

Greetings!

## Code Red for Democracy



For some time people in this country have been raising red flag alerts about the threat posed to our democracy by the possible election of Donald Trump and other right wing extremists to positions of power. Here's what Jay Kuo, author of *The Status Kuo* says, "I'm not an alarmist. I study facts and weigh trends, and I pay attention to signals. Many of those signals are positive, despite a few worrisome polls and general economic malaise. And I have uplifted those positive signals here in the hopes of alleviating anxiety.

**"But there are also moments when the danger signals are so strong and the disturbing facts so incontrovertible that I need to join in raising the alarm for the sake of our democracy.** If we act collectively and with deep purpose, it is not too late to stop what is coming. But we must first see clearly what is coming.

"In his nearly two-hour speech, delivered on Veterans Day in Claremont, New Hampshire, as part of his campaign to regain the presidency, Trump claimed he would 'root out' his enemies, referring specifically to 'the radical left thugs that live like vermin within the confines of our country, who lie and cheat and steal on elections.'

"When I heard those words, I felt a chill. Like vermin? Hitler and the Nazis used the term in German frequently to describe Jews, as if they were parasites who spread disease."

[Here is the full text of this essay.](#)



Stories, insights  
and action for a  
world that works  
for all of us

~ ~ ~

*Justice is what love  
looks like in public.*

Jim Hightower

~ ~ ~

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### Favorite Resources

[Future Crunch](#)

[Reasons to be](#)

[Cheerful](#)

[Chop Wood, Carry](#)

[Water](#)

[350.org](#)

[Climate Reality](#)

[Project](#)

[Local Futures](#)

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[Desert Rose Press](#)

[VirginiaMudd.com](#)

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**Being aware and taking action**

**The Road to Political Violence**



**This image of the American flag rendered in bullets tells a chilling story of current affairs. Here's one look.** "Historians such as Ruth Ben-Ghiat warn that the proud display and embrace of violence cannot be simply dismissed as bravado or, as Trump likes to say, 'locker room talk.' The purpose behind the praise and encouragement of violence is to open the door to greater acts of political terror and ultimately the use of force to seize the levers of government.

"The American public is already numb to shootings on a near daily basis, but the open glorification of weapons of mass murder by our leaders is something new to our politics. When congressional leaders post holiday photos of their families wielding rifles and guns, and when they wear AR-15 pins on their lapels in the halls of Congress, this is not simply to 'own the libs' or even to reinforce some kind of tribalism. It is an express validation of achieving and maintaining political power through the use of force, with deadly weapons if necessary." [Read more of the text from \*The Status Kuo\* here](#) Scroll down to "The Road to Political Violence."



## Action Sites for Climate and Democracy

Given the threats to our democracy I am leaving this resource guide in until the election in November. Everyone is needed!

### Climate Action

[100 Things You Can Do to Help in the Climate Crisis](#)

[15 Actions to Make a Difference](#)

### Protect Our Democracy

[Chop Wood, Carry Water](#): Provides daily actions for our democracy.

[thecivicscenter.org](#) : Mobilizing the youth vote in America.

[civicinfluencers.org](#): Also working to register young voters.

[vote.org](#): Everything you need to know to vote.

[steady.substack.com](#): Dan Rather's excellent commentary on current affairs.

[RobertHubbell.substack.com](#): Reflections on and summary of today's news.

[guides.vote](#): Non-partisan guide to how candidates stand on issues.

[commoncause.org](#): An organization working for all aspects of democracy.

[votefwd.org](#): Write letters to encourage folks to vote.

[postcardstovoters.org](#): Here you can write postcards to encourage voters.

[citizen.org](#): Public Citizen is another organization working for democracy.

[statesproject.org](#): A pro-democracy organization working at the state level.

**Voter ID Help**: Every state has different rules for Voter ID. [VoteRiders](#) will tell you what you need to know in order to ensure you can vote. [This YouTube](#) will explain further.

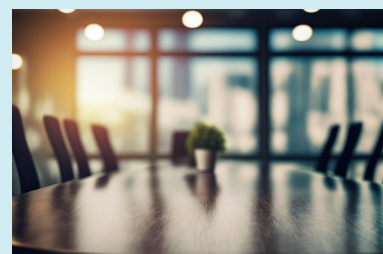
**Remember, as Dr. Seuss says, "[Every Voice Counts!](#)"**

## Good News



### EU criminalizes environmental damage

The European Union has become the first international body to criminalize wide-scale environmental damage "comparable to ecocide." These are actions that





cause widespread, substantial and irreversible or long-lasting damage to large or important ecosystems, habitats or the quality of air, soil or water. [Read here.](#)



### American Climate Corps

Last year AmeriCorps had 14,000 members working in climate-related fields. This year it's 42,000. "The

American Climate Corps is going to be completely centered on climate justice and equity," a spokesperson said. [Read more.](#)



### Trash Coat by Patagonia

Patagonia is teaming up with other companies to create outdoor clothing made from

ocean waste. Patagonia's work is based on the principle that "the Earth is its only shareholder." Of Patagonia's latest the product director said, "If you buy this jacket, we don't want to see you again for a decade," [Read more here.](#)

## Nature on Board

A second company in the UK has given Nature a seat on its Board of Directors. House of Hackney recently appointed a human 'nature guardian', marking a pivotal step in integrating nature's voice into corporate decision-making, particularly around issues of sustainability. [Read more here.](#)



### Good Plastic News

Colorado becomes the 13th state to ban the use of single-use plastic bans.

[Here's the article.](#)

Work on a [Global Plastic Treaty](#) continues. The Chair of the Committee says, "The urgency of addressing plastic pollution cannot be overstated. To bring a difference at the scale required, we must work collectively." [Read here.](#)

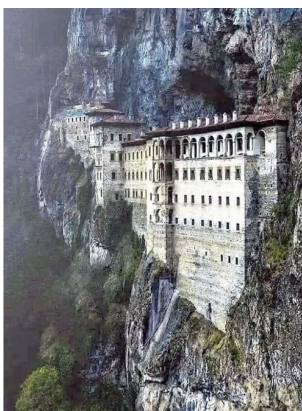
## Wisdom for Our Time



*"I have come to understand that as noble and as precious as our American ideals are, they can also be very fragile. Democracy can only be as good or as strong or as true as the people who make it so."*—George Takei

George Takei and 120,000 other Americans of Japanese descent were rounded up and sent to internment camps simply because they happened to look like the people who bombed Pearl Harbor. [Read his full essay here.](#)

## Fascinating and amazing abandoned places



### My Column

I reprint a perfect New Year's essay by Dan Rather.

This image from Cirque Du Soleil seems like a great way to start the new year.

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Who would ever think that a cruise ship, hotel or library (with books!) would be left to disintegrate?

[Here are thirty such sorry but impressive relics.](#)

*May the new year bring health, joy,*

*freedom and justice for all.*  
*Virginia / Gibi*

