

SOLIDARITY



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OVERVIEW

WELCOME
ESSAY CONTEST DETAILS
WARM UPS
SOLIDARITY - CONCEPT &
HISTORY
QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

IF “SOLIDARITY” SORT OF MEANS

“IN PARTNERSHIP WITH”

THEN ...

FAMOUS PARTNERSHIPS

TOM &



BATMAN &



LADYBUG GIRL &



FAST &





MOANA &





MOANA &

**THEY WORK
TOGETHER, THEY
HAVE A PLAN...**



**BUT SOLIDARITY IS
MORE THAN THIS...**

SOLIDARITY

DIE SOLIDARITÄT



EINE BESTANDSAUFNAHME

**WHAT DO YOU ASSOCIATE WITH
“SOLIDARITY”?**

**TYPE YOUR RESPONSES (AT LEAST 4)
INTO THE CHAT**

Beisammensein Togetherness	Verantwortung Responsibility	Gerechtigkeit Justice
Hass Hatred	Mut Courage	Verantwortung Responsibility
Angepasstheit Conformity	Engagement Commitment	Toleranz Tolerance
Gemeinwohl The Common Good	Eigennutz Self-Interest	Freiheit Freedom
Menschenrechte Human Rights	Kleinmut Timidity	Selbstlosigkeit Selflessness
Vorurteil Prejudice	Bereicherung Gain	Unterstützung Support
Fremdenfeindlichkeit Xenophobia	Gewinnorientierung Profit Motive	Respekt Respect
Nächstenliebe Altruism	Menschenwürde Human Dignity	Rücksichtslosigkeit Ruthlessness
Freiwilligkeit Of One's Own Free Will	Überzeugung Firm Belief	Menschlichkeit Humanity

RESULTS

WHAT DOESN'T FIT?

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

ABOUT A TERM THAT

YOU DON'T ASSOCIATE

WITH SOLIDARITY

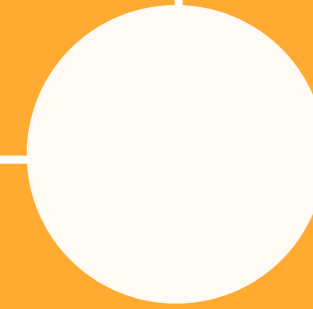
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**MANY STANDARD DEFINITIONS OF SOLIDARITY
INCLUDE THE CONCEPTS OF**

UNITY (EINIGKEIT)

MUTUAL-NESS (GEGENSEITIGKEIT)

INDEBTEDNESS (VERBINDLICHKEIT)



**EACH IS MUTUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF A COMMON GOAL, A SHARED PURPOSE**

HISTORICAL EXAMPLES

- 1. CHOCTAW NATION**
- 2. FREDRICK DOUGLAS**
- 3. ANTI-APARTHEID
MOVEMENT**

IRISH-CHOCTAW SOLIDARITY 1847



THE CHOCTAW NATION – TRAIL OF TEARS

IRISH NATION - POTATO FAMINE

IRISH-CHOCTAW SOLIDARITY 1847



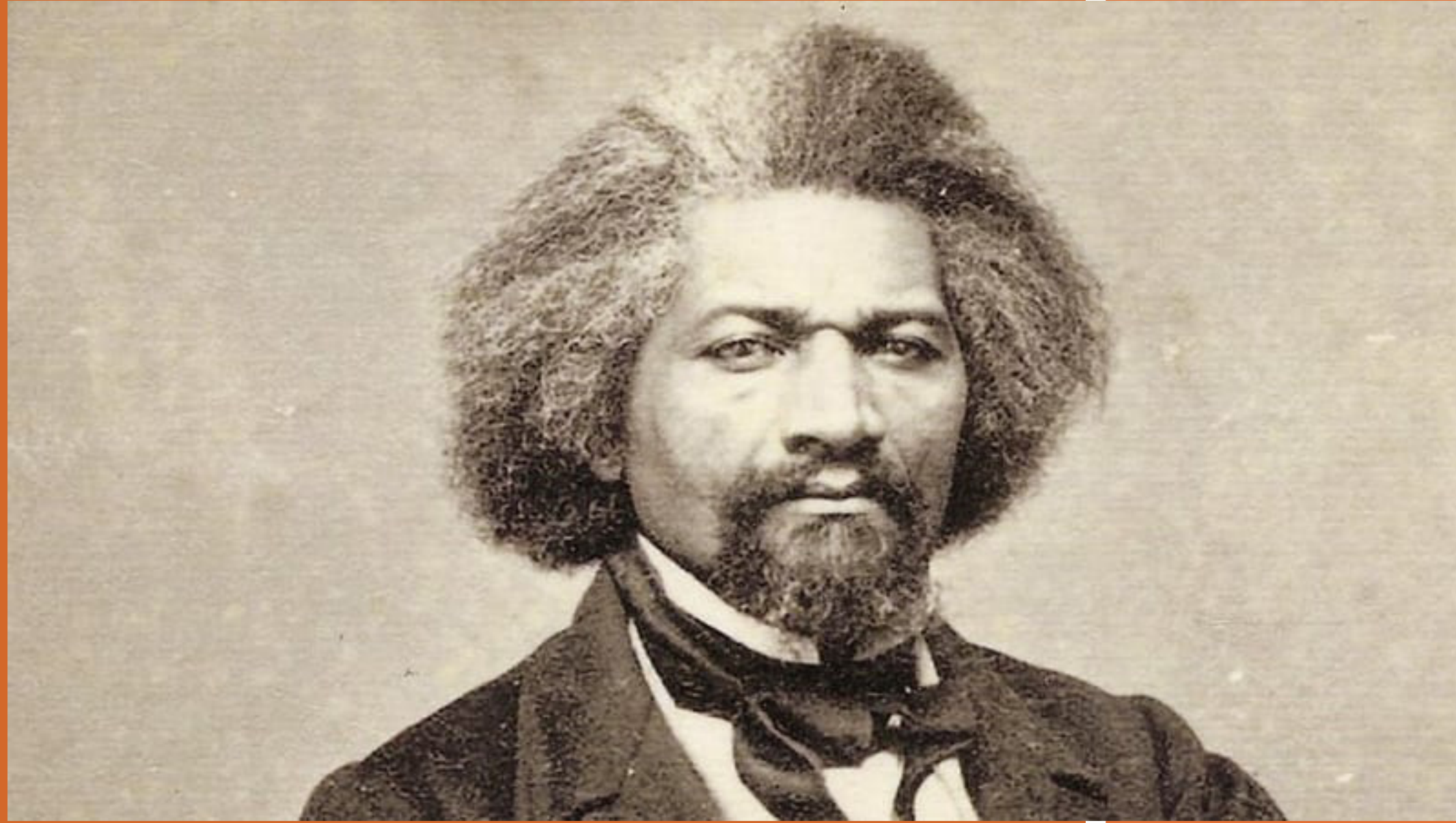
THE CHOCTAW NATION DONATED MONEY (EVEN
THOUGH THEY HAD LITTLE) TO SUPPORT AN
IRISH COUNTY DURING THE POTATO FAMINE

YEARS LATER, THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
COMMEMORATES THE EVENT WITH A
SCULPTURE IN OKLAHOMA

FREDRICK DOUGLASS

SOLIDARITY

1869

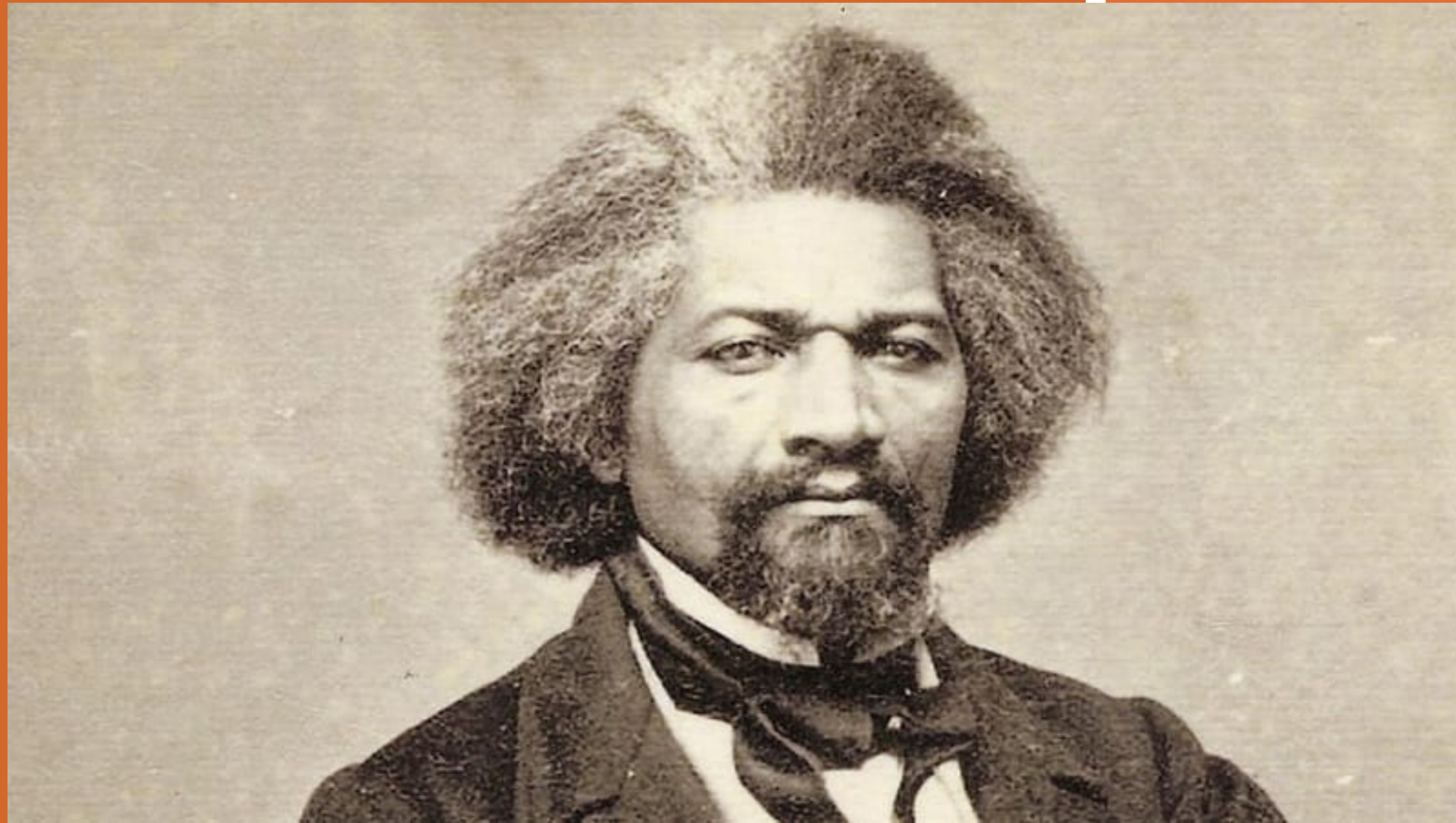


OPPOSITION TO RESTRICTIONS ON CHINESE
IMMIGRATION TO THE USA

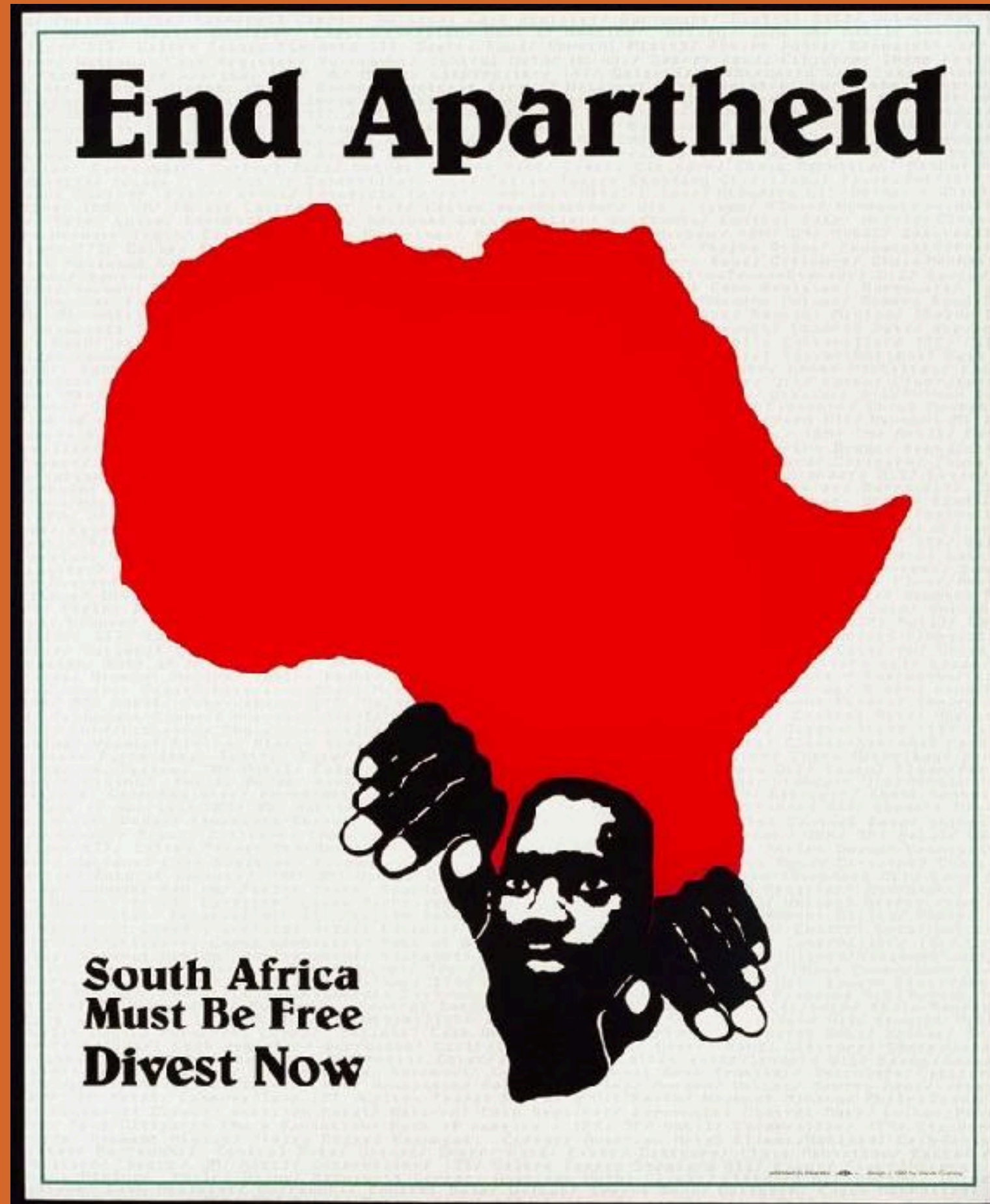
FREDRICK DOUGLASS

SOLIDARITY

1869



“IT IS THIS GREAT RIGHT [OF COMMON HUMANITY] THAT I ASSERT FOR THE CHINESE AND JAPANESE, AND FOR ALL OTHER VARIETIES OF MEN EQUALLY WITH YOURSELVES, NOW AND FOREVER. I KNOW OF NO RIGHTS OF RACE SUPERIOR TO THE RIGHTS OF HUMANITY, AND WHEN THERE IS A SUPPOSED CONFLICT BETWEEN HUMAN AND NATIONAL RIGHTS, IT IS SAFE TO GO TO THE SIDE OF HUMANITY.”



ANTI-APARTHEID SOLIDARITY 1959-1980'S

**1961 - SOUTH AFRICA FORCED TO LEAVE THE
BRITISH COMMONWEALTH**

1962 - U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY TRADE BOYCOTT

1963 - ARMS BAN AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

UNITY

INDEBTEDNESS

MUTUAL-NESS



“WHAT HAPPENS ABROAD ALSO HAS AN EFFECT ON OURSELVES.”

“OUR OWN VALUES ARE AT STAKE, AND IF WE FAIL TO STAND UP FOR THEM NOW, IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE TO DEFEND THEM AT HOME”.

Dr. Caroline Moine, Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin

KEY QUESTIONS:

- What brings people to engage in collective political struggle across long distances, hard borders and perceived boundaries?
- How might solidarity movements challenge the positions and actions of powerful states and international systems of oppression?
- What can it mean to be 'in solidarity' with a geographically distant cause or liberation struggle?
- Why do some causes win the support of progressive peoples and movements around the world, while others might not?

CONSIDER THE

PREPOSITIONS

SOLIDARITY

AMONG

SOLIDARITY

WITH

SOLIDARITY **AMONG**

Among = coherence and overlap within similar social /economic groups, working on common purpose from slightly different angles

SOLIDARITY **AMONG**

Example: Anti-Nazi Resistance movement in Denmark during WWII

SOLIDARITY **AMONG**

Example: Anti-Nazi Resistance movement in Denmark during WWII

Danish communists & Danish evangelical groups unite in Resistance to end the Nazi occupation of Denmark.

- We come to each other's aid
- We act amongst & for one another: principle of reciprocity
- We face the same challenges

SOLIDARITY WITH

With = not shared or reciprocal arrangement, symmetry not required. Could be from a distance, or completely one-sided.

SOLIDARITY WITH

Example: An individual or a club writes letters to support the members of a democratic political party in a distant land, who were expelled from their country by a junta.

SOLIDARITY WITH

You and your target group do not overlap socially, geographically, economically.
Their challenges are not your challenges.
The other group may not even be aware of your help.

SOLIDARITY WITH

Done for reasons of

- Compassion
- Empathy
- Reduction of harm
- Advancement of that community's goals

CONSIDER THE

ACTIONS

SOLIDARITY IS...

FUNDING

SHARING

RAISING AWARENESS

URGING

CRITICIZING

CONDEMNING

DEMANDING

**“FIGHTING
FOR THE
CAUSE”**

SOLIDARITY IS...

FUNDING

SHARING

RAISING AWARENESS

URGING

CRITICIZING

CONDEMNING

DEMANDING

**“FIGHTING
FOR THE
CAUSE”**

Each of these carries a different dynamic, elicits a different response

SOLIDARITY IS...

FUNDING

Example:

If the Red Cross gets \$50 from you for every FEMA flood...

SOLIDARITY IS...

HOW TO DRAW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN

sympathy

support

solidarity

CONSIDER THE

POSTURE

PUBLIC VS. PRIVATE

BLATANT VS. COVERT

SANCTIONED VS. DISCOURAGED

UNILATERAL (I STAND BY YOU)

BILATERAL (WE STAND BY EACH OTHER)

MULTILATERAL (LOTS OF US IN THIS TOGETHER)

No child should live in hunger

No child in this disputed border region should live in hunger

No child of this dispersed ethnic group expelled from their homeland
should live in hunger

CONSIDER THE

DIMENSIONS

CONSIDER THE

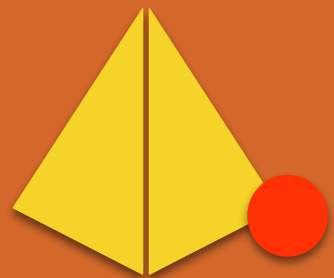
DIMENSIONS



CONSIDER THE

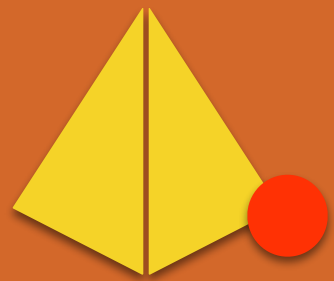


Two actors (groups, nations) acting in Solidarity
work in this moment to achieve their common **goal**



Two actors (groups, nations) acting in Solidarity
work in this moment to achieve their common **goal**
at some point in the future

CONSIDER THE



The difference is TIME

Flat / immediate

vs.

Deep / progressing

LET'S SHIFT GEARS FOR A MOMENT ...

PAUSE FOR Q & A

**BEGINNING AGAIN WITH A QUESTION ABOUT
SOLIDARITY –**

SO IS IT THE **GROUP OR THE **GOAL**?**

SO IS IT THE **GROUP** OR THE **GOAL**?

CAN WE DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE TWO?

SOLIDARITY IS...

INHERENTLY POLITICAL

**(WHICH MEANS: CHOOSING A SIDE AND
ADVOCATING FOR A PARTICULAR OUTCOME)**

SOLIDARITY IS...

Sally Scholz: “ Political solidarity arises in opposition to something; it is a movement for social change that may occur at many levels of social existence. ... Natural disasters may inspire strong sentiments and even bonds of connection, but they do not inspire political solidarity. Political solidarity ... has a social justice content or aim; it opposes injustice, oppression, tyranny, and social vulnerabilities.” (Scholz 2008: 54)

SOLIDARITY IS...

From this vantage point, solidarity is focused on attacking injustice. It is oppositional, also essentially and undeniably political. It supports the out-groups and aids them in their struggle to shoulder an unjust burden and – ultimately – to throw it off.

SO ... WHAT IS ITS VALUE?

To the extent that we could measure solidarity's value – we must ask:

- What parameters are we measuring?
- And ... its value to whom?

VALUE = IMAGINING AN ALTERNATIVE EQUALITY

For Kolers, acting in solidarity means that “we are not only working to (teleologically) bring about the end of oppression; rather, we *constitutively embody a non-oppressive alternative world* — even if, as is likely, our joint efforts ultimately fail, in part or in whole.” (Kolers 2016: 123–4)

VALUE = JOINT AGENCY

For Sangiovanni, acting in solidarity is “not just a means of realizing objectives that we would otherwise be incapable of achieving, but also constitutive of a new kind of social unity among strangers – a unity grounded in a sense of collective resolve and joint responsibility. This social unity has, at its core, a common recognition that our individual flourishing inevitably depends on the actions of myriad others in an extensive division of labor, and hence that the flourishing of all is necessary for the flourishing of each.”

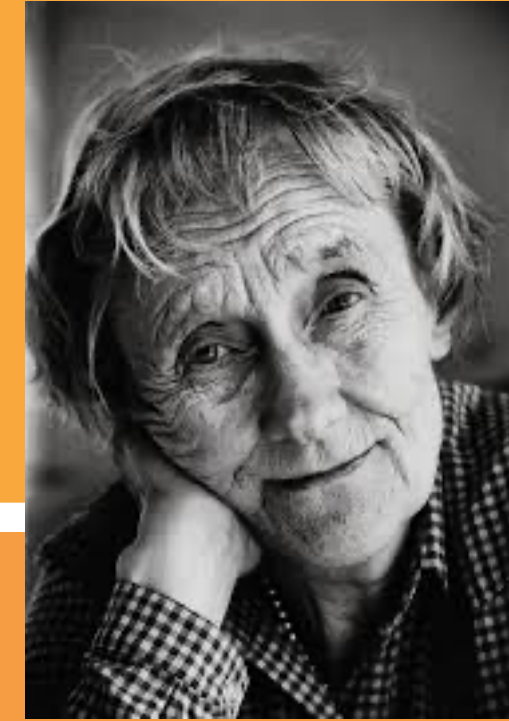
VALUE = JOINT AGENCY

Sangiovanni goes on to write about mutual accountability. “Once our skills are developed and exercised collaboratively, we also begin to relish the mutual accountability to others that our collaborative pursuit requires. We acquire obligations to others; we rely on one another; we begin to trust each other; we develop and apply standards to each other that are intrinsic to our activity and the norms governing it. The mutual obligations and mutual subjection to shared norms are welcomed as a reflection of our joint commitment to the ends we pursue together.”

SOLIDARITY

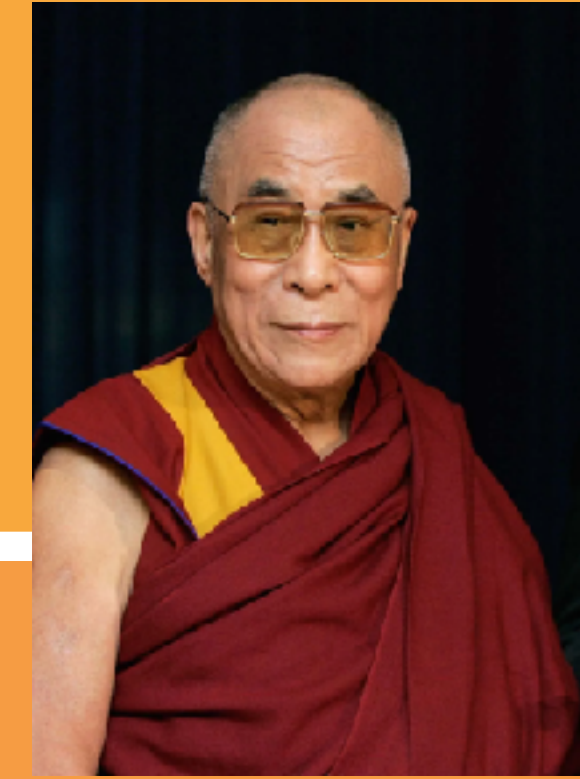
IN OTHER

WORDS



ASTRID LINDGREN

**ES IST GEFÄHRlich, ZU LANGE ZU SCHWEIGEN. DIE ZUNGE VERWELKT, WENN
MAN SIE NICHT GEBRAUCHT.**



DALAI LAMA

MIT ANDEREN MENSCHEN ZUSAMMEN ERREICHEN WIR MEHR ALS ALLEINE.



DIE “WEIßE ROSE”

**ZERREISST DEN MANTEL DER GLEICHGÜLTIGKEIT, DEN IHR UM EUER HERZ
GELEGT HABT.
WENN JEDER WARTET, BIS DER ANDERE ANFÄNGT, WIRD KEINE ANFANGEN.**

SOLIDARITY

AND ITS

CHALLENGES

FATIGUE

Can we imagine Solidarity to be like a reservoir ... and can it ever run dry?

FATIGUE

Prof. Dr. Bernd Harbeck-Pingel says **Yes**.
Every person has their own limits.

And:

Multitasking spreads us too thin – (Migration Issues vs. Fossil Fuels vs.
Climate Change vs. Autocratic Repression vs. Income Inequality)

We cannot cover it all at once.

FATIGUE

Prof. Dr. Bernd Harbeck-Pingel also says that
Emotions are fundamental to an effective sense of solidarity.
Emotions keep us going, keep us engaged.

Außerdem braucht Solidarität Emotionen: Sie ist das feurige, begeisterte, in gewisser Hinsicht auch kritikfreie Engagement für andere. Und drittens kann sich das durch die Erfahrung von Negativität erschöpfen. Nicht alle Erfahrungen, die man beim solidarischen Handeln macht, sind angenehm: Nicht alle Probleme kann man lösen, und Menschen werden einem auch nicht unbedingt sympathischer, nur weil man ihnen hilft. Deswegen wäre es wahrscheinlich nicht schlecht, solidarische Handlungen als Raumzeitgebiete zu verstehen – als Handlungsbündel, die aktiviert werden können und wieder verlöschen. Sie können nicht auf Dauer existieren. Wird solidarisches Handeln verstetigt, dann kommt eine Wohlfahrtsorganisation dabei heraus.

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LONG TIME FRAMES

If we conceive of Solidarity like holding a thread linking past generations with the people of the future – how long can this thread really be?

And can we really hold it?

EXAMPLE: FRIDAYS FOR FUTURE

The mistakes of the PAST demand that we act in the PRESENT
MOMENT to preserve a livable FUTURE for the next generations

EXAMPLE: FRIDAYS FOR FUTURE

The mistakes of the **PAST** demand that we act in the **PRESENT** **MOMENT** to preserve a livable **FUTURE** for the next generations

In order to compensate for the **Exploitation of resources** (fossil fuels, tropical rain forests, loss of wetlands) we must **change global policies** so that **our world is not worse off** in the decades to come

EXPANSION OF THE ETHICS OF SOLIDARITY

Future beneficiaries are unknown (e.g. 2125 AD)

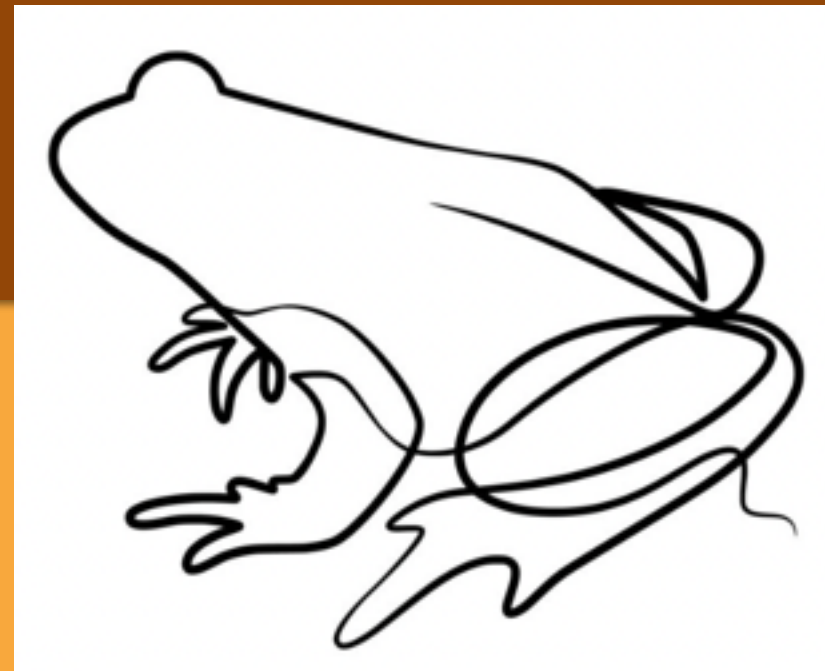
“We” set goals to benefit “them”

By anticipating what “their” voice would call us to do

➡ if they had been here with us

EXPANSION OF THE ETHICS OF SOLIDARITY

And not just for ourselves...



EXPANSION OF THE ETHICS OF SOLIDARITY

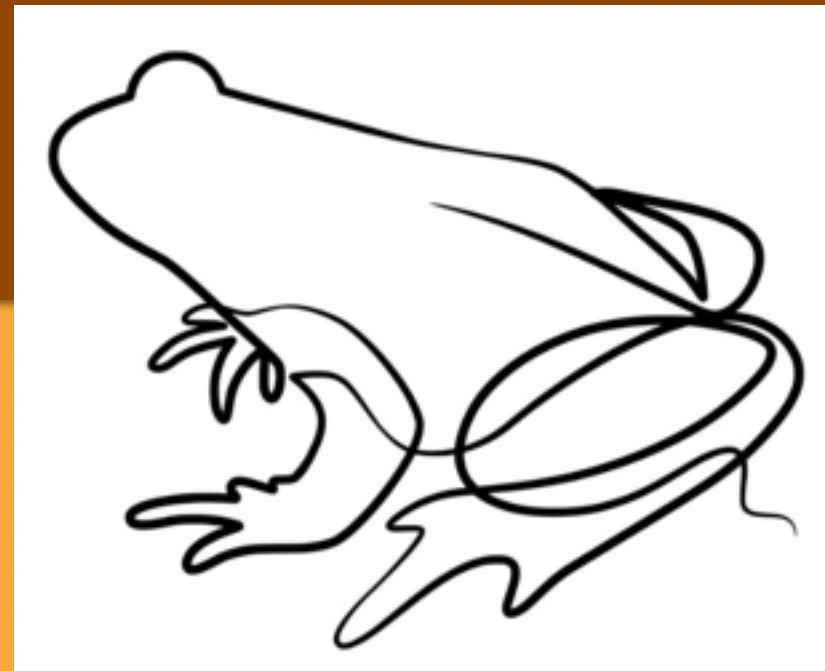
Even though –

The turtle has no voice, no agency.

Beavers do not have lobbyists.

Frogs cannot be mobilized into action...

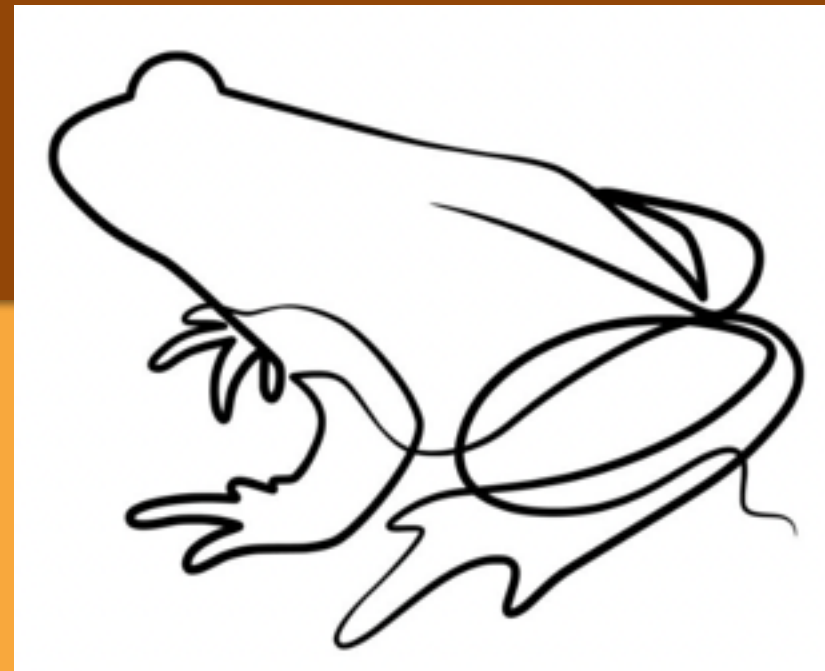
Is it possible to act in solidarity with them?



EXPANSION OF THE ETHICS OF SOLIDARITY

Solidarity means: to imagine and work in concert for a world or an outcome which is not (yet) attainable

Imagining a third door besides ENTER or EXIT



CRISIS / PANDEMIC

How to stand in Solidarity if our together-ness is restricted, illegal, or impossible?

CRISIS / PANDEMIC

Let's return to the Verbs:
Solidarisch handeln...

wir **müssen!**

wir **sollen**

wir **können**

wir **wollen...**

CRISIS / PANDEMIC

During this crisis we need to focus on us
vs.
But what about them?

CRISIS / PANDEMIC

Let's focus on us
vs.
But what about them?
(Inward vs. Outward)

CRISIS / PANDEMIC

A crisis is precisely the time for which one could say:
we stand in Solidarity with those Others and
we {must should will can} do something.

Solidarisch fühlen ... Solidarisch handeln ...
... und folglich, nichts tun?

CRISIS / PANDEMIC

“...dass auch in der Corona-Krise [...] die Regelbefolgung zum Ausweis der Solidarität [wurde]: Wer seinen Mitbürger*innen etwas Gutes tun möchte, macht demnach möglichst gar nichts, verlässt nicht das Haus, trifft keine Freunde oder Bekannten, hält Abstand zu Dritten. Für ein [...] Solidaritätsverständnis ist dies Konstellation durchaus ein Problem, denn “social distancing” ist so ziemlich das genaue Gegenteil von dem, was man sich eigentlich unter einem solidarischen Zusammenschluss in Krisenzeiten vorstellen würde”

**ONE FINAL CHALLENGE
TO SOLIDARITY...**

SOCIAL ISOLATION



SUMMARY

SOLIDARITY IS...

„Solidarität bezeichnet (1) eine Haftung: die wechselseitige Verpflichtung (...), (2) in Gefahr und bei Notlagen, (3) innerhalb von Gruppen, die teils unfreiwillig (...), teils durch freie Wahl (...), teils durch ein zufälliges Schicksal eng mit einem verbunden sind.“

SOLIDARITY IS...

„Solidarity describes (1) an accountability or responsibility (**Haftung**): it is a mutual obligation (**Verpflichtung**) (...), (2) in times of danger or in emergencies (**in Gefahr und bei Notlagen**), (3) within & among groups that either through their own free will or by coercion, or at times by a random turn of fate (**ein zufälliges Schicksal**)(...), are closely bound together (**eng mit einem verbunden**).

SOLIDARITY IS...

A belief and practice that arises out of the Enlightenment (post 1789) – but encompasses more than just *Liberté Égalité Fraternité*

Celebrating and defending the common bonds of *Brotherhood* because of “who we are” is not really in the spirit of Solidarity as we understand it today (we don’t need Solidarity with ourselves...)

SOLIDARITY IS...

More than just a quest to bring about justice (**Gerechtigkeit**)
or to live out the Golden Rule (**Menschenliebe**)

(**Gerechtigkeit** needs a judge, a legal code, a plaintiff and a
defendant, a negotiated settlement, and an enforcement
mechanism...)

(**Menschenliebe** looks in all directions at once... its needs are
endless...)

SOLIDARITY IS...

Translational.

It emerges from the same origin as when we wonder “if we put this into different words, if we switch out the speaker...”

“If our situations were reversed...”

SOLIDARITY IS....



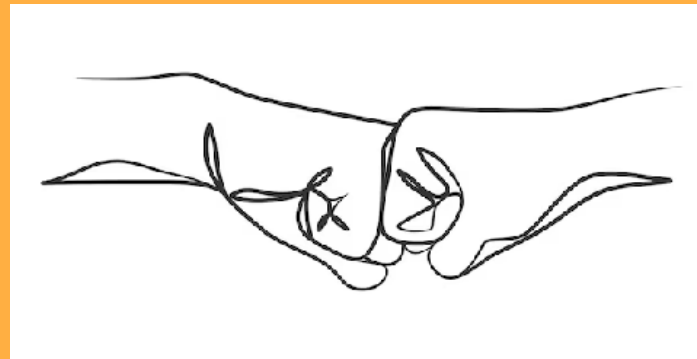
SOLIDARITY IS...



QUESTIONS?

FEEDBACK?

SOLIDARITY



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DANKE SCHÖN !