



WARNING SIGNS

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PERMACRISIS — defined as “an extended period of instability and insecurity” is a word that accurately embodies what our world is experiencing now: endless conflict, rise of neo-fascism, capitalist greed, political corruption, fear, paranoia, poverty, crashing economy, attacks on liberty, censorship, surveillance, climate issues, Brexit, global pandemic, the list goes on.

The word maybe new but the idea of living through an age where we continuously lurch from one crisis to another goes back a long way in our history.

This body of work is an artist’s attempt to create a snapshot of our turbulent times with cautionary verse and thought-provoking iconic imagery.

LENNON AUG 2023

WARNING SIGNS



NOTHING WRONG, NOTHING TO FEAR

Your every action observable,
recorded, searchable, traceable
Many eyes in public spaces
Many checks, no balances.

Warrantless wire taps, one way mirrors
Open cases, closed circuit cameras
Data stolen, no consent required
Our lives exposed, naked, soiled.

Who seeks this knowledge and why?
What cost the means?
What importance the goal?
Surveillance State out of control.

OUR SAVIOUR

Signs and wonders,
Promises all lies
Inhuman cunning
Deceit disguised.

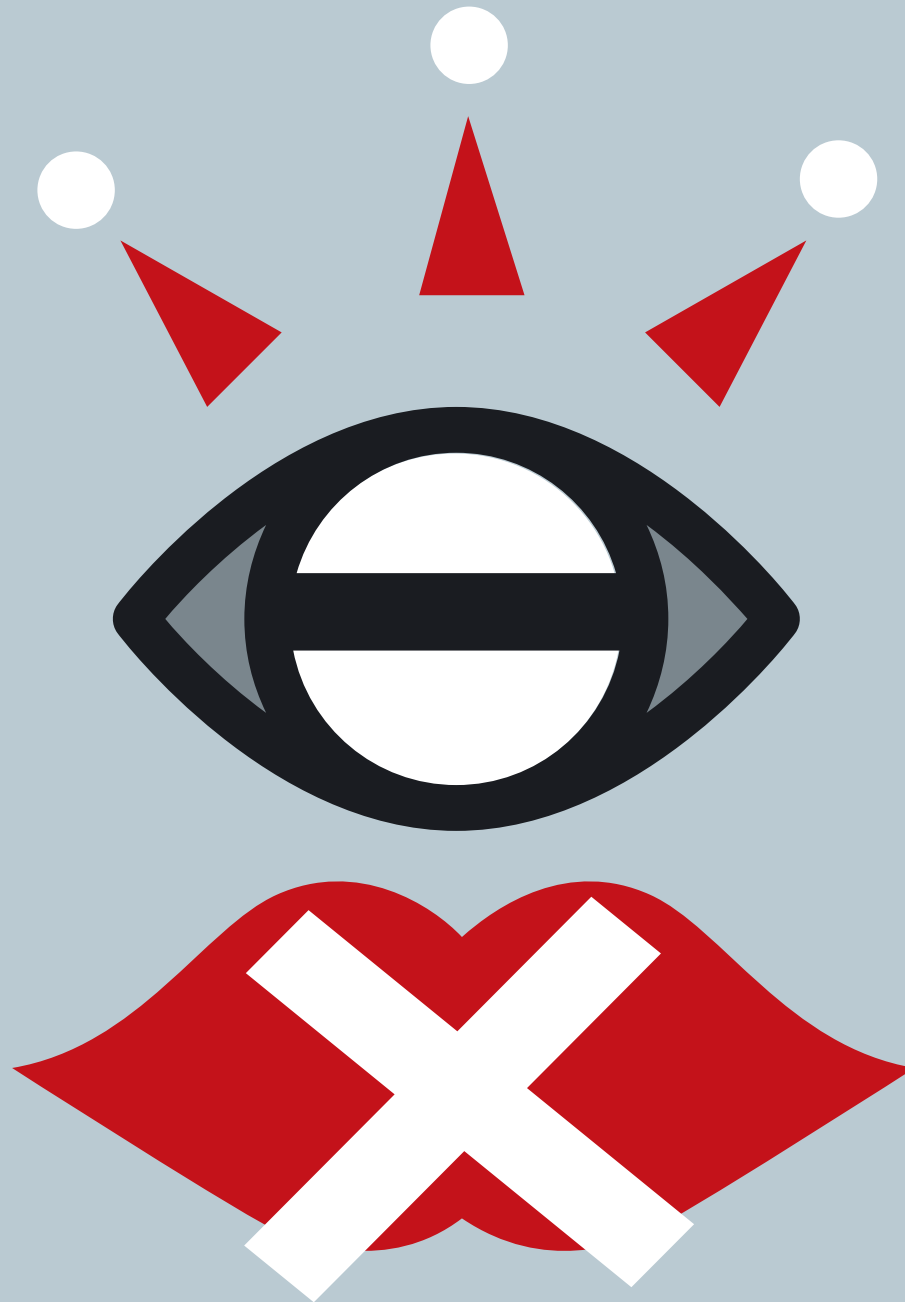
Flattery - a mockery
Passion arisen
Inviting false prophets,
on the wind of doctrine.

Is it our weakness
Wanting to believe
Seeking, needing, needless
Like moth to flame.

Deaf and unseeing
Slumber unknowing
Lambs to the slaughter
Wait. Judgement coming.

Remove the mask
No Saviour appears
Wolf-like, war-like
Too late your tears.





SILENCED PROTEST

Regime averse to consultation
Leaders speak at our troubled nation
All pretense, blatant invention
All answers exposed, lies accepted
Shocked not surprised, truth denied.

New powers sweep in unchallenged
Right to Protest ripped from our hands
Right to hold the state to account
Naked, Voiceless, powerless
Stolen rights, worrying thoughts.

Revolution now rarely mentioned
Futile banners locked away
Living on borrowed time,
Living from day to day
The new norm, no another way?

NEEDLESS. MADNESS

Nations in league
Seeking alliance
Unsettling disputes
Power imbalanced
Unnamed, inhuman
Moral wounds, open
Needless. Madness
Inflicts the conquered.

Stilled lips forever
Consequence eternal
Burning buildings, burning anger
Hostile skies, treaty failure
But hope remains, battles past
Tired with blows, peace at last.

Snapping the jaws
From brink of disaster
Silent guns, crisis averted
Walk again in sunshine
Quietly at peace
Last chance salvaged.

A vision of Victory
Yet, hollow, empty
While buried memories
Weigh heavy on the masses
Scars etched deep
Never forgotten.

Scars etched deep
Visible, rotten.





DRUMS OF WAR

Soaked in vitriol
Drums beat tonight
Relentless, remorseless
Drowning our voices
Beating beating
Orders to crush us
Peace lies bleeding
Silenced - not sleeping
War Drums awake
Thunder, batter, spreading hate.

IN GOD'S NAME

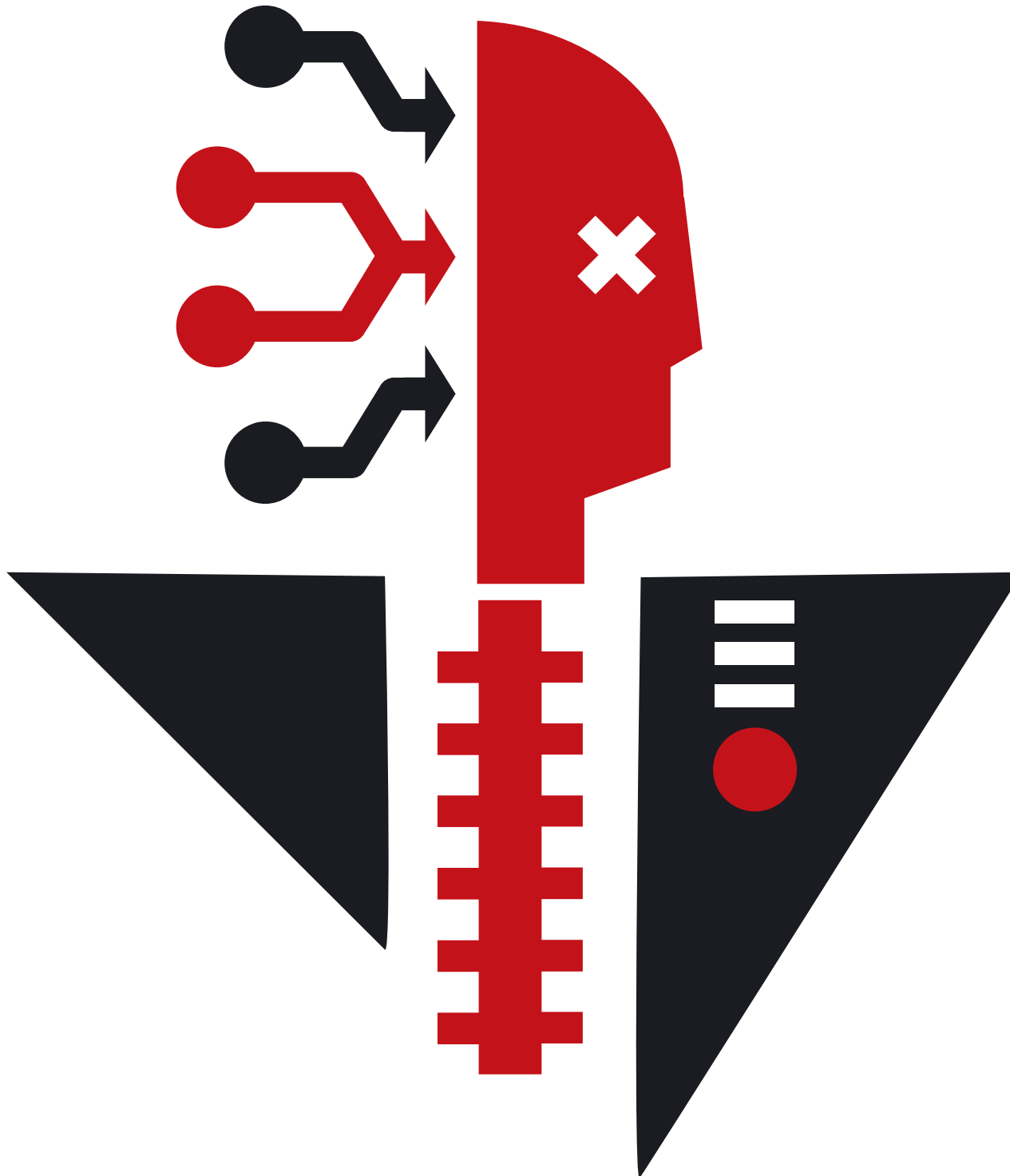
Implausible purpose
Ritually defiled
Soil cleansed pure
In God's holy war.

Seen in this light
Exalted in might
Contradictions, indiscretions
In God's holy war.

Loving our enemies
Burning their churches
Persecution paradox
In God's holy war.

Call unjustified sinners
Take for yourself the spoils
Seize them, keep them. Kill them
In the name of God no more.





WELCOME IN

Willing believers
Welcoming door openers
History warned us
Time and time again.

Different name, same old story
Coerced, connected
Your agreement accepted
Empowers the tyrant
Charming, compelling
Benevolent yet cunning.

Unearned medals
Soil the uniform
Master deceivers
Manipulate the masses
Invent common enemies
To Justify their forces.

Liberty surrendered
Hopeless, powerless
History warned us
Time and time again.

RULE BRITANNIA...

Angling to please yet casting adrift
Frothing fanatics in murky waters
Trawling depths for sinking support
Drowning, desolate, how deep our misery
Flapping herring running the country
Immersed in a drama of self-absorption
Marooned onshore, incapable of more
Cast off my foolish Captain, take the plunge
With immoral compass you navigate.

Fluid tales drip from your hold
Swim against the tide of feelings
Stern reaction to this island nation
Sailing close to the wind unheeded
Crashing waves, sinking spilling
No survivors in this sea of change.





DICTATORS' INDICATORS

Stirring slogans, potent symbols
Flags unfurled, no shame
Torture, execute, assassinate
Scared, scarce rights remain
Look the other way
to offer your approval.

Fear of enemy, needs security
Justify irrational reasoning
Ruthless tools silence dissent.

Suppress the workers, threaten teachers
Exile artists, burn the paintings
Free expression openly attacked
Limitless Power, enforce the laws
Crime and punishment obsession.

Intolerant hypocrites, bigoted phobias
New order supported by sycophants
Corruption secures friends protection
Highest bidder wins position.

Sham elections, democracy assassins
Media collusion controlling masses
Burning bridges, crossing boundaries
Scapegoats now the common enemy
Religious rhetoric, propaganda priests
Partners in crime, partners entwined
Business as usual funds fascist nation.

Look the other way
to offer your approval.

BONFIRE OF SANITY

It's very clear
As ancient history told
It all started here
When rivers ran black with ink.

From water to flame, let nothing remain
Uncomfortable truths, the devil's lies
Words torn from safe library shelves.

Next come the church and state
Boils the blood inside us
Willing sparks light bonfire of hate.

What draws us to this beautiful,
dancing, cruelty in motion
It lurks inside, shows on our faces.

What danger exists in pages
Who grieves wisdom lost
What would you do to save them
Why does it mean so much?

Horrible, holy, state sanctioned beauty
A voyage aboard the censor ship,
Where does the journey end.

Dictating expression. Above all criticism
This low-life odyssey of crude repression
Where does the journey end my friend
Where does the journey end?





CHECK

Unchecked master owns the board
Exposed, shameless yet unbowed
Winner, loser it's black and white
Just beginning, end game in sight.

What is freedom, what does it mean?
Freedom to choose, freedom to be
Freedom to protest, locked down disabled
Freedom to question the rules of the game.

How much longer a willing accomplice
Holding back, silenced, no intervention
Bullied, squeezed and pushed around
Desperate, helpless, yet voices cowed.

Realise you hold the solution
The key remains in your hands
Rise up people, be counted
Pawns take King united.

CAPITAL GAINS

Captive to the economic machine
Consuming its wealth
Starving the earth
Rich in promises
The bill never paid.

Greedy, feeding, feeling nothing
Spawn child of comfortable privilege
Elite club members
Profit pursuers
Unfair queue jumpers.

More riches to the richest
Increased inequality
Tell me, will it ever change?
But of course they reply...

When Hell freezes over,
chickens have teeth
and pigs sprout wings and fly!





COMPELLING CONTRADICTIONS

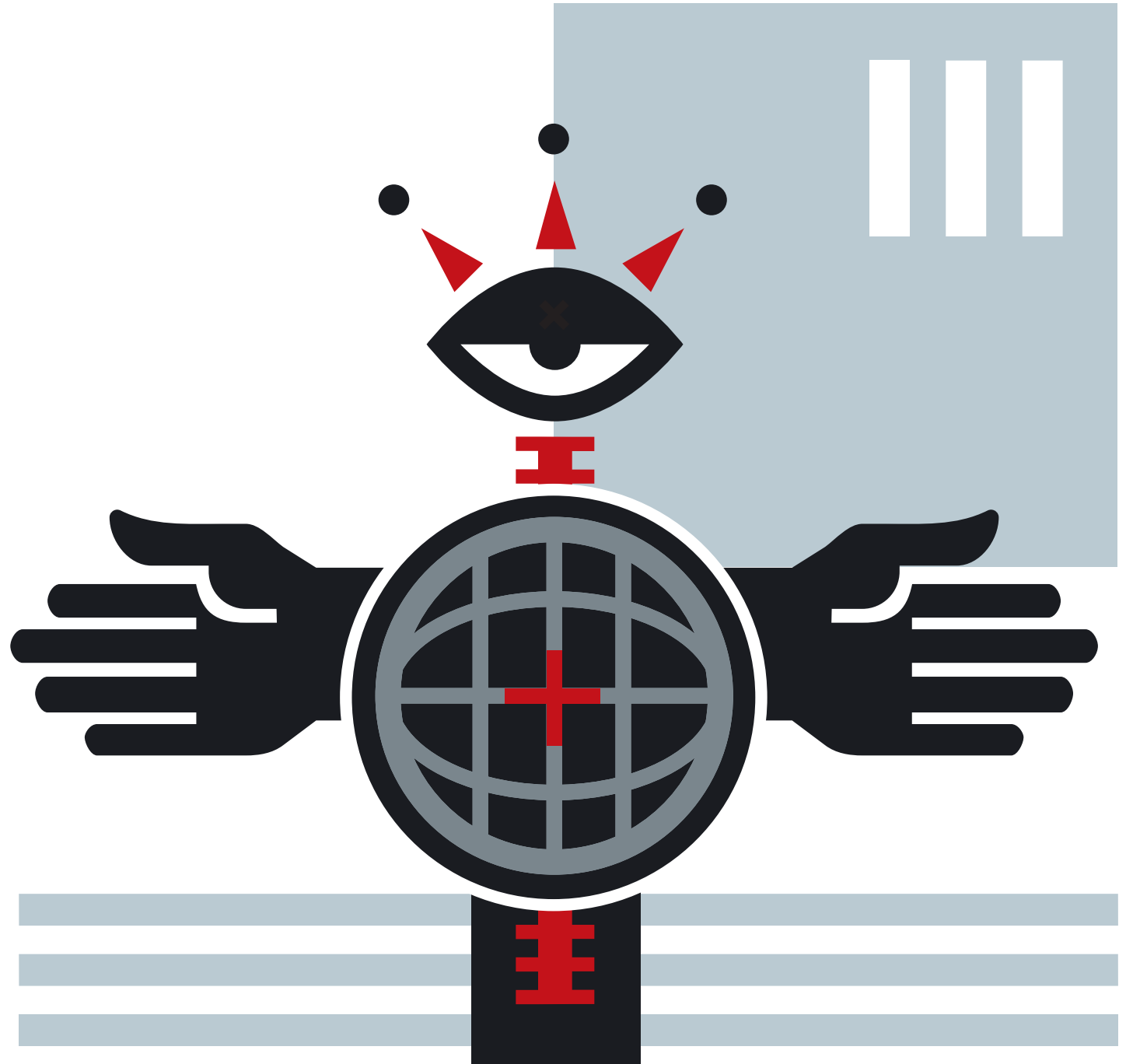
Feel it. Popularity surging
"Body positivity" treated badly
Riddled with complexity
Overt, covert, systemic

Trigger warnings. Simply thoughtful
Weaponised words alert to injustice
Gender games drawing circles
Preferred pronouns making assumptions

Cancel culture. Create history
Signal virtue, burn the pages
Compelling, ever changing
Contradictions of our times

ALTERNATIVE FACTS

Policymakers, liars, fakers
Gaining traction, right-wing faction
Sitting President, sitting Duck
Compelling, manipulation creation
Deeply embedded, deeply worrying
Officially sanctioned, meta distortion
Slow drip erosion of belief foundation
Voice thieves and face borrowers
Alternative facts generators
Fabricated, automated truth stranger
Endless conflict, endless fear
Should I worry? It's already here.





BEWARE THE CORNERED BEAR

A "special operation"
Early Thursday morning
Awake into a different world
Ill prepared, empty-handed
Living through history
Unfolding before you.

Who lit the fuse, who lies behind?
This stain on the notion of human kind
The brooding architect of destruction
Overplaying his hand. Seeks resurrection
It's the dying breath of a failing regime
That fires up the madness machine.

Altered by power, isolated by fear
Beware the cornered bear
Under pressure to go much faster
Devouring books of former glory
Historical grievance, sense of injustice
Unleashes this criminal insane tempest.

Invader dreams of glorious victory
Grinding nightmare becomes reality
No advantage their numbers
Weapons with empty chambers
How can they ever hope to win
Armed with only a bully's lies.

Failings exposed, the world bears witness
Turning tide favours the righteous
Gripping panic fuels further fears
Driven back, driven down
Losing control, losing his mind
What spiteful gift will he leave behind?

Dreams of safety, dreams of freedom
No bread and salt to the hostile nation
Altered by power, isolated by fear
Beware the cornered bear
Altered by power, isolated by fear
Beware the cornered bear.

WE WILL NOT BE SILENT

The White Rose blossoms
Daring words in opposition
Brave resistance in times of terror
Like minds calling, driven
Roses born in thorny darkness.

3 healers ordered East
3 months brutal witness
Bonding, forming, friendship circle
Thinking, speaking, singing, sharing
We will not be silent.

Discussion critical, forbidden
Hushed debate, ideals ethical
Shared words on illegal pages
Regime-defying bravery
Awaken people from lethargy.

Captured, tortured, confessions
Payment for crimes executed
Seven good minds, seven dead
Memories, merciless, murder
Petals torn, ripped asunder.

We will not be silent.

The White Rose was a non-violent, intellectual resistance group in Nazi Germany. They conducted a brave anti Nazi leaflet campaign that ended with their arrest and execution.





ACT OF UNION

More robot than human species
Ground down then speeded up
Ever-changing daily targets
Computer programs, rigid systems
Conveyor belts and pallet trucks
Scanning parcels, to pay the rent.

Struggling every minute of everyday
Every penny accounted for
Flagged for attention again and again
No concessions, nothing changing
At boiling point, cracks appearing
Below the surface, a fire rages.

Precarious and fragmented
A single cog with little insight
Outside the gates join together
Huddled around a brazier burning
Can you feel it, heat is rising
Can you feel it, tide now turning.

It didn't seem too much to ask
Security, respect and just reward
Corporations who ignored our cries
Put profits first, people last
Stand off, stand up, hold your ground
Arm in arm bring them crashing down.

I'LL BE HAPPY WHEN...

New this new that
Trading tit for tat
Bigger and better
Fancy and branded
Famous and glamorous
Yet harrowing awfulness.

Buying more stuff attempts to please
A symptom of a modern disease
Is it a "need" or merely a "want"?
Will I be happy, more content?
Miss today's rich pleasures
In the search for greener pastures.

The universal truth I'm told
Says appreciate what you already hold
Ignore the future, what maybe
Forget the past it's already been
Focus on the moment, help understand
The true worth of a bird in the hand.





THE ESTATE

It was a lovely place to live...

...but not anymore

Shuttered people with broken windows

Teenage gangs and boy racers

Dealing drugs, covered faces.

Frightened streets roaming freely.

It was a lovely place to live...

...but not anymore

Younger and younger

How it shames you

It wasn't like this

Kids used to play, not a bad place.

It was a lovely place to live...

...but not anymore

Never done reporting problems

Endless meetings

Exploring options

No quick fix can ease the tension.

It was a lovely place to live...

...but not anymore

Mum of two in the doorway

Scared to leave

Scared to stay

It was lovely once, whispers quietly.

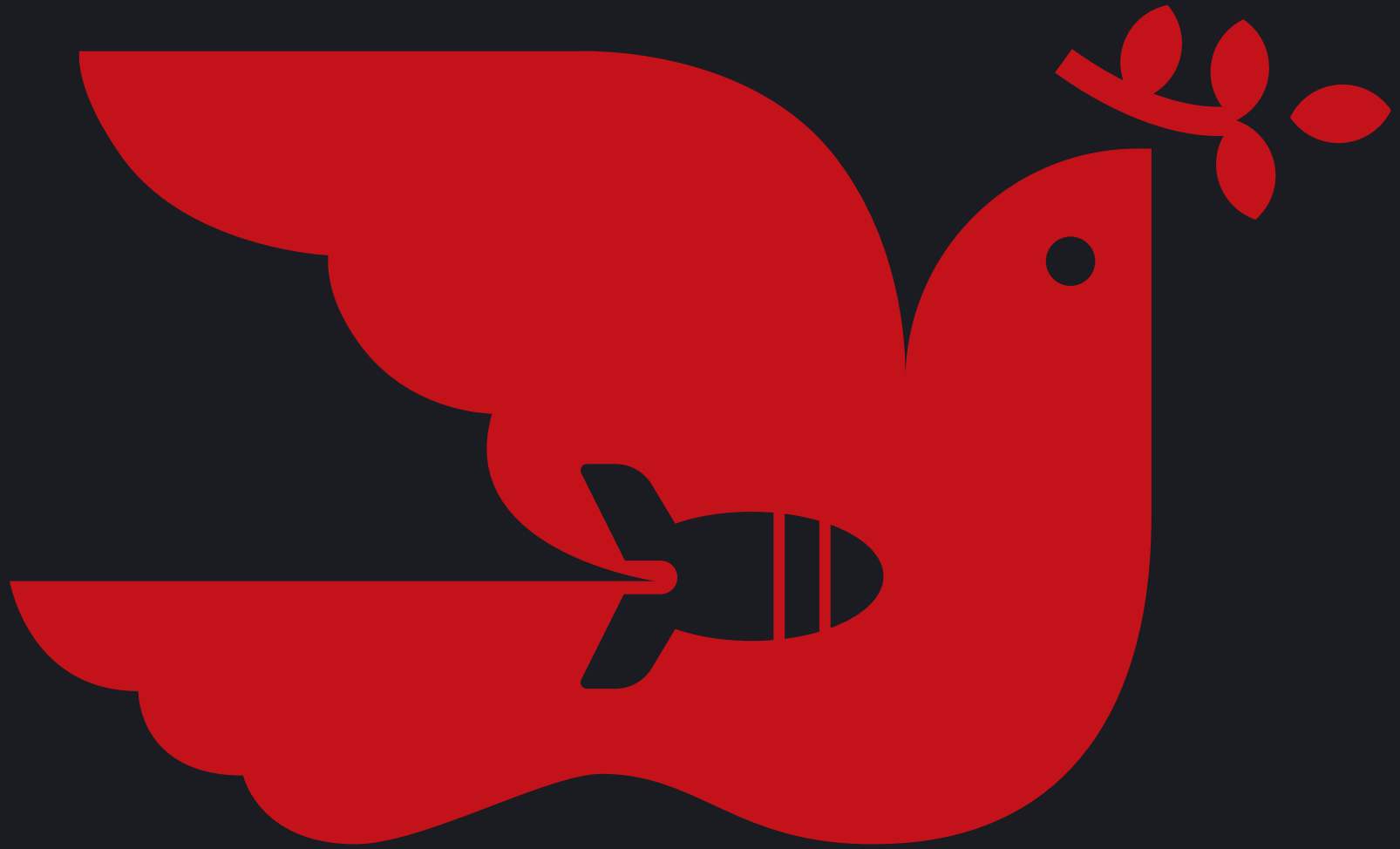
CASH FROM CHAOS

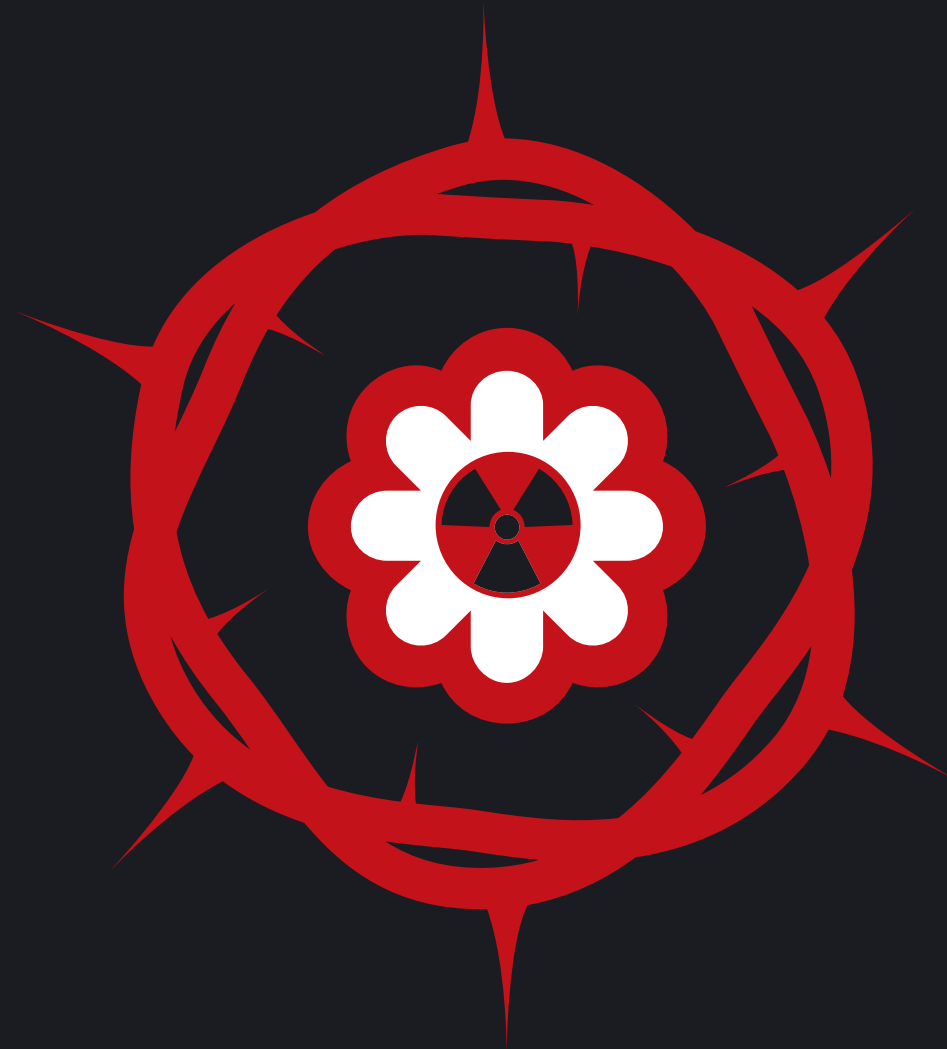
Pure. White, calming and beautiful
Connected with our humanity
Essence of innocence,
peace and freedom.

What does it mean
To target this symbol
Locked in the sights
of a weapon bought, guided.

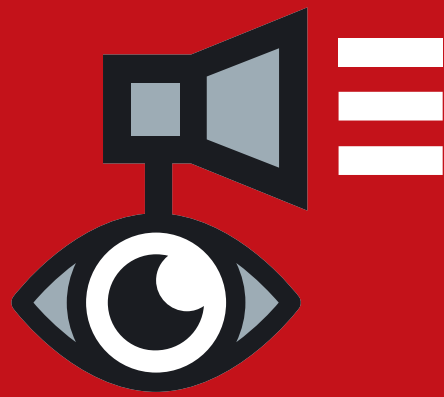
Who favours war over peace?
Advantage seekers from conflict and chaos
Those who profit, rub bloody hands
Investors in a sordid market.







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