

# On Getting Along

Howard Zinn

How do I stay involved and happy in this awful world where the efforts of caring people seem so small compared to those in power? It's easy.

**FIRST:** Don't let "those who have power" intimidate you. No matter how much power they have they cannot prevent you from living your life, speaking your mind, thinking independently, and having relationships with people as you like.

**SECOND:** Find people to be with who share your values and your commitments, but who also have a sense of humor. That combination is a necessity!

**THIRD:** Understand that the major media will not tell you of all the acts of resistance taking place every day in the society – the strikes, the protests, the individual acts of courage in the face of authority. Look around for the evidence of these unreported acts, and then assume that there are many thousands more of them.

**FOURTH:** Note that throughout history people have felt powerless before authority, but that at certain times these powerless people, by organizing, acting, risking, persisting, have created enough power to change the world around them, even if only a little.

**FIFTH:** Remember: power is fragile. People in power seem invulnerable, but their power depends on the obedience of others. Generals become powerless when soldiers refuse to fight; industrialists become powerless when workers go on strike.

**SIXTH:** Notice when power crumbles in the face of rebellion. We have seen many such times both in the United States and in other countries.

**SEVENTH:** Don't look for a moment of total triumph. It is an ongoing struggle, with victories and defeats. Be patient. Even when you don't "win," there is fun and fulfillment in being involved with other good people, in something worthwhile.

*Howard Zinn is the author of A People's History of the U.S. Reprinted w/ permission from ZNet <[www.zcommunications.org](http://www.zcommunications.org)>.*



# We Need a Revolution

Dead Prez

I can stop these cops from killin',  
 I can feed these hungry children,  
 I can stop racism, a product of cap-it-a-lism.  
 I can unpack the prisons,  
 and turn religion back to we livin'  
 I can stop the bloods from pillin' caps  
 and the crips from pillin' back  
 and get yo' cousin off crack,  
 I can stop the war,  
 that's in the black hood,  
 Send the money right back to the po' fo' sho an'  
 if you with me n--, let me know  
 let's go, if ya really wanna know  
 (I wanna know.)  
 (We need a revolution)  
 ...  
 The system ain't gonna change,  
 unless we make it change.

## Finding Inspiration

**What is** hopeful in these two pieces?

**What helps** you "get along"?