Twitter Thread by PRINCE LEGION



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THREAD: Prince's socially conscious songs

Lyrics taken from Genius

"Uptown" from Dirty Mind

[Pre-Chorus]
Now where I come from
We don't give a damn
We do whatever we please
It ain't about no downtown
Nowhere bound
Narrow-minded drag
It's all about being free

[Chorus]
Everybody's going
Uptown
That's where I want to be
Uptown
Set your mind free
Uptown
Got my body hot
Get down
I don't want to stop, no

"Partyup" from Dirty Mind

You're going to have to fight your own damn war
Because we don't want to fight no more
You're going to have to fight your own damn war
Because we don't want to fight no more
You're going to have to fight your own damn war
Because we don't want to fight no more
You're going to have to fight your own damn war
Because we don't want to fight no more

"Sexuality" from Controversy

We live in a world overrun by tourists
Tourists, 89 flowers on their back
Inventors of the Accu-jack
They look at life through a pocket camera
What? No flash again?
They're all a bunch of double drags who teach their kids that love is bad
Half of the staff of their brain is on vacation
Mama, are you listening?
We need a new breed, leaders stand up, organize
Don't let your children watch television until they know how to read
Or else all they'll know how to do is cuss, fight, and breed
No child is bad from the beginning
They only imitate their atmosphere
If they're in the company of tourists, alcohol, and US history
What's to be expected is 3 minus 3
Absolutely nothing

"1999" from 1999

(I was dreamin' when I wrote this
So sue me if I go too fast)
But life is just a party
And parties weren't meant to last
War is all around us
My mind says prepare to fight
(So if I gotta die
I'm gonna listen to my body tonight)
Yeah

"Free" from 1999

Be glad that you are free
Free to change your mind
Free to go most anywhere, anytime
Be glad that you are free
There's many a man who's not
Be glad for what you had, baby, what you've got
Be glad for what you've got

"America" from Around the World in a Day

Jimmy Nothing never went to school
They made him pledge allegiance
He said it wasn't cool
Nothing made Jimmy proud
Now Jimmy lives on a mushroom cloud

"Pop Life" from Around the World in a Day

Tell me, what's that underneath your hair?
Is there anybody living there?
(Anybody living there)
You can't get over, if you say you just don't care
(Don't care)
Show me a boy who stays in school and I'll show you a boy aware
Dig it

"Sign o' the Times" from Sign o' the Times

[Verse 1]
In France a skinny man died of a big disease with a little name
By chance his girlfriend came across a needle and soon she did the same
At home there are seventeen-year-old boys and their idea of fun Is being in a gang called The Disciples, high on crack, totin' a machine gun
Time, times

[Verse 2]
Hurricane Annie ripped the ceiling of a church and killed everyone inside
You turn on the telly and every other story is tellin' you somebody died
My sister killed her baby 'cause she couldn't afford to feed it
And we're sending people to the moon
In September my cousin tried reefer for the very first time
Now he's doing horse, it's June
Times, times

"Dance On" from Lovesexy

[Verse 1]
Oh, pick it up!
There's a bass guitar in this
Grenade Launcher roars in a television sky
Tell me how many young brothers must die

[Chorus]
Dance on, dance on
Dance on, dance on

[Verse 2]
Little Talk Johnny blew the big score
The gang nailed his feet to a wooden floor
Nuclear Ban never stays in tune
They all know the words but the music is doomed

"New Power Generation" from Graffiti Bridge

[Pre-Chorus]
Lay down your funky weapon, come join us on the floor
Making love and music's the only things worth fighting for

[Chorus]
We are the new power generation, we want to change the world
The only thing that's in our way is you
Your old fashioned music, your old ideas
We're sick and tired of you telling us what to do

"Money Don't Matter 2 Night" from Diamonds and Pearls

Hey now, maybe we can find a good reason
To send a child off to war
So what if we're controllin' all the oil
Is it worth a child dying for? (is it worth it?)
If long life is what we all live for
Then long life will come to pass
Anything is better than the picture of the child
In a cloud of gas
And you think you got it bad

"The Sacrifice of Victor" from O(+>

1967 in a bus marked public schools
Rode me and a group of unsuspecting political tools
Our parents wondered what it was like to have another color near
So they put their babies together to eliminate the fear
We sacrifice yes we did
Fighting one another, (we sacrifice) (don't say it preacher)
All because of color
The angel of hate - she taught me how to kick her

"Love Sign" from 1-800 New Funk

If you're sick of evil knocking on your door
Throw up the love sign once and forevermore
Two signs of the time
If you'd rather make love and have a little fun
Throw up the love sign everybody and not the gun
Time is passing, passing the time

"Race" from Come

Three seats over there's a lady black
Entrusted to her care is a little white girl
And the fact of the matter is
Before her mama or another kid at school
Tells her about the fallacy that one race rules over the other
She'd be a much-better-off-left fool (Face the music)
If we never heard about the evils that those before us committed
Then how my dear, tell me now how my dear, tell me now how now would we know
And then the band say

"We March" from The Gold Experience

If this is the same avenue my ancestors fought to liberate
How come I can't buy a piece of it even if my credit's straight?
If all the water's dirty and I wanna lay the pipe, my dammy
The river that I drink from, will it be the same as your mammy?

"Gold" from The Gold Experience

Everybody wants to sell what's already been sold
Everybody wants to tell what's already been told
What's the use of money if you ain't gonna break the mold?
Even at the center of fire, there is cold
All that glitters ain't gold
All that glitters ain't gold

"Right the Wrong" from Chaos and Disorder

An Indian woman buried her grandpa in the
Black Hills
When she was young he used to tell her
That these hills belonged to her still
And even though injustice took them hills away
"One day we'll get 'em back," he said
"And the sun's gonna shine that day
"When we say, right the wrong

Before she laid him down to rest
She heard his voice in the wilderness
Saying "I got six feet of it back
"And now we can right the wrong

"What's My Name" from Crystal Ball

Do you dream in color or do you discriminate?
Do you love others, do you love or do you hate?
Do you worship fire or do you worship a dove?
Do you live a liar or do you live for love?

"Don't Play Me" from The Truth

Don't play me
I'm the wrong color and I play guitar
My only competition is, well, me in the past
If time, time, time existed moving ever so fast
Don't play me

"Animal Kingdom" from The Truth

No member of the animal kingdom nurses past maturity
No member of the animal kingdom ever did a thing to me
It's why I don't eat red meat or white fish
Don't give me no blue cheese
We're all members of the animal kingdom
Leave your brothers and sisters in the sea

"Family Name" from The Rainbow Children

London, England sometime in the early 1600s
We have the God given right to run out of our colonies
Anyone who does not bow down to our law, hear, hear
Come on, come on keep it moving here, what's your name boy?
Abu Cah
Well it ain't now, it's Tom Lynch

"Avalanche" from One Nite Alone...

He was not or never had been in favor
Of setting our people free
If it wasn't for the Thirteenth Amendment
We woulda been born in slavery
He was not or never had been in favor
Of letting us vote so you see
Abraham Lincoln was a racist who said
"You cannot escape from history"

"Cinnamon Girl" from Musicology

Cinnamon Girl of mixed heritage
Never knew the meaning of color lines
9-1-1 turned that all around
When she got accused of this crime

"Dear Mr. Man" from Musicology

Who said
That to kill is a sin
Then started every single war
That your people been in?

Who said that water
Is a precious commodity
Then dropped a big old black oil slick
In the deep blue sea?

"United States of Division" (B-side to "Cinnamon Girl")

United States of Division
BLACK (Division)
WHITE (Division)
STRAIGHT (Division)
GAY (Division)
CHRISTIAN (Division)
MUSLIM

"2045:Radical Man" from The Slaughterhouse

We claim Miles Davis, not Michaelangelo
We planted flags in the funk
You better act like you know
We don't care what Albert Einstein did
I'd rather know, rather know
What?
How to build a pyramid

"Planet Earth" from Planet Earth

Imagine holding Planet Earth
In the palm of your hand
With no regard for your place of birth
Or claim to any land
The only thing between us now is the truth we understand
If Planet Earth was in the palm of your hand
Fifty years from now what will they say about us here?
Did we care for the water and the fragile atmosphere?
There are only two kind of folk
And the difference they make
The ones that give
And the ones that take

"Resolution" from Planet Earth

The main problem with war
Is that nobody ever wins
The next generation grows up
And learns how to do it all over again
No matter who started the argument
Just matters how each one ends
How many people really want resolution?

"Colonized Mind" from LOtUSFLOW3R

If you look, your sure going to find
Throughout mankind's history
A colonized mind
The one in power makes law
Under which the colonized fall
But without God it's just the blind leading the blind

"Dreamer" from LOtUSFLOW3R

I was born, raised on the same plantation
In the United States of the red, white and blue
Never knew that I was different
'Til Dr. King was on a balcony lyin' in a bloody pool
I expected so much more from a lovin', a lovin', lovin' society
A truthful explanation, you know what
I got another, another conspiracy

"Ol' Skool Company" from MPLSoUND

Everybody's talking about hard times like it just started yesterday
People I know, they've been struggling at least it seems that way
Fat cats on Wall Street, they got a bailout
But why somebody else got to wait?
700 billion but my old neighborhood, ain't nothin' changed but the date

"Act of God" from 20Ten

But I got news for you
Freedom ain't free
They lock you in a cell if you try to be
But the ones who say "no," make history
Call it an Act of God
(*Act of God*)

"FIXURLIFEUP" from PLECTRUMELECTRUM

Don't worry about what the crowd does
Just worry about being good at what you love
Don't make this complicated, you know it's true
Don't make us put somebody else in for you

"BALTIMORE" from HITNRUN Phase Two

Nobody got in nobody's way
So I guess you could say it was a good day
At least a little better than the day in Baltimore
Does anybody hear us pray
For Michael Brown or Freddie Gray?
Peace is more than the absence of war
Absence of war

Black Muse we gonna make it through
Surly people that created rhythm and blues
Rock and roll and jazz
So you know we're built to last
It's cool, it's cool, it's cool
(Black Muse)