

## Assimilation, separation, or revolution

People generally respond to oppression in one of three ways: assimilation, separation, or revolution.

The boundaries between these approaches can blur. They show up in many oppressed groups in today's United States: Blacks, women, LGBTQ folks, Latinas and Latinos, Native peoples, Muslims, Jews, and working people.

**Assimilationists** tend to identify the cause of their oppression as personal prejudice, ignorance, or a lack of morality in their oppressors. They see "bad" individuals. They seek a solution in educating the oppressors, proving themselves as "loyal Americans," and climbing the ranks within society. Assimilation can result in a "go along, get along, get ahead" attitude.

**Separatists** tend to identify the cause of oppression as something inherent and unchangeable in the dominant group. They see a "bad" group. They seek a solution by building a separate society (secession, liberated zone, shadow culture, etc.).

**Revolutionaries** tend to identify the cause of oppression as systemic (not individual), usually as primarily economic. They see a "bad" system. They seek a solution by replacing the old system with a new one free from the flaw of the old one.

Whichever approach we like, we should work as allies.

## Assimilation, separation, or revolution

People generally respond to oppression in one of three ways: assimilation, separation, or revolution.

The boundaries between these approaches can blur. They show up in many oppressed groups in today's United States: Blacks, women, LGBTQ folks, Latinas and Latinos, Native peoples, Muslims, Jews, and working people.

**Assimilationists** tend to identify the cause of their oppression as personal prejudice, ignorance, or a lack of morality in their oppressors. They see "bad" individuals. They seek a solution in educating the oppressors, proving themselves as "loyal Americans," and climbing the ranks within society. Assimilation can result in a "go along, get along, get ahead" attitude.

**Separatists** tend to identify the cause of oppression as something inherent and unchangeable in the dominant group. They see a "bad" group. They seek a solution by building a separate society (secession, liberated zone, shadow culture, etc.).

**Revolutionaries** tend to identify the cause of oppression as systemic (not individual), usually as primarily economic. They see a "bad" system. They seek a solution by replacing the old system with a new one free from the flaw of the old one.

Whichever approach we like, we should work as allies.

