

Step Up the Struggle to Defeat Brett Kavanaugh— On the Right Terms, in the Right Way

Four Points of Orientation

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1 The past week has seen an outpouring of countless women speaking the bitterness of their experience of rape, sexual abuse, shaming, and all the rest of the horrifyingly pervasive and putrid social relations of this society around women *and* giving expression to powerful desire to see this ended. The fury of having to live as slaves, as playthings, as objects, as mere things to be used and abused... your most intimate sense of yourself and your body invaded and trampled on, and then to be ignored and mocked and condescended to, shouted over and belittled and rendered voiceless to boot... all this has come spilling out. The pressure is volcanic, the eruption has only begun, and this is far from an “America only” problem.

We need a whole new world. We need a world where the millennia-old, deeply seated oppression of women—the oppression that came into being with the first division of humanity into exploiter and exploited, oppressor and oppressed—is finally done away with the only way it can be: as part of uprooting and abolishing *all* relations of exploitation and oppression. You cannot vote out of office an oppression woven into the very fabric of the system this government was built to protect. You cannot end this oppression by going into boardrooms of banks and corporations that exploit and enchain women all over the world, feeding off their subordinate position. You can’t defeat the oppressor by playing the oppressor’s game.

To get to that new world we need a revolution: an overthrow of the existing system and the building of a new one. The possibility of such a world is *real*. It can be seen in the *Constitution for the New Socialist Republic in North America*, by Bob Avakian. And it can be won by getting with the movement *for* revolution that he leads, a revolution that takes the emancipation of women as its cornerstone. As Bob Avakian has said,

You cannot break all the chains, except one. You cannot say you want to be free of exploitation and oppression, except you want to keep the oppression of women by men. You can’t say you want to liberate humanity yet keep one half of the people enslaved to the other half. The oppression of women is completely bound up with the division of society into masters and slaves, exploiters and exploited, and the ending of all such conditions is impossible without the complete liberation of women. All this is why women have a tremendous role to play not only in making revolution but in making sure there is all-the-way revolution. The fury of women can and must be fully unleashed as a mighty force for proletarian revolution. (*BASics* 3:22)

2 Let’s look again at what Brett Kavanaugh represents politically and the tremendous harm he has already done and the even greater harm he will do if he becomes part of the Supreme Court. He played a key role in the Christian-fascist driven impeachment of Bill Clinton, in getting George W. Bush illegitimately into office despite losing the popular vote, in Bush’s torture and warrantless wiretapping, in grooming other fascist judges for the court, and more. This pig, once on the Supreme Court, will move to reduce women to essentially being wombs in the name of being “pro-life,” and he will move to gut gay rights and critical thinking and dissent, minority voting rights and due process, environmental regulations and protections against surveillance, and anything else that gets in the way of the fascist juggernaut. He will move to *protect* executive power, the prerogatives of capital, police impunity, and anything else that fits the needs of the fascist project now attempting to consolidate itself. Look at his record—the proof is there; the performance last Thursday only put an exclamation point to it.

Kavanaugh’s whole history and stand make clear *the fundamental and essential reasons that this monster must be kept off the Supreme Court*. Because this nomination is so freighted, it has exacerbated the divide between those who are moving to install fascism and those elements within the ruling class trying to prevent it. As evidenced by Senator Jeff Flake’s sudden switch of position on Friday, things are now in a great deal of turmoil. In this situation, people must fight harder than ever to prevent Kavanaugh’s ascension to the Supreme Court, on the basis of repudiating his fascist record and program—which is, after all, *why* Trump nominated him—and in a way that is linked to defeating and driving from power the whole fascist Trump/Pence regime and juggernaut he is part of.

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3 *How we fight our battles is critically important. There must be a unity between our means and ends.*

Specifically, it is not right, and will lead to a *very bad* place, to adopt a standard where all accusations are treated as proof of guilt. Just think for a second about who has paid *and who will pay* a horrendous price when that standard is adopted. Just because an accusation corresponds to a very widespread social phenomenon—that millions and millions of women are sexually assaulted and that the overwhelming majority of accusations are truthful—does NOT mean that every single accusation is true. Getting to the truth requires a serious and open-minded sifting of concrete evidence. This is in opposition to the stand of believing all victims no matter what, which has become not just a rallying cry but something of a litmus test.

This is in stark opposition to the view put forward by liberals like Chris Hayes of MSNBC who said, after the Thursday hearings, “It all comes down to who you believe.” No, it does *not*—and it *should not!* Is that *really* the kind of world we should want to live in? A society where guilt or innocence is determined by who is more “believable” on television? It should not take more than a minute or two to think of the potential for abuse and ultimately real horrors involved in that: If standards of truth go out the window, then who and what is and is not to be believed will ultimately be settled by whoever has the most power. Let’s not forget that this is America, where the words of white women were used to lynch innocent Black men in the not-so-distant past and where, as this is written, the testimony of cops who murder Black people is deemed more “believable” by mostly white juries than eyewitness accounts of people in the area and even unambiguous videotape.

That is the world we live in now, but it should NOT be the world we want.

Further, there is a question of how to evaluate a person’s past. Here, the decisive question is *not* what someone did as a youth but what has been the subsequent arc of their life. There are reasons that juvenile records are supposed to be sealed. The reasons have to do with the fact that younger people are unformed and without the capacities of adult judgment and that their adult lives should not be dogged and marred by what they did when they were not in a position to be fully responsible for their actions. In the case of juvenile offenses, the larger society’s right to know does NOT trump the right of the individual, even if a larger social good may be sacrificed.

For these reasons, as we have written before, “the question should not be if they did bad things as a youth, but have they fundamentally confronted and broken with that—or have they continued in the same essential direction? In the case of Kavanaugh, these facts are beyond clear: whatever he did (or did not) do as a teenager, as a full-grown man he has been a major player in strengthening patriarchal oppression and in driving forward the overall fascization of the U.S.—and this is true no matter how many women who knew him way-back-when say that he was a polite teenager, or whether Dr. Blasey’s accusation proves to be true or not. It is for these reasons that Kavanaugh must be opposed or defeated.”

4 *Where will and where **should** all the fury that has poured forth now go?*

Will the pent-up fury felt by millions and millions against the oppression and degradation of women be a powerful fuel in the fight to put an end to the culture and system that gives rise to this nightmare? Will it drive people to look *deeper*—at the *roots of all this* in the system of capitalism-imperialism that rules over us? And, to aim higher—at a world free of all divisions into oppressors and oppressed, exploiters and exploited, masters and slaves?

Or, will this fury drive the oppressed themselves even more blindly *into* this world of nightmarish horrors? Will people not just wrongly accept as permanent this world of oppression and dehumanization of one group by another, but *actively revel in this by aiming no higher than for a chance at revenge*? Will it get spent on pulling down one or two monsters, while the monstrous system remains intact?

The history books and headlines are full of just struggles that ended up with those who once fought and sacrificed for freedom going for revenge for them and theirs, and then for *their* chance to “have a go at it,” and screw everyone else. That’s NOT inevitable—but it will take a struggle from the very beginning and all the way through against the strong pulls that take people there... pulls already manifesting in the struggle right now. How we answer these questions *right now* even in this seemingly initial stage—and *in an ongoing way* as we go forward—will have great bearing on whether humanity is emancipated or simply sinks deeper into the nightmare.

Let’s make this week a time to step up the battle against the attempt to put Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court and against the whole regime, to build the movement for revolution, and to plunge into the debate over the problem we face and the solution to it.

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