

Twitter Thread by Vanessa Wills



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@vcwills



We need to stop imagining the Jan 6 fascists are purely "brainwashed," misguided, etc. Neither are they guided by white supremacy *only*.

They are largely a vanguard of principled petty bourgeois reactionaries who oppose democracy whether in its mass/working-class or liberal bourgeois form. They have allies in the most conservative and reactionary corners of the "big" bourgeoisie.

They see through a funhouse mirror the hypocrisy of liberal bourgeois democracy (no, the electoral college is not "sacred" ■). They also vehemently abhor the capacity of true democracy—socialism—to liberate oppressed, exploited workers upon whom their precarious fortunes depend.

To the extent liberal bourgeois democracy engages mass politics and gives even a highly attenuated and mostly suppressed voice to the working masses, that section of the petty bourgeoisie which turns to fascism regards liberal democracy as a betrayal. Only capital should speak.

The woman who died attacking the Capitol Building was a small business owner from San Diego. Yes, her head was full of conspiracist nonsense but she didn't just invent that lockdowns and worker protections might save lives but hurt her bottom line.

These people made calculated, self-serving, and terrifyingly clear-eyed decisions to destroy liberal bourgeois democracy on the basis that they deem it incapable of reliably serving *its* function of subduing the masses and putting capital before human life.

For them, the lockdowns, the rise of BLM protest, and the electoral repudiation of Trump which occurred in large part due to Black voters all demonstrate clearly that America isn't working like it's "supposed" to.

We tend to think of the wacky nonsense in fascists' heads as a cause for their behavior but it's frequently a consequence of their aims. To value living human beings so cheaply requires a flight from reason. A whole ecosystem of conspiracy and superstition swells up to enable it.