

NEVADA

UTAH

COLORADO

CALIFORNIA

POLICE

NEW MEXICO

★BSP



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## Pa'l Norte by Calle 13

Calle 13 illustrates the struggles that migrants must endure on their route to the United States. The issues covered vary from death in the desert to the risk of detainment by border patrol. This song was written “para los que ya no estan, para los que estan, y los que vienen”. This line from the song makes us realize that migration has happened for hundreds of years and that no matter how many anti-immigrant laws are proposed, migration will continue to happen. Undocumented immigrants in America live voiceless and afraid in the same communities they have helped build. Sadly, leaving their homeland often means having to lose part of their identity in order to conform to a country that continues to exploit and scapegoat its large undocumented population.

## Minimum Wage by Lila Downs

This song screams the thoughts of all the campesinos and migrants that come to this country to try and make a living. It talks about the hopes of one day earning a “minimum wage”, about the fears that are created by the migran and minuteman, and the type of jobs migrants do for, and in this country. It shows the migrants will and determination to make a life in a land in which they desire to one day create their second home.



## La Jaula de Oro

### by Los Tigres del Norte

La Jaula de Oro is about the struggles migrants face once they arrive to the United States. They arrive to the states in hopes of earning a decent wage while still holding on to hopes of returning to their native land. Unfortunately they realize that they've already established themselves with their families and decent paying jobs and so it becomes difficult to return home. Many remain undocumented and live their lives afraid of being deported back to their country. They feel prisoners of a place they rather not be in but need to be in, in order to survive. "Aunque la jaula sea de oro, no deja de ser prision" directly translates into "even though the cage is made of gold, it does not stop being a prison" but could be interpreted as challenging the "American Dream". Immigrants come to this country in search of a better life for themselves and their families but eventually end up being victims of a different form of oppression than they were facing in their countries of origin and find that they are stuck between returning to a country they love but cannot survive in or remaining in a country that provides them with economic opportunities while simultaneously exploiting them.

## Without a Face by Rage Against the Machine

Creating borders leads to more than divisions, it leads to social circumstances that neither person on each side can avoid being affected by. Economic status is one of the justifications behind one's condition as oppressor or oppressed. However, one cannot live without the other. The oppressor would not exist without the oppressed and that's why, "It's my life for their life, so call it a free trade". This song can be seen as a memoir for those that give and give but are never allowed to take. Borders do that; they can bluntly determine where the line can be drawn to distinguish who is the boss and who is the servant. Those born destined to become another member of the oppressed could be considered to be born without a face. If we could attach a face to the humans going through this, we would not allow for borders to exist.

## El Pueblo Unido Jamás Será Vencido by Banda Basotti

The title of this song has been an important idea in our classes, our travels in Guatemala and Mexico, and community organizing work with Tierra y Libertad Organization. It's a chant we've heard in our travels and have seen written everywhere and have yelled out at marches. It calls us all to push past the divisions imposed on us by the system and come together as one people, un pueblo unido. Only by using our collective power will we have the strength to fight oppression and build a better world for us all. That is the spirit of this song.



## Revolution by Aztlán Underground

Why are we so messed up? What the hell's wrong with us? Why are we so violent with each other? This song talks about how the ugliest parts of our society today—gangs, ghettos, drugs, domestic violence—are the product of centuries of violence and repression of the people at the bottom of the hierarchies for the benefit of those on top. And about how we can find hope by decolonizing our minds and bodies, by learning about the culture and history that the empire continues to repress today.

## Transgresores de la Ley by Tijuana No

This song pays tribute to the revolutionary movement of the Zapatistas based in Chiapas, Mexico who are fighting everyday against the injustices imposed upon indigenous peoples by the Mexican government. This song honors the dedication and persistence of the Zapatistas who are willing to die to defend their dignity, their rights, and the land they've worked for generations and will continue to defend until hunger and misery ceases to exist.



## People of the Sun by Rage Against the Machine

The exploitation, domination, and colonization from the European invasion of the Americas continue today.

Look at the reality of our world: people whose ancestors were subjugated in the 16th century are still exploited for their labor, segregated, attacked by governments, made into scapegoats, forbidden from learning their history or living their culture. But everywhere people are resisting. In Chiapas, Mexico the Zapatista movement is organizing from the soil up, led by people on the bottom of the dominant systems, rooted in indigenous cultures. They are showing that another world is possible, one in which many worlds fit.



## Maíz Maíz by Gaitan Castro

Throughout the Americas, maíz, or corn, is a unifying and empowering symbol. It is a sacred, life-giving food, and it continues to be a symbol of resistance and hope for campesinos and indigenous peoples. This song echoes the unifying message of those *luchas*. It describes corn as “the comfort of sad children,” “the nest that holds hope,” and “the womb from which new daughters and sons arise.” By portraying the worth and strength of maíz it also portrays the worth and strength of el pueblo, the people at the bottom of the hierarchical systems that dominate our world.

which side are you on?



Revolution  
Colonization  
Corruption  
Organizing  
Land distribution  
Anti-raids  
Anti-deportation  
world without borders  
Justice for Labor Workers  
Quality education  
Anti-war  
Freedom for Palestine

## Handlebars by Flobots

This song shows how powerful a capitalist nation is. It all starts with a small idea, such a realization of knowing that you can control your bike just by peddling, which can eventually lead to realizing you are capable of mass destruction. The lyrics do a good job of unfolding the extent that this extreme power can get to and how it can start with a simple concept.

“Me and my friends understand the future  
I see the strings that control the systems  
I can do anything with no assistance  
I can lead a nation with a microphone  
I can split the atoms of a molecule  
Of a molecule

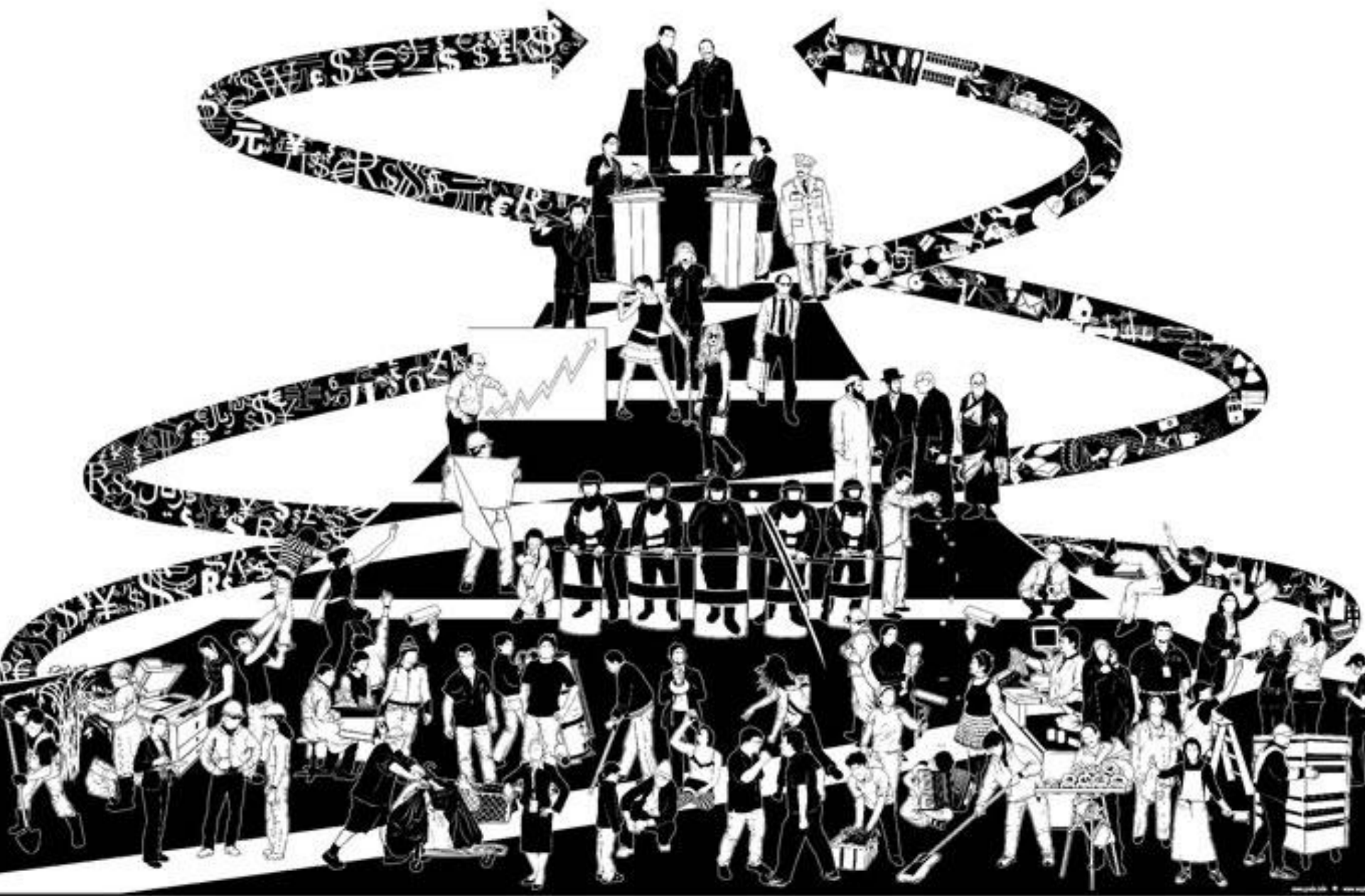
Look at me  
Driving and I won't stop  
And it feels so good to be  
Alive and on top  
My reach is global  
My tower secure  
My cause is noble  
My power is pure  
I can hand out a million vaccinations  
Or let'em all die in exasperation  
Have'em all healed of their  
lacerations  
Have'em all killed by assassination  
I can make anybody go to prison  
Just because I don't like'em and  
I can do anything with no permission  
I have it all under my command

I can guide a missile by satellite

and I can hit a target through a  
telescope

and I can end the planet in a  
holocaust

I can ride my bike with no handlebars  
No handle bars”



## American Terrorist by Lupe Fiasco

The system has led to creating an American society in which people can be blinded by the hypocrisy that surrounds them, and that they are constantly being a part of. The system is founded in creating people that are proud of the system; through them the system stays protected and continues striving. This pride controls them from criticizing it, but gives them the power to point fingers at those that do not cooperate with it; leading to a game of blame. Hypocrisy is most clear in the line that says, "now if a Muslim woman strapped with a bomb on a bus with the seconds running give you the jitters? just imagine an American-based Christian organization planning to poison water supplies to bring the second-coming quicker." This shows that both are doing the same amount of harm; even though one always considers it self better than the other. The lyrics in this song also point to how Americans are terrorists by nature to the rest of the world; they don't realize that being born into everlasting comfort comes at the cost of creating distress to the most misunderstood of countries.

# The Poverty of Philosophy by Immortal Technique

Poverty

Socialism

Identity

Capitalism

Neoliberalism

Globalization

Against this current framework

white supremacy

Exploitation of people and

natural resources

Classism

Cuban embargo

War

Fascism

Materialism

Racism

Exploitation

Monopolies

Colonization

Revolution



## Changes by 2pac

“That's just the way it is  
Things'll never be the same  
That's just the way it is”

This chorus shows the hopelessness that is created by a system that makes people believe that change could never come because “that’s just the way it is”. This type of statement lets people think that there has never been another way to go about democracy and that there probably isn’t. It makes people settle for the role society has assigned to them. The system calls itself democratic, but it fails to address who it is democratic to. 2 Pac gives hope and a responsibility to the audience by saying that,

“We gotta make a change...  
It's time for us as a people to start makin' some changes.  
Let's change the way we eat, let's change the way we live  
and let's change the way we treat each other.  
You see the old way wasn't working so it's on us to do  
what we gotta do, to survive”

The past will never change, what’s done is done. But if we see our circumstances and realize that as human beings we are being degraded, we can join together and demonstrate that we are ready to fight for our rights.

## Inner City Blues (Make Me Wanna Holler) by The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, featuring Guru

We wanted to end this CD with a message of hope and renewal. It is important to be able to see this world with eyes wide open, to learn your history and connect it to the violence and oppression of today. This can make you feel like the forces against the people are too strong, like you are powerless to do anything to change the system. But to allow ourselves to drown in guilt and sorrow is to give in and allow the oppression continue. What we hope these songs show is that, even though we are all oppressed and oppressors, even though we have all internalized the violence of the system and to some extent have submitted to its power, collectively we too are powerful. Bit by bit we are recognizing and reclaiming that human power. As Guru says, "now is the time to leave behind the negative thoughts, take a deep breath and seguir adelante, keep rising together". Because "if you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything. Let's see what this new day brings."