

PREJUDICE: A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH?

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INTRODUCTION

GORDON ALLPORT'S (1954) CONTACT THEORY, PROPOSES THAT MEANINGFUL CONTACT BETWEEN OUT GROUPS WILL HELP REDUCE PREJUDICE. WHEN WE USE CONTACT THEORY TO OBSERVE CANADIAN PROTESTS, SETTLER SOCIETY AND COLONIAL STRUCTURES CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE AN AVERSION TO THIS COLLABORATIVE EXPERIENCE, EVEN TO THE DETRIMENT OF CANADIAN SOCIETY. RCMP ARE OFTEN QUICKER TO REACT TO INDIGENOUS LEAD PROTESTS, DESPITE INDIGENOUS LEAD PROTESTS OFTEN SUPPORT THE LAND, PEOPLE AND OUR COLLECTIVE HEALTH. WHY DOES DOMINANT SOCIETY UPHOLD PREJUDICE WHEN SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE AND SELF SUFFICIENT FUTURE?

WHAT CAN A PROTESTOR BE ARRESTED FOR?

- POSSESSION OF A WEAPON DANGEROUS TO THE PUBLIC PEACE
- CAUSING DISTURBANCE
- MISCHIEF OF PROPERTY ASSAULT (INCLUDES ASSAULTING A POLICE OFFICER; ASSAULT TO RESIST ARREST)
- OBSTRUCT POLICE
- RIOTING
- UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY

FAIRY CREEK PROTEST

- PROTEST FOR THE PROTECTION OF OLD GROWTH FORESTS, ENDANGERED ANIMALS, AND TRADITIONAL MEDICINES UNIQUE TO OLD GROWTH FORESTS.
 - HELD IN OLD GROWTH FORESTS ON THE TRADITIONAL AND UNCEDED TERRITORIES OF PACHEEDAHT NATION, ON PARLIMENT PROPERTY AND
 - NO COMPLAINTS BY PUBLIC ON CONDUCT
 - OVER 1,000 ARRESTS

FREEDOM CONVOY

- PROTEST FOR THE RIGHT TO GO TO RESTAURANTS, MOVIE THEATRES, CONCERTS, PUBLIC GAMING, ETC. REMOVAL OF VACCINE PASSPORTS AND MANDATES.
 - CAUSED A "STATE OF EMERGENCY" IN ONTARIO
 - CONTRIBUTED TO FATAL CAR ACCIDENTS, NUMEROUS ASSAULTS, HARRASSMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LOCALS, USING TORTURE TACTICS, NOISE COMPLAINTS, FEAR OF LOCAL RESIDENTS, INCREASED CASES OF COVID-19, ASSAULTING OFFICERS AND PARAMEDICS, APPROPRIATION AND MOCKING OF OTHER CULTURES OR LEGITIMATE PROTESTS, BLOCKING TRAFFIC.
 - 272 ARRESTS



CURRENT RESEARCH

A REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH SHOWS THAT "OTHERING" INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OR FRAMING SOME AS "GOOD" AND OTHERS AS "BAD", REAFFIRMS THE DOMINANT CANADIAN IDENTITY. "BAD" INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ENGAGE IN PROTEST, "GOOD" INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DO NOT. IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS ASSIMILATIONIST NARRATIVE THAT DOMINANT CANADIAN SOCIETY REJECT INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES AND MEET THESE INITIATIVES WITH CONFRONTATION, RATHER THAN SUPPORT. IT IS THIS BLACK AND WHITE LENS THAT HAS SETTLERS BOTH IDENTIFYING AND NOT IDENTIFYING WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. THIS CONFLICTION CAUSES SETTLERS TO TRY TO REGAIN THEIR SELF IDENTITY BY REPRODUCING THESE NARRATIVES OF INDIGENOUS PROTESTORS BEING "BAD" AND A THREAT TO THE DOMINANT CANADIAN IDENTITY. (BAKER & VERRELLI, 2017)

PROPOSED RESEARCH

I WOULD BE TAKING A QUALITATIVE APPROACH WITH THIS RESEARCH, REVIEWING LITERATURE, MEDIA COVERAGE OF PROTESTS AND CONDUCTING QUESTIONNAIRES. IT IS THROUGH THIS RESEARCH THAT I HOPE TO BRING INCREASED UNDERSTANDING TO THE NARRATIVES AROUND SETTLER VS INDIGENOUS LEAD PROTESTS. WHY SOME SOCIETIES WILL HOLD ONTO AND REPRODUCE PREJUDICE NARRATIVES, EVEN IN THE FACE OF DEATH. NO COUNTRY CAN CONTINUE WITHOUT A LAND TO SUSTAIN LIFE, THE WORK OF LAND GUARDIANSHIP IS OFTEN LEFT TO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND THEIR WORK IS "OTHERED" AND SEEN AS OPPOSING DOMINANT SOCIETY AND ITS ADVANCEMENT.

