Twitter Thread by Caitlin Johnstone ■

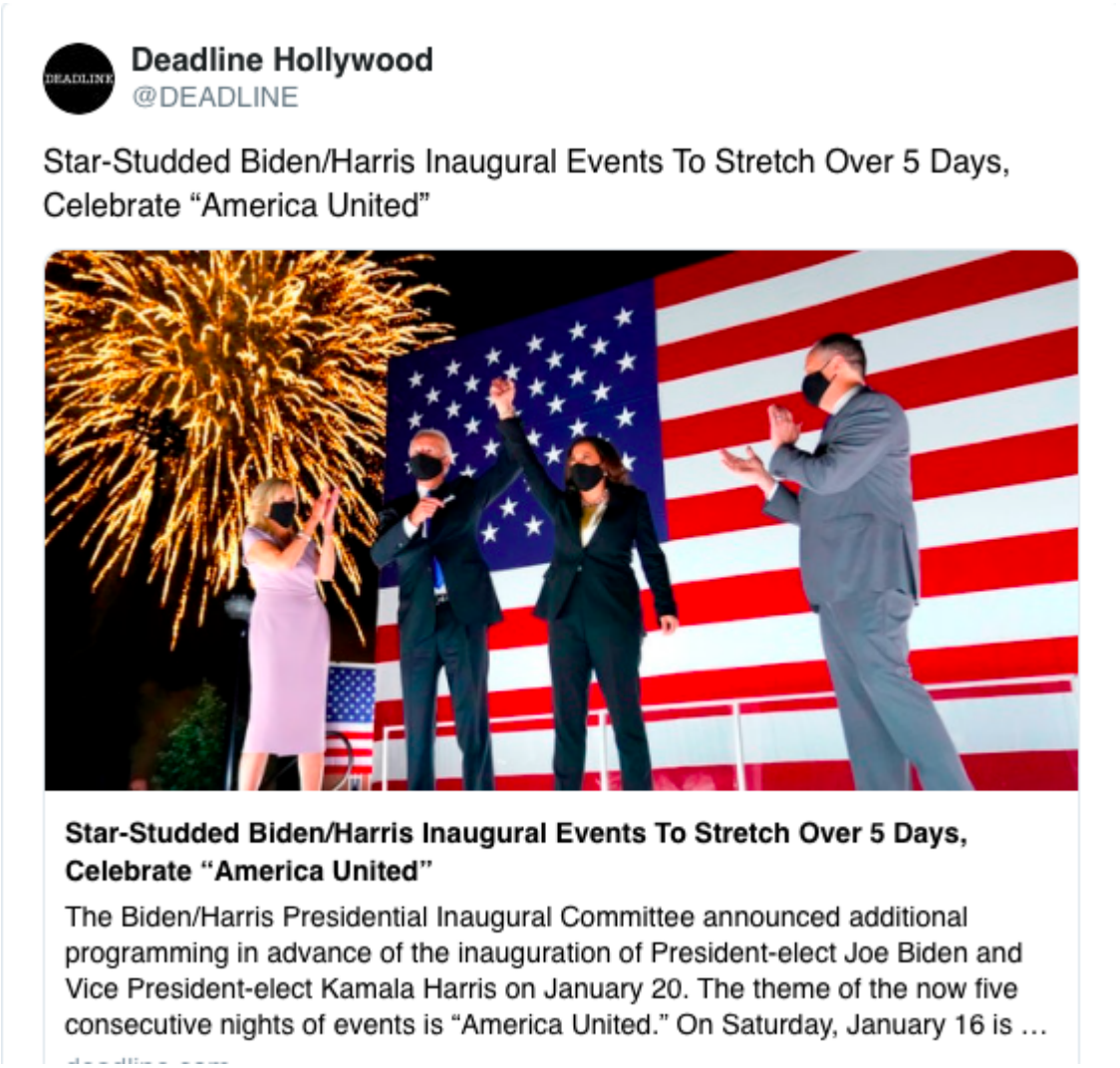


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The Two Faces Of The US Empire

"The empire needs both faces. Without the murder face, it could not exist as an empire. Without the grinning face, the public would never consent to the murder

The Biden inauguration event is going to be a star-studded celebration spanning an unprecedented five days, a giddy orgy of excitement at a murderous oligarchic empire having a new face behind the front desk after promising wealthy donors that nothing will fundamentally change.



This comes at a time when Americans are now reporting that they trust corporations more than they trust their own government or media,
https://t.co/folvAW8TbT

when pundits are gleefully proclaiming in The New York Times that “CEOs have become the fourth branch of government” as they pressure the entire political system to smoothly install Biden,
https://t.co/qypK6oBkDN

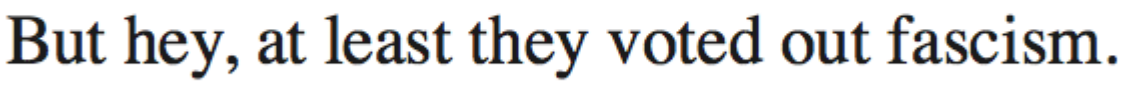
> \u201cCEOs have become the fourth branch of government,\u201d said Jonathan Greenblatt, chief executive of the Anti-Defamation League. \u201cThey\u2019re trying to hold the country together.\u201d https://t.co/V8x34qbhlh
>
> — Rania Khalek (@RaniaKhalek) January 15, 2021

when the leading contender for the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division is an Obama holdover who went from the administration to working for both Amazon and Google,
https://t.co/RLifDV1Kx6

> The Prospect and The Intercept have learned that Renata Hesse, a former Obama Justice Department official who then went on to work for Google and Amazon, is a leading contender to head up the DoJ Antitrust Division.
>
> — David Dayen (@ddayen) January 15, 2021

and when Americans are being paced into accepting an increasing amount of authoritarian changes for their own good.
https://t.co/erZpInBn1R

This manic celebration and increasing brazenness of corporate power are of course overlaid atop an unceasing river of human blood as the globe-spanning empire continues to smash any nation which disobeys it into compliance so as to ensure lasting uncontested planetary hegemony.



The US empire is ugly and creepy. The more you look at it, the uglier and creepier it gets. That's why so much effort goes into keeping the public from looking at it directly.
https://t.co/JHdXpnO15Z

The US empire has two faces, one rooted in the west coast and the other in the east. The first face, which sprouts up from Hollywood, presents a grinning plastic smile to the world depicting how fun and wonderful and righteous America is and how all its systems are working fine.

The second face, which sprouts up from DC, Arlington and Langley, is wild-eyed and covered in blood.

Just like any other two-faced monstrosity, the face you will see depends on where you are standing.

> If you live in wealthy western nations, or in the US itself, you are mostly presented with the first face. The artificial culture pipeline runs from Hollywood to the rest of the world and keeps everyone seeing American life as fun, enjoyable and packed full of hilarious repartee, interspersed with the sexual attention of beautiful women and kicking bad guys into molten lava. Freedom and Democracy™. Capitalism is totally working. You can trust these guys to run the world. News at eleven.
>
> If you live in the Middle East, Asia, or in the Global South, you are far more likely to encounter the second face. The blood-spattered face. The face of murder. The face of tyranny. The face whose actions amount to nothing other than an endless war on disobedience, where any government which tries to insist on its own national, military, resource, commercial or financial sovereignty is smashed into the dirt by any means necessary until it either collapses or complies.

The empire needs both faces. Without the murder face, it could not exist as an empire. Without the grinning face, the public would never consent to the murder face.
https://t.co/EN25CmhyG4

> This week in 1968, the US launched Operation Niagara in Vietnam, 66 straight days of carpet bombing, unleashing "the most concentrated application of aerial firepower in the history of warfare\u201d, killing 15,000 Vietnamese. pic.twitter.com/hzZ62B8BT5
>
> — American Values (@Americas_Crimes) January 16, 2021

People who inhabit the hub of a murderous empire are historically unaware of its horrific nature. In the old days that was because information was easy to restrict access to. Today it's because information is easy to manipulate and distort.

> That's the only difference between this murderous empire and those of old. That and the fact that this one is brandishing about weapons that can end the world with increasing recklessness.

Humanity will not know health and harmony until it knows truth. Until we collectively come to a lucid reckoning with what's going on in our world, in our nations, in our society, and in ourselves.
https://t.co/QIBpokEJec

The movement toward a healthy world is a movement toward becoming aware of things we previously were not aware of. In this case, as a first step, this means collectively seeing behind that grinning plastic mask to the churning death machine underneath.