

Do we need any more proof that heartless capitalism as an economic system has failed? Would another system work? It doesn't have to be police-state Communism. But the greed that is dug into the capitalist system imperils us all.

Because of the actions of Exxon and other companies that are dependent upon fuels from fossils, the human species might be doomed. Because of the global North's hoggishness and selfishness, the global South, who did little to contribute to this calamity, is already suffering as portions of the earth have become uninhabitable. Coastal cities might soon be underwater. The Big Trickle Down, University of Chicago?

Another problem with capitalism is that it favors the rich who can pay their employee (including those in Congress) to make things easier for them like they don't have to pay taxes. MSNBC's Chris Hayes portrays Joe Manchin as a man of integrity. Except for Joy Reid and a few others, the media can't call out Joe Manchin as a recipient of money from the coal industry- a man for whom his fortune is more important than the health of the species- because they get money from the same sectors.

Fortunately, *Konch* has writers and thinkers whose talents haven't been bought by streaming services and cable. Who can tell the truth about the millions who've been indeed left behind, whether they be the homeless in Manhattan and Los Angeles, the disabled and their underpaid caretakers, or Blacks who have less access to vaccinations than other ethnic groups in the population? Or whether they are Haitians who get trampled by horseback at a "border," a creation of the United States which held a gun to the head of the anti Slavery Mexican government and made them sign a treaty that they couldn't refuse.

If the image of Haitians being trampled by racists on horseback reminds us of blacks being returned to slavery by Lee's army as it retreated from Pennsylvania, the two images, one from *Harper's Weekly*, remind us of the times in which we live. A political party, the Republican Party, that wants to restore antebellum America. Donald Trump, their leader, praises Robert E. Lee, who was as sick as he is. Though the Republicans are a problem, Neo-Liberal Brent Stephens, a clueless Skull and Bones type, discourages sending more aid to Haiti. Unlike the *Times*, where he writes, we have a Haitian writer who talks about the billions that have been taken out of Haiti.

Joseph Anderson reminds us that know-it-all progressives can be as much a pain in the ass as the right and Neo-liberals.

C.J. Singh tells us that Lord Krishna was black, an admission you won't find from white wannabe Indians at *The Nation*, *The Times*, *The Paris Review*, *The New Yorker*, and other places where the white literary establishment has designated them the latest literary patrollers of Black Literature. Once again, The Times' Book Review editor Pamela Paul has bypassed Black critics in favor of what C.J. Singh would call a "British trained," Indian critics. On March 13, 2015, this trend began when feminist Paul hired Pankaj Mishra to take down Richard Wright. Julia Wright answered him in *Konch*. The latest Indian critic, Karan Mahajan, is a volunteer Black feminist. He complains that there is not enough "misogyny and sexual assault" in Colson Whitehead's "Harlem Shuffle," the subject of his ignorant review. "Misogyny and sexual assault abound in India," where women are still enslaved. I write about it in my novel, "Conjugating Hindi."

Once again, we have a substantial poetry section featuring poetry from Margaret Porter Troupe's Gloster Project. For her efforts, Troupe receives this year's PEN Oakland Adele Foley Award given to those who have done the most to improve literacy. We have Russell Leong's eulogy to Janice Mirikitani, who did everything for the poor that Jesus said you should do. My last exchange with Horace Mungin was September 12, 2021. He acknowledged a blurb I sent for his anthology *Ukweli: Searching for Healing Truth, South Carolina Writers and Poets Explore American Racism*. I was shocked to learn that the Grand Old Gullah Griot of South Carolina storytelling had died. We print an excellent excerpt from the anthology, Karen Chandler's original insight into the origins of Jazz.

Ishmael Reed