
Cycles of Oppression

oppression is a cycle, not a single act

What is Oppression

Well, based on the Cambridge dictionary:

oppression

noun [U]

UK  /ə'preʃ.ən/ US  /ə'preʃ.ən/

oppression *noun* [U] (RULE)

Add to word list 

a situation in which people are governed in an unfair and cruel way and prevented from having opportunities and freedom:

Forms of Oppression

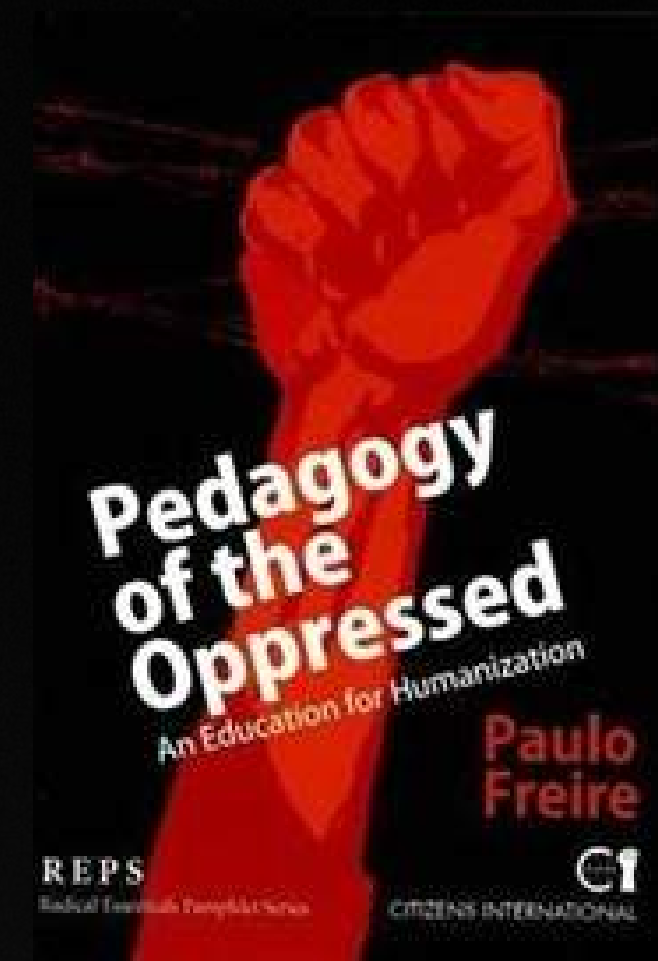
based on Paulo Freire...

Control of humanity:

- dehumanization, violence/exploitation, possessive consciousness

Control of thought:

- prescription, banking education, manipulation



Forms of Oppression

Continued...

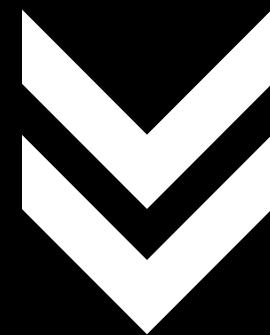
Control through division:

- divide and rule, horizontal violence, fatalism

Control through identity:

- false generosity, alienated attraction, conquest, cultural invasion

Oppressor



Oppressed

oppressor



oppressed

Why can't the oppressed liberate themselves?

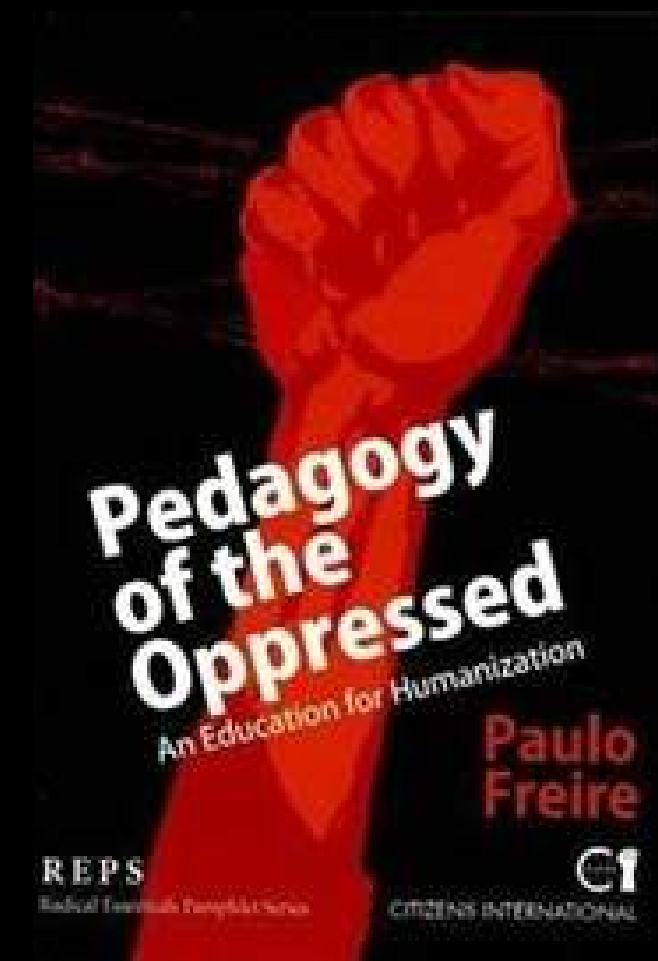
based on Paulo Freire...

Internalized oppression:

- their thought is structured by the oppressor; they cannot clearly see the oppressor as outside themselves

Imitation instead of liberation:

- they often aspire to become the oppressor rather than abolish oppression; even in revolution, the shadow of the oppressor remains



Why can't the oppressed liberate themselves?

Continued...

Fear and resignation:

- fear of freedom, conformity, and feeling incapable of risk keep people attached to oppression

Divided consciousness:

- they are split between themselves and the oppressor; they are “hosts” of the oppressor, so awareness must become action

Know nothing



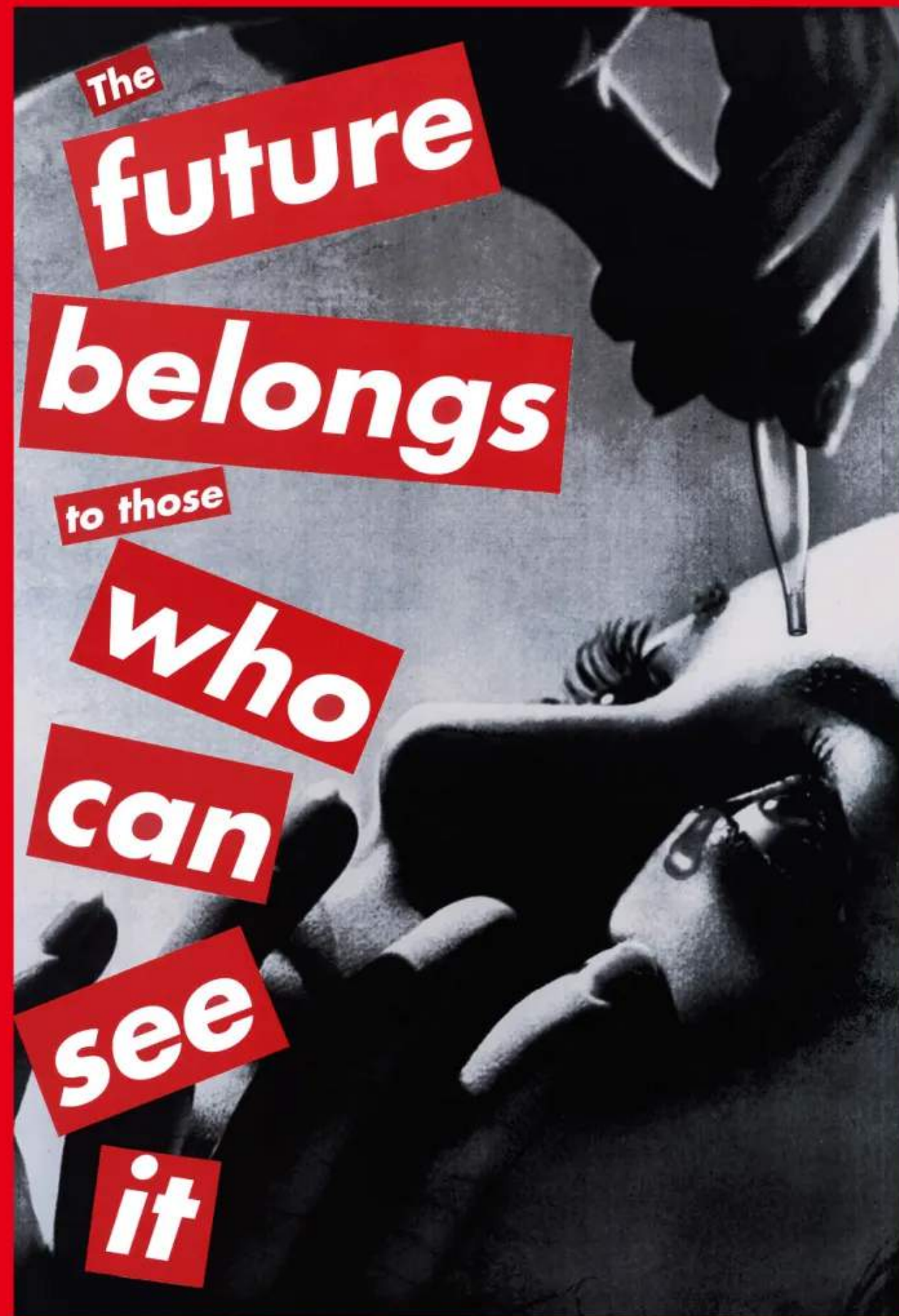
Believe anything



Forget everything



We have received orders
not to move



Barbara Kruger (American, b. 1945)
Untitled (The future belongs to those who can see it)
1997
From the Chris and Dori Carter Collection
© Barbara Kruger



photo © philipp j. bösel



Leyla Yenirce
Nacht. Schlaf. Die Sterne., 2021



Leyla Yenirce
Nacht. Schlaf. Die Sterne., 2021

Cycle of Oppression (name to be changed):

a pattern that sustains itself across bodies, generations, and roles. The oppressed don't just suffer the pattern; they reproduce it. That's what makes it a system, not just a series of events.