

**SESSION 1:
WHAT IS
SOLIDARITY-BASED
ORGANIZING?**



**SESSION 2:
HOW WE GOT HERE**



**SESSION 3
PALESTINE:
SOLIDARITY IN THE
FACE OF SETTLER
COLONIALISM**



**SESSION 4:
BLOCK MAGA, BUILD
OUR MOVEMENTS &
FIND YOUR POLITICAL
HOME**



Session One:

What is Solidarity-Based Organizing?

Capitalism: Our current global economic system, one in which a small ruling class (also called the “owning” or “capitalist” class) owns “the means of production” (the land, natural resources, and large companies that produce the commodities and food we all need to survive).

The vast majority of humanity, the multiracial 99%, being deprived of collective ownership of these things, are forced (if they can secure employment) to become wage laborers who often have little autonomy on the job and typically go uncompensated for the true value of their work.

Social Oppression: Things like racism, patriarchy, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and religious nationalism, among many others.

These things manifest in our world on internal, interpersonal, cultural, and institutional levels. They transmit across communities and across generations.

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Too often, we see these things as fully isolated social problems (rather than as forces that are strategically fueled to serve a ruling class agenda).

An Analysis of Social Oppression and Capitalism Together

Social oppression is so often used as a tool of the ruling class to serve two purposes:

- 1. To create hyper-exploitable target groups**
- 2. To divide and control the entire 99%**, stratifying the masses into social hierarchies and weakening our collective power to challenge the corporate domination of all working people and the planet.

In Our Politics Today

Business-backed far-right forces in the US and the broader world today embody this in the most overt and visible way.

The corporate-financed liberal-center (that is *comparatively* less authoritarian and that we sometimes need to make alliances with) typically responds with:

- *Co-optation* of progressive anti-oppression rhetoric while continuing to carry forward a ruling class agenda and allowing for significant institutional violence toward target groups.
 - *Making a right-turn* toward scapegoating and repression of target groups, trying to beat the right at its own game (i.e. in the 90s and today)
 - *An elitist stance of, “all is well,” “America is already great”*
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In Our Politics Today

In progressive activism and our broader social justice culture, there still is a large knowledge gap about the connection between social oppression and our broader capitalist system that *causes many issues as we seek to work for social change.*

- The individual/interpersonal/verbal/representational realms are sometimes seen as the only/primary sites of struggle, allowing corporate interests to feign progressivism while carrying on their exploitation.
 - When we don't focus on the large-scale political forces driving bias and oppression, we can see these things as problems of intrinsically flawed individuals or groups that can best be handled with harsh shaming.
 - Our limited analysis of “privilege” and how non-target groups “benefit” from oppression can lead to poor organizing and patronizing behavior.
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In Our Politics Today

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- **Overall, aspects of our movement culture and analysis can push people into the hands of the right—toward groups who are validating the reality of people’s suffering and offering belonging.**

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- 1. To create hyper-exploitable target groups**
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Solidarity-Based Organizing: Seeks to unite the global 99% into a common project to end all forms of oppression and to create a democratically-controlled and sustainable economy.

An Analysis of Social Oppression and Capitalism Together

Solidarity-Based Organizing: Seeks to unite the global 99% into a common project to end all forms of oppression and to create a democratically-controlled and sustainable economy.

Key elements:

- Illustrates how “nobody’s free until everybody’s free.”
 - Offers a framework for mass movement building based in solidarity.
 - Not “an excuse” for the harms of biased or harmful behavior but a prerequisite for genuine growth and transformation.
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Solidarity-Based Organizing in Action

1. Messaging

- “*Show them the trick*” — Reverend William Barber of the Poor People’s Campaign



Solidarity-Based Organizing in Action

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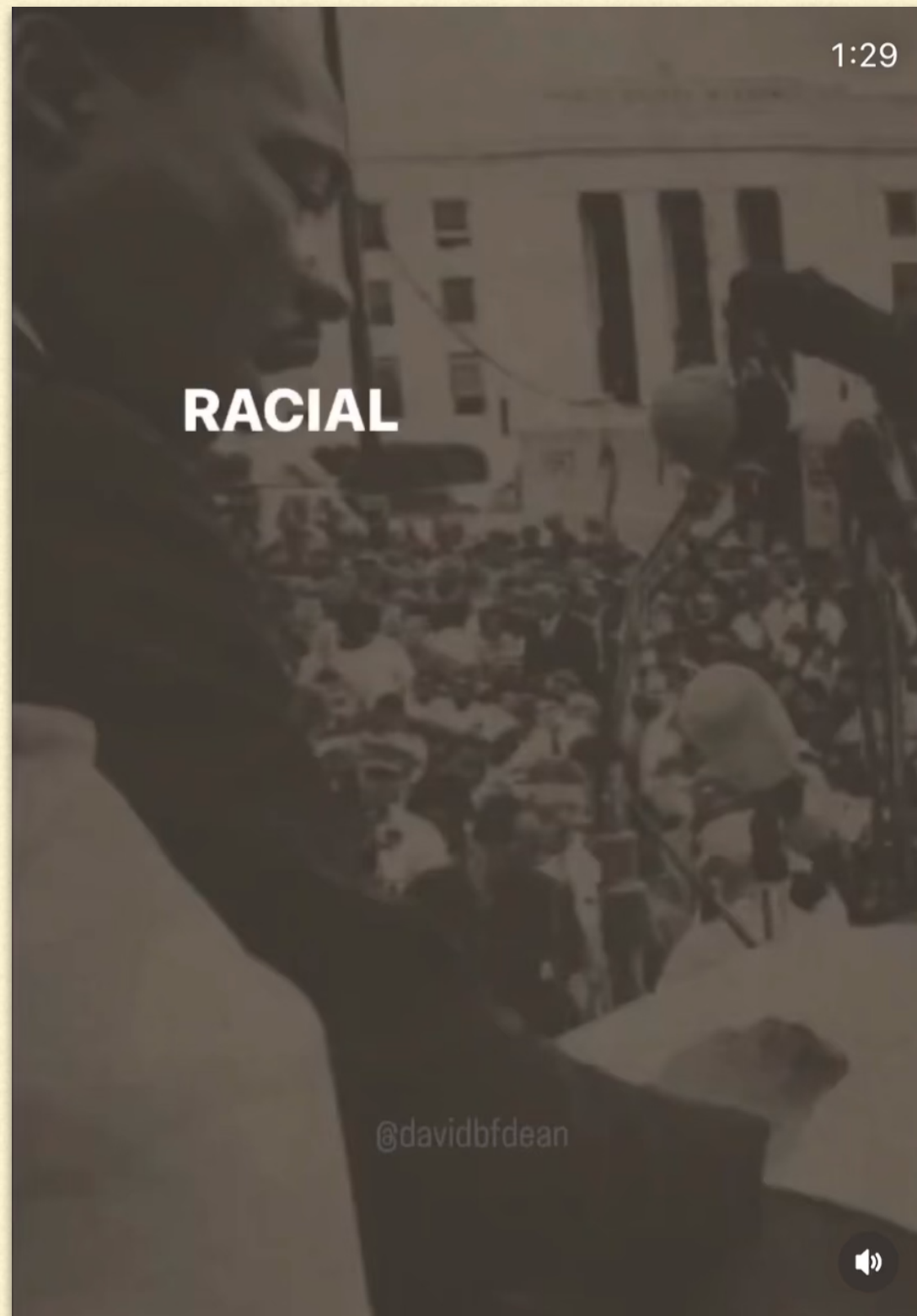
- “*Show them the trick*” — Reverend William Barber of the Poor People’s Campaign

Example: There is this class of corporate politicians who want to take away our social security, and take away our health care and suppress our unions and suppress our wages, and all the while they are telling us that the cause of our problems is immigrants, or trans people, or feminists, or muslims. We need to see who our real enemy is here and we need to come together to create the society that all of us need.

Solidarity-Based Organizing in Action

1. Messaging

- “*Show them the trick*” — Reverend William Barber of the Poor People’s Campaign
- *Sharing histories* illustrating the potential of solidarity and the perils of “divide and conquer.”



*Martin Luther King
addressing a crowd that
had just marched from
Selma to Montgomery,
Alabama on March 25,
1965.*

[Video Link](#)

Solidarity-Based Organizing in Action

1. Messaging

- “*Show them the trick*” — Reverend William Barber of the Poor People’s Campaign
 - *Sharing histories* illustrating the potential of solidarity and the perils of “divide and conquer.”
 - The Race-Class Narrative Project — Research showed this to be “the single most powerful political message available today.”
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Solidarity-Based Organizing in Action

2. Organization

- **Independent Political Organizations**
- **Labor Unions**

Breakout

- How does the content of this presentation impact you? What thoughts or emotions does it bring up?
- Does it shift or deepen the political analysis you came into this session with? Does it validate any ideas or feelings you have had in the past? If so, how?
- Do you think a solidarity-based analysis and approach could be supportive in your work for social change today? If so, how?

Breakout guidelines: Speak from personal experience. Lesson's leave, stories stay. Ensure everyone has equal time to speak.
