

Local Politics Matter

Stop Pretending

This Is Who We Are



As the number of mass shootings in the United States of America continue to accelerate our elected officials continue to be complicit. When you step back and examine what is going on in our Country it is appalling. We continue to talk about political will but I contend that it is time to center our discussions on political necessity. I am beyond being sick and tired of hearing the same rhetoric after another mass shooting. We talk about the ease of getting assault weapons, the underbelly of white hatred that exists, and the stranglehold that the National Rifle Association (NRA) has over our politicians. There is also the standard line that typically comes from the Republican side of the aisle. That line goes something like this "It is too early to talk about guns and gun control and we must not politicize these acts of violence". Well we never seem to find the right time to have the discussions about the unique American issue of mass shootings. Our politicians are very astute leaders

and one thing that they understand is that there is so much news being reported in this Country that if you simply wait out the current news cycle we go back to business as usual until the next mass shooting occurs. We have seen this time and time again. We have lived through the Las Vegas shooting where 58 innocent victims were murdered. There was also the Pulse night club where 49 were murdered, Virginia Tech where we lost 32 innocent people and finally we had Sandy Hook where 27 innocent people were murdered with most of them being young children. When our law makers failed to react immediately after Sandy Hook I knew that our Government as it is constituted would never do anything to protect the citizens of the United States of America. The interesting thing about the issue of mass shootings is that we know what it is and who is doing it. This is all about the desire to control others on the part of white men. That desire to control re-

sults in a rage that fuels white men to take the lives of innocent men, women and children indiscriminately. Mass shootings have been perpetrated overwhelmingly by white males for as long as I can remember yet we continue to ignore that issue. I have yet to hear any meaningful discussion centered on the fact that this is a white male crime. We can continue to ignore the real issue or we can deflect and talk about the need for mental health but the one thing that we cannot do is say that we don't know how to stop mass killings. Am I the only person in the United States who remembers the Black Panthers? For those who don't remember, the [Black Panthers](#) were a political organization founded in 1966 on the premise of self-defense and self-help. The organization was quickly labeled a radical organization and the Director of the FBI J. Edgar Hoover described the Black Panther party as "the greatest threat to the internal security of the country." He developed and supervised an extensive counterintelligence program ([COINTELPRO](#)) of surveillance infiltration, perjury, police harassment, and many other tactics, designed to undermine Panther leadership by incriminating and assassinating party members, discrediting and criminalizing the Party, and draining organizational resources and manpower.

The program was accused of assassinating Black Panther members, including [Fred Hampton](#). In addition to this, strict gun laws were signed and implemented in California by Governor Ronald Reagan. These actions were implemented quickly and effectively. In essence the threat of what many whites saw as Black Nationalism was quickly snuffed out. The next time you hear the media talk about white nationalism and the difficulty in opposing it remind them that we have the model. In fact, as the media and congress continue to treat white nationalism as a new phenomenon please remind them that we are the Country of the Ku Klux Klan. We are the Country of the genocide of Native Americans and lynching and legal killings of African Americans. In other words "None of this is new" and we know how to fix it.

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