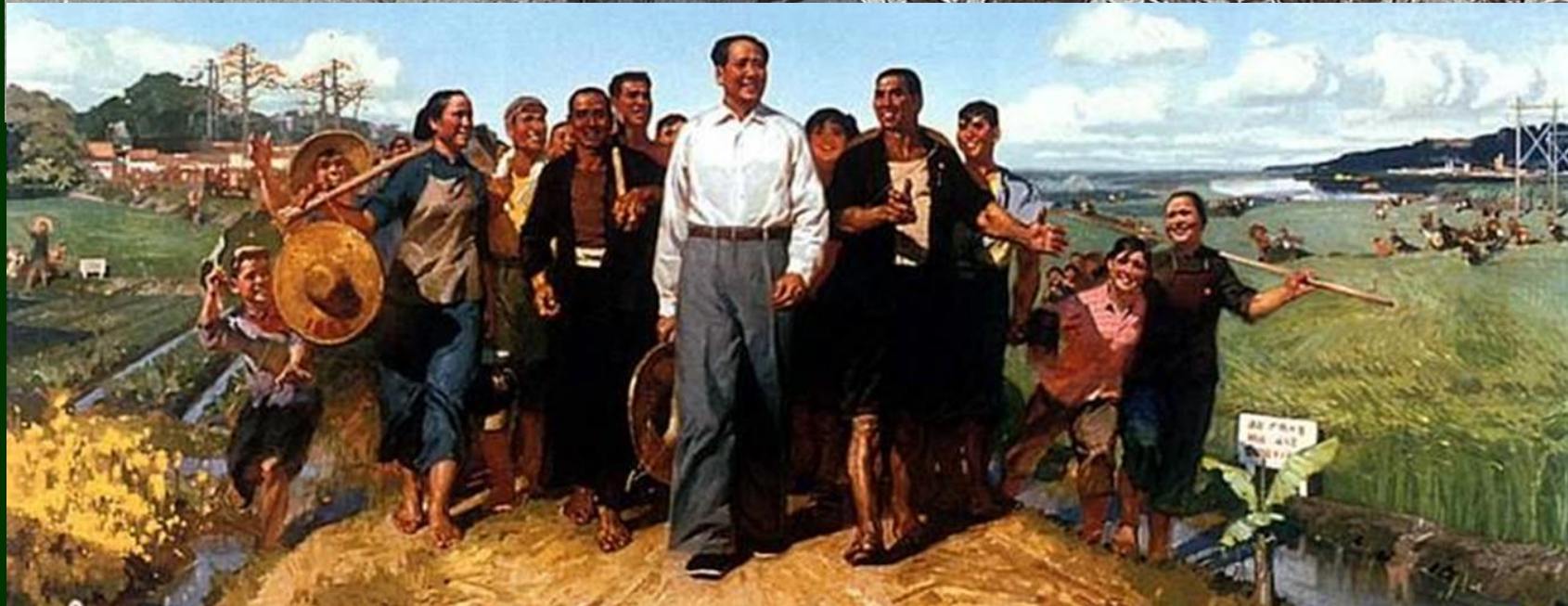
Russia and China





Comrade Lenin

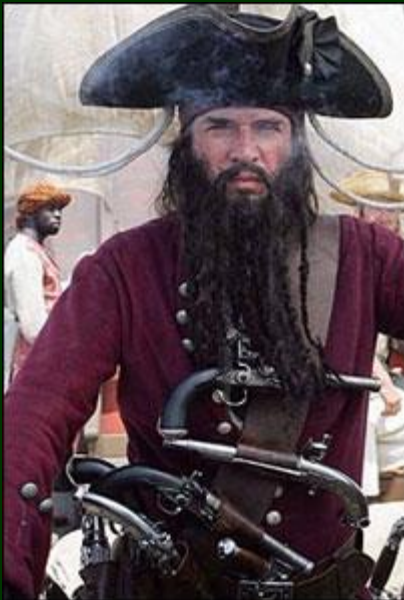
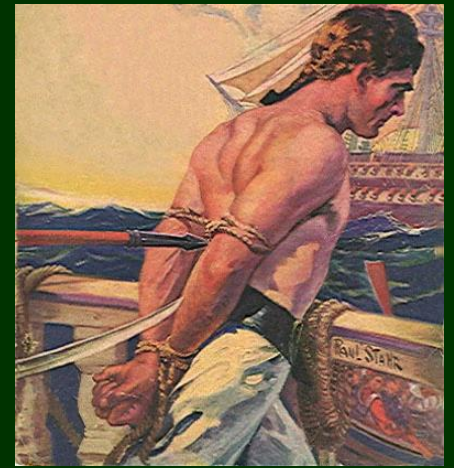




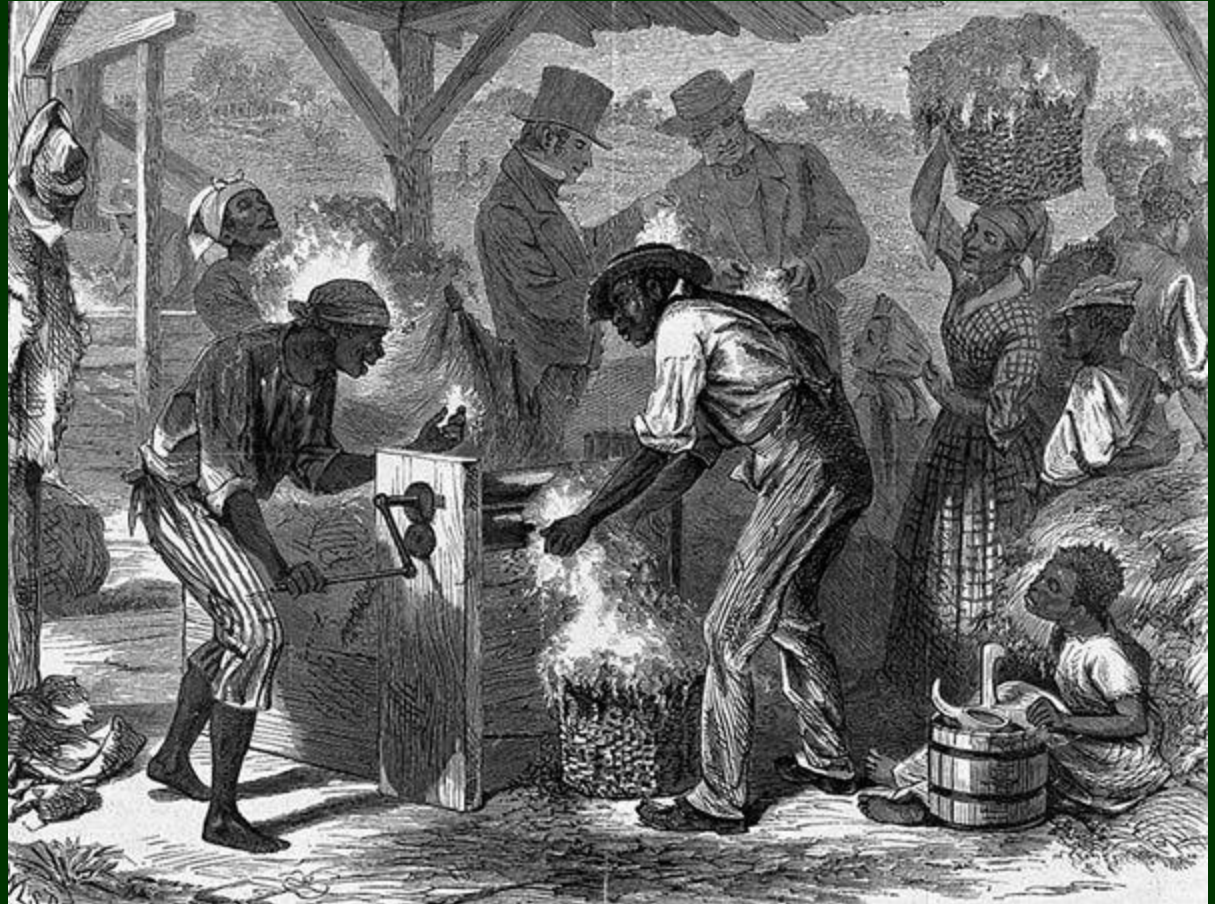


Social Bandits Americas

Impressment and Piracy



Toussaint L'Overture and the Haitian Revolution





Subcomandante
Insurgente Marcos
the nom de guerre
used by a Mexican
insurgent of the
Zapatista Army of
National Liberation
during the Chiapas
conflict.

“The revolution is not an apple that falls when it is ripe. You have to make it fall.”



"¡Hasta la
victoria
siempre!"
Ernesto
Che
Guevara

The Shining Path

(Spanish: el camino / sendero luminoso)



Spain





Militia at
Lexington
And
Concord



Forest Brothers in eastern Europe



LaFite.com

SOLDIERS OF THE NIGHT

THE STORY OF THE FRENCH
RESISTANCE

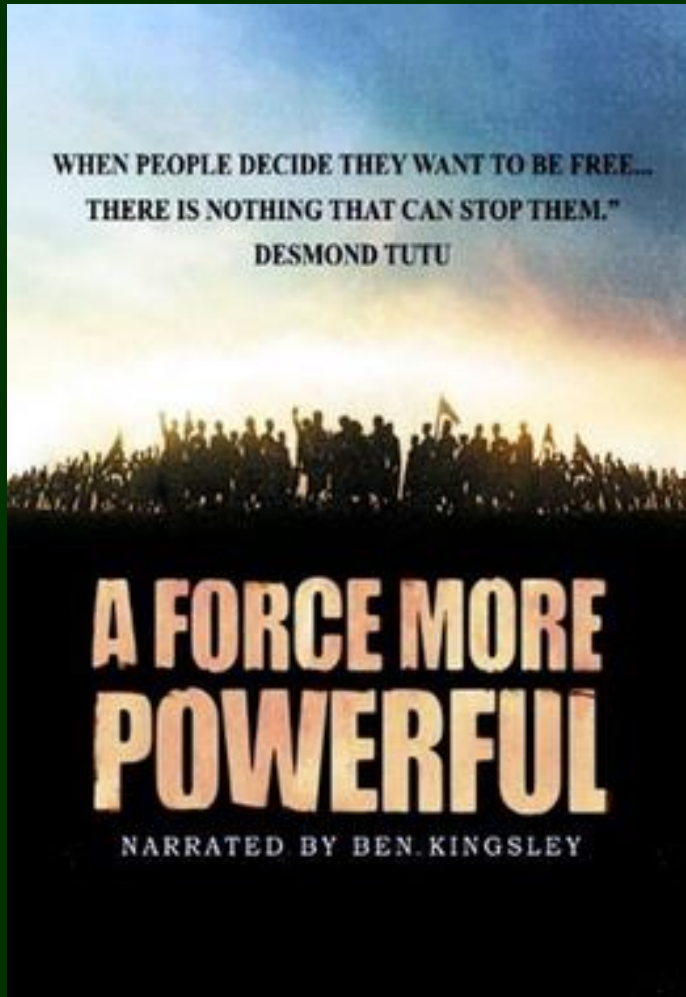
DAVID SCHOENBRUN

Resistance by Partisans



A Force More Powerful

“when people decide to be free,
there is nothing that can stop them”



re Climate Change Ecological Environment Activism



Program by Extinction Rebellion
Saturday, Oct 3rd at 6:00 PM, Zoom



EcoSocialism



Organized Labor / Servitude Today

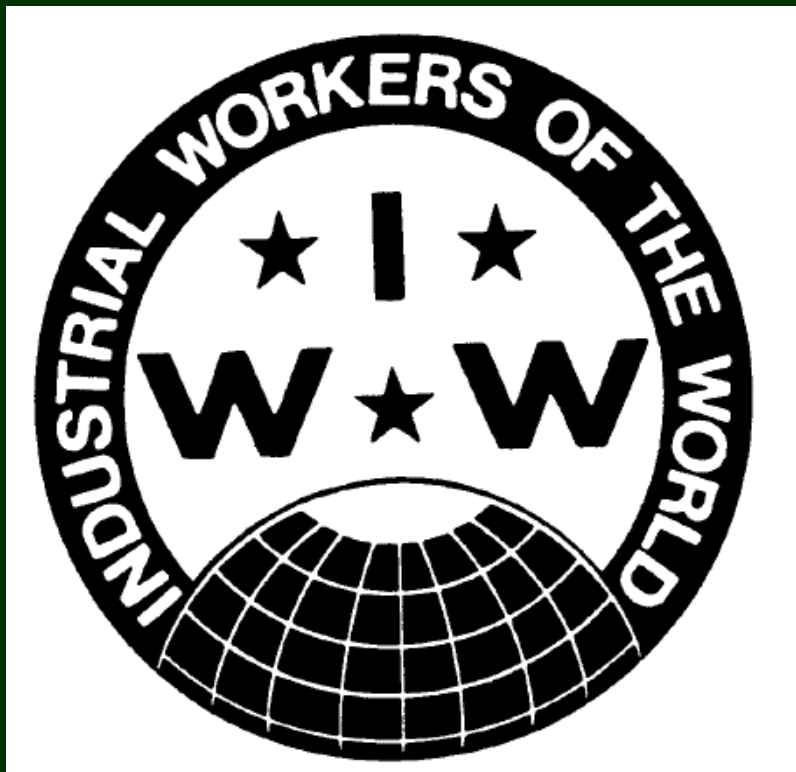
The youngest U.S. workers have injected organized labor with renewed energy: more than 75% of the net new union members added to the ranks were under the age of 35





IWW, Industrial Workers of the World

“Direct Action Gets the Goods”





“Big Bill”
Haywood
arrested in
Chicago
often targeted by
prosecutors due
to his support for
violence

Cesar Chavez United Farm Workers

"Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed ...you cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore."



**Fascism
Cannot Be
Voted Out,**

**The People
Must Drive It
From Power**

RefuseFascism.org

NO!
REFUSEFASCISM.ORG

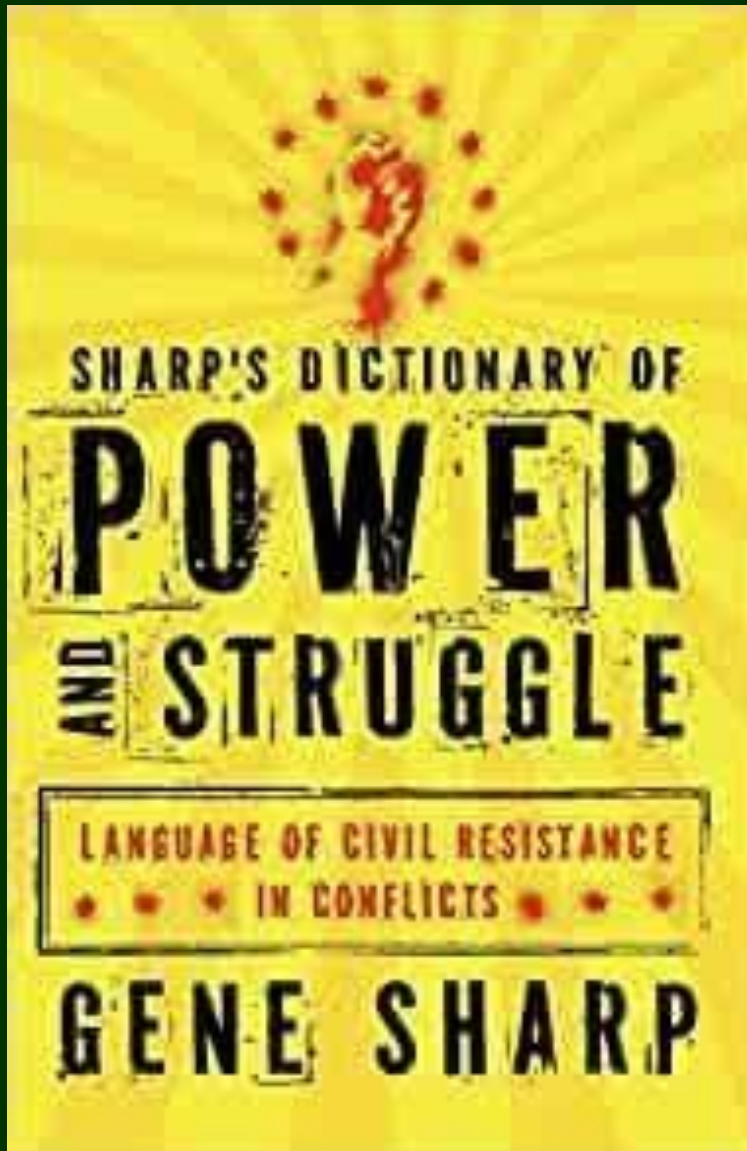


April 15th Don't Pay Taxes for War









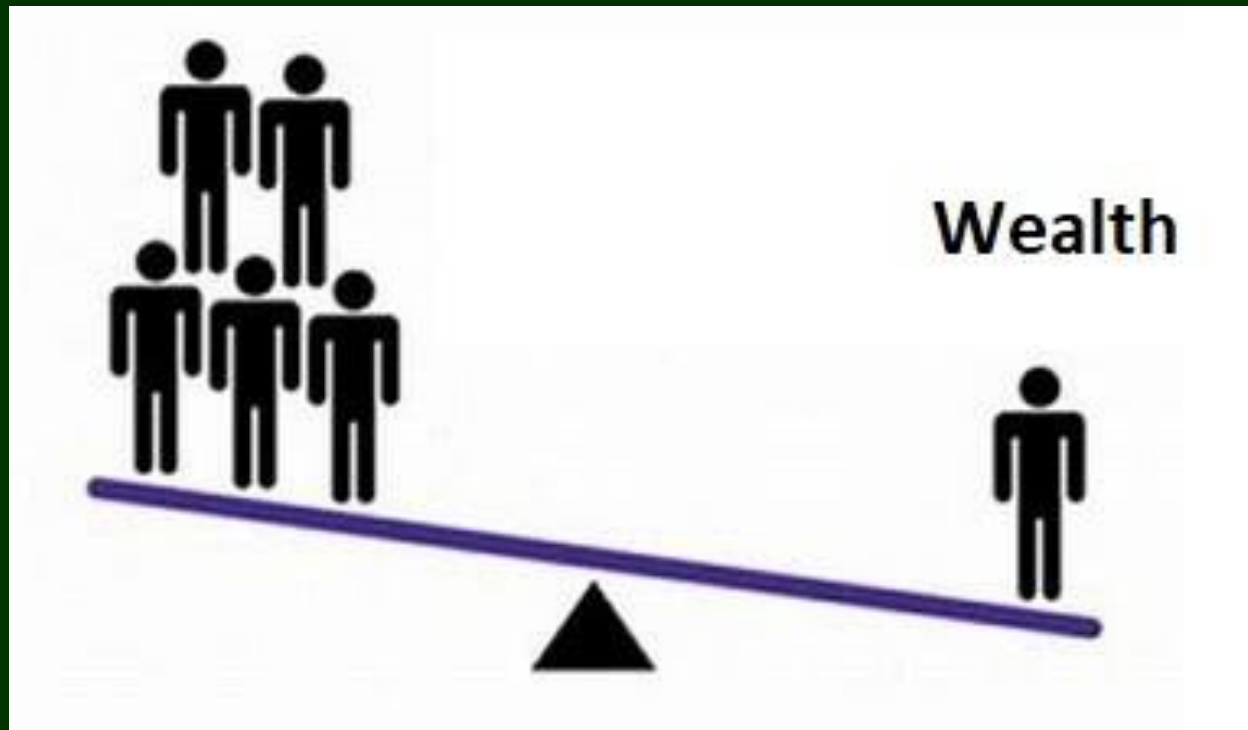
198 Methods of Nonviolent Action
three broad categories:
1. nonviolent protest and persuasion,
2. noncooperation (social, economic, and political), and
3. nonviolent intervention.

Elements Operating from within for Control of the Government





Wealth and Social Stratification The Privileged









Need for a Solidarity Economy

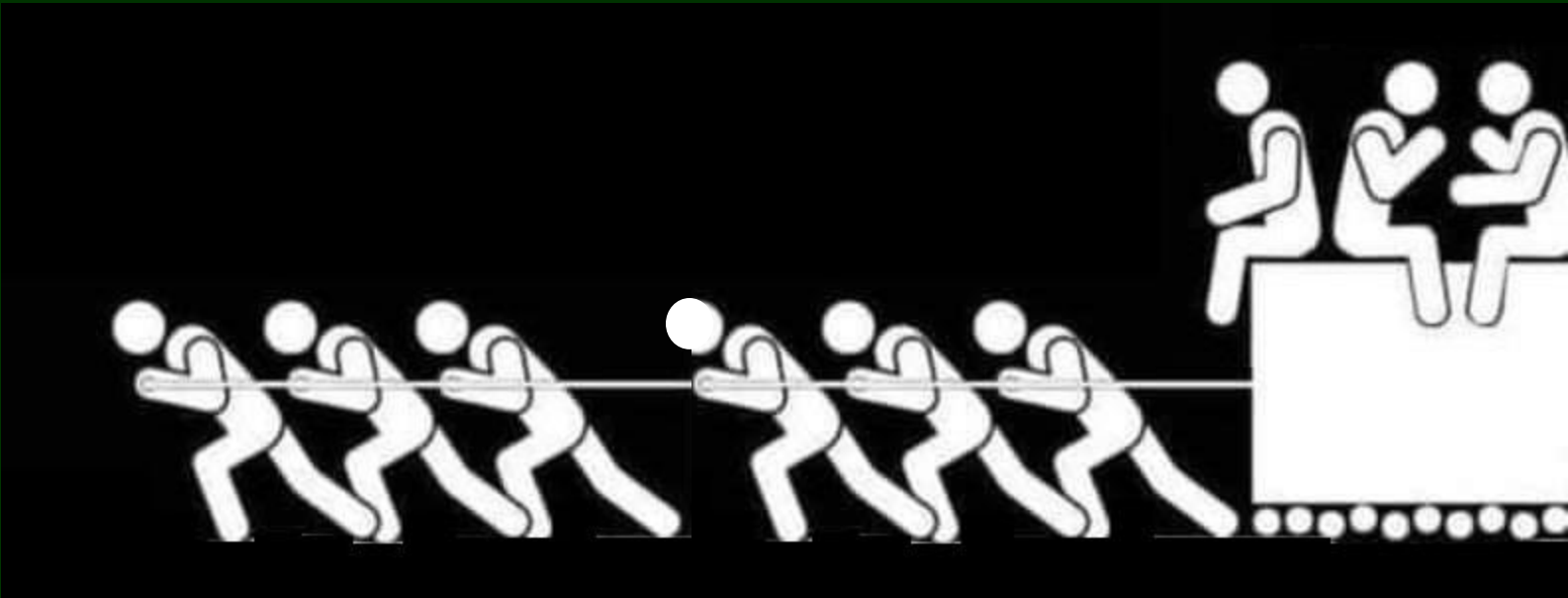


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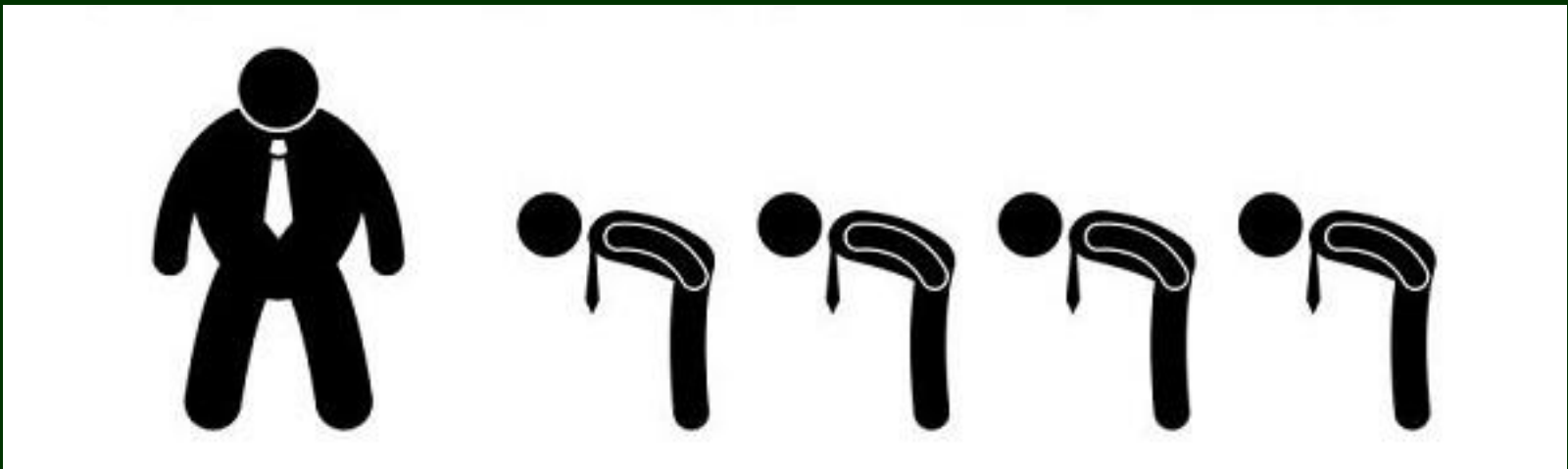




**MAY DAY
WORKERS
OF THE WORLD
UNITE**



“Which Side Are You On?”
there are no neutrals here



Resenteeism / Presenteeism

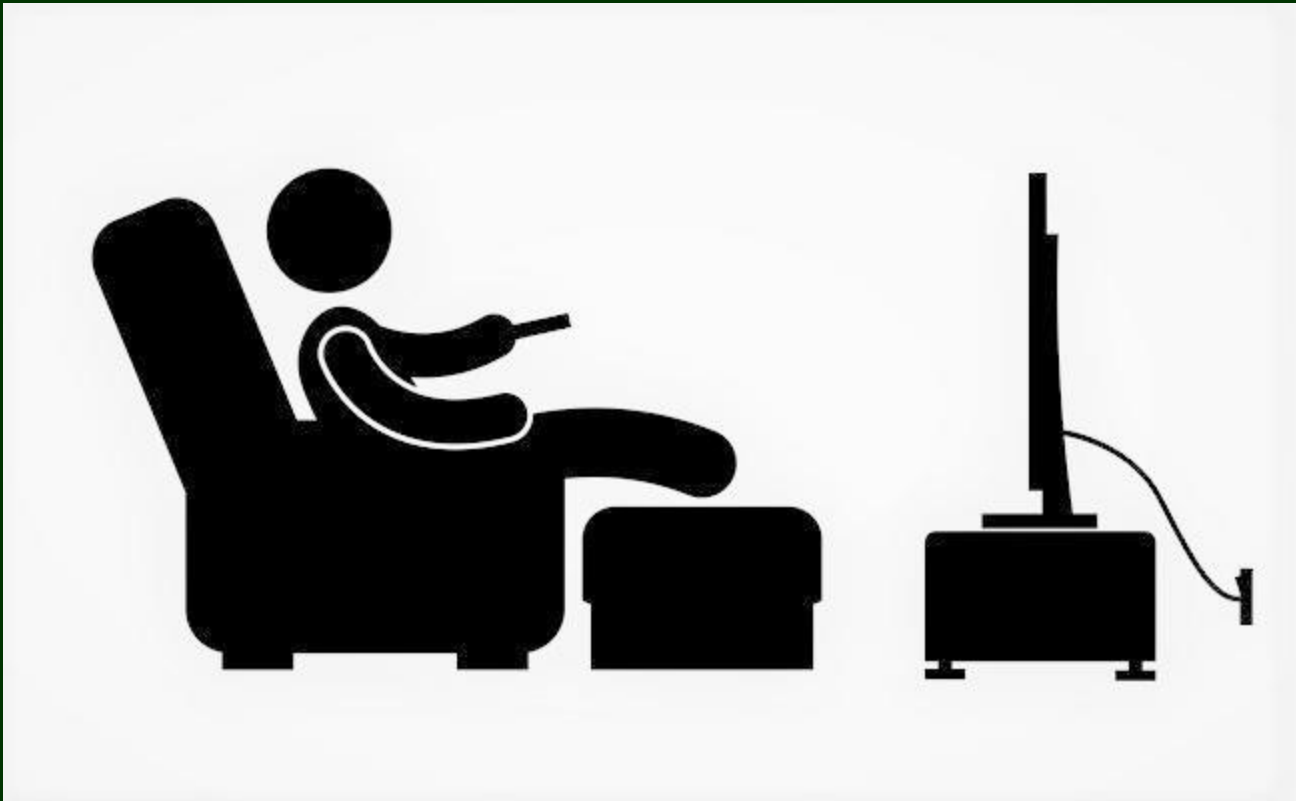


Alternatives to Quitting

“Resenteeism” doing the bare minimum at work, eschewing the pressure to go above and beyond, a rejection of the hustle culture

“presenteeism” which describes employees showing up—or logging on—just for the sake of appearing to be doing work

Vast Majority



Thank You for Coming!



Commander Chuck of the People's Brigade # 7
recruits others at the College of Complexes

Powerpoint Slides Posted

link to library is on main CoC website at the top
and

“Robin Hood: The Movie”
(mid-1950’s tv episodes)

