

Twitter Thread by Jared Yates Sexton



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Policies that could make us safer, that could prevent massacres of children and people in public places are incredibly popular.

The problem isn't a lack of support.

The problem is that our leaders have failed us by lacking courage and

I wish I could say what happened in Uvalde is an unfathomable tragedy.

But it's not. It's completely predictable.

This disgusting state of affairs and these senseless tragedies could be prevented if our leaders had courage and were concerned about more than the economy.



We absolutely have to address gun culture in the United States.

We need to admit our white supremacist foundations have led to a state of paranoia, of firearm fetishism.

That is a massive part of the problem and requires a sea change of cultural proportions.



We must recognize that the GOP, with its radicalization, its dependency on fear, paranoia, and conspiracy theories has created an environment where guns and violence are a main part of their appeal.

This state we're living in isn't independent of that. At all.



And any conversation about gun violence or mass shootings has to involve the NRA, an institution that has done more harm to Americans and created more tragedy than nearly anyone else.

It is an absolute blight on the American body and its influence cannot be downplayed.



And we also need to disabuse ourselves of some notions.

The idea that any policy which might address the gun of scourge violence will "inspire conspiracy theorists" is absurd.

Listen to them. Even without any push for reform they're still claiming there's a conspiracy.



Regardless of any push for gun control or policies which might protect us, the Far Right is going to claim there's a conspiracy to take guns or put people in camps.

Fear of stoking that is wasted time. And in a country with mass shootings like ours, we only have so much time

7/



We need something more than these displays of outrage and mourning.

They get us nothing besides a moment of respite. The public performance of The American Mass Shooting has become spectacle.

We need action. We need courage. We need leadership.



Our government has been corrupted by the wealthy and, through hypercapitalism and neoliberalism, more or less rendered into performance and spectacles.

These are largely hollow. We don't need performance. We need action. We need reform.



The problem is cowardice and the problem is that our representatives are largely wealthy individuals bankrolled by wealthy interests and institutions.

They're there to help the wealthy get wealthier, to cut regulation, to continue corporate welfare.

That's it.

10/



Since the rise of neoliberalism, government has been all but completely coopted and turned into a machine that only helps the market and its beneficiaries.

The actual ideology refuses to help citizens. We've been failed by these people who don't care if we live or die.



We have to stop expecting figures like Joe Manchin to do "the right thing."

That's not why he's in Washington. He's there to get wealthier and to serve as a representative of the wealth class.

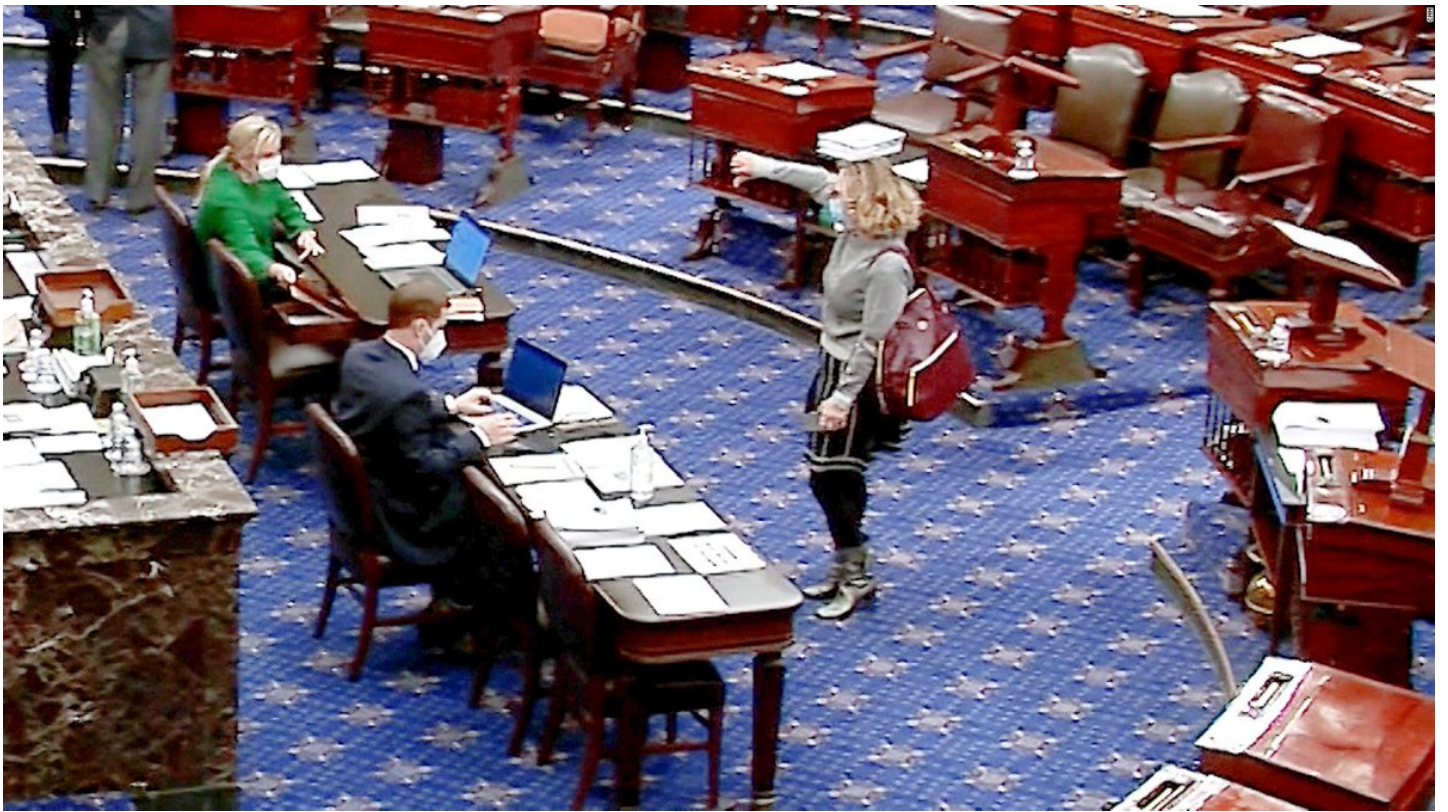
Our struggles, our tragedies, they mean nothing to him.



People like Manchin and Sinema, and the others they hide, represent a veto by corporate and wealth interests.

They're figureheads obscuring a larger truth: our government does not operate in our favor.

And we can't get anything done until we realize that.



We cannot have an actual representative government as long as this system only allows members of the wealth class to run for office.

Because when they get there, it's to serve the interests of their peers and their class. Something has to give.

14/



And the history with the Democratic Party is damning.

Consultants and strategists continually tell members not to "politicize" these shootings and to simply offer "thoughts and prayers."

Politics as usual isn't going to cut it. There's too much blood. Too much loss.

15/

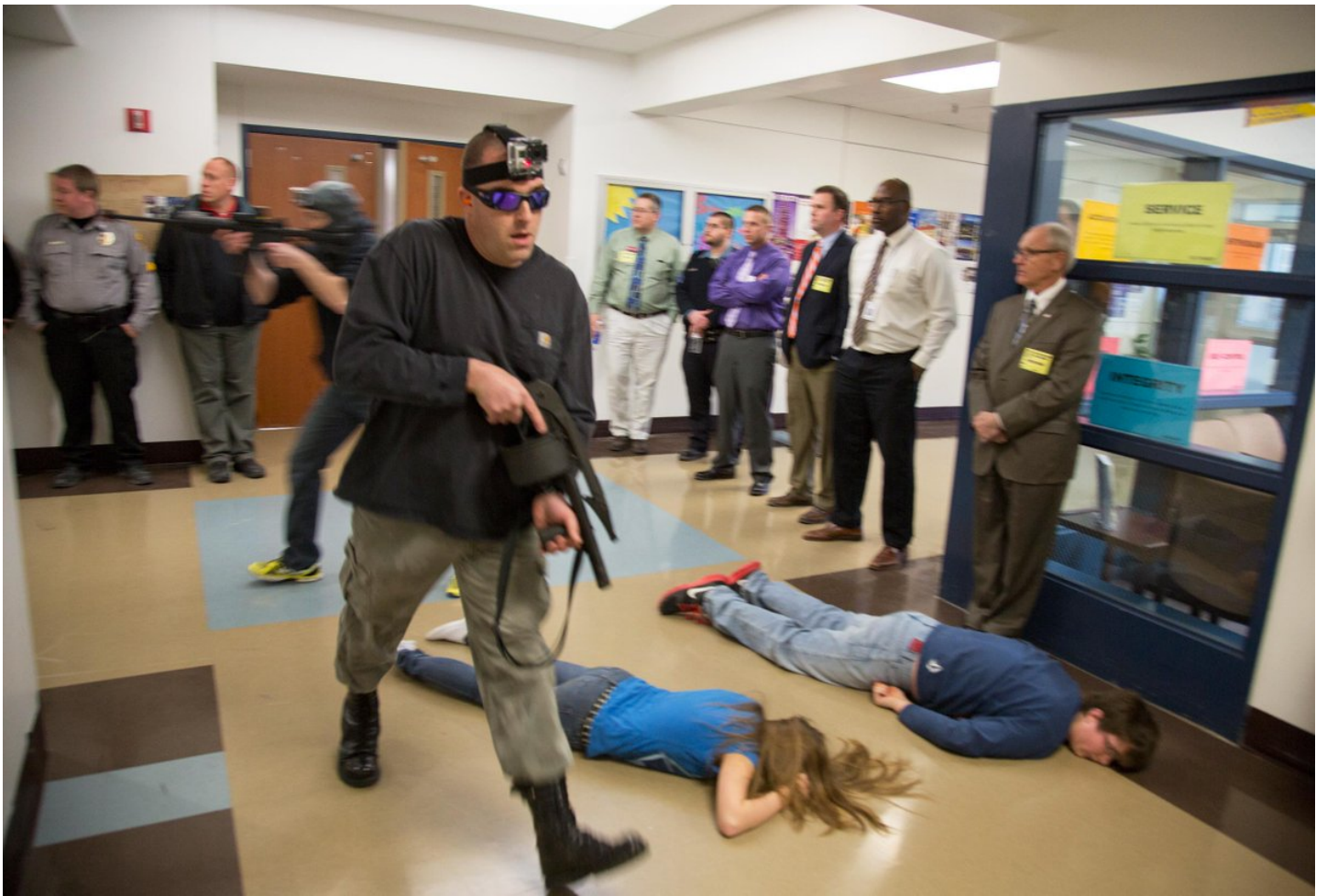


And the market isn't going to save us.

What neoliberalism does with this epidemic of shootings is profit from it.

Industries of "security experts." Plagues of school shooting drills. Defense companies profiting off systems and plans.

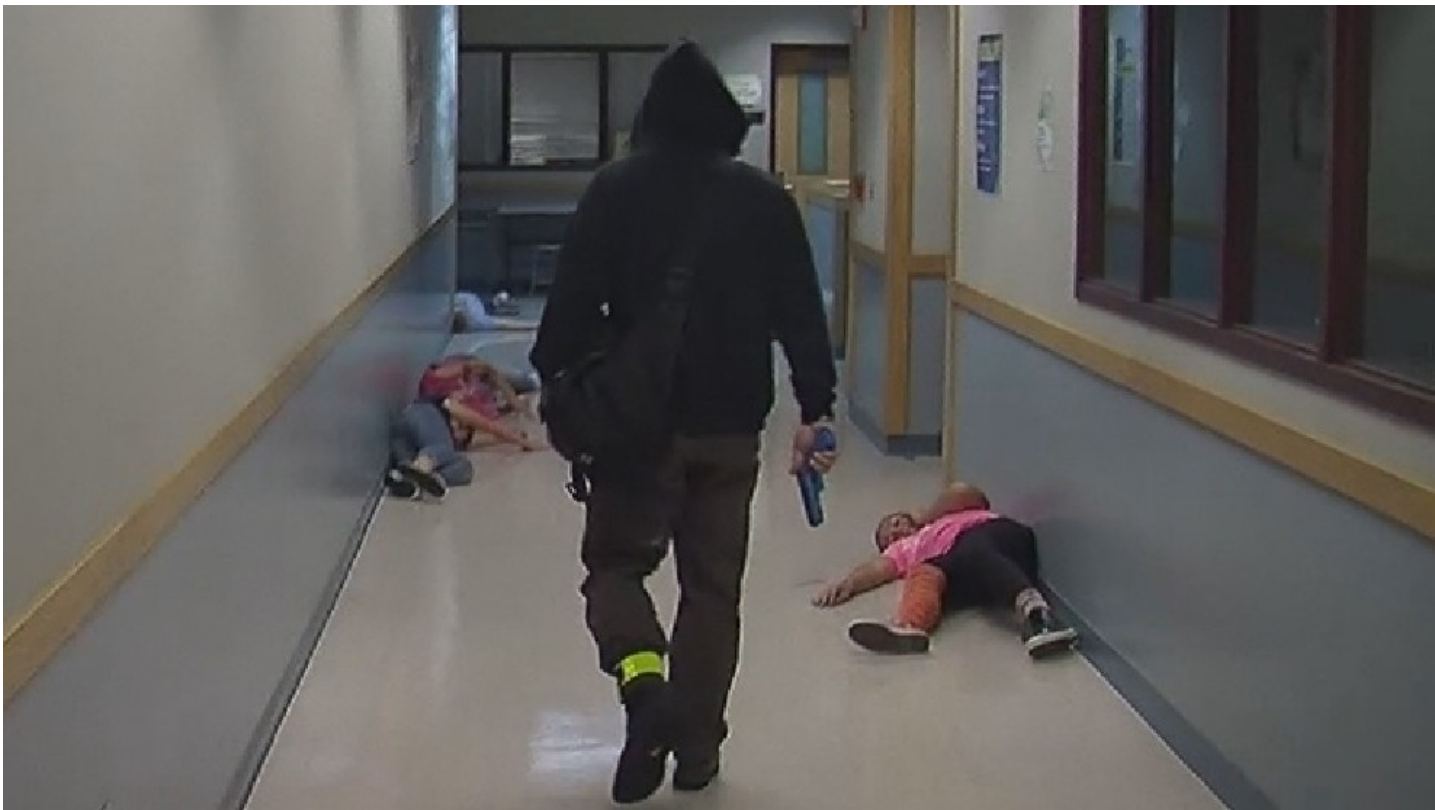
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And while corporations and the wealthy profit off school shootings and an environment of fear, our children are being traumatized daily.

The public sphere turned into a free-fire zone.

This problem cannot be solved with the leaders we have, with the system we suffer.



If we are going to actually address the scourge of gun violence and save the very prospect of an open society, it's going to take a sea change.

Courage, sure, but a complete overhaul of who serves us and how.

We cannot expect these agents of wealth to do it.

18/



These tragedies are mounting. Each profoundly disturbing and unsettling.

This problem should have been solved. Many, many times over.

Our leaders have failed us. The extent of that failure is so immense that the mind reels in horror when actually confronting it.

19/



Gestures, spectacles, performances of shock and grief aren't going to cut it anymore.

Not if we want a better, safer life. Not if we want to actually address this American sickness.

This repulsive rot.

We need courage. We need leaders who care if we live or if we die.

20/20

