

Writings on Disobedience and Democracy

Vinnie Paz

"We have to stop thinking that we must have military solutions
To the problems we face in the world"

Yeah

"The solutions that we need are..."

Picking up where we left off

"... dealing of sickness, disease, and hunger

Now that's fundamental

If you want to end terrorism, you have to stop being terrorists

Which is what war is"

They told you World War II was a people's war

Logic should have told them it was Imperialist war

18 million served in the armed forces

10 million more overseas - that's enormous

25 million workers paid for war bonds

All of the while people question why the war's on

There was an undercurrent of reluctance

There were under-publicized signs of resistance

Hitler's Germany was unspeakable evil

But let's discuss real quick what we did to people

We opposed the Haitian revolution

We turned Guam, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii into institutions

Pretended to help Cuba win freedom from Spain

This country's built on the blood of other people's pain

Blacks is looking at anti-Semitism in Germany

And saw the situation here was mirroring it perfectly

We appeased Hitler all throughout the '30s

Only years later we pretended we was worried

Roosevelt was hesitant to be gritty

And caused a resolution to be buried in committee

The main interest was never to stop fascism

But advancing Imperialist interests of that prism

Roosevelt ain't care about oppression of the Jews

The power was the priority, I'm telling you the truth

Hitler not the reason that we entered the land

Roosevelt was mad that we got hit by Japan

Historians will tell you he provoked that shit

He told lies in attempts to sugar coat that shit

In '45 troops were jammed onto the Queen Mary

The blacks were stowed down in the depths of the same ferry

See there's a parallel you have to understand

That they wanted them to fight but wouldn't treat them like a man

Industrial mobilization had a few divided

The economic royalists denounced and derided

The irony of victory was heavily a price

The war ended, 3 million men was in strike

There's no peace in a world of capitalism

Nazi eugenics economic rationalism

The lesson was that war solved problems of control

Regardless if it causes any problems for the soul

The black revolt in the '50s came as a surprise

It shouldn't have after we took so many of their lives

You can't erase the memory of an oppressed people

Reparation doesn't make it any less evil

Some black folks joined the Communist party

Richard Wright spoke of disillusionment with the body
The party was accused of exploiting black people
Angelo Herndon felt everything was equal
He was arrested they convicted for insurrection
How the fuck it's insurrection I call it dissension
Gave him 5 years when all he wanted was protection
There was other black men that made the same connection
Benjamin Davis defended Herndon as a savior
Then Paul Robeson; he only magnified the danger
Harry Truman had to deal with the militant mood
But how the fuck that gonna work when he a racist too?
In '54 they said they ended segregation
10 years later no changes
Revolt was always minutes away about to bust
Rosa Parks refused the black section of the bus

The freedom riders were spreading across the nation
They went to jail for marching and fighting discrimination
FBI stood by, Justice Department stood by
While civil rights workers were beaten, they just stood by
3 civil rights workers, 2 black and 1 white
Arrested in Philadelphia, Mississippi one night
They were released, beaten with chains and shot to death
There were arrests made but it was not confessed
The national government remained silent
The president wouldn't defend blacks against violence
Civil rights laws were passed but they were fraud
Equality was enforced poorly or was ignored
Martin Luther King's speech floored whoever heard it
5 years later he was targeted and murdered
In '65 the Watts Riots burned into the streets
The black man would no longer turn the other cheek
The Black Panther Party scared Nixon
But that did nothing to change his position
A new black consciousness was born and still alive
And that came from the will to survive

This is the part where I would talk about Vietnam
But me and Rugged Man we already made a song
By the '70s distrust had spread across the nation
Basic discontent political alienation
55, 000 died in the war of moral shame
And then Watergate was added to the hall of pain
The Watergate burglaries was rather complicated
But in the end mostly all of them exonerated
Nixon had CIA a G. Gordon Liddy
Lie about the Democratic National Committee
But eventually they all flipped on him
And told the Senate that they had a lot of shit on him
After that it was a swift and a sudden fall
Nixon resigned before they could impeach the ball
They got rid of Nixon but they kept the system
His foreign policy still remains in position
Corporate interests still remained in position
His closest advisors remain in position
Vietnam recession and unrest
All adds up to a motherfucking mess

After Watergate and Vietnam
There was a deep economic insecurity in this world of ours
Environmental deterioration took its toll
A cultural violence upon the families took its toll
Problems couldn't be solved without bold changes

But no major party candidates proposed changes
American political tradition held fast
Urban communities turning into hell fast
Black folks are bitterly disappointed with Carter
Opposed federal aid the poor people didn't bother
Reagan got elected and he built a military up
A trillion dollars later
And this motherfucker dummy up
He cut benefits for the poor to get the money up
Social security, disability went belly up
Unemployment grew in the Reagan years
30 million people unemployed in the Reagan years
Welfare became an object of attack
Especially if you was latino or you was black
I'm just scratching the surface of what was wrong
We'll pick the conversation up in the next song

To be continued...

You can't be neutral on a moving train
I told y'all before
You can't believe everything that your teacher tell you
Who is your teacher?
Your teacher just learned what they was taught
How do you know what they was taught was correct?
Y'kna mean?
Dig into the real history of this country
And the fact that it was built on blood
We gonna go around for a third time
But for now I'm just blessing y'all with this one
A continuation of the first
You can't be neutral on a moving train
Pazienza
Howard Zinn thank you for teaching the people
Rest in Peace
It's Pazienza baby