El Sembrador



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The Chicano Moratorium: Then and Now

Look at the signs being carried on that day, listen to the chants if you watch footage of the 1970 Chicano Moratorium you will see that what was happening went far beyond pleas for reform and civil rights as the little the mainstream media shows would have us think.

Que Viva Aztlan Libre!

Our War is Here!

Que Viva La Raza!

Indians of All Tribes!

VENCEREMOS!

Our fight is in the Barrios not in Vietnam!

Mi Raza Primero!

Our War is Here!

CHICANO POWER!

Crystallized into La Raza's mind was that nobody will do anything for us therefore we must do what we must. The Anti-War movement led by mostly Euro Americans ignored Chicano war deaths and the general struggle of La Raza here in Aztlan. Seeing the body bags coming back from Vietnam while simultaneously seeing the everyday deaths and violence waged here at home against us only added insult to injury. Chicanos at the time had begun developing what becomes a danger for the dominant society but a weapon for the oppressed... a historical memory and thus a sense of nation and nationalism. A sense of duty had developed that the wrongs of the past and present must be met head on. Out of this sentiment grew all the terms and phrases we associate with that our most honest moment as a people. When we reflected upon ourselves and looked at who we were at that moment in time. Emboldened by this flowering of Chicanismo throngs of Raza descended upon Whittier Blvd in East Los that historic day. People from all over came out and most importantly

everyday Raza from the Barrios joined, entire families marched.

What this must have meant to the stability of the US if it were not immediately met with extreme violence would have meant possibly something that they would rapidly lose control over. Yes, you see the plight of the then 8 million people, 8 million Chicanos naturally became a plight in which the physical control of 1/4th of the entire land mass which composes the USA was being challenged. A struggle that could embolden an entire population with ties to Native America and Latin America all at once could not be allowed to progress and develop. It could easily become a struggle that would not only bring international attention to the internal contradictions of the USA but could severely injure it as no other group of people is in the position of the Chicano to do this.

The events of the day went on as many of us already know, thanks to the efforts of the Chicano people and our organizations no thanks to mainstream history or media. The Sheriffs and LAPD used overwhelming violent force and although our people mounted a resistance fists, rocks, bottles and sticks eventually could not properly engage rifles, tear gas, batons and the states backing and approval. When the smoke had cleared from then Laguna Park, three of our brothers' lives had been taken. Two of them Lyn Ward and Angel Diaz who can only be described as having fallen in combat in defense of La Raza and Ruben Salazar famed Chicano reporter and journalist shot in the head with a 12 inch tear gas canister. Hundreds were also injured including dozens of women and children who were deliberately tear gassed as they ran into the parks restrooms to escape the violence.

Barrios throughout Aztlan went up in flames East Los burned for an entire week and eventually several other demonstrations ended in bloody conflict leaving more dead and injured. The history of that day and the events that followed are probably some of the most neglected in the already purposefully hidden history of the Chicano people.

Many ended their activism out of fear, and yet others began taking a more serious approach into the state of our Raza, by learning from other liberation movements here and throughout the world. If the USA would react with such extreme violence at a peaceful demonstration, then it only confirmed what path Chicanos had to take. It only confirmed what we already knew.

Aztlan, Chicano and La Raza these words gained popularity because there was now more than ever the pain, grief, anger and passions of that day and many others that came about seared into them, on top of victims of police brutality, migra violence, barrio violence, dead Chicano GI's we now added the memories of Chicano/a martyrs who met their fate in defense of our humanity.

It is said that these feelings of grief and pain unite a people more so than victory since these feelings present a void to us and thus a duty to act upon this void as if it were a wound on our collective body in other words our nation and that means Aztlan not the USA. Colonized peoples throughout the world commemorate historical events in this same sense from the Palestinian Nakba to the Irish Bloody Sunday.

This we must understand because that is what has motivated generations of Chicanos to continually uphold the day and resist the colonizers attempts at trying to wipe it out of our memories. The Chicano Moratorium should and does remind us that whatever part of Aztlan we may live in, whatever gender we may be, whatever age we may have reached, whether we are born here or not, whether we have generations possibly even tribal origins or just crossed the border, that our people have a shared and common history of resistance to the US Empire HERE on this land and that nobody else will do for us what we must do for ourselves.

If we are to put this history into context then we will understand why our history in general but specifically events such as not only the Chicano Moratorium, but the Moody Park Rebellion in Tejas, Los Seis de Boulder Colorado, the Chicano Liberation Front, the scores of dead left in our peoples struggle to simply unionize our labor in the fields and factories (or even older events such as the Taos Rebellion that united Pueblo and Mexicano against the US armed forces) are constantly and purposefully hidden from us. If the events of that time period led the US foreign occupier to react upon a population of 8 million out of fear, what does that mean for us today when our population has reached 40 million plus and entire regions of Aztlan are now mostly Chicano-Mexicano/Raza, what does it mean in this context when our population not only has a historic and cultural claim to independence but has the economic backing to do it were we to realize it. Recent studies have shown that "US Latinos" had the fastest growing GDP just behind China and India! We also have a GDP equal to 8th in the entire world were we our own independent nation, yet despite this reality we have absolutely no political power at all, our barrios continue to serve as troughs for the USA to swarm into and feed off of us like a hungry horde of swine feasting, and our very presence is continually shunned and hidden from everything in US society unless we are portrayed as criminals or just faceless brown backgrounds in some movie.

To commemorate the Chicano Moratorium therefore is a clarion call to all of our Raza that WE here in this day and on this land, in this time RIGHT NOW, not only have an obligation to each other but we already have what we need if we are to only realize it! Our hands have tilled the soils of the San Joaquin Valley making it the "bread basket of the world", our sweat has built these cities, cleaned them, then built them again, our bravery and anger has been manipulated to send us all over the world to do the bidding of the empire and kill or be killed leaving Chicano blood all across the globe only to return to negligence.

We are told every generation just as we are told every 4 years when their electoral circus comes into play that this time it will be different and afterwards, we are left with only promises. Promises upon promises and when that doesn't work have a brown face with a white mind promise even more. Is this what we should expect of a people with such a vast and heroic history? A people who can build entire cities, feed entire countries, become an economic backbone of an empire yet at the end of the day our pockets empty and our faces remaining faceless?

No Raza! Let the spirit and memory of the Chicano Moratorium reminds us that we can and must do for ourselves. That it is not US who need AmeriKKKa but it is AmeriKKKa that needs us and that if nobody recognizes our humanity WE RECOGNIZE OUR HUMANITY because that's what Chicano Power and Viva La Raza mean it means we can do this but you must see beyond your individual self! You must see us as what we are today, the people shunned, the ones made to feel irrelevant, useless, pointless, faceless are really the ones that have the POWER to build NATIONS and that's what they don't want you to realize ever at all. But on this day and from now on WE DO.

QUE VIVA EL MORATORIO CHICANO!

QUE VIVA AZTLAN LIBRE Y SOCIALISTA!

INDEPENDENCIA Y LIBERACION YA!



A La Patria

They build boarders through our land and they build borders through our hearts. A tall wall not only separates us from our Raza to the south but it separates us from our Raza in the next barrio. They build a border between hermanas y hermanos. They they abuse us on either side of the border whether it be in the tierra or in our mente. In reality the walls made of steal and concrete are just as frail as the walls made of lies and deceit. We are one Raza of many shades. But we are all born of the same sun. Our struggle is one that manifests itself in the spirit flowing throughout the barrios, ejidos y ciudades. In our hearts we know that the only thing which separates us, is ourselves. So we must come to know how to tear down not just one border, but all borders. Everything that restrains the true potential of our Raza.



A la patria is an idea we wish to manifest in the youth as well as older generations. An idea that if applied to reality can bulldoze through all the borders in our mind y our tierra. What is this idea and how do we harvest the fruits of its concepts in our every day lives? Firstly it holds that we must return to the motherland in our hearts and in some cases, with our bodies. Secondly it holds that we should too, move towards erecting a nation without borders. A homeland for the Raza displaced and dispossessed by the colonizer. Not only one based on Raza in general but Raza from what they tell us are the lower sections of society. The migrant workers without papers. The children in concentration camps. The family's torn apart by plunderous forces and yes, those criminalized Raza who are without even status in their own community.

To the first point we say that returning to the motherland in our hearts is not a simple matter of reading history. It isn't about just learning about our culture. Many Chicanos in el Estados Unidos are without context. Meaning, that they do not see the roots connecting them to la Raza. They are told from a young age to fit in; to assimilate. They are made to be respectable monkeys. Some would have them believe that if only they get connected with their ancestors culture they will be liberated from this mentality. However we know this to be false. Understanding our history and culture as it has manifested itself over generations is important no doubt. Even more than that though, is what we do with this knowledge in our lives.

In some cases disconnected Raza should move away from colonized epicenters and back into the barrios, ciudades y ejidos, here in the belly of the beast as well as back in our mother countries. This movement of Raza is necessary because the colonized have extracted not just the products from our soil but the minds of our Raza. So many creative and innovative minds have been stolen from their communities to grind away at building a better world for colonizers. Leaving their communities with nothing. It is the same as when they use up the nutrients or natural resources in our soil leaving nothing left for anything else to grow or be put to use for those who live in the areas plundered. Some of our Razas great minds are lured away with some fancy goods and services in this way.

So returning to our communities that are impoverished not because our Raza is incapable of enriching them but because they have been looted by the colonized, is necessary. If the colonizers police don't kill vou, the metabolic rift will. We need to replenish the soil and inspire new generations. It's a matter of duty and responsibility. It is also a matter of love and pride in our Raza. Profit isn't the most powerful motive force. We can bring skills and resources back to our communities that generate money. That is a good deed. But we can also bring back those things and generate power as well as self sufficiency. That is bien firme! Because money can be won or lost, but a single life has limitless potential. We should aim to prevent the loss of life with the most stubborn effort. In doing so we should also create the best conditions for life to excel. No amount of money is worth a single life. Because with that life more value than can be measured by money is possible.

That is the physical aspect of the first point but going back to the spiritual aspect. We should study our history and participate in the culture of our Raza. Developing it in accordance with tradition as well as a revolutionary spirit. We can not hold on to stereotypes or conceptions of ourselves carefully constructed by our enemies. We should interact with the oppressed Raza be serving them and building up a foundation to establish our new nation on. It is the experience of older generations as well as the energy of the youth which will allow for us to undertake this great task. Fill the mind with creativity and positive affirmations of ourselves while acknowledging our weaknesses. Not to point out flaws like a liberal but to work on improving them. Our spirit can be invigorated with the challenges of our struggle so that we feel alive. Many of us today breath air but spiritually feel dead. We go to work and come home. Rarely do we consider our potential or potentialities of our Raza. This isn't because we are lazy but because the system is designed to render us so tired at days end that we don't wish to be bothered with such questions.

Giving life back to our spirit is necessary. There is no easy method for change in which we benefit. We must have sacrifice and be determined. All of the lucha no matter how difficult however can lead to untold amounts of benefits. Not the benefits you get at work to keep you healthy enough to work. Benefits that open your mind to the beauty of our world and embrace you with the love of our Raza. So to do this we should relocate ourselves not only in mind but in body to the areas in which the Raza we wish to serve live. We must place ourselves in the shoes of our people who suffer the most so that we may understand their plight. Taking their ideas to the forefront of our mente so that we can implement a revolutionary program based on a strategy for liberation.

No community aid program is of benefit to our Raza unless it carries with it the knowledge and political power to create meaningful change. A great world leader spoke about where political power grows from and we should not fail in truly grasping what they meant in regards to this. So we should inhabit the patria and develop the necessary skills among Raza for nation building. We should acquire resources to be utilized in organizing this nation. We should do this because in doing it we will enable our Raza to not rely on others outside of our communities but instead have the ability and know

how within our communities to do what must be done. Furthermore we will be able to protect our communities ourselves without foreign interference. This is of the utmost importance and we can only achieve it by being present spiritually as well as physically in the ejidos, barrios y ciudades of our Raza.

This brings us to the second point on moving towards building a nation. So far we have discussed how reconnecting with our roots, listening to elders, mobilizing the youth, and educating our Raza is necessary. But why is it necessary? We discussed it briefly but without truly touching on the need for our own nation. The need arises from understanding and participating in the first point. Because the nation which exists and calls itself the Estados Unidos is not a nation for us. It was formed as a result of two settlers bickering over taxes. Then it proceeded to infest native lands with diseases among which, capitalism stands out as being particularly fatal. It broke hearts and chained Brown and Black people up. When we revolted it moved outside the imagined borders of the Estados Unidos to do the same elsewhere while providing a slightly better reality within its own arbitrary borders.

Never the less the improvements remain structured so that the benefits go primarily to the colonizer. Where as the Raza are forced to struggle in order to barely survive both here and throughout the global south. All of the attempts to appeal to any sort of morality from our oppressor have ended in the shedding of blood. Blood split in our streets by our Raza. So as if we had not already known, our oppressor possesses no morality we can appeal to in bargaining for our lives. Only in acquiring our own nation can we determine a destiny for our Raza on our own terms. This reality may be difficult to comprehend but from the first point being effectively put into practice that difficultly diminishes significantly. As we grow more consolidated and raise our Razas consciousness we too become more confident in our

ascending to power in the name of our oppressed Raza.

The nation is not made over night. It requires a mixture of various elements to become consolidated so that we can give birth to a New Democratic state. One that is firmly in the control of the oppressed Raza. The dispossessed begins to possess and the dislocated begin to arrive at their destination. This new nation of Aztlan will be won through our national as well as class consciousness being translated into action. The gains we make towards that end will enable us to establish power and build a new culture informed by the formerly oppressed people that the Estados Unidos only ever gave a second thought towards. Aztlan is a home not just for the indigenous peoples in our Raza, not just Chicanos or New Afrikan's. It is a home for the oppressed classes who having been colonized as well as exploited by the oppressor nation. Those who have banded together in order to overcome the shackles of a system.

No longer will we have to exploit other oppressed nations or ourselves. No longer will we have to criminalize and or abuse our own. We will be able to demonstrate the intellectual power of our Razas working classes. The homie in el barrio, the mama in the field, the papa in the factoría. These seemingly unlikely examples are in fact the key to liberation. Because through their deprivation of freedom they have come to possess the understanding capable of changing the world. An understanding which only requires politicization in order to truly grasp the fabric of reality. A la patria seeks to move us back to serving the oppressed Raza and classes in a qualitatively different way. By investigating our reality and acting upon the ideas already present in society. It has been done against all odds before and today we believe that it can be done again.

Do not be fooled into thinking things as they are today can never be changed. Nothing in life remains still. Driving through Aztlan today you may see amerikkkan flags but those flags will inevitably fall just like the banderas de Rome. Also like the banderas de Rome, they belong in a history museum where we can take trips to visit so that we never forget the past. What they do not represent is an undying reality that we can not change. It was Brown and Black labor as well as Black and Brown tierra that built this nation into what it is. The colonizers could not have created such a powerful nation. Simply look at the archeological remains of Europe's past compared to The America's, Africa, and Asia. You will find that it was from other nations where all significant European advancement originated. All technology and wealth in Europe as well as North America is from the global south. Consolidated in one region to benefit one group of people.

What Europe had was an uncanny ability to wage the most vicious wars. The colonizers acquired their position today from robbery, murder, and heartlessness. Not even to the benefit of all Anglo people because many of the lower classes of the white nations are themselves victims. Which is why we must not only understand liberation from our national perspective. We must also understand it from the perspective of class society as it exists today under capitalism. In order to break down borders we must have an understanding of class. A nation is not in and of itself evil. It is the classes which tule and perpetuate an evil nation that make it overwhelmingly evil. Yet within it good can exist. Estados Unidos for example is an evil nation. Not because the people inside it are all evil, but because the ruling classes who control it are evil. Evil from the perspective of us, the oppressed classes and national minorities that is. Because to them, they are doing "gods work."

Their colonizer god is that if an oppressor, while ours is that of a liberator. Our god is represented as a liberator manifested in each

and every oppressed person in our Raza. That god demands liberation because we can not help but want to live. A god similar to that of Nat Turner's or Malcolm X's. We do not crave violence but we understand that it goes hand in hand with liberation. We are not fools or cowards. For us to listen to god is the same as for us to listen to our Raza. For us to listen to the oppressed classes. In this way we are not aiming to build a nation only to build up new borders blind to the suffering of others throughout the global south. Instead we are doing so so that we can open our arms and welcome them into this fight with us. So that liberation for our Raza means liberations for all of the colonized. So that Raza can mean all of the colonized. So that oppressed classes in our Raza, can be free.

Of course, today there are borders that need to be torn down in order to move toward the realization of Aztlan. To unite the oppressed nations on a basis of mutual respect and common struggle. To uphold the oppressed classes. We want to build a nation to destroy the nation, and raise class consciousness to end classes. Without this understanding we would fall into a narrow minded framework that could not possibly end the senseless suffering afflicted on our world. Still yet, we could not save our earth from the damage capitalism has caused it. All of our goals are for the betterment of humanity. Strategically made in order to ensure that those who wish to halt the movement of history and destroy humanity, are not able to do so.

Our Raza is diverse. With many cultures, colors, and identities. We have been told what to think about each culture, color, and identity. They taught us to hate the "savage" Raza and love the "good" Raza. They made us disdain the darker Raza then they told us to reject the lighter Raza. They told us what we are and what that means and then condemn those of us for not fitting their ready made models of a "desirable" human being. We fight amongst ourselves with definitions made by the people oppressing us. We take the same sword that murdered our daughters, fathers, mothers and sons, to kill our sisters and brothers. Essentially, we play the game by the rules of the person who wants us to loose. This is one of the main sources of strain on our movement. Raza fighting Raza because we are not identifying as Raza. Or in other words, we are not, who we are told we are.

They make Brown compete with Black. They tell Black people to hate Brown people and Brown People to hate Black people. Thrown into prisons we fight amongst each other then are thrown back into our cell by whites. In the streets we kill over street signs that have European names. Either We live in a cell in prison or in our community, made to serve a life sentence. This is a real conflict with real distinctions not to simply be ignored in a liberal way. We can not forget what has been said or what has been done. We can however, move in a different direction. Instead of running down the hill at full speed to the detriment of us all we can stop and begin walking back up the hill. We may not see what is on the other side until we get there but we know where this blood soaked slope leads too. We can see clearly over the carnage of our past. So we should not resign ourselves to the fate with no promise of a future. Another war, another life lost. Aztlan is a nation that will one day, allow us to stop playing games.

It was stated above that we want to expand the definition of Raza. Today many New Afrikan's identify with Chicano culture and Chicanos identify with New Afrikan culture. The lines are being blurred yet still there are borders. Neither Black nor Brown is a stranger to borders or "keep out" signs. We have more in common with one another than often times we see. We do not wish to ignore the differences that make both of our various peoples beautiful but instead, end to distinctions made by our common oppressor. To end hostilities and build trust, love, compassion, and strength. We want to empower the New Afrikan people

and we want them to do the same with us. We want to build our nation and assist them in building theirs. We want to unite our nations and unify to create an even more powerful nation. We want the black oppressed classes to benefit from the same things we want our brown oppressed classes to benefit from.

To this end we can not tell one another what to do or how to do it. We can advise when asked or assist when able. We can also start showing love and recognition to the plight of one another. Not only in words but in deeds. We should want to expand the definition of Raza to include New Afrikan's. Raza should stand for the oppressed and colonized people of the world. With common historical experiences, common oppressor and common goals. We differ nationally, but as Raza, we become one. As national distinctions fade away la Raza remains. Only when we have ended the old systems of exploitation will we be able to return to being a human race without class or nation. Until then Raza can serve as a term to increasingly incorporate all of the global south. Not by erasing distinctions but by embracing our heritage. Our nationality is one thing but our Raza is another, it's the bandage which sews us together to cover the wounds of our past. Our actions as Raza then, become the ointment applied to that bandage so our wounds may heal. It cannot become anything else or be used to overlook any one group. It can only strengthen our efforts as we become a Raza united to end the suffering of the oppressed.

In the end result unify between the colonized oppressed classes is the principal means of achieving liberation. Our homeland is a homeland for the oppressed. Aztlan should not just be for Brown Raza. And our nation shouldn't be closed to the oppressed people of the world. We have been abused, lied to, cheated on, and in some cases have had whole peoples eradicated from this earth. We would we walk down a calle to do the same to others? If our work is based on the oppressed Raza, if we focus on our communities, and recognize our principles in our deeds, we will find ourselves walking down a different calle. As it is now the Raza here within the belly of the beast incorporates the Most oppressed people. The lowest classes who do the most are among our Raza. Not low in the sense that they are worthless but in the sense that by the standards of our oppressor they are insignificant. While to us they are everything. So let's serve our Raza, what it means to us. Let's make la Raza what we want it to be. Transform ideas into reality.

A la patria is a welcome to bring the creative potential back to our communities. To look towards the future with an understanding of the past. To know that it is possible to build a new nation inside this evil Amerikkkan empire. Not only to know it is possible, but to see to it that it becomes a reality. Our enemy maintains power for personal gain. They oppress to profit. We aim to achieve power for the benefit of all oppressed. By ending oppression. Not because we believe in a perfect world through the lens of the Eurocentric ideas of perfection. Instead, because we know it is possible to love our earth, to respect each other, and not succeed on the backs of others who are made less fortunate. No one is born inadequate. They are taught to conform and forced to settle. Our Raza has been forced into the position we are in so remember that looks can be deceiving. Just cause today we look weak and divided doesn't mean tomorrow we can't be united and strong.

As we have said more than once above, our Raza today and the Raza of tomorrow, can create a nation that one day can collapse into simply being a unified people. All with power, honor, and the ability to excel in all things we set out to do as a Raza. Fulfilling their dreams and achieving great things for humanity. Blood has already been spilt with this aim in mind. We are simply joining the fight which is already being waged all over the world. Take up your position and fight for your Raza. Fight for the oppressed. A la patria is about more than just going back to the land and culture of our ancestors. It's about finding the place in our hearts where we can create the spirit required to overcome the obstacles of today, so that we can enjoy the joys tomorrow. One that is controlled, maintained, and organized by those who make their own destiny against all odds. We don't need more Pan Dulce, we need libertad! Answer the call of our ancestors who refused to submit. Continue the legacy of our padres who fought for a better life. Save los niños who will never make it in this world unless we act today. Go out and serve la Raza. Organize and participate in creating the strategy through the summing up of our Razas revolutionary ideas. Bring to life the Aztlan in your heart! Que viva la Raza! Que Viva Aztlan! A La Patria!

29 AGOSTO MARCHA Y REUNION EN EL ESTE DE LOS ANGELES



AUTO DETERMINACIÓN DEL PUEBLO CHICANO SALUD, VIVENDA E INGRESOS PARA TODOS APOYO A LA EDUCACIÓN PUBLICA! IGUALDAD DE DERECHOS PARA LA COMUNIDAD LGBTQ! CÁRCEL PARA SHERIFFS ASESINOS • ADIÓS SHERIFF VILLANUEVA! LEGALIZACIÓN PARA TODOS! • NO MÁS GUERRAS DE U.S.A.!

Unase a la Marcha en el Parque Atlantic a las 10AM Marcharemos al Parque Salazar para Réunion, Musica, Recursos y Oradores.

323-943-2030







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