

These Truths We Hold

Sorting Through "The Murk & Mud"

Spokes of War:

- **behavior** (criminal acts, conspiracies, violence)
- **ideology tied to violence** (justifying harm against civilians)
- **organizational links (whether there is coordination or leadership directing actions)**

"The spokes of war are formed by ideological visions of hatred that manifest as violence."

~Cowdrey

We hold that violence is often the outward expression of extreme ideological beliefs and hatred. Sorting through the "murk and mud" of our society requires depth and analytical precision. We offer a reminder that while war and conflict may appear in physical acts, their underlying "spokes" are often the ideas and narratives that justify, organize, and sustain them. Every act of violence first begins with a thought.

In criminal law, this is called *mens rea*, which translates as "guilty mind." There are many forms of guilty mind, but within the context presented here, the dreamer's intent is to cause harm for one purpose or another. Often these purposes are ideological, but they may also be driven by hatred or by personal or group gain.

Likewise, wanton conduct is reckless in nature. For example, there may be *mens rea*, ideology, and wanton conduct involved in looting events. Protest takeovers in which Whites are targeted, the military is targeted, or police are targeted, followed by organized and coordinated looting against a business perceived as "White," would be one example. Such attacks may also be directed against businesses owned by people of any race. Where these actions are combined with a protest movement, ideology, or organized intent, they may meet this definition.

Examples of looting events throughout history include the Roman triumphs, German actions during World War II, Soviet troops in Germany, and Israel's actions against Palestinians.

"Looting is considered prohibited under international law and constitutes a serious violation of humanitarian norms. Understanding its historical prevalence is essential for comprehending both past and contemporary war." -Wikipedia

Sources

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