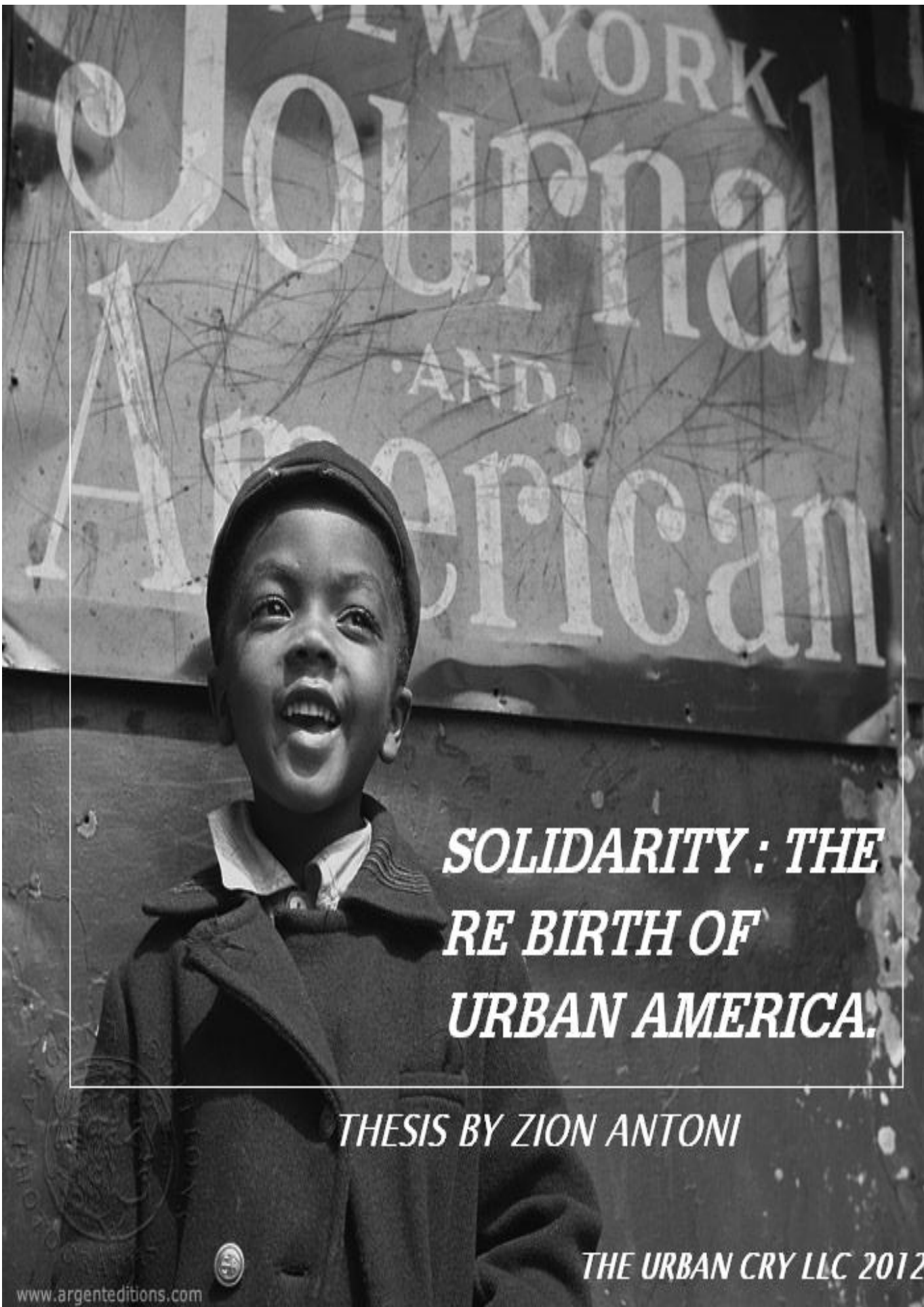


APPROVED

THE URBAN CRY LLC 2012



***SOLIDARITY : THE
RE BIRTH OF
URBAN AMERICA.***

THESIS BY ZION ANTONI

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SOLIDARITY : THE REBIRTH OF URBAN AMERICA

I. ROLEPLAY

“Statistical data is abundant that the criminal justice system, from profiling, arrest, and sentencing, impacts Black/Afrikan and Latino defendants the harshest, and the death penalty is, of course, no exception.”-

Sister Angela Davis



Post the year of our Lord Two thousand and twelve. Early in the game, current events still grip those of us that rest on this soil, the United States of America. The breadbasket of pop-culture, natural resources, one of the world's greatest imperialist power of the western hemisphere. In the state of the capitalism, our reigning democracy, the left and the right wing, and the burning issues we face, we take yet another look into our nations backyard: the urban plight, magnifying the scope of our “Minority” population. As an independent recording artist and grassroots based freelance journalist/publisher, I have developed an ever widening view of hip-hop music, all genres of music, and the sum of American pop cultural influence. Enough to see a bird's eye view of its imperative socio-political value. Along with my independent studies of religion, philosophy, political science, and sociology, being raised in the urban plight of America, I come from quasi-religious instruction. Which over time and experience developed into a faith based worldview, apart from religious institution, that seeks a liberated existence and equality for every social landscape. In this essay I approach its discourse with the rich weight of the African Diaspora, every Diaspora within urban America, and socio-economics. Beneath legislative and judicial hangars, in spite of ethnic, racial and religious difference, apart from the dividing lines of Classism, we look at urban solidarity: Strengthening the ties that bind within urban America for present day social reformation, and greater livelihood for future posterity.

The Roleplay. I began this essay with personal references from the elements of my own life. Hailing from rudiments of urban America I personally see need for reparations from generational blights, and social reformation. My developing perspective of Urban liberation Theology(A theology of liberation within the many facets of urban America and abroad), came from fundamentals of liberation theology, with goals to understand and bring resolves to institutional and social oppression. As well as personal community/conflict. Incorporated within my own life were academic studies: Alma maters of Pan African interests, the Diaspora, Pre-seminary historical understanding of ancient texts, sociology, and Kumet (Egyptian) social ethics and historic influence (ie: Dr. Maulana Karenga). My independent studies included political science, urban studies, the economy, philosophy, religion, Media, and basics of the American judicial system. This may to most be much under any man's belt,

But I personally believe in the practice of independent study, not holding the ladders of American Academia as the sole source of education. I believe especially as a man of color in America, to study, is to liberate two fold: yourself and others.

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” Hosea 4:6 KJV

All my experience as a man now in his early thirties. The good, the misfortunate, and the tragic of urban America. My incorporation of the studies I previously mentioned, I believe were 100% essential for my advocacy of social consciousness, freelancing internationally, and as a grassroots social reformist. I also write this essay as a brief biography of myself, my personhood, passion, and contribution to the constructive, collective consciousness toward urban America.

Why?

Some within urban America, who witness middle to lower class socio-economic suffering, of all nationalities and ethnic groups understand this condition as a way of life, *the* way of life. Although some, within these conditions, and most apart from these conditions who witness it via media, cultural stereotype, and by means of exploitation, ask: why challenge these social issues? Is it profitable, is it worth it? We don't understand why these conditions are perpetuated, celebrated, exploited. We just understand it simply has... been, what it has been. To start off, those conscious of fundamentals, the ancestors(living and deceased), and current elders have fundamental understanding as to what a family structure is, what community strength is, and what ultimately living to benefit a society's posterity will take. In my 2011 essay, “Spirituality in urban America” I elaborate on the return to general fundamentals to save our urban youth, to re instate and re habilitate(those who want it) the pre dominantly African American, but multi ethnic incarcerated population. To understand spirituality, principle, and the purpose of family unit. In grassroots innovation, its called faith based initiative. In some African American communities, the Five percent nation call it redeeming the “cream of the planet”. In radical Christianity, its called social Gospel. By historic account, ancient North African (Egyptian) culture, there were social ethics that held up a society, more than likely in those times governed by a Monarchy. Though even in great north African kingdoms, commerce included trade, a kingdom tax, slavery, and precious jewels, more than likely in most thriving kingdoms the land honored and lived by an ideal; a moral code of ethics, principle. From ethics of the “master builder” the builder, mathematics, and the law of the land. Thus, 2012. Apart from legislative seats, And Judicial practice, those among civilians and grassroots leaders are provoked to take action when:

- ⌘ **The lucrative, international drug trade decimates our American Black/Latino communities, enslaving by addiction and capitalizing through incarceration through the prison industrial complex.**
- ⌘ **Our schools are burdened with violence, confusion, unrest, metal detectors, and a curriculum that does not edify their nationality, collective purpose or redeem the broken ties in their communities.**
- ⌘ **When communities (youth and young adults) are left to criminal enterprise as the only source to social empowerment; let alone, self worth and self knowledge, that lead them to long term incarceration, and early graves.**
- ⌘ **When economic problems via the economy, crime, poverty, and ethnic groups arise in urban America, and they are perpetuated for profits and further systematic control.**
- ⌘ **When numbers fall high in statistics from urban America to incarceration, death, exploitation and communal/societal degradation; opposed to societal development, pioneering, cultural attributes, and securing posterity.**

Facts in an open display. To some within urban America and conscious of its plight, im stating the obvious. To some, I collectively approach a pre existing condition, to well known to America, and the world. My worldview is faith based, my contribution is directed among a collective consciousness of *solidarity*: strengthening the ties that bind in society. In this case, this concerns urban America, coast to coast. I plant seed, to strengthen the ties that bind by culture, media and communications, politics, education, community development, and establishing the foundations of administrative councils that nurture the first institution: *Family*. Every institution in urban America follows suit. Brian Porter, A friend of mine hailing from the Philadelphia metropolis, which is in progressive process of social reformation, explained to me that the greatest problem contributing to youth violence, and social unrest in urban America, including Philadelphia, is the educational system. Being as this statement rings true due to the fact most inner city public schools as an institution seemingly houses the youth; it also houses social conflicts, and the confusion of urban America. Violence, down to a broken family dynamic. Social reformers as myself(The Urban cry LLC), examples as my Alma mater and mentor, Yumy Odom (director of the Frator Heru Institute in Philadelphia), contribute in reforming education: grassroots, academic, and culturally. Charter schools that indicate moral and academic ideal, have also reshaped the urban American landscape. As it was in the sixties, social reformation is necessary among all institutions of urban America, for the greater benefit of people of color and all people. Grassroots and political Reformism will create change; taking the bulk of America's hopeless drowning in the sea of their own communities, and re structuring the population to a polar shift: creating avenues for personal, communal and societal change. Practicing the art of issuing forth knowledge, wisdom, understanding and opportunity, to restore a people. Even naturally in the face of a system that may not support their interests. Its important to tell the story of urban America as a Revisionist. The real story. In truth, and in a against-the-grain optimism, to learn from the struggles of this generation, and prepare a foundation for the next.



I publish this work as my informal dissertation; a grassroots thesis, a summary of an extension of my grassroots contribution to the urban plight. The fundamental ties that bind still remain. Ethics, spirituality, educational reform, economic reform, grassroots initiative, organizing, constructive rites of passage for the youth, and a constant state of awareness for our portion of America, urban America, to whom it may concern, will always create challenge to counter productive elements in urban America. Urban America are those in our country, in our major and secluded metropolis', that are grouped under "minorities", suffer casualties of social and digital lynching; those that are exploited by the prison industrial complex, the military industrial complex, and that are capitalized by the system by illegal enterprise. In this portion of America, this saga of America, those that understand its conflicts and casualties understand what we have, is us. What we have is community, and the Diasporas thereof. And thus we strive to preserve that which we have. The ancestors of the past, practiced solidarity, organized international institutions as Pan-Africanism(Garveyism), N.A.A.C.P(W.E.B Dubois), and black Nationalism throughout the 19th and twentieth centuries to strengthen identity, purpose and basic survival among the Diaspora on American soil. In my developed worldview, solidarity is a principle imperative for people of color, and other. Solidarity implemented culturally, economically, and socially, in this American Class system, is vital: especially among middle to lower classes. American Currency, can be used through capitalism to harness success; but at the same time within American class system to *divide, and conquer*. This grassroots thesis is foundational in definition, to what I, Zion Antoni subsequently release and publish to date, independently through The urban cry LLC. Solidarity is a thesis, a purpose, solidified by research, concern and experience; to urban America's perpetual degradation, monopolization, and marginalization. Along with the tireless effort of scholarly method. The African Diaspora cries out as a body in America. Latino communities and concerns converge on this soil. All ethnicities under the banner of urban America and abroad culturally, petition and desire freedom, justice, and equality. My friend in this state of urban America, with institutional beasts, the monstrous, lucrative drug trade, and a educational hub that houses a dying generation? We consult, and practice the ways, and means, of solidarity.

Consciously yours,

Z.A



*The Urban Cry LLC 2012
Chairman Zion Antoni
www.zionantonispeaks.com*