

A True-Blue MANIFESTO (March-April 2021)

WELCOME!

Why are we True-Blue?

- because there are blues around 'as far as the eye can see'? it's the Universal Colour
- because we acknowledge that history has ended; we are in an a-historical moment; and HerStory and HisStory may - must - 'begin again'
- because True-Blue is fond of speaking in tongues, talking in riddles. It's all about the mystic
- because True-Blue is not a fiction. It's about higher truths.

True-Blue says:

There's a scale that begins with this -

'Trouble nothing; and be Troubled by nothing'.

The other end of the scale says this -

'Act like a raving lunatic'.

Where should you be, on that scale?

For what will you bear responsibility?

How much is required of us, to create a new political culture?

The Pandemic is not over.

The global eco-crisis is not over.

Redress of iniquity & injustice is certainly not over.

Pursuit of growth with an aggressiveness second only to cancer - that is definitely not over; even though **the International Union of Virologists has declared that the deadliest virus of the age is the so-called *laissez faire system*.**

As 2020 began the second decade of the 21st century, the horrors of a global pandemic revealed, that despite many deceits & defenses, the so-called 'Post-Colonial' Era was (and is still) mostly a theoretical proposition.

Colonisation remains the dominant ethos of 21st century politics, both in the form of *de jure* and *de facto* control by some nation-states over others, and, in humankind's prevailing tendency to assume authority ("dominion") over all entities - 'animal, mineral, or vegetable' - within their grasp.

'Late stage capitalism', another popular term for this 'globalized' historical context, was similarly stripped of much of its mystique by the COVID pandemic. The realities of 'the System' were brought to light - not for the first time, but perhaps to more people than ever: the gross social, economic, and racialized inequalities between countries, between different population cohorts within countries, and the many negative consequences for their life prospects.

Governments around the world, who either enforce or are at least complicit in sustaining these institutionalised injustices, are now struggling to contain or push back the pandemic, and its far-reaching systemic impacts - even as the legitimacy of their authority is being opened to question. The challenge of envisioning, and preparedness for a 'new normal', looms larger and larger - and seems less and less within their grasp.

Capitalistic, communistic, socialistic - ideologies in general have the objective of forceful eradication of multiple valid ways of seeing, ways of being. To shepherd us all into a single common narrative. This is the thing to be feared, the very soul's entrapment.

2020 may be commemorated as the year of being compelled to contemplate that there may have to be another way; that there must be a better way.

True - Blue knows that *while sometimes it's enough to know that you CAN get out, there will be times when actually getting out is THE ONLY right answer.*

It's up to us now, the survivors, to drag ourselves up, out of the mud.

How - do - we - want - to - be?

We have got to re-imagine!

Save the conchs, whelks, the lobsters, the corals, eh?
Treating with our wild places & wild species, by instruments like coastal mangrove belts, is like trying to control dredge fines with a barbed wire fence.

True - Blue's claim on the future, the True - Blue way, is the combined energies of all our hopes, needs, efforts, dreams.

*JOIN True-Blue! MAKE IT HAPPEN — IMAGINE THE
FUTURE WHEN WE -*

>> eliminate poverty

>> desegregate schools

>> implement universal life-long learning

>> establish 'each one teach one' classes for all ages, in all the territorial languages

>> re-fashion hospitals and clinics as wellness resource hubs

>> progressively increase territorial food production (farm to table, yay!)

>> *plant a territorial forest of fruit and hardwood trees*

>> *merge the Departments of Road Kill and Invasive Species*

>> *guarantee free wi-fi connectivity for personal uses*

>> *implement integrated policy re 1) access to the sea; 2) sea-level rise; 3) private foreshore 'ownership'*

>> *ensure minimum competencies in sailing/boat handling/ water safety across the entire population*

>> *protect: endemic species; Granny Old Well; Bluffs and caves; ironshore and mangroves*

>> *audit all Agencies for 'citizen services delivery and empowerment'*

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So - let us not look back, like Lot's wife in the Bible.

Death masks hang over the exit gate from the old regime - and no wonder!

What began with pillage gave birth to privilege, which made out that the practice of plunder must be normal.

Made a mess of our lives, and made us sing for the joy of it.

Get back to normal? No, thanks! Not the True-Blue Tribals!

Listen - when you're looking about re-imagining futures, that kind of building needs some serious spiritual scaffolding.

And mortar that's mixed up in, and poured out of, the very soul.

It's about woking a duppy - to haunt the old regime: *and they know who they are.*

From the Archive: *True-Blue's Statement on the Proposed Parliamentary Ante-Chamber ("Scenario for Lived Re-Enactment of 'the Slave-ship Experience'")*:

“(‘African chattel’) Slavery is an historical tragedy which for Caribbean people - for peoples of the so-called New World, is surely unforgettable.

The proposal is that an ante-chamber be custom-built, adjoining the floor of Parliament, built like the ship's holds in which Africans were brought to the 'New World' to be sold as slaves.

MPs would be required to lie in these spaces as the slaves would have.

This would remind them of what the hold of a slave-ship must have felt like - it would also make MPs mindful, as they're about to enter the Chamber, that they are to defend

the weak, the powerless, the vulnerable; that Parliament is to be a house of justice.

True-Blue supports this proposal in furtherance of the moral authority of Truth and Reconciliation, and would implement a New Standing Order: to require this procedure of MPs prior to each Sitting of Parliament.

Furthermore, True-Blue would add to it, as follows:

“That the Speaker, Clerk, and Sergeant-at-Arms should also join MPs; AND - That all should remain in darkness, and remain silent, until a bell is sounded.”

End of Statement