

Confrontation

1) Negative Peace

- What is MLK talking about?
- What did negative peace look like prior to the Civil Rights Movement?
- Lynching, Segregation, Jim Crow laws designed to keep Black people “in their place”
- While POC were experiencing violence, on a societal level tension was below the surface, and white people were not forced to experience it in their day to day lives

2) Negative Peace in AR

- What does negative peace look like in the AR movement?
- This.
- Negative peace is when humans walk through the aisles of grocery stores, past piles of dead bodies, and yet do not feel any tension
- Negative peace is when families sit down to dinner together, with the broken pieces of an abused person on the table, and talk about how school is going and what time is band practice?
- Day to day, even around VEGANS, carnists are not forced to experience tension related to the violence they are causing

3) State of the Movement

- Currently, the prevailing attitude among vegans is to AVOID confrontation.
- We avoid talking about it at the dinner table, because its RUDE.
- We say “Oh I’m vegan, but it’s just a personal choice” and give carnists the mental excuses they need to avoid feeling any tension over their “choices”
- On a systemic level we talk about how we are going to make animal liberation happen by slowly introducing more and more amazing food to the market, so people can become vegan and never even know!
- We put down vegans who create tension in our families, friend groups, and communities for fear that they “make us look bad”.
- Has this been successful?

4) Skip Thoreau

5) Emeline Penkurst and WSPU

- Use of confrontation to spur movement
- Womens Social and Political Union
- While other suffragists were focusing on less confrontational methods, she and the WSPU were disrupting political meetings, purposefully getting themselves arrested, and even continuing their confrontation of the system of abuse in jail through hunger strikes.
- This degree of confrontation ended an area of negative peace, where Men were allowed to exist in a world where Women’s Issues were just that – she MADE IT their issue now, too. And they were forced to deal with it.

6) The Civil Rights Movement

- Inspired by Gandhi's non-compliance movement for Indian Independence, the Civil Rights Movement used non-violent direct action to end the negative peace, and to force the larger society to feel the tension, and address the issue.
- The Greensborough Four, pictured,
- "Fellows like you make our race look bad"
- Soon the sit-ins had spread across the country, and igniting national discussion – destroying negative peace in favor of justice

7) Otpor! - 2000

- Overthrowing a dictator - [Slobodan Milošević](#)
- Non-hierarchical, non-violent, direct action
- Students given jail time for logo painting: "with their brazen and reckless behaviour, the four students have endangered the citizens' calm and disturbed the public order."
- This is exactly the goal
- In the next years, this rag-tag group of 12 students grew into a movement that overthrew the dictator

8) 198 Methods

- So, keeping all this in mind, how is the Animal Rights Movement doing in terms of creating confrontation?
- 198 methods – Veganism is only one of them #72, nonconsumption of boycotted goods
- Is it possible that maybe rather than shying away from confrontation as vegans and animal liberationists, we should be embracing it? Looking for more of it?
- I'm not arguing that civil disobedience needs to be the only tool our movement uses, but rather it is an under-utilized tool which we too often shy away from, and even reject – for fear of disturbing the negative peace that we, as humans, still benefit from,

9) Using Civil Disobedience as a tool for confrontation

- 269 Animal Liberation – France
- Occupying slaughterhouses

10) Applying confrontation in our day to day lives

- Rejecting negative peace, and refusing compliance
- Liberation Pledge, speaking up rather than shying away, becoming comfortable with the idea that confrontation and conflict is a GOOD thing for animals, even though it makes us uncomfortable.
- Using confrontation in a love-based, non-violent way. Become familiar with non-violent communication, and ways to force confrontation without hurting others.