the case against socialism File PDF

The case against socialism

Socialism, as an economic and political ideology, has been debated extensively for decades. Advocates promote equality, communal ownership, and government intervention to address societal inequalities. However, a critical examination reveals numerous challenges and drawbacks associated with socialist systems. This article explores the key arguments against socialism, highlighting its potential economic, social, and political pitfalls.

Economic Inefficiency and Reduced Incentives

One of the primary concerns against socialism relates to its impact on economic efficiency and individual motivation. When resources are owned collectively and profits are redistributed, individuals and enterprises may lack sufficient incentives to innovate, work diligently, or improve productivity.

Lack of Profit Motive

- In a socialist system, profit motives are often replaced or heavily regulated by government controls.
- This can diminish entrepreneurial spirit and innovation, leading to stagnation.

Reduced Incentives for Hard Work

- When earnings are redistributed regardless of effort, individuals may feel less motivated to excel.
- This can result in decreased productivity and economic growth.

Economic Calculation Problem

Economists like Ludwig von Mises have argued that without price signals driven by supply and demand, it becomes difficult for planners to allocate resources efficiently. This often leads to shortages, surpluses, and misallocation of resources.

Historical Failures of Socialist Economies

History provides numerous examples of socialist economies facing significant challenges and failures.

The Soviet Union and Central Planning

- The centrally planned economy struggled with inefficiency, shortages, and lack of innovation.
- Eventually, the USSR faced economic stagnation, leading to its dissolution.

Venezuela?s Economic Collapse

- Venezuela?s socialist policies, including price controls and nationalizations, resulted in hyperinflation and shortages of basic goods.
- The country?s economic collapse underscores the pitfalls of heavy government intervention.

Comparative Outcomes

Many countries that attempted extensive socialist policies experienced slower economic growth compared to capitalist nations, often accompanied by increased poverty and reduced living standards.

Impact on Innovation and Technological Progress

Innovation is typically driven by competition and the prospect of profit. Socialist systems often diminish these drivers.

Reduced Competition

- Government ownership reduces competitive pressures that foster innovation.
- Monopolistic control can lead to complacency among providers of goods and services.

Limited Incentives for R&D

- In a system where profits are redistributed, the financial rewards for investing in research and development are diminished.
- This can slow technological progress and the development of new products.

Potential for Government Overreach and Loss of Personal Freedoms

Socialist policies often require extensive government control over economic and social life, which can encroach upon individual freedoms.

Risk of Authoritarianism

- Historical socialist regimes have sometimes evolved into authoritarian states.
- Centralized power can suppress dissent and limit personal liberties.

Loss of Personal Ownership and Choice

- Collective ownership means individuals have less control over their property and economic decisions.
- This can reduce personal motivation and satisfaction.

Reduced Consumer Choice

State-controlled markets may limit variety and innovation, leading to less consumer choice and satisfaction.

Economic Costs and Fiscal Challenges

Implementing socialist policies often requires significant government expenditure, which can strain national budgets.

High Tax Burdens

- Funding extensive welfare programs and public ownership often necessitates higher taxes.
- High taxes can discourage investment and entrepreneurship.

Budget Deficits and Debt

- Failed socialist economies may face mounting deficits due to inefficient resource use and declining revenues.
- This can lead to increased national debt and economic instability.

Unsustainable Welfare Systems

Generous welfare programs require continuous funding, which may be unsustainable in the long term, especially in aging populations.

Social and Cultural Impacts

Beyond economic arguments, socialism can influence social structures and cultural values negatively.

Erosion of Individual Responsibility

- Extensive welfare can reduce the motivation for self-improvement and personal responsibility.
- This may foster dependency and undermine social mobility.

Uniformity Over Diversity

- State-driven policies may suppress cultural diversity and individual expression.
- Enforcing equality can sometimes lead to the suppression of excellence and exceptional talent.

Potential for Class Conflict

While socialism aims to reduce class disparities, in practice, it can create new divisions and resentment, especially if policies are perceived as unfair or oppressive.

Conclusion: Weighing the Evidence

The case against socialism rests on concerns about economic inefficiency, historical failures, reduced innovation, loss of personal freedoms, fiscal unsustainability, and social consequences. While aims such as economic equality and social justice are noble, the implementation of socialist policies often faces significant practical hurdles. Many argue that a mixed economy?combining the strengths of capitalism with social safety nets?offers a more balanced approach to fostering economic growth, personal freedom, and social well-being. Ultimately, the evidence suggests that pure socialism, without sufficient safeguards and reforms, can lead to economic decline and loss of individual liberties, making it a less viable path forward for nations seeking sustainable prosperity.

The case against socialism has been a persistent topic of debate among economists, political theorists, and policymakers for over a century. Advocates of socialism argue that it promotes equality, reduces poverty, and ensures that essential services are accessible to all. Conversely, critics contend that socialism inherently hampers economic efficiency, stifles innovation, and can lead to authoritarianism. This article explores the multifaceted arguments against socialism,

analyzing its economic, political, social, and historical drawbacks in a comprehensive and critical manner.

Understanding Socialism: Definitions and Variants

What is socialism?

Socialism is an economic and political system characterized by collective or governmental ownership of the means of production and distribution of goods and services. Unlike capitalism, where private individuals and corporations own property and operate for profit, socialism seeks to reduce income inequality and promote social welfare through state intervention or communal ownership.

Variants of socialism

Socialism is not monolithic; it encompasses a broad spectrum of ideologies:

- Democratic socialism: Emphasizes democratic governance alongside social ownership.
- Communism: Seeks a classless society with common ownership, often associated with revolutionary upheaval.
- Market socialism: Combines market mechanisms with social ownership.
- Social democracy: Advocates for a capitalist economy tempered by comprehensive welfare states.

Despite these differences, critics often target the core principles of state control and redistribution that underpin most socialist models.

Economic Inefficiency and Lack of Incentives

Distortion of market signals

Central to economic efficiency is the functioning of market signals?price mechanisms that reflect supply and demand. Under socialism, government planning often replaces these signals with bureaucratic decision-making, leading to resource misallocation. When prices are set by policymakers rather than market forces, shortages and surpluses become common, impairing the economy?s responsiveness to consumer preferences.

Lack of individual incentives

In capitalist systems, individuals and firms are motivated by profit, which incentivizes innovation,

productivity, and risk-taking. Socialism?s emphasis on redistribution and equalization can diminish these incentives. When rewards are redistributed regardless of effort or innovation, individuals may lack motivation to excel or develop new products, leading to stagnation.

Key issues include:

- Reduced innovation due to diminished potential gains.
- Lower productivity as workers do not directly benefit from increased effort.
- Risk aversion, as individuals and enterprises are less willing to take entrepreneurial risks in a system where gains are redistributed.

Empirical evidence

Historical and contemporary analyses reveal that socialist economies often experience slower growth rates. For instance, socialist states like the Soviet Union faced stagnation and inefficiencies, while market-oriented economies have generally achieved higher growth and innovation levels.

Historical Failures and Economic Collapse

Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc

The Soviet Union?s centrally planned economy is frequently cited as a cautionary example. Despite initial rapid industrialization, systemic inefficiencies led to persistent shortages, low-quality goods, and economic stagnation. The collapse of the USSR in 1991 was partly attributed to the economic failures of its socialist model.

Venezuela and recent examples

More recent cases like Venezuela demonstrate how socialist policies?such as price controls, expropriations, and heavy reliance on oil revenues?can precipitate hyperinflation, shortages, and economic collapse. These cases underscore the fragility of economies heavily dependent on government intervention.

Lessons learned

- Centralized planning lacks the flexibility of market systems.
- Overregulation stifles entrepreneurship.
- State control often leads to corruption and inefficiency.

Political Centralization and Risks of Authoritarianism

The concentration of power

A common critique of socialism is that it often necessitates strong centralized authority to manage resources and welfare programs. This concentration of power can erode checks and balances, paving the way for authoritarian rule.

Historical evidence of authoritarian tendencies

Many socialist regimes?such as Stalinist Russia, Maoist China, and North Korea?have exhibited authoritarian characteristics, including suppression of dissent, censorship, and political persecution. Critics argue that when the state controls economic and political life, the potential for abuse increases.

Balancing democracy and socialism

While democratic socialism advocates for political democracy alongside social ownership, critics warn that the pursuit of socialism can, in practice, lead to diminished individual freedoms if not carefully managed. The challenge lies in maintaining democratic accountability within extensive government control.

Impact on Innovation and Technological Progress

Innovation under capitalism

Capitalist economies thrive on competition, which drives technological progress. Entrepreneurs and firms invest heavily in research and development to gain competitive advantages, fueling innovation.

Innovation under socialism

In contrast, socialist economies often lack the competitive pressures that incentivize innovation. State ownership and planned economies tend to prioritize stability and equality over radical innovation. Without the prospect of personal or financial gain, motivation to develop cutting-edge technologies diminishes.

Real-world implications

Historically, socialist regimes have lagged in technological advancement, especially in consumer electronics, pharmaceuticals, and information technology sectors. This stagnation hampers overall economic growth and international competitiveness.

Reduced Personal Freedom and Economic Choice

Limited consumer choices

In socialist systems, production is often dictated by central planners rather than consumer preferences. This can lead to shortages of desired goods and a lack of variety, reducing consumer freedom.

Restrictions on property rights

Socialism often entails the nationalization of property and assets, limiting individuals' ability to own and control private property. This restriction can diminish personal autonomy and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Impact on individual motivation

When economic rewards are redistributed regardless of effort, individuals may feel less motivated to work hard or innovate, leading to a decline in productivity and overall economic dynamism.

Economic Inequality and Redistribution Challenges

Reconsidering equality

While socialism aims to reduce inequality, critics argue that excessive redistribution can create disincentives to work and invest. It also risks fostering dependency on state support, undermining social mobility.

Potential for wealth redistribution to backfire

Heavy taxation and redistribution policies may discourage entrepreneurship and investment, leading to economic contraction. Additionally, bureaucratic inefficiencies in managing redistribution can result in corruption and favoritism.

Case studies

- Scandinavian countries adopt social welfare policies that balance markets and social safety nets, but they maintain strong property rights and competitive markets.
- In contrast, overly redistributive regimes like Venezuela have experienced economic decline despite attempts at equality, illustrating the complexity of achieving sustainable redistribution.

Conclusion: Weighing the Case Against Socialism

The arguments against socialism present compelling reasons to question its efficacy as an economic and political system. From economic inefficiencies and stagnation to risks of authoritarianism and diminished personal freedoms, the critiques highlight fundamental challenges inherent in implementing socialist policies at scale.

While the pursuit of social justice and equality remains a noble goal, critics contend that socialism, in its various forms, often fails to deliver sustainable prosperity or individual liberty. Instead, market-based systems?when properly regulated?are argued to better harness human innovation, allocate resources efficiently, and uphold personal freedoms.

Historical evidence suggests that economies heavily reliant on socialist principles tend to face significant hurdles, including economic decline, political repression, and technological stagnation. As such, many policymakers advocate for a hybrid approach?embracing free markets with social safety nets?rather than pure socialism.

In the ongoing debate, understanding these critical perspectives is essential for shaping policies that promote both economic vitality and social well-being. Ultimately, the case against socialism underscores the importance of balancing collective goals with individual rights, economic incentives, and institutional safeguards to foster sustainable progress.

Note: This article aims to provide a balanced, analytical critique based on historical and economic evidence. Readers are encouraged to consider multiple viewpoints to form a comprehensive understanding of the complexities surrounding socialism and its alternatives.

QuestionAnswer What are the main economic arguments against socialism? Proponents of the case against socialism argue that it can lead to inefficient resource allocation, reduced incentives for innovation and productivity, and potential stagnation due to lack of competition, ultimately harming economic growth and individual prosperity. How does socialism allegedly impact individual freedoms? Critics contend that socialism often involves increased government control over personal choices and property, which can infringe on individual freedoms and lead to authoritarian tendencies if power is concentrated excessively. What historical examples are cited in the case against socialism? Opponents often point to countries like the Soviet Union, Venezuela, and North Korea, where socialist policies are associated with economic decline, lack of political freedoms, and human rights issues, suggesting that socialism can have detrimental outcomes. Does socialism necessarily lead to higher taxes and government spending? Many argue that socialism requires higher taxes to fund expansive welfare programs and public ownership, which can burden economic growth, discourage entrepreneurship, and lead to increased government debt. Is there a consensus among economists about the viability of socialism? While some economists acknowledge potential benefits of certain social programs, the prevailing consensus among mainstream economists is that pure

socialism faces significant challenges in maintaining efficiency and long-term sustainability without market incentives. How does the case against socialism relate to current political debates? The debate often centers around the balance between government intervention and free markets, with critics warning that adopting socialist policies could undermine economic vitality and individual rights, influencing political discourse on healthcare, taxation, and social welfare.

Related keywords: socialism critique, capitalism vs socialism, economic systems, political ideologies, government intervention, free markets, economic freedom, socialist policies, market competition, economic inequality

us against you

Us Against You

Us Against You: Exploring the Dynamics of Unity and Division

us against you?these three words carry a powerful weight in human interaction,

shaping relationships, communities, politics, and even global a?airs. At its core, this phrase encapsulates a mindset that divides people into opposing camps, often resulting in con?ict, competition, or solidarity depending on the context. But what drives this dichotomy? And how does understanding the "us against you" mentality help us navigate social dynamics more e?ectively?

In this article, we will dive deep into the concept of "us against you," exploring its psychological roots, social implications, and how it manifests in various areas of life. Along the way, we?ll o?er insights into how to manage or even transcend this divide to foster healthier relationships and communities.

The Psychology Behind "Us Against You"

The phrase "us against you" taps into a fundamental aspect of human psychology?our need to belong. Humans are social creatures wired to form groups, which have historically been essential for survival. This grouping often leads to the creation of an in-group ("us") and an out-group ("you").

In-group vs. Out-group Dynamics

When we identify with an in-group, we tend to see our members more favorably, attributing positive qualities to "us" while viewing "you" or the out-group with suspicion or negativity. This psychological bias can lead to stereotyping, prejudice, and tribalism. Social psychologists refer to this as the in-group bias or intergroup bias.

For example, sports fans often experience a strong "us against you" mentality toward rival teams, passionately supporting their own while dismissing the other side. This dynamic can fuel friendly rivalry or escalate into hostility.

The Role of Identity and Belonging

Identity plays a crucial role in how the "us against you" mindset forms. People derive a sense of self from the groups they belong to?whether those are families, communities, nations, or even online groups. When these identities feel threatened, the "us against you" frame becomes a defensive mechanism. This helps explain why political or cultural debates often feel personal and divisive.

Manifestations of "Us Against You" in Society

The "us against you" mindset isn?t con?ned to individual interactions?it permeates societies and cultures, in?uencing everything from politics to social movements.

Political Polarization

In modern politics, the "us against you" framework is incredibly prominent. Political parties and their supporters often frame debates as battles between fundamentally opposed groups. This polarization can be seen in campaign rhetoric, media coverage, and public discourse, where compromise becomes more di?cult and ideological divides deepen.

While some degree of partisanship is natural, extreme "us against you" thinking can lead to gridlock, mistrust, and social fragmentation.

Social Movements and Collective Identity

On the ?ip side, "us against you" can also inspire positive collective action. Social movements often rally around a shared identity to challenge injustice or demand change, framing their cause as "us" standing up against an oppressive "you." This unity within the group can empower marginalized communities and drive societal progress.

However, it remains important to balance this solidarity with openness to dialogue to avoid alienating potential allies.

Workplace and Team Environments

In professional settings, "us against you" dynamics can both motivate and undermine teams. Healthy competition between departments or colleagues can spur innovation and productivity. But when rivalry becomes toxic, it can harm collaboration, trust, and overall organizational culture.

Leaders must be aware of these dynamics and foster environments where healthy competition coexists with mutual respect.

How to Navigate and Transform "Us Against You" Mentality

Understanding the "us against you" mindset is the ?rst step toward managing it e?ectively. Here are some strategies to help individuals and groups navigate these dynamics constructively:

Cultivating Empathy and Perspective-Taking

One of the most powerful ways to break down "us against you" barriers is to actively try to see the world from the other side?s perspective. Empathy reduces fear and misunderstanding, making it easier to ?nd common ground.

Practicing active listening, asking questions without judgment, and acknowledging others? experiences can shift the focus from confrontation to connection.

Encouraging Inclusive Language

Language shapes thought. Using inclusive and collaborative language helps to soften rigid divides. Instead of framing issues as battles or competitions, emphasizing shared goals and collective bene?ts fosters a more cooperative atmosphere.

For example, replacing ?us versus them? with ?together, we can?? sets a tone of unity rather than opposition.

Building Intergroup Relationships

Bringing people from di?erent groups together to collaborate on common projects or goals can reduce intergroup tensions. Positive intergroup contact is one of the most

e?ective ways to reduce prejudice and break down stereotypes.

Communities, schools, and organizations can create opportunities for diverse groups to interact meaningfully, promoting understanding and trust.

Recognizing the Limits of the Binary

The "us against you" mentality often oversimpli?es complex identities and situations into two opposing sides. Recognizing that people and issues exist on a spectrum allows for more nuanced understanding.

Encouraging critical thinking and questioning of assumptions helps challenge black-and-white thinking and opens the door to more inclusive solutions.

The Impact of "Us Against You" in Digital Spaces

In the age of social media, the "us against you" mentality has found new arenas to play out, sometimes with ampli?ed e?ects.

Echo Chambers and Online Polarization

Social media algorithms often show users content that aligns with their existing beliefs, creating echo chambers where "us against you" ideologies ?ourish unchecked. This can deepen divisions and foster hostility toward opposing views.

Being mindful of this e?ect and intentionally seeking diverse perspectives online can help mitigate polarization.

The Role of Anonymity and Online Behavior

Anonymity on digital platforms can embolden people to express more extreme "us against

you" sentiments, sometimes leading to harassment or toxic exchanges. Encouraging respectful discourse and holding users accountable are essential for healthier online communities.

Harnessing Online Communities for Positive "Us Against You"

Conversely, social media can also unite people around shared causes, interests, or identities, creating powerful networks of support. Activism, fundraising, and awareness campaigns often thrive on the collective energy of ?us? standing against injustice or adversity.

Why "Us Against You" Is Both a Challenge and an Opportunity

While the "us against you" mindset can lead to division and con?ict, it also reveals something fundamental about human nature?the deep desire to belong, to stand up for what we believe in, and to protect those we care about.

Recognizing this dual nature allows us to harness the positive aspects?such as solidarity and motivation?while mitigating the negative?such as hostility and exclusion.

In everyday life, whether in families, friendships, workplaces, or communities, being aware of when an "us against you" mentality is taking hold gives us the chance to pause, re?ect, and choose a more inclusive path. After all, fostering connections beyond the boundaries of ?us? and ?you? can lead to richer, more resilient relationships and societies.

So next time you catch yourself thinking in terms of "us against you," consider how shifting that perspective might open doors rather than close them?and how working together can transform opposition into opportunity.

Question

Answer

What is 'Us Against You'?

'Us Against You' is the fourth studio album by the

American post-hardcore band Touché Amoré, released in

2020.

Who are the members of

Touché Amoré featured on

'Us Against You'?

The band members featured on 'Us Against You' include

Jeremy Bolm (vocals), Clayton Stevens (guitar), Nick

Steinhardt (guitar), Tyler Kirby (bass), and Elliot Babin

(drums).

What themes are explored in

the album 'Us Against You'?

'Us Against You' explores themes of resilience, unity,

personal struggle, and the importance of community in

the face of adversity.

When was 'Us Against You'

released?

'Us Against You' was released on September 4, 2020.

How was 'Us Against You'

received by critics?

'Us Against You' received generally positive reviews, with

critics praising its emotional intensity and matured

sound.

Are there any notable guest

artists featured on 'Us

Against You'?

Yes, Julien Baker and Emma Ruth Rundle contributed

guest vocals on the album 'Us Against You'.

What are some popular

songs from 'Us Against You'?

Popular songs from 'Us Against You' include 'De?ector',

'Reminders', and 'Big Mouth'.

Where can I listen to 'Us

Against You'?

'Us Against You' is available on major streaming

platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube, as

well as for purchase on digital stores and physical

formats.

Us Against You: Exploring the Dynamics of Division and Unity in Contemporary Culture

us against you is a phrase that resonates deeply within various facets of society, from

politics and sports to entertainment and personal relationships. It encapsulates a fundamental human tendency to categorize the world into opposing groups, often fostering a sense of solidarity within "us" while simultaneously creating barriers against "you." This dichotomy, while sometimes bene?cial in building community and identity, can also lead to con?ict, misunderstanding, and polarization. This article delves into the complexities surrounding the "us against you" mentality, examining its psychological roots, cultural implications, and manifestations in di?erent domains.

The Psychological Underpinnings of "Us Against You"

At its core, the "us against you" mindset is grounded in social identity theory, which suggests that people derive a signi?cant part of their self-concept from their membership in social groups. This identi?cation encourages favoritism toward one's own group and often prejudice against outsiders. Psychologists argue that this tribalism stems from evolutionary mechanisms designed to enhance group survival.

However, the cognitive biases that fuel this mentality can also skew perceptions. Con?rmation bias, for example, leads individuals to interpret information in a way that supports their group?s perspective, reinforcing divisions. Similarly, in-group/out-group dynamics can escalate into stereotyping and even dehumanization of those perceived as "others."

Us Against You in Political and Social Contexts

In politics, the "us against you" narrative is frequently employed to galvanize support, often by framing debates as battles between fundamentally opposed camps. This strategy can be highly e?ective in mobilizing voters and creating a clear sense of purpose. However, it also risks entrenching polarization, reducing the space for nuanced dialogue and compromise.

Social movements, too, sometimes adopt an "us versus them" framework to highlight systemic issues and mobilize marginalized communities. While this can empower disenfranchised groups, it may also provoke backlash or alienate potential allies if the language becomes exclusionary.

Impact on Public Discourse

The prevalence of "us against you" rhetoric in media and social platforms has intensi?ed the fragmentation of public discourse. Algorithms that prioritize emotionally charged content often amplify divisive messaging, creating echo chambers where opposing viewpoints are rarely encountered or understood.

This environment cultivates a cycle where mistrust and animosity ?ourish, complicating e?orts to address shared challenges that require collective action, such as climate change, public health crises, and economic inequality.

Manifestations in Sports and Entertainment

Sports culture o?ers a vivid illustration of the "us against you" mentality in a more

contained and socially acceptable form. Fans rally around teams, embracing tribal identities that foster camaraderie and passion. Rivalries, whether local or international, fuel excitement and engagement, often enhancing the spectator experience.

Entertainment media, including ?lms, television, and literature, frequently exploit this binary to develop compelling narratives. Stories centered on con?ict between opposing factions tap into the audience?s innate understanding of struggle and loyalty, making "us against you" a powerful storytelling device.

Bene?ts and Drawbacks in Competitive Environments

While competition can drive excellence and innovation, the "us against you" mindset in sports and entertainment can sometimes lead to unhealthy behaviors such as hostility, exclusion, or even violence. Recognizing these risks, many organizations promote sportsmanship and respect to balance rivalry with mutual appreciation.

The Role of Technology in Shaping "Us Against You" Dynamics

Digital platforms have transformed the ways in which "us against you" attitudes are expressed and propagated. Social media, in particular, enables rapid mobilization of groups around shared identities or causes but also facilitates the spread of misinformation and divisive content.

Online anonymity and distance can embolden individuals to engage in more aggressive "us versus them" interactions than they might face-to-face. Conversely, technology also o?ers tools for dialogue, education, and bridging divides when leveraged thoughtfully.

Strategies to Mitigate Polarization Online

E?orts to counteract the negative e?ects of the "us against you" mentality in digital spaces include:

Promoting media literacy to help users critically evaluate information sources.

1.

Encouraging platforms to adjust algorithms to reduce echo chambers.

2.

Facilitating constructive conversations through moderated forums and community

3.

guidelines.

Reframing "Us Against You" for a Collaborative Future

Understanding the appeal and pitfalls of the "us against you" framework is essential to fostering more inclusive and cooperative environments. Rather than abandoning group identities, there is potential in rede?ning boundaries to encompass broader, more diverse coalitions.

Approaches such as emphasizing shared goals, encouraging empathy, and highlighting common humanity can soften rigid divides. In workplaces, communities, and international relations, shifting from adversarial stances to collaborative problem-solving may alleviate tensions born from entrenched opposition.

In sum, the "us against you" phenomenon remains a powerful and pervasive element of human interaction. Its in?uence cuts across multiple arenas, shaping behaviors,

narratives, and societal structures. Acknowledging its complexity allows for a more measured engagement with the forces of division and unity that continuously shape contemporary culture.

us against the world, team spirit, unity, solidarity, rivalry, competition, camaraderie, collective strength, group identity, mutual support

Read the full article online: Us Against You