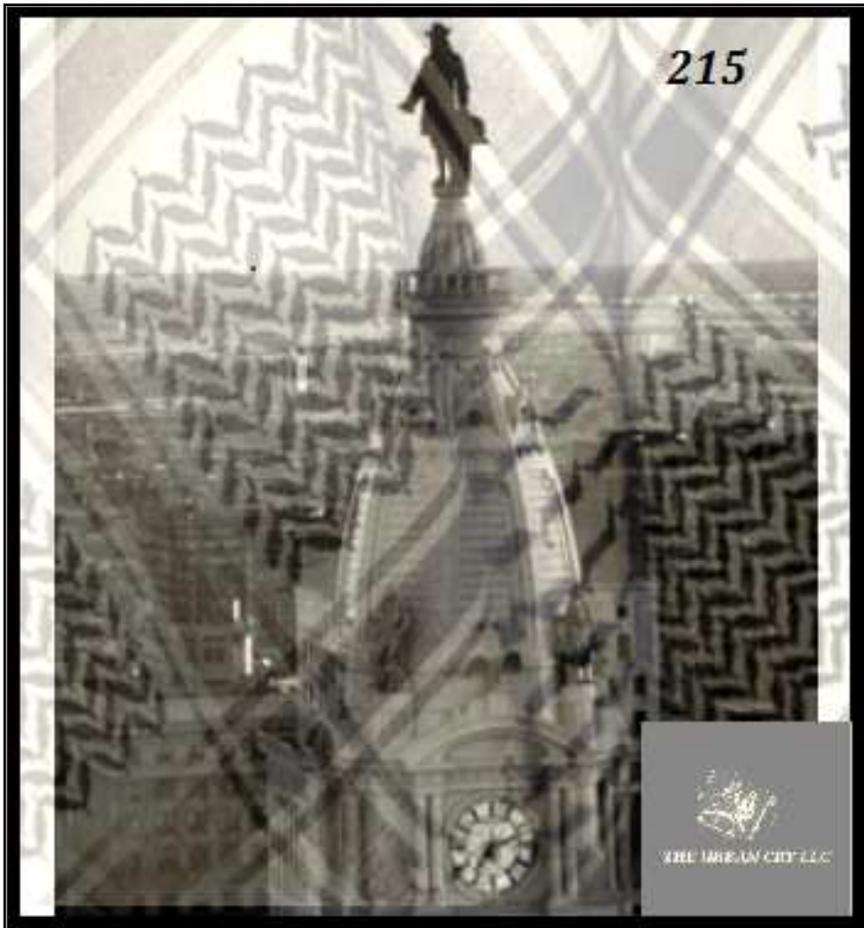




BLOOD IN MY EYE:

THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.



BY ZION ANTONI



2014

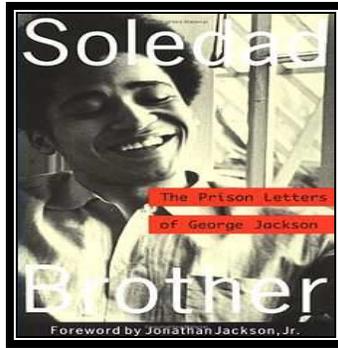


Dedication.

*For my remnant in the keystone:
East Falls guerillas, the Jungle, south, 20M, Boo-Boo, Tone,
Marley, Midnite, Malik, Rasheed, Akil, Adase, Fatima, kimba,
knowlegde, lord(Naim), every child
, elder and the innocent blood of the fallen. Hold.*



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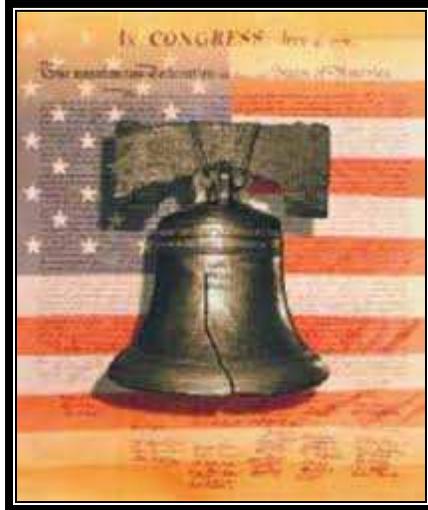


Blood in my eye: An Introduction

Reasonable, and fitting that I use the late Black Panther's George Jackson's Publication for theme, and reference to this essay. Jackson's life, to me, was real, troubled, but brilliant and short. In the sum, you have a man for the first quarter of his life forced to adjust to racism, engage in Criminology and through his youth bench press a weight of institutional and social anger.

*Approaching the last quarter of his life, it was to make a determine through a sentence, one to life imprisonment. In his last, but most significant years he dedicated his life to study of Marxist(socialism) political theory, and mobilization, within America's prisons, and published a library of writings. A leader by example, brutal in some ways, but influential to an international community. He passed in 1971, respect the ancestors. By principle I use Jackson's term "Blood in my eye" in reference to this essay. In reference to this district in the keystone state. Philadelphia. This essay is one effort, one voice to say why a city coined a "City of brotherly love" is produced and exists, and is perpetuated, as the opposite. I feel its a manuscript of justice to the people outside this city, and especially within its borders. Blood in my eye. In this district, Blood in the streets through countless, and senseless coroner accounts. Blood in the Drug trade. Blood in the system of political corruption. Blood in Religious Dogmas. Blood in the loft s, main line, Education, Family, and Poverty. But this is written in faith that a remnant in 215 can amass a Resurrection. **The power of ONE.***





“Libertad” (My Country)

***“How I got over”-
Tariq Trotter(Black Thought)***

This Grind, this vision, and the principles took me many places. But anybody who establishes themselves in their work never forgets the true fabric of where and what they hail from. Recently making travels along the east coast, I stayed in a hotel near the tri state area. At Complementary breakfast I grabbed a Philadelphia inquirer to see the latest in a city once I grinded in; blood and sweat. Headlines in politics; Media, community development, trickled down to Crime and tragedy. In the same stream the local news reflected the same, with the same intensity the city thrived on; the same intensity from my yesteryears. This brought me to one social contrast. In the historical district(2nd Market up) you see the grounds of the inception of this country, even before its designation in D.C. The location of the liberty bell; Old historical houses and plots. Tourist attractions, preserved cobblestones and thriving small business, culture society’s and industries. Further up market. Leading out to south west Philly you have an economic line. A subway overpass; Underneath holding a bustling sea of faces, Black Latino and other at the threshold of one hustle. Muslims, Halal protocols. Christian missionaries. Children, Government workers, charter school campuses. Corner bars leading onto blocks where mom and pop Barbershops are tucked away under streetlights.





Survey the North Philly crack districts. After hour Homicides. Heroin traffic from South west to conservative northeast suburbs. South Philly Lacth key Child. Closed housing developments that once housed the culture of poverty. Follow this one picture, with two extremes. Capital, Pride, History, infrastructure, industry. Economic depravity, crime, corruption, poverty, and the same vicious chain. All too familiar conditions in all American inner cities. This is not another redundant issue brought to the table. But a call via publication to the city of Philadelphia to see itself in essence; wall to wall.. suburbia to mayhem. A call to see it, from a man two fold: Journalist and witness. In a world gone wrong at its ripest, we owe it truth to redeem its ground. The next chapter is a look to *what is* the corruptible seed of the Keystone. The account of brotherly love.



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Corruptible Seed.

“There has also been an increase of yuppie, bohemian, and hipster types particularly around Center City, the neighborhood of Northern Liberties, and in the neighborhoods around the city's universities, such as near Temple in North Philadelphia and particularly near Drexel and University of Pennsylvania in West Philadelphia.

The African American population in Philadelphia is the third-largest in the country, after New York City and Chicago. Historically, West Philadelphia and North Philadelphia were largely black neighborhoods, but many are leaving these areas in favor of the Northeast and Southwest sections of Philadelphia. There is a higher proportion of Muslims in the African American population than most cities in America. West Philadelphia also has significant Caribbean and African populations.

The Puerto Rican population in Philadelphia is the second-largest after New York City, and the second-fastest growing after Orlando.^{[59][60]} There are large Puerto Rican and Dominican populations in North Philadelphia and the Northeast, as well as a significant Mexican population in South Philadelphia.”-

Wikipedia

Demographics. Ethnicity, and class mobility. In the span of American states, its cities are designated to hold a certain pride in its development and culture. The 21st century is self explanatory times have changed. Evolved on its on beat by virtue of life, societal norms, affluence and culture. I reference history as force that run its own trail. Post slavery, Philadelphia was a progressive socio political settlement of education, religion, and culture, circa 19th century. In the 20th, a cultural hotbed of political events, race, ethnic diversity, pop culture, the rich, and struggle and criminology of the poor. 21st. *Blood in my eye*. Political corruption and the sins of the fathers. Here is the one seed of a city of the nation corrupted. How an establishment of high culture, societies, religious freedoms, and early political reformation, can function: borderline a *sesspool*:





Main article: [Crime in Philadelphia](#)

*Like many American cities, Philadelphia saw a gradual yet pronounced rise in crime in the years following World War II. **There were 525 murders in 1990, a rate of 31.5 per 100,000. There were an average of about 600 murders a year for most of the 1990s. The murder count dropped in 2002 to 288, then rose four years later to 406 in 2006 and 392 in 2007.**^[87] **In 2006, Philadelphia's homicide rate of 27.7 per 100,000 people was the highest of the country's 10 most populous cities.**^[88] **In 2013, there were 246 murders, a decrease of over 25 percent from the previous year.**^[89]*

In 2004, there were 7,513.5 crimes per 200,000 people in Philadelphia.^[90] In 2005, Philadelphia was ranked by [Morgan Quitno](#) as the sixth-most dangerous among 32 American cities with populations over 500,000.^[91] Among its neighboring Mid-Atlantic cities in the same population group, [Baltimore](#) and Washington, D.C. were ranked second- and third-most dangerous cities in the United States, respectively.^[92] [Camden](#), New Jersey, a city across the Delaware River from Philadelphia, was ranked as the most dangerous city in the United States.^[92]

In 2008, Camden was the second-most dangerous city in the country, while Philadelphia was ranked 22nd.^[93]

-Wikipedia



Degradation is self explanatory. **Degradation can be generational.** Desamiation has its reasons. In regards to politics, policies and laws are reinforced. In regards to economy the echelon eat at their fruits of their own labour, or inheritance. The middle class eat to live. In regards to the urban plight, I cant help but reference some of the accountability of the above dreadful statistics falling on the countless **mosques, chuches, schools and community systems**, that rest on the same corners of these collapsed communities. What is the price of a standard college education? depending on the university thr average tutiion is sometimes 300, 000 up. The price of education, common education that can redeem hundreds in urban America from an early grave, or mass incarceration is **priceless**. The message in the urban cry maintains through its stream of publishing as relatively the same. In



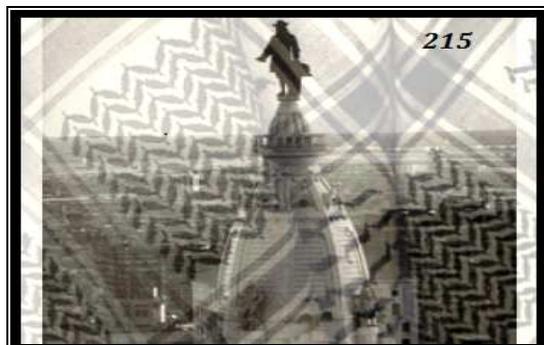
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challenging urban america, you always have polar opposites: the perpetuated conditioning that carries generations to destroy peoples in these regions. And the power of a percentage in the masses to

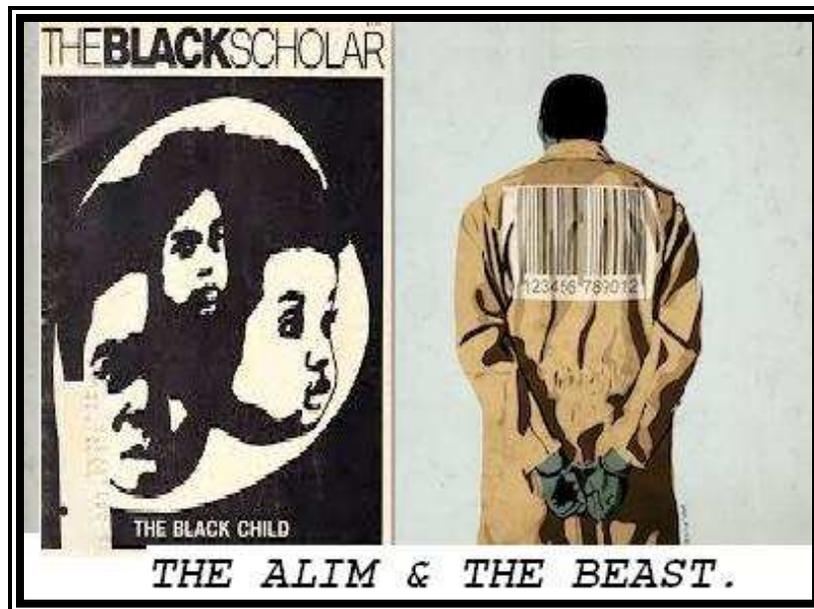


educate and redeem. Statistics? are a study. Diagrams and the caculated math of numbers at work in the streets. Presented sometimes in the case of propaganda, and estimated rations. Those in these communities? don't let statistics produce fear. But allow to produce within the numbers racket of a continuos drug industry, mass incarceration of youth and adults, and almost the very question of human lives in the balance...**action**: in the spirit of the greatest redeemable cause: **US**. If anyone in one of Americas cultural depots has an ear let them hear. For those who have understanding of the system, the system is not, and wont be responsible for the demise in urban America that has been witnessed, generation after generation; if its resources are used to pour back in our communities. In my last years I spent in Philadelphia years ago, I ran a Production label of recording artists, advocates and musicians in association with community activists. I had a chance in the prior years to gather experience; from the main line, from west and southwest's school system and discontented streets, to the "Din" of Gtown's muslims and black youth, to the despair and darkness of North Philly, to south Philly's grip of social anxiety. **What was accumulated and distributed wasn't just based on a positive affirmation**, but a work, a grind, and a way of life those those like minded who believed in better. **Observation**. Every region, every people have a choice to resist what represses them. The enemies don't always come in on warships and planes. But systems that repeat the same dysfunctions, and factions from ills of yesteryear that never change. What people..what group petitions to break the cycle? **a percent is better than none of the whole**. In the next chapter well see the true fight in urban America, the factions, and the battle, including Philadelphia. In the words of the late **Kwame Ture**,

Consider.



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"I SPEND MY DAYS PREPARING FOR LIFE, NOT PREPARING FOR DEATH"-

MUMIA ABU JAMAL(***PHILADELPHIA JOURNALIST***)

These are the words of a brilliant journalist with a nationally renowned historic court case. His views in light of his current predicament are bold, in the face of his death row placement. I used Abu Jamal not only in light of the fact he is an elder within black conscious movements, but a spokesman to today's current issues. He is also a student and witness to Philadelphia's yesteryears. Even though the question and issue of race has been on Philadelphia's forefront, The latter 20th and turn of the 21st century involved, and evolved into a melting pot of class mobility, social issues, corruption, cultural lines and struggle for all people, in Philadelphia county. If culture, preservation society's, University's and the economy has maintained to keep the middle class reaching, and the 1 percent floating, why do poverty districts exist at their worst? Why to philadelphia statistics push the bar along with other American cities in the balances? If there are religious institutions on every corner, from Mosques to Mega churches, why does the drug trade put communities in a bind where the murder rate climbs and mass incarceration thrives? There are reasons. I give the Illustration of the *Alim* and the *Beast*. An "Alim" is an arabic word for "Scholar". One who practises scholarly method, or to enrich his/her understanding for a purpose. The "Beast" is a illustration of a system or cycle in the name of ideal that practices the entrapment or demise of a people. In this case of Philadelphia county, and urban America: the two always go against each other. Oil and water...polar opposites. educate yourselves to save yourselves. Utilize **constructive** resources. Actions will follow by instinct and understanding. But in the reformation of a land, or people, wisdom is the principal thing. **The nature of the beast will surely continue.**



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By evidence of what goes on in every American inner city. By propaganda of images on our national syndications. By private prison owners who need profits for their percentages. I reference the nature of this beast, on so many levels. Because as it plays the enemy in the name of the dollar, the casualty is the lives of inner city families. Philadelphia, notably a city referenced historically for independence, is in *that number*. I also reference districts as Baltimore city, notably the heroin capital of the east. An import, in a place where economic opportunity was seemingly removed, seemingly dissipated, generation after generation. Where opportunity is removed, births the “Culture of poverty”, the cash crop of criminals. **The nature of the beast will surely continue.** Any place in the country or earth where its allotted, or profitable. Here’s another example of the Alim.

"What I've been charged to do," he said, "is clean up."

The only catch? The cleanup job is running Bartram High, a school so troubled that it took the attention of a city and a host of helpers to calm things after a staff member was knocked unconscious by a student in March.

But the confident and cerebral Muhammad - a 35-year-old former Philadelphia School District math teacher and charter school assistant principal - is undaunted.

"This is perfect - just where I want to be," Muhammad said of the 1,000-student school at 67th Street and Elmwood Avenue in Southwest Philadelphia. "I fit in here."

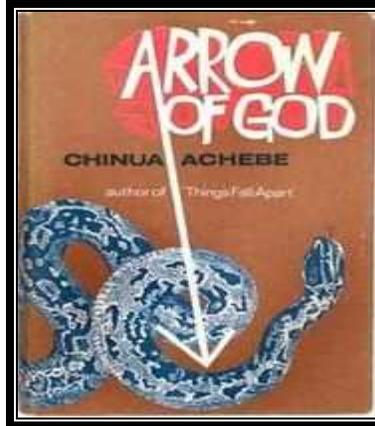
Muhammad knows a few things about struggling schools, and about good ones, having attended and taught at both kinds himself. He was born in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, N.Y., at a time when his parents rarely felt they could let their eight children play outside.

- PHILLY.COM July/2014

This excerpt, of an ongoing situation in Philly’s public schools reminds me of the late Nigerian Author *Chinua Achebe*. In the 60’s he wrote a fiction novel based on African villages leadership, and social dynamics. The book ended up being a classic entitled “The Arrow of God”:

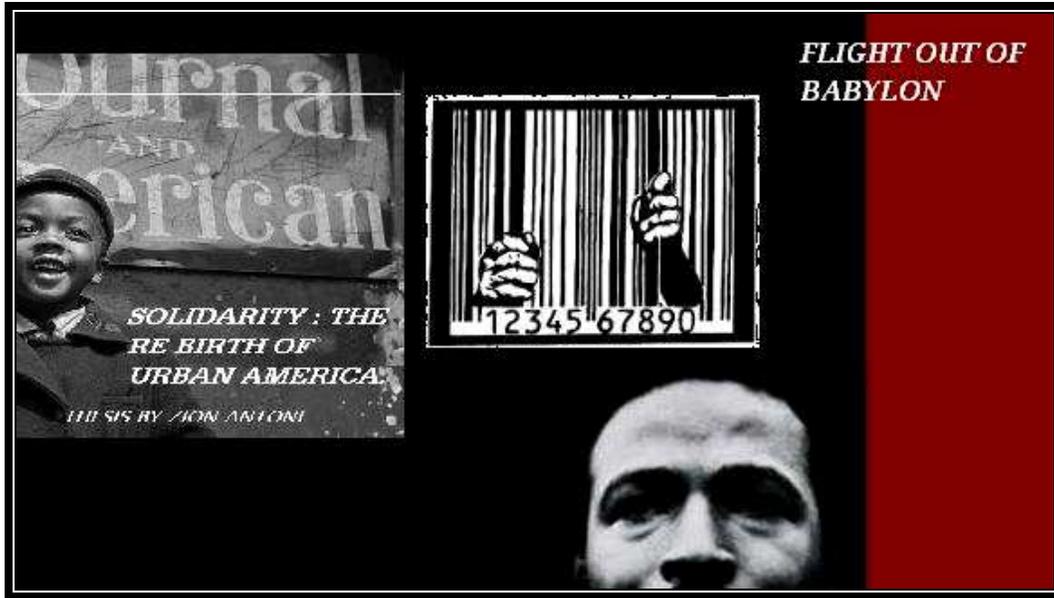


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In a sequel of novels he illustrated Brilliant work of social dynamics, with Arrow of God being a an illustration of a man, a leader in a village to be used as *“A bow and arrow in the hands of God”*. With understanding a vision Mr Muhammad can constitute this role. This brings us to education . In my years of wacthing philadelphia’ s evolution, there was a preliminar factor in entering the 21st century: the educational system. I noticed the development of charter schools, in some of the worst districts, extending to the heart of the city. Geoffery Canada, an educator re duplicated this model throughout the country, coast to coast *ie: (Waiting for Superman Film/Documentry)*. This to me has been one of the most redeeming factors, in the inner city educational system. A theme, a Dogma, Christain, Islamic, a standard, to save a generation from the product of inner city public schools. This brings me to the principle of the “Alim”: An common education to redeem those masses, afflicted by the “Beast”, from the beast. *The nature of the beast will surely continue*. This is a caveat (warning) and an invitation to the city of Philadelphia and urban America how she chooses to respond to its ugly nature. Letters to the inner city. If you choose too, arm your selves with knowledge of selves, knowledge of God, knowledge of history, knowledge of community, and knowledge of American economics; as it apply’s to *you*. Two dynamics, two structures given, and a picture of two opposing realities. The world is relatively made of political structures, industries, and institutions. A people is relatively made of its social institutions, ethnicities, societal order and the cultures and traditions that guides them. Its up to the people to produce the results of the future. In the last chapter we will understand urban America’s “Flight”, Philadelphia’s flight to a better social destination.





“I BEG GOD..MAKE A WAY FOR OUR GHETTO KIDS TO BREATHE SHOW A SIGN MAKE US ALL BELIEVE”-

TUPAC AMARU SHAKUR

The manuscript of *“Blood in my eye”*. The print of an incarcerated criminal in LA’s soledad prison, reborn as a political activist and guerilla leader. In this essay this manuscript is interpreted as the haze over a city of rich culture and politics. This word given is the charge to challenge the haze that has chipped away at generations by systems, designated and byproduct. The revolutionizing of minds to produce a better urban America is always relevant. In every generation as long the “Beast” Monopolizes, perpetuates and causes demise; by the *masses* in inner cities. This essay is a picture of the keystone’s suburbia, culture societies, municipalities; on the other side holding districts of low income and impoverished landscapes. A picture of handgun laws, lath keys, to youth in the balances, and private correctional franchises that profit off inner city masses. *Blood in my eye*. And within all the industries of Philadelphia Metropolis. Signal to re capture youth, educate beyond prison walls and create economic opportunity. Educate history and culture to counteract the culture of poverty that produces



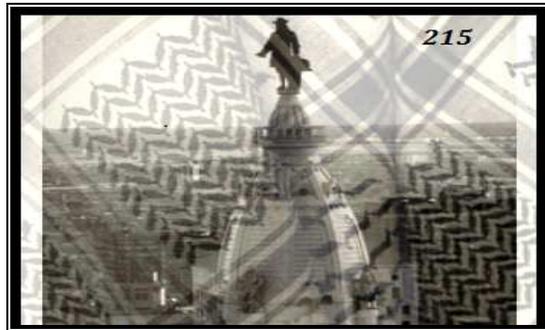
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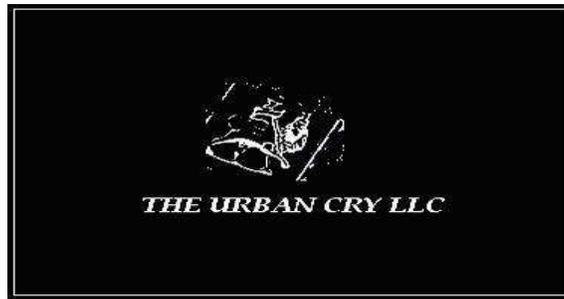
violence as a way of life to aquire food clothing and shelter.
Philadelphia, this goes back to the concern of your own blocks, regional
relationships to Municipalities. And a further clarion call to those
“conscious” of power struggle in the name of profits, and the health and
posterity of the people. The pangs of inner city struggle. From law
enforcement to juvenile facilities. *A call and caveat* to those under
William penn’s statue.

Consciously yours,

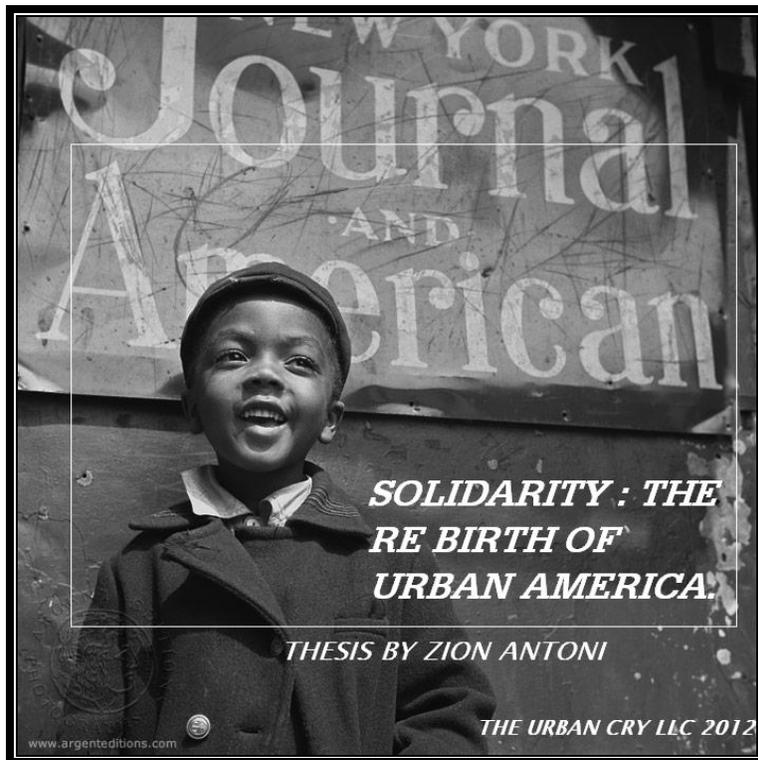
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