

# WIN WITHOUT WAR



## Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

*Intel for Advocacy*

DATE: 07/02/2020

SL: What's speaking to you in this historic moment?

### Weekend Inspirations from the Win Without War Team

This year is a July 4th like few others. In the midst of a global pandemic, nationwide protests against racial injustice, and — let's not forget — multiple ongoing wars, we're using our long weekend to both revitalize ourselves, and further our reflection on the current moment.

To that end, in lieu of our usual deep-dive, we asked each member of [the Win Without War team](#) a simple question: **what is a piece of media that is speaking to you in these times?**

We hope you'll find joy, inspiration, and learning, in their answers:

**Abbey:** Zines and other forms of independent publication have long held an important place in social justice movements by creating space for creatives and storytellers of all kinds. [This volume](#) of the MelaNation art zine, published by BYP100, centers themes of liberation, justice, and political organizing as told through the family histories of young Black folks in DC. Their stories are told through a variety of short-form writing, poetry, and visual art.

**Amy:** As concern about disinformation and hate speech grows ahead of the 2020 election, dozens of companies have joined the [Stop Hate for Profit](#) campaign, demanding that Facebook remove hateful content, end exemptions that allow political figures to spread false information, and establish permanent civil rights infrastructure within the company. Tech dystopia is not inevitable — ultimately, we hold the power to hold companies accountable.

**Annika:** In his 2018 music video for "This is America," Donald Glover (aka Childish Gambino) [grappled](#) with the United States' long histories of white supremacy, violence, and hypocrisy. While these issues have always been present, the video hits differently given the explosive racial turmoil currently shaking the country, and on an "independence" day that was certainly not meant for Black people.

**Caroline:** In this [piece](#), Caroline Randall Williams articulates her part in the fabric of the history and culture of the South as a physical manifestation of the white man's sexual violence against

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her ancestors. She shows that the idealized version of the South that so many are clinging to now, to justify keeping up monuments to racists and rapists, never existed.

**Erica:** For many in the United States — particularly white people — the horrific violence and racism of policing is something that we are just beginning to reckon with. But as those who have borne the burden can attest, it is hardly a new phenomenon. [This episode](#) of NPR's Throughline podcast looks to the *long* history of American policing, and how “the violent control of Black Americans” has been at its heart since its very beginnings.

**Kate:** As we wrote in [last week's debrief](#), U.S. police violence is not contained within U.S. borders. [In this interview](#), scholar and author of *Badges Without Borders* Stuart Schrader explores the role of the police in promoting U.S. empire and the United States' role in exporting police violence around the world.

**Madelyn:** As a Black American who has witnessed loved ones experience state violence, the protests for the abolition of policing and prisons have been inspiring. Seeing more and more people interested in learning about police and prison alternatives has given me hope. [Ear Hustle](#), a podcast created by Bay Area Visual artist Nigel Poor and two formerly-incarcerated San Quentin residents, Antwan Williams and Earlonne Woods, offers an inside look at incarcerated life, and has been a strong influence on me as I explore alternative systems of justice.

**Mariam:** As a part of the Armenian diaspora, I have been inspired by how fully some in our community have taken up the call of the recent protests for Black lives. At the same time, I have been appalled by those in the more privileged circles who have decidedly taken the side of the oppressor. This piece [challenges](#) all of us in the Armenian diaspora to do better.

**Michael:** As the United States sees its largest anti-racist protests in recent memory, Palestinians are bracing for the likely annexation of large portions of the West Bank. These struggles are linked — and rarely has that link been elucidated more succinctly, or movingly, than in [this statement](#) of transnational solidarity from 2015.

**Samuel:** In this age of upheaval, stress, and change, I often find myself looking at the past to inform my future. In honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gwangju Uprising, I took it upon myself to read Lee Jae-eui's [Kwangju Diary](#), an eyewitness account of the brutal government massacre of hundreds of pro-democracy protestors. Far from making me despondent, the book fills me with hope. Through the trauma of Gwangju, a democratic Korea was born. I hope that the protest movements today similarly bring about a more peaceful and free United States.

**Sara:** In Iran, when you are feeling lost, you sometimes take a book of poetry, mainly hafez, open it to a random page and read the lines. The thinking is that the universe guides you to the words you need to hear. For much of my political career, [Audre Lorde](#) has been a spiritual guide. When

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I have felt like I might lose hope, Lorde's words have been a compass to help me work through my privilege and trail a path forward.

**Shayna:** Growing up in a small town in rural Arizona, music was an escape and invitation to broaden my horizons. I've always leaned on musicians to challenge my thinking and help me find some joy. That's why, for this July 4th, I've led the team in curating a playlist of songs that move, inspire, define, and challenge us in this moment. Listen to [WWW Mixtapes the 4th](#) here.



**Stephen:** The last few weeks have seen a lot of powerful essays, but Caroline Randall Williams' [New York Times op-ed](#) is an absolute must-read. Williams lays bare the truth, the painful, brutal, necessary truth at the heart of the debate around "monuments." This essay should quite simply be required reading. [Yes, in all of media, two of our team members separately recommended the same article — it must be good!]

**Tara:** "Abolition isn't just a goal, it's a politic, practice, and framework for political and economic change" said Woods Ervin on a joint Critical Resistance and Survived and Punished [webinar](#). Tune in and listen to visionary abolitionist leaders like Mariame Kaba and Kamau Walton as they guide us through how to tell if a proposed reform diminishes the political power of policing, or is just cover to further entrench and legitimize policing.

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## **BURIED LEDES**

**A new report from the Costs of War Project at Brown University [finds](#) that the United States often employs more military contractors than U.S. soldiers to carry out its wars, concealing the true scale of U.S. military casualties and costs.**

**Win Without War's Kate Kizer argues that the Korean War, the U.S.'s longest running war, will end by 2025 — but to get there will take a renewed U.S. commitment to diplomacy.**

What should we learn from Jamaal Bowman's primary victory over Eliot Engel? **"It's bad politics for Democrats to be hawkish on foreign policy"** [says](#) our Stephen Miles.

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Too often, peacebuilding techniques are thought of as tools to be used exclusively in war-torn countries. Win Without War's Scoville Fellow, **Caroline Smith**, and **Maher Akremi** [argue](#) that **peacebuilding principles should be applied right here in the U.S., to address the racial conflict and disparities manifest in the COVID-19 response.**

In the face of the worst economic crisis in almost a century, it is clear that bold, *global* reform is direly needed. Our Michael Galant [argues](#) that **in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must rewrite the status quo and usher in a Global Green New Deal.**

**Our definition of national security must move beyond the narrow military lens.** Senator Sanders [writes](#) that every dollar spent on guns, bombs, and nuclear weapons is a dollar not spent fighting poverty or repairing infrastructure.

**King Phillippe of Belgium** [expressed](#) “**deepest regrets**” for his country’s brutal colonial past in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the first public acknowledgment of the atrocities by a member of the royal family. It’s still... not quite an apology.

As bushfires continue to devastate Australia year after year, reports [suggest](#) that **Koalas may be extinct in the state of New South Wales by 2050** — if urgent action is not taken. Our regular reminder: the climate crisis is here.

The anniversary of the Stonewall Riots bring renewed attention to [the struggle](#) of Black trans and gender non-conforming people. **After all, “when Black transgender people are free, everyone else will also be free”.**

And finally, **Russian yoga teacher Dmitry Ugay** [was arrested](#) by Russian Police for **speaking on yoga philosophy**, which the police mistakenly identified as “illegal missionary activity.”