

# Know Your Enemy:

## The New COINTELPRO and the Slippery Slope of Identity Politics

by Rand W. Gould

“The need not to mistake enemies for friends is especially great for us.”- Yaki Sayles

“We would have been crushed like cockroaches if it were not for the anarchists and the antifascists.” –Cornel West

“When one’s opponents are friendly to each other, divide them.” –Sun Tzu

Not too distant history has shown us how effective the FBI’s COINTELPRO was at taking down the Black Panther Party (BPP), and other revolutionary groups, in the late ‘60s and early ‘70s, through the manipulation of persons within and without the BPP and its penetration and disruption by paid assets. Now, more than ever, we need to know who our enemies are and how to distinguish them from our friends. Make no bones about it, we are in a war against white supremacy, patriarchy, and a system bent on shredding the very fabric of the Earth for profits while its masters feed us all into their machine.

Currently, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is ramping up its operations, by militarizing local police forces, against so-called “domestic terrorists” and has recently labeled antifa a domestic terrorist organization, with the FBI’s new, re-empowered COINTELPRO up and running, as confirmed by a months-old FBI report, issued to law enforcement officials across the country, labeling those involved in the movement against white supremacy (our movement) as Black Identity Extremist (BIE). A label including those associated with Black Lives Matter (BLM), New BPP, Black Riders Liberation Party, Moorish Sovereign Citizens, and anyone else influenced by anti-authoritarian ideology. FBI Counter-terrorism Division, “Intelligence Assessment: Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers,” 3 August 2017.

A review of current media, particularly the radical press, reveals the masters already have a plan in play to split and destroy our movement, consisting of three primary tactics: 1) Set the fascists, i.e., the Alt-Right, Nazis, Klan, etc., against BLM, and its friends and supporters, in the streets; 2) Split BLM from its friends and supporters – the anarchist Black Bloc and antifa; and 3) Divert as many people associated with BLM and its supporters from the streets into the dead-end of electoral politics.

These are time-proven, effective tactics, which, if allowed to work as planned, could lead to the defeat of our movement without the masters having every fought - Sun Tzu’s “defeating the enemy without ever fighting.” In 1855, Frederick Douglass shed light on tactic #1:

The slaveholders, with a craftiness, peculiar to themselves, by encouraging the enmity of the poor laboring white man against the blacks, succeeds in making said white man almost as much a slave as the black slave himself... Both are plundered by the same plunderers.

Plundered, indeed! This is why I often refer to the masters as the Scum-In-Charge of the Kleptocracy (SICK).

Fortunately, BLM, Black Bloc, and antifa chose “to fight racism with solidarity,” instead of racism, to paraphrase Fred Hampton, quickly overwhelming the fascists, thereby averting the prolonged struggle in the streets with the fascists envisioned in the masters’ plan and by the media so they could continue to exploit this spectacle. The fascist defeat at Charlottesville, Virginia, turned into a full-blown rout at Boston, with the old slaveholders’ tactic failing and serving, instead, to reinforce the solidarity of our movement, which recognizes, as James Baldwin did, that “relations between Negroes and whites... must be based on the assumption that there is one race and that we are all a part of it.”

This is no longer an assumption but a proven fact, as is the fact that in order to defeat the masters we must all join together to win this war as long-recognized by the best of us. El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (formerly Malcolm X) said:

And I, for one, will join with anyone - I don't care what color you are - as long as you want to change this miserable condition that exists on earth.

Robert F. Williams, too, was very clear about the necessity of solidarity, positing:

The race fight in the U.S.A. is no more a fight to be fought just by Americans than is the fight for black liberation to be conducted by colored only. Any struggle for freedom in the world today affects the stability of the whole society of man. Why would you make our struggle an exception?

Most recently, on our National Day of Mourning (so-called “Thanksgiving”), Leonard Peltier wrote:

Our enemy is not any person of particular color. Our enemy is those who are ignorant of the reality that we are all an intricate part of the circle of life.

Knowing who our enemies are is critical, as the masters go forward with tactic #2 and #3 using their assets to destroy our solidarity and divide our unity by pushing us down the slippery slope of identity politics so they can maintain their position at the top of society. This threat to our movement is just as present and real as it was in South Africa in January 1971 when Steve Biko, a founder of the Black Consciousness Movement, wrote:

As it is, both black and white walk into a hastily organized integrated circle carrying with them the seeds of destruction of that circle – their inferiority and superiority complexes.

Using the spectre of identity, the masters are attempting to first split BLM from its mostly white supporters in the Black Bloc and antifa by using COINTELPRO assets, both manipulated

and paid, to shame and silence them with accusations of white privilege and claims the movement is for blacks only - whites need not apply. The same identity politics responsible, in part, for the demise of the BPP. At the same time, the masters are trying to split BLM itself, sending as many as possible of its supporters down the rabbit-hole of the electoral process, leaving those remaining in the streets isolated and outnumbered to be “crushed like cockroaches.” Divided and conquered!

Tactic #2 is well underway, using various COINTELPRO assets, whether manipulated, voluntary, and/or paid, to write articles or take actions to sow and exploit dissention and division within our movement. These assets invariably identify as a member of an oppressed group, such as a person of color, a woman, LGBTQ, as well as a leader, usually self-appointed, of some organization or another, or some sort of credentialed academic, politician, or other type of professional, or, as per usual, a combination thereof such as “transgender black activist professor,” so as to enhance the illusion of their authority over others, particular white activists who appear, for the most part, highly susceptible to shaming over their white privilege, or, worse, being called racist. The DHS and FBI know this, thus COINTELPRO assets are instructed to play the game of credentials and identity to exploit this susceptibility by “barking at all the after-effects of past inhumanity,” as Raoul Vaneigem put it, in order to penetrate and disrupt our movement’s unity which threatens the masters’ status quo.

For example, Cecil Brown listed his identity credentials as “Novelist and educator... who teaches Urban Studies at Stanford University... the close friend... of Richard Pryor,” and “a Black man,” while slamming white people, women in particular, at a Berkeley rally opposing fascists and supporting BLM in his cringe-worthy article, “The new segregation: Antifa Redefines ‘Black Lives Matter,’” in *San Francisco Bay View*, October 2017 7-8. Brown is a paid employee of a university founded by infamous racist and mass-murderer of people of color, Leland Stanford, which should inspire, if anything, disgust and distrust. Moreover, his alleged friendship with Pryor and the fact that he’s “Black” validates nothing, unless you think name dropping Pryor counts for something on the streets or being black gives a pass to the likes of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, HUD Secretary Ben Carson, or killer NYPD cop Wayne Isaacs, who gunned down Delrawn Small. Small’s sister Victoria sure didn’t think so when, at a November 9, 2017 Union Square rally in NYC, she said, “I don’t give a flying fuck what color Wayne Isaacs is because my black-ass brother isn’t here.” Brown, like Thomas, Carson, and Isaacs, are not really black, they are “non-whites” which is what Steve Biko called the traitors who worked for the masters’ apartheid state in South Africa.

No wonder Brown took the side of the fascists and engaged in a racist, misogynist, ad hominem attack on white women supporting BLM at the Berkeley rally, calling them “embarrassed” and “stupid” looking for wearing BLM t-shirts and carrying BLM signs, while referring to them as “these whites” and “this iceberg of a people.” According to Brown, it seems Heather Heyer, the white woman murdered by some fascists asshole at Charlottesville, looked “embarrassed” and “stupid” while she was supporting BLM and dying on August 12, 2017.

Brown, himself, only “watched” and “observed” the Berkeley rally. A mere spectator in a time when “we can’t afford to be spectators while our lives deteriorate,” according to Assata Shakur. A time when it is extremely dangerous “to mistake enemies for friends,” or non-whites for blacks. Who but an enemy would advocate that people at rallies and demonstrations

should unmask, revealing their identities to the police and other fascists at the risk of arrest, deportation, job loss, or loss of their children to Child Protective Services, and the threat of harassment at home, work, school, and on the internet?

While Brown is more likely than not a paid COINTELPRO asset, Liz Fraser is probably a manipulated one, as indicated by her article, “Racism in Oregon,” *News & Letters*, September-October 2017, 11, which begins by stating “There’s a white people problem here” in Portland, Oregon, and ends up exposing Fraser and Teressa Raiford as cognitively dissonant racists. Fraser quotes Raiford of Don’t Shoot Portland, her self-credentialed authority, as stating, “white people with their handwringing, their privilege, and their glaring lack of action, are culpable” in white supremacy. Unfortunately, for Raiford, one of them dared to take “action” by raising her hand and, correctly, stating, “Not everyone is like that. You don’t speak for everyone,” only to be subjected to “shushing and hissings with someone yelling out ‘check your privilege’ and ‘this isn’t your time!’” This woman left the meeting, leaving Fraser and Raiford, incredibly, still wondering at white people’s “glaring lack of action,” in the face of their intolerance, shaming, and silencing.

Both of whom need to take a lesson from Oakland’s Lucy Siale, who’s “looking for the white woman who showed up to the women’s march [Inauguration, Washington, D.C.] to show-up to rallies like these [in support of BLM] in her article, “Be the one person who makes a difference,” *San Francisco Bay View*, October 2017, 11. Lucy knows it really is down to “all of us or none of us,” or, as the Tupamaros spray-painted on a disco wall many years ago, “O bailan todos o no baila nadie” (“Either everyone dances or no one dances”).

The final tactic, #3 in the COINTELPRO trilogy of mayhem, is the diversion through co-optation of our movement’s people and energy into the dead-end of electoral politics, i.e., pacification and recuperation through representation – a tactic Hitler referred to as “funnel[ing] into public opinion from above.” Exactly what Sasha Abramsky, and others in the mainstream media, is doing in “When Violence Comes,” *The Nation*, October 23, 2017, 17, when he advocates bowing down before the masters and validating our oppression through voting. As Mark Twain said, “If voting made any difference they wouldn’t let us do it.” Or, more to the point, “If it’s only the ballot box, then we’re finished,” according to Rev. Osagyefo Sekou.

Abramsky goes so far as to trot out the broken-down old nag of an apologist for the pathology of non-violence, Noam Chomsky, who has and will “carry innocence to the point of believing that appeals to reason or to respect for human dignity can alter reality,” as noted by Frantz Fanon. One would be inclined to assume by now that no one is naive enough to expect anything more than a few temporary reforms to be gained through non-violence – George Jackson’s “false ideal” – yet the masters peddle this crap regularly and always seem to find buyers. Nevertheless, as Simone de Beauvoir broke it down long ago:

Violence is the authentic test of every person’s attachment to himself, his passion and his own will; to radically reject it is to reject all objective truth, it is to isolate one’s self in an abstract subjectivity; an anger or a revolt that does not exert itself in muscles remains imaginary. It is a terrible frustration not to be able to import the movements of one’s heart on the face of the earth.

The masters are living proof of this, because they gain all from us through violence against us, with “the police simply the hired enemies” of us all, as succinctly put by James Baldwin. A *Washington Post* database indicates 750 people were killed by these “hired enemies” as of October 2017 – 335 whites, 168 blacks, 247 other people of color. You are nine times more likely to be killed by a police officer than a so-called terrorist (Washingtonblog.com, 4/28/13), because “the enemy combatants... are... the police officers,” as exposed by former LAPD officer Chris Dorner when he broke through the “Blue Wall.” This makes the fight against killer cops and white supremacy everybody’s fight. Consequently, we must avoid the masters’ trap, Philip Zimbardo’s “slippery slope of evil,” that is identity politics, and come together as a real community so that we can win this war. In the words of Jesus Sepulveda, “real community does not walk the path of these applied identities,” it is all about camaraderie and friendship.

In the midst of this war, and a war it is, as comrades and friends, we must also take great care not to become the thing we oppose. This is especially the case with those in antifa, whose name is defined by the fascism it opposes. G.C. Lichtenberg warned, “To do *just* the opposite is also a form of imitation” while Nietzsche advised, “those who set out to kill monsters should take care not to turn into monsters themselves.” Antifa should take great care and make a great effort to become more than “*just* the opposite” of fascism.

It’s too late for the monsters’ pet monsters, Cecil Brown and Sasha Abramsky, and it may be too late for Liz Frazer and Teresa Raiford, but it’s not too late for the rest of us, so long as we don’t ignore what is a full-blown DHS and FBI COINTELPRO aimed directly at all of us. We must move together in unity, solidarity, camaraderie, and friendship, we “must associate with one another even as flowers consort harmoniously in a given garden,” as advised by Abdul Baha, for the masters “know as long as they’re dealing with a race thing, they’ll never be involved in a revolution,” as summed up by Fred Hampton before they killed him and Mark Clark on December 4, 1969. Faced with all of this, we would do well to follow Bob Dylan’s advice: “Keep a clean nose, watch out for plain clothes. It don’t take a weatherman to know which way the wind blows.”

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Winter Solstice

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