

## CONVERSATION WITH PHOEBE O'BRIEN

Phoebe O'Brien is an active contributor on TikTok, the app which is currently the subject of heated debate around the world. Several governments, including the US, are attempting to censor or even ban it altogether. Phoebe addresses social and economic issues in her videos and specifically highlighting the capitalist system as the underlying cause of these problems. It is interesting to note that her ancestors were part of the Irish resistance against the English, which adds to her inspiring personal history. We found her perspectives to be unique and selfless, indicating that she possesses the qualities of a good leader. We are pleased to have had the opportunity to interview her for our latest issue.



**Hi Phoebe, Tell us about yourself, what inspired you to talk about people struggles and Politics?**

I grew up in the UK. you grow up quite class conscious and this is something which I think comes kind of like from my background you know I said that my forefathers were involved with the rebellion against the English and Ireland he was also a landed Gentry. So it's quite unusual that you would have someone from like a bourgeoisie background to be involved with this kind of movement. I always thought that was like sort of weird but I didn't really put much time and effort into thinking about it because my family sort of comes from this like well off background I would say but not my personal family that I live in now like we're very much working class financially. I always kind of existed on this periphery between what I would say is like the capital class the bourgeoisie and like the proletariat which is where I exist because I have no money my parents have no money like we don't own the house that's like my family home so it's always been very jarring to me this like the difference between the two. I often also come across the people as being like upper class this is very consistent across my content now that when I'm talking about like working class issues and things often people will say to me like why are you talking about this and like doesn't involve you. I'm like yes it does I am working class but I think sort of wanting to understand this animosity which people feel towards me personally just because of like the way I sound or the way I present myself has always been something that I've sort of grappled with. When you start looking at the historical context that's when you start to understand like all people have extreme generational trauma against people who sound like me. why is that? and then you start like you can read like any books that are written in the 1900s like I'm talking like Orwell - the road to Wigan pier down - **Continued in Page 2**



**Continued from Page 3** ..but I understand that they are humans they're going through the same ups and downs and their life that I am they're in a lot of cases struggling far more than I could even imagine and I'm incredibly empathetic towards that because I don't know how some people cope genuinely and I just I think it comes at some from like admiration more than anything else like I can't believe that especially the west where I like have obviously grown up and spent most of my life is so complicit and so engaged in the exploitation of the global and I hate knowing that I exist as a beneficiary of that and want it to stop.

**What do you think has happened to the relationship between labor and capital. To give context, we seeing mass layoffs due to rate hikes of the central banks across the world. They cite inflation as the reason why the rates are being raised but the rates hike actually is causing a lot of economic turmoil among the working class. I wanted to understand from you on what do you think has happened now with the younger generation of working class. The younger generation now are being called lethargic and that they're not doing as much as work as the older generations did before. I wanted to get your perspective with the young people and how do they perceive work now. has anything changed?**

The exploitation has increased and I think really what this comes down to is not seeing any progression to yourself not seeing any safety in your future not having anywhere to go and this is something which I like spoke quite extensively about with like especially my family it's very difficult to get this kind of point across but the way that this kind of came up in conversation with them was more about like poverty and like why do the children of poor people often also end up being poor when they might have the same access to education. I had to try and explain this and it's something which people like really for some reason find it difficult to understand is that and everyone around you in your environment does not see any progression for themselves does not see any future, does not see any reprise in their conditions. You become disenfranchised you become disengaged and you will accept whatever conditions seen established in the community around. So that has happened but on a much wider scale kind of fueled by the fact that we have social media and things now so it's very easy to pick up on the way that other people within your demographic are feeling and acting in the world so that that net has sort of widened out from like what you experienced in your immediate surroundings the people in your personal community. The people in the global community and especially young people now are sort of looking at our future and being like 'what the hell is this?', what do I have to look forward to? like I'm never going to retire, I'm never gonna be able to own my own home which is almost like completely essential in today's private property owning world where the only way to really have like a sound investment is for some reason to leverage your shelter the place you live that's the only secure way that we have of being able to look after ourselves in our old age which is insane. Shelter is not a human right? why are we having to leverage our shelter on our old age being paid for I think everyone just looks forward and just sees like disaster like climate collapse like I'm a climate scientist and it's depressing and what's even more depressing is going out into the world talking to my grandparents for example posting on social media about these very established scientific theories and when I say theory I mean a hypothesis which is backed up by evidence. it's crazy that we can't even convince enough people to actually make some serious change which is necessary. I hate to be like the bearer of doom here but especially in Equatorial regions where they will experience like much more extreme conditions than you will in like higher latitudes and more like temperate environments. Full interview can be found via this link : <https://artfortuneandpolitics.asia/phoebe-obrien>

- Sennaya Swamy Naickar



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and you start to see these intensely stark sort of like class differences and then from there you end up reading a bit of some Marxist and communist literature and then you sort of like start to clarify these ideas in your head even more and then you start searching for everything and then you look at the world that we live in today and suddenly it's contextualized and suddenly you understand why people find it so difficult to exist in the world that we live in today because that's something I've also noticed from social media that there seems to be this like very intense dissatisfaction , a very intense sort of disenfranchisement from the community around people and that's always felt very wrong to me I know that I always feel best when I have a community around me but feeling myself becoming increasingly isolated by my socioeconomic conditions is sort of what led me to the Internet to talk about this . I'm trying to get other people to give a name to that feeling and then to try to work towards getting rid of it and work towards doing what we need to do to actually make everybody's lives more fulfilling and get communities to help everybody and stop this kind of feeling of disenfranchisement and like depoliticization because we should have more control over our own lives like everybody should and we don't live in democracies in most countries like when you when you look at the actual definition of democracy it's astounding to me that there's so much resistance so like this way of thinking and it's purely indoctrination at this point but you just gotta keep fighting against it.

**You were talking about democracies . We vote our leaders to power but it doesn't change anything . The policies and outcome don't change , it remains the same in fact it's even against the working class most of the time . I want to understand from your perspective as an young person what would you expect a government institution ?**

*'feeling myself becoming increasingly isolated by my socioeconomic conditions is sort of what led me to the Internet to talk about this*

What I expect from a government is to represent the people. I expect a government to be making decisions which are in the best interest of the majority of the people and there is infinite evidence out there to suggest that they are no longer working in the interests of the people . They are instead working in the interests of only the ruling class , the capital class because the government that we exist under today and most countries grew from the desire to protect private property like that is why the state exists in most countries. In fact it exists to protect the private property of the ruling elite because private property itself is sort of like an affront to human nature it's like a perversion of the social contract that humans should have with each other and with the earth and this goes into a lot of like a lot of like spiritual beliefs as well like a lot of cultures have already knew this thousands of years ago they understood that like humans were part of nature humans are like collectively linked , we all should be working like symbiotically with the environment and with each other and it's so sad to see this like massive diversion from the way which we should be progressing and it all stems back to like the ownership of private property and like the idea that like debt can exist because if you look back at like previous civilizations they didn't function like this they functioned much more on this kind of connection between human beings like gift giving , and trust . All of these things which have been completely removed from society by the state which exists only to protect private property which shouldn't exist .

**you're right but that is not the case anymore it's always like we vote once in five years or so four years but we end up getting the same thing over and over again so some nothing changes**

it always benefits the people at the top every decision which is they makes is always to grow or like increase GDP but does that increase the standard of living of most people. No there's like there's very little relationship at this point in like late stage capitalism with the GDP of a country increasing and the living standards of a majority of the population increasing . How can we continue to grow like our economies in a finite world because everybody knows that capitalism you need to have this sort of like infinite growth but how are we going to infinitely grow or we don't have infinite resources and hence a manufactured scarcity. **Continued on Page 3**

DEAR CONGRESS PARTY – PLEASE SAVE THE PEOPLE

**By observing the events taking place around Rahul Gandhi. Rahul Gandhi has become a victim of the similar laws of the British which affected the freedoms fighters. Congress party should remove those laws which hinder freedom of speech. 75 years of freedom from British was not actually a freedom for people from the British Law systems. Congress when it forms the next government they should make sure such laws are repealed. Congress should bring democratic socialism which was present during Jawahrlal Nehru's time. Otherwise it would move away from the interests of the people. Back then during the freedom struggle Congress grew because of M.K. Gandhi's support from the Birla family. For 75 years now , the Congress has been working with the help of big industrialists based in Gujarat and Rajasthan. Due to this there is lack of people oriented policies by the Congress. That is why people have not been choosing Congress. Congress may have got freedom for our people but the freedom were not actual freedom in an economic sense. Economic freedom should be made a priority for Congress. Independent government by the Congress is not possible because of the lack of support from people. Ukraine War is a weapons business war between Russia and Ukraine not started by the people of these countries. 8 million or so people including women and children have become refugees and are suffering. Russia Ukraine War's has also cause serious implications on Indian politics. Because of this British raj based laws - Rahul Gandhi was expelled out of the Parliament.**

**the conservatives/right wing talk about the family values as we call it and that is also something that is underlyingly socialist in sense because , the family system is always strengthened if the economy and the people in power are righteous. Given this how reliable do you think is the left ideologies now . what do you think changed from the past ?**

*'wider community we're advocating for people to care about and to give to and to be within a wider community than just the nuclear family '*

I think the one thing about what you just said that I would like to go back to is this like concentration on family values which I think is a propaganda . I do not think that the family values which are sold by sort of like right wing or conservative ideology is the true natural state of human beings I don't think that we exist in these like individual family units and I think we exist within a wider community . This can be observed in like many different indigenous cultures and also like historically cultures all over the world but humans actually need to exist within a wider community than just our family and I think that is the difference between what I hate to call it the left because I really think that it's like a completely different scale than it's kind of divisive to be calling it left and right I know that you've sort of probably think the same by the way you phrased that question but basically just for simplicity are referred to as right and left actually advocating for a wider community we're advocating for people to care about and to give to and to be within a wider community than just the nuclear family which I think is actually sort of a device which has been used historically by capitalists for one of the better term to divide people into smaller and smaller units so they're more vulnerable because they know that the working class or like the people of any like nation state are stronger when they are connected and when they're like when they form community so by separating people into like individual like family units and then separating it down even further when you like can't afford to have children anymore so you become like an individual , maybe you have a partner but then it becomes like more increasingly difficult to form the necessary social ties to actually have some kind of like weighted power like within society to be able to make changes and decisions on your own behalf.

I actually don't know perhaps I actually don't think like the message which uh like socialists and communists have been trying to disseminate throughout the population has changed I think that it always goes back to the same principles of we should exist within a much wider community than we do and we should feel like the social obligation social responsibility and whatever towards a much larger number of people than just our immediate family and I fully 100% back that because I know that I'm happiest when I'm surrounded by a lot of people that like I feel like love and affection for.