

A Perfect Storm for Campaign 2022

At the moment, it looks like hope is all we have left in our Pandora's box. If ever there was a time to vote, this is it.

Three score years ago, Martin Luther King warned us about the evil triplets of racism, poverty, and militarism. As often as not, we brushed aside his warning, and so they remain among us. Added to those dangers are a revived sexism, a major political party acquiescent in a neo-fascist movement, a hot political atmosphere humid with lies, and rising environmental peril. Several years ago, an optimistic political scientist in New Hampshire predicted that if Donald Trump lost his race for a second presidential term, Trumpism would die out. It hasn't, and now many are wondering if democracy in America will die out. During a single day in September, record breaking hurricanes turned Alaska's west coast, Puerto Rico, and Japan into disaster areas. Each of these maladies inflames the rest, and if they continue on their present course, they will make the nuclear arms race, which never ended and which several eminent statesmen have declared is at its most dangerous point ever, even more perilous. With all its conflicting commentary, the current war in Ukraine underscores the point, and adds famine to the list.

The sheer weight of this appalling news is enough to flatten us once and for all. We may have reached the point where there may be no way out. Let us at least concede that much. But consider what will happen if we give up. If we lie down now, the future we leave to our children will certainly be mean, nasty, brutish, and short.

There's an election coming up. You may currently be convinced elections make no difference; you may currently be convinced that no matter who wins, the same power elites who thwart democracy, justice, human well-being, and peace will prevail; you may currently believe that your vote signifies nothing. You may currently be exhausted, and aching for rest. But before you sit this election out, ask yourself why people like Donald Trump, Greg Abbott, Brian Kemp, and the current majority on the US Supreme Court have worked as long and persistently as they have to make it harder for people to vote. Ask yourself why they want you to stay away from the polls. Ask yourself why generations of people have been willing to stand on long lines, struggle, suffer, and risk their lives for the right to vote.

This November, walk into your nearest polling station as if you owned the place, and vote as if your life depended on it. Tell your friends to do the same. Keep hope alive.