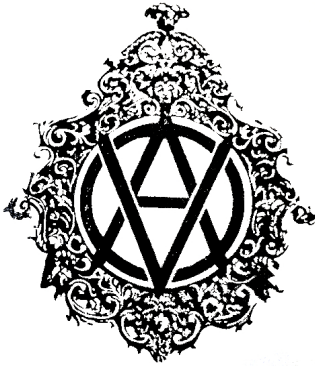


*Aight, so I hear this and see this shit a lot. That vegans are inherently white, that veganism is about consumerism, and it also makes the (racist) assumption that ALL POC have the same, monolithic culture around consuming and exploiting animals. The great hunter gatherer ideas are colonially based usually around the time where romanticism of indigenous ppl was the hip thing. Part of decolonization and rebalancing of our relation to the animal nations will need to involve us adjusting as we are at an ecological breaking point...*



*We can choose, and some of us do, to negate the existence of intoxicants for political and decolonial reasons. By refusing to play into not only what pacifies but what comes up and promotes systems that are inherently based in imperialism and capitalism as well as used to bolster kyriarchy all around, one feels all the agony they should: for themselves to do what they chose or must for existence without being lulled into any false pleasure of this civilization, for other beings and the planet being destroyed near and far from them, and for the future as this continues. You cannot destroy your masters without going all the way.*

# **MY VEGAN STRAIGHT EDGE IS ANYTHING BUT WHITE**



**An indigenous anarchist critique of  
speciesism and intoxication culture**

**This pamphlet was created & distributed (with Sarambi's  
permission)**

**by**

**Warzone Distro**

**[www.theferalspacecollectivexvx.blogspot.com](http://www.theferalspacecollectivexvx.blogspot.com)**

**[warzone\\_distro@riseup.net](mailto:warzone_distro@riseup.net)**

**XVX @**

## Introduction/Definitions

**Straight Edge** is the politics of regaining control over one's self, and of taking back from those who wish to enslave and control. It is the politics of rejecting the “values” and toxic traditions that have been instilled in civilized society. In a system dependent on the intoxication and ignorance of people, sobriety is a refusal to comply with, and rebellion against the system.

Intoxication Culture is a set of institutions, behaviors, and mindsets centered around the consumption of drugs and alcohol. Living drug-free and sober is considered important when considering how the prison-industrial complex utilizes the “war on drugs” for expansion as well as war on communities of color and the revenue generated by the government for toxic consumerism. Many view straight edge as crucial for maintaining focus, helping to effectively fight against the capitalist, colonial and hetero-patriarchal society without substances that may impair judgement, reduce the capacity to function, or undoubtedly exploit others. Such focus also offers a rare clarity in this miserable world to manage life and love, without destroying friendships and relationships.

**Veganism** is the rejection of the commodity status of non-human animals and subsequent resistance to consuming non-human animal products. People have been conditioned to believe the human species is inherently superior to all other species, and are offered privileges and rights accordingly. Not only are these privileges and rights denied to non-humans, but in combination with cultural, interpersonal, and political relationships, it is believed they exist explicitly for humans to use. This discriminative, exploitative and oppressive belief system is called speciesism. The abuse and slaughter of non-humans is profitable, and to capitalists the prospect of limitless profit is irresistible. In opting for a vegan diet and lifestyle, continuously abstaining from actions which contribute to the suffering of all species, radical veganism stands in defiance and opposition to this.

Radical veganism goes beyond ceasing to buy non-human animal products, and buying vegan ones instead. Unlike vegan capitalists, “radical veganism” recognizes the colonial, patriarchal food paradigm, speciesism and the links between capitalism and human exploitation, capitalism and non-human animal exploitation. In pursuit of total liberation, the abolition of capitalism, along with all other forms of oppression and hierarchy, such as those that perpetuate human supremacy is necessary.



# Deconstructing Myths Surrounding Veganism & People of Color

Written by Sarambi

## **Veganism is a white privileged consumer activity.**

Aight, so I hear this and see this shit a lot. That vegans are inherently white, that veganism is about consumerism, and it also makes the (racist) assumption that ALL POC people have the same, monolithic culture around consuming and exploiting animals. Does the average Western vegan have access to expensive, fancy options? Yes, but so do all consumers, especially those who prefer "natural", "happy", "healthy", and "organic" animal products. And when you don't? Well, you're getting by on what is affordable, calorie dense, nutritionally balanced as much as feasible, kinda like we all do when we are forced into poverty. It ain't new that food and class go together - it literally has been like this since hierarchies and the foundation of many stratified societies that your "worth" is translated to diet. Anyway, there is also the wide array of class backgrounds within the vegan POC community, though most, as you can guess cuz society, are making far less than the Western white vegan trope. And they're doing fine as they are acting in resistance to consumerism pushing the racist settler narrative that all POC eat a certain way and always have. No, we are and always have been has varied and different as the plant and animal nations\*. Don't be lazily keeping a narrative that white people gave you to separate our relationship to plants and animals.

## **Veganism is a form of colonialism because anti-speciesism is a Western concept.**

Hang on, so Western Europeans roll up on all our lands, say its theirs cuz flags, enslave/"reform"/kill us, and start desolating land which kills and hurts our relations for centuries and being against that destruction of other living nonhuman relations is theirs? It's their concept insomuch as they have actively created speciesism we all know of today. The understanding my people have had about nonhuman animals is that they are no different than humans, they share the fact that they are protected by spirits as we are, or they themselves are important figures or representatives to things beyond our own perceptual world. The respect and realization of the fact we are no different than other animals, and we are related and should be treated as such has been a very indigenous understanding as we understand it for the land and waters too. Colonizers have mostly successfully broken these connections and understandings by force on purpose, and have turned all facets of the land, water, and living beings into property instead of honored and related dynamic lives. So actually your speciesism is colonial as fuck.

all have fought back and have even kicked out other foreigners or outsiders as they are aware how they could be blindsided by cartel movement if they are interfered with. Autodefensas and Zapatista communities throughout Mexico not only abstain from intoxication but also fight off cartels and the paramilitary government forces who are hand-in-hand with the cartels and the US. This type of armed resistance and pushback has history in the Americas to even earlier colonial periods and to this day, even in North America, autonomous and/or sovereign indigenous lands fight and die over preventing more damage and death done by intoxication. Though this has not always been and does not need to be the case either in indigenous lands producing or in occupied lands where it is consumed.

We can choose, and some of us do, to negate the existence of these intoxicants for political and decolonial reasons. By refusing to play into not only what pacifies but what comes up and promotes systems that are inherently based in imperialism and capitalism as well as used to bolster kyriarchy all around, one feels all the agony they should: for themselves to do what they chose or must for existence without being lulled into any false pleasure of this civilization, for other beings and the planet being destroyed near and far from them, and for the future as this continues. When you actually feel every painful aspect of living, you are more apt to resist at your fullest because you are able to sense how unyielding and sickening parasitic everything is. If you can feel that, and feel it always at the level as it is, then you have a stronger will built up to fight back as nothing is cushioning the blows any longer. Nothing is keeping your head above water, until you take the boat that civilization has given to some and smash it to bits, and float on a board. Nothing is numbing you, making you forget, making you feel pleasure when you, those around you, and other on the periphery are dying or are already dead as you are walking dead. In a framework that is against all oppression, against all control, against all passiveness, it continues that one should negate the interests of civilization and gilded pleasure at the cost of everything you think you fight for. You cannot destroy your masters without going all the way.



to consume do away from you? If you're not about capitalism, why are you acting as a consumer? If you are about decolonization, why are you promoting colonial land grabs, genocide against indigenous bodies, and destroying our connection to the environment we have always learned from? What is your cognitive dissonance with seeing suffering, extinction, and factual affects on things that you do see like the war on drugs and the incarceratory state, the military and medical industrial complexes, white supremacy, colonization of the land we are on in the US, etc.?

This is real talk. This is the problem. There is no conscience consumerism, as we all know hopefully, because of the mechanisms that make capitalism flourish. You cannot promote use of substances without participating in the justification of capitalism, you cannot produce many of the recreational substances used in North America, Europe, and amongst those with the capital ability to use without the exploitation and genocide of an ecosystem. We as humans in this age have seen it in both the proxy colonial wars through the Fertile Crescent and colonially termed Latinoamérica within the last 30 years. Within the warfare against US defined "terrorism" and hunting for oil in Iraq, what gets left out is the US's want of the opium poppy fields in Afghanistan when they entered. It also happened to coincide with the increase of opiate painkiller prescriptions doled out to Americans by primarily pharmaceutical company backed doctors and the continued rise in popularity of opiates as a recreational drug. This market still exists, as does the continued occupation, where people of the land are growing and being "raided" by the US but the opium gets overseas. Similar drug pushing and coerced production for the US was seen anecdotally in the Golden Triangle as the US was fighting in Vietnam, and committing secret operations in neighboring Laos and Cambodia. Drugs benefit the US as an empire, sorry.

But if it wasn't clear enough, look just south of the US colonial line from Mexico to Argentina - the US controlled and backed War on Drugs is not only meant to create the conditions to justify genocide in the US against Black and Brown, Indigenous and arrivant bodies, it is also a strategy to continue the legacy of the Dirty Wars, juntas, and white supremacist/Casta driven, colonially based neofascism that not even Leftists in charge and adored by American and European socialists can be found not falling under. Many people are no longer able to access their generational homelands due to violence related to the purest capitalistic motives of those who have "moved up", forced to take work as runners, pushers, guards, etc since there is nothing else because the land is poisoned or monocropped, the water is poisoned from mining residue and pollutants or is stolen to produce alcohol or soda or to be bottled as is for resale, and all other avenues are limited due to racially backed classism and anti-indigenous sentiment, strict morality, gender and sexuality guidelines brought out by colonizers and neo-colonizing missionaries from the US (I see you Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Evangelicals), and purposefully underdeveloped status in the world. When we are given nothing, we turn to what we are granted, it seems. But we do fight back, Xyha people kick marijuana growers off their land before the paramilitary can come into their territory. The Emberá of Panamá, the P'urépecha of México, the Bribri of Costa Rica, the Nahua of Colombia

## **Animal liberation isnt revolutionary and has nothing to do with anarchy.**

How is disrupting one of the largest exploitative, capitalist, racist, colonial systems not qualify as revolutionary? Please read the history and the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act in full and then talk to me how it's a non issue to attack. Just like how reforms and social justice ain't gonna get us total freedom, veganism alone as western green consumerism ain't gonna do shit either. Which is why green anarchists, anti civ types, and generally very militant folx have been on some of the most destructive, economically and psychologically damaging attacks done. Where I primarily grew up here in the PNW a large, profitable luxury fur trade was shut down because of attacks by folx on some anticapitalist, anticolonial, antispeciesist shit. This is the type of terror authoritarians, capital, and protectors of these institutions need if we as people known colloquially as anarchists are gonna be the most effective at razing everything this type of society stands for.

## **There is nothing wrong with hunting- indigenous people did it for years.**

Are you indigenous? Like actually raised in, knowledgeable about your peoples, accepted by said peoples and not basing it off blood quantum alone? No? Please fall back then cuz no. If yes, mba'éichapa! Ha upei? We gotta talk, cool? Cool, so about hunting. Hunting made hella sense within a certain time. Now thanks to the colonization of our ancestral areas, the genocides between us as indigenous peoples and our ancestral land, water, and yes nonhuman animals are linked thanks to settler-colonial capitalism. We don't got time to be killing our relations now! Also, c'mon, look at how these traditions got polluted by settlers, wiping out bison and many now extinct species especially from the eastern areas, destroying orca, seal, salmon, eagle, coyote, wolf, etc, etc and that's just in colonially identified North America. Let's stop giving them ideas and start respecting life enough for it to balance and thrive once again.

## **Pre-colonial Native diets were primarily animal based.**

Oh hey, more racist settler-colonial stereotypes homogenizing billions of people who have lived n peoples who survive. Ok so evidence and living indigenous people who carry on traditional living know that none of our diets were identical, it was based on what is available. So case in point, I don't expect the tribes in the northern Plains to have the same berries, citrus, and vegetation as my people do in the sub Amazon. However, it is also very telling that in many cultures and structures the meat eating was a rare thing saved for the elite primarily on special occasions. Dietary research has been being done for example with mummies and corpses in the mountains of the Andes and Patagonia showing that everyday people were eating primarily vegetables and starches and wearing plant based materials. This carries over to even North America, with Eastern tribes subsisting on the vast variety of gourds, nuts, fruits, and plant matter over game. Sure, this might not carry over to all tribes but like I said, we are not a monolithic peoples as the colonizers want us to believe we are.

## **Veganism is a classist movement because vegan food is expensive and unattainable in poor communities.**

Remember what I was saying earlier about consumerism in all forms being classist at the beginning? And the connection to elites having the access to flesh in major aboriginal empires above here? So again, vegan food has been around and been affordable. Any vegetarian food from certain non Western traditions (looking at East, SE, South Asian, Middle Eastern, East African, and yeah Latin and indigenous foods) are based on only cheap ingredients like legumes, rice, a wide assortment of common and uncommon vegetables and starches, and things like tofu, hella fruits, glutinous items, and fungi as well as things like flatbreads, noodles, cakes of glutinous and starchy goodness. Thing is, these things are cheap, filling (if you never have had to live off the staple arroz y frijoles cuz the paycheck ran dry, c'mon), and more nutritionally packed for the caloric intake than animal products. A healthier, plant based diet and decolonial diets have shown success at combating illnesses that are primarily affecting POC and poor communities in the West such as heart disease, diabetes type II, hypertension, and GI disorders as well as maintaining good health in chronic illnesses along with physical activity. Saving money on not needing to pay or be chased by medical bills sounds pretty good. WE don't need fancy ass shit to be vegan, cuz we have had these things and the knowledge all along! This society has tried to rip us apart or make us do that work for it, so fight in any way by any means.

## **Hunting and gathering is a form of anti-colonial resistance, therefore veganism can *not* be a form of anti-colonization.**

Hunting was still not a focal point of the vast majority of indigenous ppl unless there was no other options (eg Artic/far north, pacific island folx, some desert dwellers). The great hunter gatherer ideas are colonially based usually around the time where romanticism of indigenous ppl was the hip thing. Part of decolonization and rebalancing of our relation to the animal nations will need to involve us adjusting as we are at an ecological breaking point where many of us can't hunt or even grow food cuz of destruction. It's unfortunate but our ancestors did not have an environment of 523 yrs of misuse, poisoning, senseless hunting/mass extinction (particularly for my lands as the Amazon n sub Amazon forest have been gutted from how it was thriving), insert most other things colonizers are still doing. My peoples have an understanding of protectorates and spirits for everything, and I personally have taken to respecting the survival and existence of the lives and their spirits as a defiance to the evil spirits of the foreign occupiers. We all have refused to die so far. Many folx still also do hunt like outsiders, as I've seen here related to fishing which is precarious due to over fishing (thx whites), damming, and water degradation from leisure and outsiders as I've seen here related to fishing which is precarious due to over fishing (thx whites), damming, and water degradation from leisure and agricultural sources. Some folx arent fishing out here anymore cuz of the need to restore and defend. Its a complicated balance that we as people of this continental land need to be on the forefront of because of how

dramatically it has affected us. And to defend, preserve, and protect right now as means doing the same for our nonhuman relations. Tldr: blame white ppl for killing the planet cuz they ruined everything n now we gotta fix things or we're all doomed.

## **An Indigenous Anarchist Against Intoxication Culture** Written by Sarambi

The process of refusing intoxication is one that is long and arduous as a queer indigenous POC. The intense interlinking and bound together issues of being indigenous to land known as South America, a land being ravaged by major crop production of monocrops, but also of tobacco, coca, marijuana, and other chemicals being taken at a large rate out of context and out of balance like how people from off that land treat ayahuasca and other plants. As a queer individual now in the gilded, imperial terminal capitalist monstrosity known as the US, I see for what reasons our lands are being destroyed: it's for temporary pleasure, to numb from our suffering, because we have been told that how we exert liberation, freedom, and our sexuality and gender fuckery is at the bottom of a glass or end of a rail. I have also had to bear witness to the history of alcoholism en mi campesinx, mixed indigenous but not mestizx, familia. I have watched too many people end up in the clutches of the state for abusing or pushing drugs only because they had nothing else to gain or lose in their eyes so they listened to what was given to us. I speak to folx about why them spending what energy, resources, and capital on substances is not liberation, it is continuing genocide, ecocide, extinction, capitalism, colonial imperialism, and is keeping them from moving beyond themselves to actually get free.

This is a message for my indigenous relations and others: stop listening to the colonizer, stop trying to please our oppressors in every form they take. They feed off of our dead lives. We have resisted for 523 years, and often that has included abstaining from the intoxicants they push on us so we are easy and don't feel our destruction. We tell them to keep alcohol away from us, and though people die from saying no, we go on. We push governments, no matter how "leftist" or down they seem they are all gaming on maintenance of keeping nations/labor/trade for capital/systems that benefit them and must not be trusted, and narcos from lands, and even with armies against us we persist in the name of not having the substances destroy our land and people further. They have already written and foretold their demise. To everyone else who is not yet on the same page: this is for you. You who seek to end the world and dance in the quick wild waters ready to erode the mutated fallowed earth. Why does your liberation cost the planet, other species and other humans far from you and your spectacle? Why are you seeking out making the spectacle yours instead of shedding it to embrace a real existence as an individual and collective instead of a walking dead existence? How do you justify your revolutionary revelry, subversions, or social revolt when you are still not embracing the agony and suffering of your own life let alone what your choices