

GOOD TROUBLE ALLIANCE

Springfield, IL



Topple the Regime!



Unity is Power

December 2025

Issue 6

*“Can we be like drops of water falling on the stone
Splashing, breaking, dispersing in air
Weaker than the stone by far but be aware
That as time goes by the rock will wear away
And the water comes again.”*

*– The Rock Will Wear Away
Meg Christian*



LAYERS OF UNITY



Unity With the Public

Unity Within the Movement

Unity of Message

Unity With the Opposition

A blue whale is shown on the left, swimming towards the right. On the right, a large jellyfish with a purple and blue bell and long, pinkish-red tentacles is visible. The background is a dark blue, textured area.

*"Individually, we are one drop.
Together, we are an ocean."
- Ryunosuke Satoro*

UNITY WITH THE PUBLIC



*Harvey Milk posing with dog
poop on his shoe.*



While it may be impossible to amass 100% support, **mass participation is vital** to any successful nonviolent movement.

Messaging should **target the widest possible base** of support and aim for the **middle of the political spectrum**.

Find what matters, not just for your own movement. **Find what matters to the public.** Show them how your campaign can help them get that.

For example: **Harvey Milk made cleaning dog poop a central part of his gay rights campaign** in 1978 because that's what the public cared about.



What Can GTA's "dog poop" be?



What issues does
Springfield care about?

What can we do to help?



UNITY WITHIN THE MOVEMENT



“The more diverse the participation in the resistance – in terms of gender, age, religion, ethnicity, ideology, profession, and socioeconomic status – the more difficult it is for the adversary to isolate the participants and adopt a repressive strategy...”

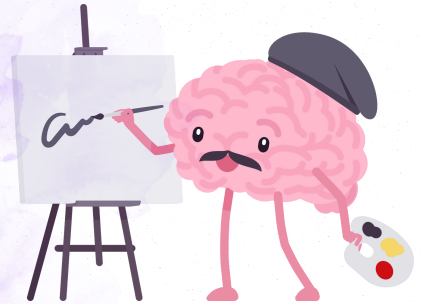
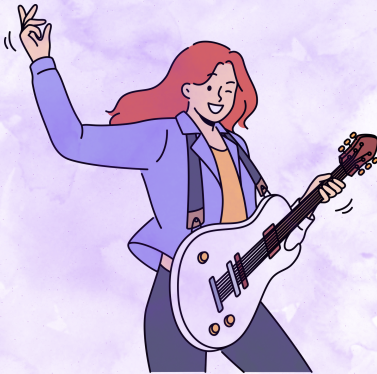
– *Why Civil Resistance Works*
By Erica Chenoweth

Everyone is Needed!

DIVERSE SOCIAL NETWORKS...



Bring **tactical diversity** and **unique skills** to the table. These empower the resistance to **outmaneuver** the opponent and **increase pressure points**.



The **sheer numbers** diversity provides strengthens leverage by **raising the cost of prolonged noncooperation** to the adversary.

– Adapted from
Why Civil Resistance Works

UNITY OF MESSAGE



The Occupy movement received criticism for having no clear goal. For example, one slogan said “occupy everything.” What does “occupy everything” even mean? What was their message to the public? As a result, even those who agreed with Occupy’s stance did not feel strongly connected to the movement.

One New Jersey poll, for example, showed that only 34% had a favorable impression of Occupy and only 54% of people said they felt like the 99% even though 65% felt taxes should be raised for the wealthy*.

It’s hard to identify strongly with something that is not well-defined or unified under a clear goal or message.

Contrast this to the Montgomery Bus Boycott. It had a clear ask, a clear way to participate, and a single, measurable outcome it aimed to achieve.



**Source: Rutgers.edu*

For movements to be effective, they need
message discipline.

“Message discipline is **the art of communicating what you set out to communicate, clearly, memorably, and consistently.** Everything from your talking points for an interview to the slogans on your banner to the visuals you create for an event should **all align to support your core message.**”

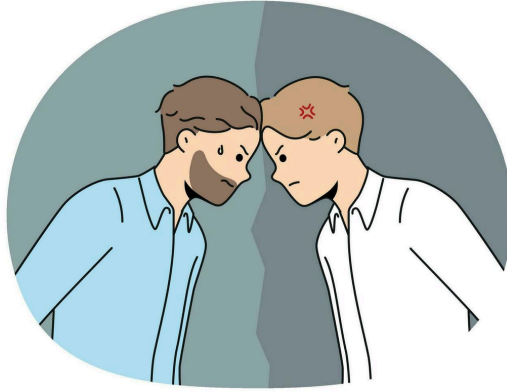
– *beautifultrouble.org*



Learn more about message
discipline at
beautifultrouble.org



UNITY WITH THE OPPOSITION



Unity with the opposition may seem like a contradiction. A pipe dream. But all too often, **would-be allies are overlooked** because they are thoughtlessly labeled as the enemy. Some may be more swayable than imagined.

Remember that the fight is against cruelty and authoritarianism. Not against all individuals of a different belief system.

Search for **common ground to unite around**, small though it may seem. How does your issue affect the opposition personally? In what ways might it interest them?



HOW WOULD YOU RALLY MAGA AROUND A CLIMATE CHANGE CAMPAIGN?



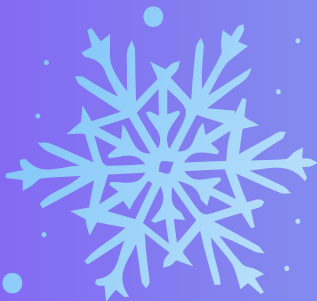
1. Identify a **trigger that affects the community** (strong winds that caused a lot of damage)
2. Use the trigger to **raise awareness** of climate change (winds due to dry, warm, winters).
3. **Rally people around non-divisive issue**, that connects people --community building
 - a. Trees need to be replanted.
 - b. Neighbors' homes need to be rebuilt.
 - c. Streets need to be cleaned.
4. **Put these non-divisive issues at the center of the campaign.**
5. **Build tangible victories** from these issues.
6. **Extend these issues** → make a fund for protecting the trees.
7. **Get institutions to support these things** now that the community is on board.

--Adapted from an interview
with Srdja Popovic



OUR PLANET IS
ON FIRE 





DECEMBER

GOOD TROUBLE

STORY



SOMETIMES, BEING A HERO LOOKS LIKE ADMITTING YOU'RE WRONG

RICH LOGIS' GOOD TROUBLE STORY



IN HIS OWN WORDS:

“

“A combination of factors led to my leaving MAGA. The botched handling of the COVID pandemic and the January 6 insurrection were the two major factors; the Republican response to the Uvalde massacre was the last straw.

It took a year of an emotionally wrenching internal struggle before I was able to leave MAGA. When I finally left, on August 30, 2022, I traded chaos for stability. The decision was liberating. I no longer had to defend the indefensible or justify the unjustifiable.

One of the primary reasons it was so difficult to leave was because MAGA is a community. Leaving MAGA is a new community for those who have left, or are giving thought to leaving. **Without a new community to go to, most will never leave MAGA, even if they know they should.”**

”

He went on to speak at the 2024 Democratic National Convention and founded *Leaving MAGA* to help other defectors

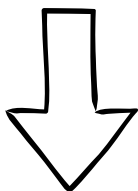
*He has been called "MAGA's
worst nightmare"*



RICH LOGIS SAID ON A RECENT PODCAST INTERVIEW:

“I’m happy to say to everyone that ***Leaving MAGA*** has never been busier...there are cracks forming within the MAGA base. But we need them to know that they have a place to go to with us.”

Check out
Leaving MAGA to
see how to help



BYE BYE



Even **MAGA** people
can be reached



Check out this
interview with
defectors. Hear
their stories



REASONS IT'S HARD FOR MAGA TO LEAVE...



1. There are similarities between MAGA and **cult victims**. They are being manipulated.
2. MAGA provides a sense of **identity and community**. Losing this is painful.
3. They may experience the **sunk cost fallacy** – they've invested so much into this movement it is hard to admit it was a mistake.



CANVAS CORE CURRICULUM

Lessons 3-6



Learn with us!



CANVAS CORE CURRICULUM

**A GUIDE TO
EFFECTIVE
NONVIOLENT
STRUGGLE**

STUDENTS BOOK

BY

**SRDJA POPOVIC
SLOBODAN DJINOVIC
ANDREJ MILIVOJEVIC
HARDY MERRIMAN
IVAN MAROVIC**

TOPPLING PILLARS OF SUPPORT

Regimes are upheld by pillars (institutions) of support.

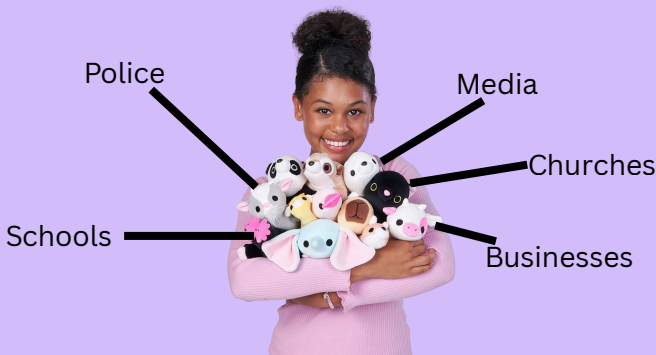
To take away the regime's power, topple the pillars of support.

Pulling pillars toward you means toppling them by getting them on your side. This strengthens your movement by gaining more support.

Pushing pillars away from you means toppling them by attacking (even nonviolently). This backfires easily as people will cling tighter to authoritarianism if they feel attacked by the movement.



If possible, pull pillars toward you. Don't push them away.

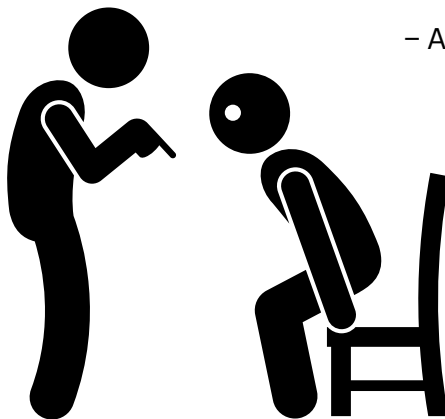


– Adapted from CANVAS
Core Curriculum

OBEDIENCE

Reasons People Obey Authoritarians

1. Habit
2. Self-interest
3. Fear
4. Indifference
5. Absence of Self Confidence
6. Moral Obligation
7. Psychological Identification With Ruler
8. Superhuman Factors
9. Helplessness and Hopelessness
10. Majority are Doing it



– Adapted from CANVAS
Core Curriculum

MECHANISMS FOR CHANGE



Riskier mechanisms are often **reserved for late in the game on high-level actors** who are unlikely to consider conversion or accommodation. **They should be meticulously planned** in order to avoid huge losses.

– Adapted from CANVAS
Core Curriculum

METHODS OF NONVIOLENT ACTION



1. **Protest and Persuasion** - Petitions, leaflets, picketing, wearing of symbols, singing, protests, walk-outs, and symbolic acts such as coordinated turning on and off of lights.

2. **Noncooperation** - Social ostracism, strikes, work slowdowns, withdrawals from bank accounts, stay-at-homes, and boycotts

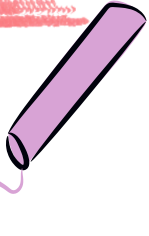


3. **Intervention** - Sit-ins, blocking roads, overloading of facilities, establishing parallel (alternative) institutions, occupying buildings, acts of civil disobedience, and deliberately seeking imprisonment.

GOOD TROUBLE ALLIANCE INITIATIVES

CHALK LOVE

Spread hope, love and support
for immigrants by chalking up
Springfield sidewalks with love!
2nd Friday of every month at 6pm.



PROJECT DONUT

Help activists and police form
healthier relationships by
fostering dialogue, reducing
conflict, and making protests
safer.



HEALTHCARE ADVOCACY

Advocate voting to protect
Healthcare in the 2026
midterm elections.



Topple the Regime.



Join the fight. Join the
Good Trouble Alliance.

Saturday, January 24

12pm

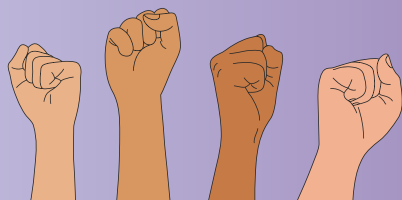
Multipurpose Room

Lincoln Library

For more information contact
goodtrouble.springfield@gmail.com

or visit

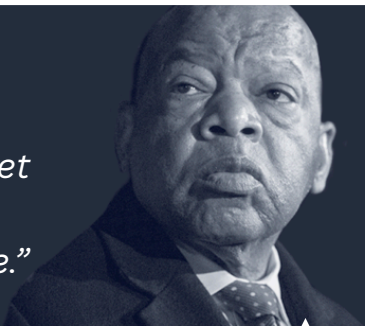
[https://valorieb.github.io/good-trouble-
alliance/](https://valorieb.github.io/good-trouble-alliance/)



WHO ARE THE GOOD TROUBLE ALLIANCE?

The Good Trouble Alliance is an independent grassroots **nonviolent** group aligned with the values of movements like Otpor! and No Kings — **we build community, resist injustice, and stand for democracy by challenging oppressive institutions.** We take our name from Congressman John Lewis, who said:

“Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.”



The Good Trouble Alliance Believes...


- **Democracy is worth fighting for**
- Institutions that promote authoritarianism must be opposed.
- Don't wait for politicians to save us.
- Ordinary people can build power and create change — starting right here.

We meet regularly to:

- Share tools for resistance.
- Learn from history and from each other.

- **Plan actions that actually matter**





Vision of Tomorrow



The Good Trouble Alliance wants the US to be **promoted from a “flawed democracy” to a “full democracy”** as per the standards established by the EIU’s annual report card on Democracy, including high scores in the following areas:

- Electoral Process and Pluralism
- Functioning of government
- Political Participation
- Political Culture
- Civil Liberties

We strive to live up to the ideals of civil resistance as we **strategically fight authoritarianism and human rights abuses in America**. We aim to be the spark that ignites a revolution of freedom and human decency.