COVID-19 and the survival of the United States by Phillip W. Weiss

The United States is under attack by the forces of totalitarianism. Across the United States groups, which for the purpose of this essay will be labeled the movement, using protests over racism and police brutality as a cover, have launched an attack against the United States. Their goal is to destroy the United States. Their battle cry is "No Justice, No Peace." This is not a mere threat. It is their declaration of war. They will not stop until they achieve total victory. If anyone doubts the dire seriousness of the situation, one need only to visit New York City which has become a combat zone, with smashed store fronts, boarded up businesses, entire areas cordoned off, a nightly curfew, and a prominent police presence.

Now, what does all this have to do with the COVID-19 crisis? The answer is: everything. The COVID-19 crisis created the pre-conditions for insurrection to happen. It was only a matter of time. To contain the virus, the government imposed sweeping restrictions that quickly marginalized tens of millions of people. This created a tinder box. All that was needed was an event to ignite it. That event was the death of a black man under police custody. Widespread anger erupted into violence that quickly spread throughout the nation and became organized. Legitimate protest has now become weaponized to promote a political agenda, the purpose of which is not to vent righteous indignation or air grievances or influence the upcoming presidential election but to grab power. Our country's political system is based on a model of government that brings together competing political factions. The movement rejects that model of government. They do not want to share power; they want to have ALL power. They are not interested in engaging in dialogue with other political factions. They want to crush all opposition so that they can impose a totalitarian-style dictatorship on the country.

The movement is confident that they can win. The public is losing confidence in our democratic political institutions, the same institutions that locked out millions of people from schools, libraries, and workplaces. Thus, a power vacuum is beginning to form. So far, the government is still in charge; the forces of law and order are holding the line in the battle for control of the street. But if the movement continues to grow stronger and their message of violence gains wider traction, at some point the forces of law and order could crumble, and if that happens, then the United States could go the way of the Soviet Union and other nations that no longer exist.

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Photographs by Phillip W. Weiss

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