

# Syllabus For Peace Addendum: Abolition Edition

Main Article in question: **“Yes, We Mean Literally Abolish the Police” Mariame Kaba (June 2020)**  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/12/opinion/sunday/floyd-abolish-defund-police.html>

See below for sources I consulted in the development of this workshop, and pieces that inform my work. I have provided excerpts I find particularly relevant to abolition and meditating on it. We will not have time to address them specifically during the workshop, but feel free to use these to contextualize the topic, bring to your breakout group, or explore afterwards. This is by no means an exhaustive list. Thank you! - Malkia Okech

## **“Further considerations on Afrofuturism” (2003) Kodwo Eshun**

[https://www.kit.ntnu.no/sites/www.kit.ntnu.no/files/KodwoEshun\\_Afrofuturism\\_0.pdf](https://www.kit.ntnu.no/sites/www.kit.ntnu.no/files/KodwoEshun_Afrofuturism_0.pdf)

*Imagine a team of African archaeologists from the future—some silicon, some carbon, some wet, some dry—excavating a site, a museum from their past: a museum whose ruined documents and leaking discs are identifiable as belonging to our present, the early twenty-first century. Sifting patiently through the rubble, our archaeologists from the United States of Africa, the USAF, would be struck by how much Afrodiasporic subjectivity in the twentieth century constituted itself through the cultural project of recovery. In their Age of Total Recall, memory is never lost. Only the art of forgetting. Imagine them reconstructing the conceptual framework of our cultural moment from those fragments. What are the parameters of that moment, the edge of that framework?*

## **“Black is Crime: Notes on Blackqillegalism” (February 2020)**

<http://hoodcommunist.org/2020/02/13/black-is-crime-notes-on-blaqillegalism/?fbclid=IwAR1VkUgErCJ7iGAJR5C7EsPviPixDc-45On4dN7natZPIJybbG5bcyQMS0g>

*“Contract law (law of chattel) is perhaps the hallmark of modern legal development, given the need to regulate commerce and specify the rights and entitlement of property holders. But this corpus of law emerges because one needs to integrate the slave into the world. In other words, contract law conceals an ontological project” (Calvin Warren, Ontological Terror)*

*“The Law recognizes the black only in its destruction, and this destruction is required for legal intelligibility. Thus, something like black redress is outside of the law’s jurisdiction to the extent that the aim of redress is restorative, and restoring black being is not only impossible but antithetical to the law’s aim” (Calvin Warren, Ontological Terror)*

*This is a distinct turn away from the individualist line of white illegalism which makes no distinctions between revolutionary and counterrevolutionary illegal acts and puts emphasis on personal freedom. Where the centrality of the individual drives the actions of the white illegalist, the Blaqqillegalist is driven by the pursuit of collective freedom for Black people everywhere and locates individual illegal activity as grounded within the collective struggle for Black liberation. It understands and situates individual Black illegal acts as operating within the matrix of countless moments of refusal and flight taking place all over the African diaspora and across past, present, and future temporalities. For the Blaqqillegalist, no illegal activity we engage in occurs in isolation and is intimately connected with our local and global contexts as well as our history, immediate present, and afro future.*

## **As Black as Resistance (2018) William Charles Anderson and Zoé Samudzi**

“Blackness itself is anarchistic as a result of Black exclusion from the social contract (and thus non-assimilation into the state)” p. 109

## **Burn Down the American Plantation, Revolutionary Abolitionist Movement**

<https://www.revolutionaryabolition.org/political-framework/>

Revolutionary Justice: The most essential tasks are to create the ideological underpinnings for revolt and the necessary infrastructure that can sustain action and long-term forms of organization.

**Discourse on Colonialism (1950) Aime Cesaire**

[https://libcom.org/files/zz\\_aime\\_cesaire\\_robin\\_d.g\\_kelley\\_discourse\\_on\\_colbook4me.org\\_pdf](https://libcom.org/files/zz_aime_cesaire_robin_d.g_kelley_discourse_on_colbook4me.org_pdf)

"[C]olonization works to decivilize the colonizer, to brutalize him in the true sense of the word, to degrade him, to awaken him to buried instincts, to covetousness, violence, race hatred, and moral relativism."

"It is not a dead society that we want to revive. We leave that to those who go in for exoticism. Nor is it the present colonial society that we wish to prolong, the most putrid carrion that ever rotted under the sun. It is a new society that we must create."

"Security? Culture? The rule of law? In the meantime, I look around and wherever there are colonizers and colonized face to face, I see force, brutality, cruelty, sadism, conflict, and, in a parody of education, the hasty manufacture of a few thousand subordinate functionaries, "boys," artisans, office clerks, and interpreters necessary for the smooth operation of business. I spoke of contact.

Between colonizer and colonized there is room only for forced labor, intimidation, pressure, the police, taxation, theft, rape, compulsory crops, contempt, mistrust, arrogance, self-complacency, swinishness, brainless elites, degraded masses.

No human contact, but relations of domination and submission which turn the colonizing man into a classroom monitor, an army sergeant, a prison guard, a slave driver, and the indigenous man into an instrument of production. My turn to state an equation: colonization = "thingification."

**Other Recommended Reading/Exploration:**

*Are Prisons Obsolete?* (2003) Angela Davis ([pdf here](#))

*The End of Policing* (2017) Alex S. Vitale

*Black Reconstruction* (1935) W.E.B. Dubois

[Prison Abolition Syllabus by the African American Intellectual History Society](#)

[Reading Towards Abolition: A Reading List on Policing, Rebellion, and the Criminalization of Blackness](#)

<https://www.visionsofabolition.org/>

<https://transformharm.org/>

<http://criticalresistance.org>

[Relax, Relate, Release: Meditations for the Mind, Soul, Spirit, and Revolution Resource Guide](#)

[Relax, Relate, Release: Meditations for the Mind, Soul, Spirit, and Revolution: Meditations](#)

[19 Black families buy over 90 acres of land to create a safe city for Black people](#) (August 2020)