

Ishmael Reed: Listen, I want to ask you about the second Civil War. Do you think this is media hype?

Gerald Horne: I don't think it's media hype. That does not necessarily mean that a second Civil War is approaching. Still, I believe that rhetoric and verbiage should alert us to the reality that the right wing is on the march, and you see this in the Oath Keepers trial in Washington. In the recent revelation, one of the Proud Boys suggested that he had been in contact with the secret service before January 6th. You see this concerning the election denialists coming to have hegemony in the Republican party. So there are many dangers and troubling signs. Now, whether or not it leads the Civil War is another question, but I think that rhetoric should even alert the witness that something dangerous is afoot.

Ishmael Reed: The neoliberal columnists like David Brooks and Bret Stephens and some other people writing for the *Atlantic Monthly* and *The New Yorker* and all those magazines got it wrong. Election deniers are not left behind people. The demographics of those people who invaded the capital indicate that they were middle-class people. Police officers and firefighters. Do you think these people will give up their pensions, IRAs, and long-term care insurance for civil war?

Gerald Horne: I've lived in Zimbabwe and wrote a book on Rhodesia and the war that led up to the independence of 1980. And that same issue went forward in Rhodesia because the European minority- they had a good life basically, but they did not want to yield anything. It's just like the enslavers before the US Civil War. They were overconfident, so they made a riverboat gamble and lost everything. So I agree that those at the cutting edge of this ongoing sedition have much to lose. But I also think that they may not have a grip on the balance of forces nationally, or perhaps they know something that I don't know and feel that they can push the political spectrum further to the right and enrich themselves.

Ishmael Reed: They were armed with AK 47s and weapons of war when they invaded the capitol. They didn't use them.

Gerald Horne: Plus, they, as you know, from the Oath Keepers trial, they had stored across the river in Virginia, and they constructed a gallows on Capitol Hill, and this was a severe event.

Ishmael Reed: Yeah, but they went home when that woman got shot.

Gerald Horne: Eventually, they did go home. But I don't think that that should reassure us because I think part of the problem now is that up until today, there hasn't been that stiff punishment against those who were involved in sedition. Now, that may change with the Oath Keepers trial, with the appending prosecution of some of the Proud Boys, but I think that when people engage in the kind of outrageousness that these folks did, they're not severely punished; that's a pass.

Ishmael Reed; Don't you think the government and the media are soft on White crime and soft on White pathology?

Gerald Horne: Of course. This is the United States of America.

Ishmael Reed: The CDC came out with an interesting fact that for the first time, the White life expectancy rate is lower than the Black life expectancy rate because of Fentanyl and COVID denial, vaccine denial, and all that. I wrote the *Times* asking whether some of their neoliberal columnists would comment on that White pathology as they do on so-called Black pathology, which is a big racket that earns billions of dollars for TV.

Gerald Horne: Don't hold your breath. Look at Bret Stephens. This guy dares to say that all you have to do is get rid of Trump, and everything will be fine.

Ishmael Reed: But he said at one point that Democrats should apologize to Trump because Stephens got deceived by the Mueller report or Attorney General Barr's spin on the Mueller report. Based on Barr's spin, Democrats should apologize to Trump.

Gerald Horne: I think Bret Stephens should apologize to his readers.

Ishmael Reed: I write for Haaretz in Israel, and they're very hard on people like Jewish scribes and columnists like Bret Stephens. They feel that they're appeasing anti-Semites.

Gerald Horne: Well, sure. Bret Stephens is one of the foremost defenders of building the wall. If I'm not mistaken, he has some ancestral roots in Mexico.

Ishmael Reed: They do have race science quacks like David Brooks and John McWhorter writing for the Times.

Gerald Horne: Oh, God.

Ishmael Reed: John McWhorter said that Blacks should be gene-spliced or given a serum to raise their IQ. And he has a regular column at the Times.

Gerald Horne: Well, of course. McWhorter, his presence at the *Times* is quite telling. For example, I cannot imagine the *New York Times* hiring a columnist whose major portfolio is attacking the American Jewish community. Yet, his major portfolio, other than playing around with words and semantics, is attacking black people.

Ishmael Reed: He echoes Nazi racial theories about Blacks.

Horne: And, of course, he's meant to countervail Charles Blow. That's his job.

Ishmael Reed: Well, Blow's pretty timid. One last thing. I wrote about how Blacks have always fought back when pressed by White nationalism. You know, the Red Summer 1919, and even earlier than that. Did you read that gun sales to Blacks have risen 58%?

Gerald Horne: Yeah, yeah. I've been giving interviews about that.

Ishmael Reed: Okay. So that's different from the last Civil War. This time Blacks are armed. Is that correct?

Gerald Horne: Well, indeed, if you look at the N A C and Kentucky, which of course, come under the scrutiny of the authorities in Kentucky, and if you look at the proliferation of gun clubs, and if you look at the anecdotal evidence about Black people being armed, but I'm not sure if we have the organizational infrastructure to repel the powers, the Oath Keepers, the three percenters, the Michigan Militia, and the Armed Forces and Police Departments and National Guard and Secret Service.

Ishmael Reed: So you think that they can fight everybody, Muslims, Blacks, Chicanos, women, they would succeed?

Ishmael Reed: I don't think so, but you hear the hesitance in my voice. It's just like the Civil War. It was predictable in 1861 that they were going to lose. But 700,000 people died. Right. So that's how I feel today, that it may be predictable that they won't prevail, but look at the costs.

Ishmael Reed: The United States would never recover from a second Civil War.

Gerald Horne: Well, it recovered from the first one. I don't want to begin to speculate along those lines.

Ishmael Reed: Gerald, thanks for this. This is great. Thank you very much. Take care. Thanks a lot.

Gerald Horne: Good luck.

Ishmael Reed: Okay. You too.

Gerald Horne: Bye-Bye.