

# OWS :

## Protesting for Chains

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It is not very difficult to understand the motivations of protesters. Sure, you may not agree with their goals, but we all feel angry sometimes and we seek after some target or some force which has 'done us wrong'. As a child, I would stub my toe while walking and cast great gazes of anger and rebuke towards the guilty rock. I would swear and compel the rock to apologize with my intonation. But, nevertheless, the rock simply does nothing. The rock was a convenient target for my rage against the unfairness of existence. The rich are the target of 'occupy wallstreet'.

There is a problem though. You will, eventually, run out of rich people to punish. There are simply more of us non-rich folks than there are the 'super-evil-rich'. As with most movements, the occupiers will shift their gaze towards the next convenient and acceptable victim. Those protesters, as with the 'cultural revolution' in China or the Russian revolution (or the French revolution) will simply turn on each other (eventually and some would say it is already happening) and make their next phase a bloody one.

But it is the content of their anger that worries me most. As someone who is a kind of libertarian, I shudder at the empty vague 'needs' coming forth from the crowd and I wonder how few steps there are on this way - this 'road to serfdom'. These 'needs' feel like worthy and justified demands that can only be met (at least this is the theory) by harnessing the power of the state. The state is expensive (they don't worry about this), the state is brutal and blunt (this too does not phase them), the state is devoid of reason or morality (this pleases them most). If the state is the tool for the 'occupiers', then it is not hard to see or envision what police control would be necessary to achieve these goals.

It is easy to laugh, to take in jest, the comments of these protesters. They are people not unlike ourselves, many of them are trapped in personal nightmares and are being

wafted about by the realities of daily life. They are students who worry about their chances, they are recent graduates without jobs, they are moms and dads whose kids need food, clothes, homes. Yes, it is easy to understand their plight. I can understand. I have been out of work twice in the last 24 months - both times by my own choosing and therefore without the security blanket of government help. The last time I was out of work was a result of resigning from a government job that seemed to be more about corruption and cronyism than anything else - I walk my words.

It is easy to laugh and to cry when we see these folks. But, in the darkness of night, I see the germination of the 'mob'. We are living in a time when people will be asked to exchange their freedom for security. Ordinary Americans will be asked to sacrifice their remaining rights upon the altar of 'social justice' and 'jobs programs'. This mob may seem innocuous now, but in a few months (by the summer definitely) I fear this mob will grow teeth.

They believe they are fighting for benefits and help - when in fact they are really fighting for greater control, less freedom and shallow promises. 'Occupy Wall Street' is a confused protest movement, but its very confusion is what makes it dangerous - its vague ethos makes it ripe for manipulation by the demagogues.