Develop, verb. (used with object) \dih-vel-uh p\: 1. to bring out the capabilities or possibilities of; bring to a more develop one's musical talent.

2. to cause to grow or expand: to develop one's muscles. **3.** to elaborate or expand in detail: to develop a theory. to bring into being or activity; generate; evolve.

4. biology: a. to cause to go through the process of natural evolution from a previous and lower stage.

b. to cause to progress from an embryonic to an adult form. ("develop," Dictionary.com.)

Development, noun. \dih-vel-uh p-muh nt\: 1. the act or process of developing; growth; progress. 2. a large group of private houses or of apartment houses, often of similar design, constructed as a unified community, especially by a real-estate developer or

government organization. **3.** mining: the work of digging openings, as tunnels, raises, and winzes, to give access to new workings, and of erecting necessary structures. ("development," Dictionary.com.)

"Development is a frayed flag, an emblem in its final agony and a catchword used to sell toxic products." (Gustavo Esteva, Universidad de la Tierra.)

DEVELOPMENT FOR DUMMIES REMOVAL

Editor's Note: The first people to live in Louisiana were the Atakapa, Avoyel, Bayogoula, Bilouxi, Chatot, Chawasha, Chitimacha, Choctaw, Houma, Koasati, Koroa, Mugulasha, Muskogee, Natchez, Natchitoches, Olelousa, Opelousa, Tangipahoa, Tawasa, and Washa.

Monique Verdin, 2018: "In the Houma origin story, Wolfe, "Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native," a crawfish is at the bottom of the water and starts building his crawfish mound; that's what made the land: pulling the mud American mound-building culture. There are ancient mounds in the Mississippi Delta." (Monique Verdin, Councilmember, United Houma Nation.)

EN: And then the Europeans arrived.

1620: Vacuum domicillum, the legal justification the systematic theft of Indigenous land, was coined by John Winthrop, Puritan election rigger, founder of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and father of the "City Upon a Hill" School of American Exceptionalism. Winthrop declared Indigenou land use to be valueless because it was in balance with natureregenerative rather than extractive; collective rather than individualistic. Indigenous methods of land stewardship, rather than land ownership, rendered their ancestral lands "empty" and available for European occupation. [See: Gentrification]

Verdin: "Our modern society has such a narrow view of tribal people, presuming that they were living in isolation. What's really fascinating about this territory is that there were petite nations here prior to colonization. There were eight anguages spoken right here in the Mississippi Delta. This land was called Bulbancha, meaning, in the Mobilian trading language of the region, Land of Many Languages."

Benjamin Franklin, "Founding Father," 1751: "And while we are, as I may call it, Scouring our Planet, by clearing America of Woods, and so making this Side of our Globe reflect a brighter Light to the Eyes of Inhabitants in Mars or Venus, why should we in the Sight of Superior Beings, darken its People? Why increase the Sons of Africa, by Planting them in America, where we have so fair an Opportunity, by excluding all Blacks and Tawneys, of increasing the lovely White and Red?" (Franklin, Benjamin. Observations Concerning the Increase of Mankind, Peopling of Countries, etc., 1751.)

EN: The "White and Red" above refers to bloodflow visible under blushing white folks' skin. Franklin and Thomas Jefferson considered visibility of blood due to heat and temper as evidence of White physical superiority over Blacks. [See: Blight]

EN: In 2018, New Orleans celebrated its Tricentennial. Three hundred years. Yet, people lived here for thousands of years prior to the city's founding, so what exactly were we celebrating?

Verdin: "My grandmother was always of the strong, moral [stance] that you don't ever use more than you need and you never waste. It was really hard for her to see hunters who we had trained not to be that way and they would take way more. [...] You live in a certain balance. It's okay to feed yourself but it's not okay to take more than you need."

Codify, verb. \kod-uh-, fahy\: To justify behaviors procedures, or rules through their establishment as legal code Systematize. Classify. ("codify," Dictionary.com.)

1830: The Indian Removal Act further codified the genocide and displacement of Native Americans across the United States. The Act empowered the U.S. Army to forcibly remove around 100,000 Native people from their ancestral homes and march them to State-sanctioned "reservations" out west between 1830 and 1869. Nearly one-third of this group died along the march or shortly thereafter.

1887: "[...The] President of the United States [shall] be, and he hereby is, authorized, whenever in his opinion any reservation or any part thereof of such Indians is advantageous for agricultural and grazing purposes to cause said reservation, or any part thereof, to be surveyed, or resurveyed if necessary, and to allot the lands in said reservations in **severalty** to any Indian located thereon in quantities as follows:

To each head of a family, one-quarter of a section; To each single person over eighteen years of age, one-eighth of a section; T each orphan child under eighteen years of age, one-eighth of a section; and, To each other single person under eighteen years now living, or who may be born prior to the date of the order of the President directing an allotment of the lands embraced in any reservation, one-sixteenth of a section [...] (The Dawes Act of 1887, Forty-Ninth Congress of the United States of America.)

EN: Declaring the frontier closed, the U.S. government sundown town, which banned African Americans from STEP order to divide and conquer; those who accepted individual Black resistance was part of a Bolshevik conspiracy. allotments and lived separately from the tribe were granted the security of U.S. citizenship and property title.

Between the declared **closing of the frontier** in the 1887 Dawes Act and the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, more treaty to Indian tribes were seized by or transferred to non-Indian homesteaders, investors, and corporations." (Mobers, Mark and Sesi Moberg, Tawnya. "The United Houma Nation in the U.S. Congress: Corporations, Communities, and the Politics of Federal Acknowledgment," Urban Anthropology 3,500 and Studies of Cultural Systems and World Economic Lynched Development. Vol. 34, No. 1, Spring 2005, p. 85-124.)

PBS: "Congressman Henry Dawes, author of the Act, once expressed his faith in the civilizing power of private property past enslavement or uprooted in landless migration evolved with the claim that to be civilized was to 'wear civilized clothes [...] into municipal zoning laws. cultivate the ground, live in houses, ride in Studebaker wagons, send children to school, drink whiskey [and] own property.' WETA.) [See: Auction]

reflected in the fact that, as economic immigrants, the rabble the overt use of racialized language. were generally drawn from the ranks of Europe's landless. The cattle and other stock were not only being driven off Cherokee EN: Zoning allowed governments to dictate a primary "use" for the disorderly pillaging of a nomadic horde who may or may not have been "lawless" but who were categorically White." (Patrick 1926: Village of Eucild v. Ambler Realty Company affirms Journal of Genocide Research 8, no. 4, Dec. 2006. p. 392.)

CONSOLIDATION

EN: What does it mean for Black people to occupy Indigenous land, whether enslaved upon it, stewarding it, or demanding the right of our 40 acres and a mule?

1790: The town of Mossville, LA, is founded by Jack Moss, a formerly enslaved person. Over the years, the town grows to 600 beople, but is never formally incorporated.

1865: In the wake of Emancipation, hundreds of towns began form throughout the rural South. Formerly enslaved Blacks began building community, wealth, and a sense of autonomy. Yet s nation developed through slave labor remained unwilling to grant the recognition and rights of full citizenship to Black people. The fate of these fledging communities remained fragile.

"The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, respectively, abolished slavery, recognized African Americans as citizens, and guaranteed African American men the right to vote. [...] By 1875, African deconsolidation is that zoning became a way to excise or move nericans across the South, supported by the federal government, ad established nearly four thousand schools for Black students. addition, more than fifteen hundred had run for office as state nd national representatives." (Brown, Nikki, "Jim Crow." Know puisiana, the Digital encyclopedia of Louisiana and the Home of uisiana Cultural Vistas.)

EN: Fearing the erosion of white supremacy, states began to mpose the **Black Codes** in efforts to restrict newly granted rights. Yet inspite of this reaction, in Southern Louisiana, Black people ought for and won the greatest gains in liberty in the Deep South, cluding integrated politics, schools, and public transportation. The 1874 Battle at Liberty Place in New Orleans effectively rought an end to Reconstruction in Louisiana. With the remova of federal troops from the South in 1877, the segregationist laws of Jim Crow (1877-1970) were installed, and Blacks were one again stripped of their inherent rights and dignity.

"As Reconstruction ended, most African Americans in Louisiana ented small plots of land, hoping to become self-sufficient mers. Former slaves tended to stay geographically close to neir former masters, usually living no more than fifty miles away. place of slavery, Whites developed an agricultural system alled **sharecropping**. Whites gave African American farmers access to land with the understanding that these farmers would give the landowner part of the crop as "rent." Sharecrop quickly evolved into an exploitative relationship between farmers and landlords. Often illiterate and uneducated, sharecroppers rarely understood the written contracts they were compelled to sign. Further, landlords set the price of the crop, often ignoring its market value, while Black farmers ere left without recourse. Sharecropping undergirded Black poverty in Louisiana—profits were scarce, weather and climate were often uncooperative, and corruption was rampant. While here were attempts to unify White and Black farmers in the mmediate postbellum period, sharecropping allowed class and racial distinctions to persist." (Brown, Nikki. ibid.)

EN: In the face of the growing threat of violence isenfranchisement and WWI's promise of manufacturing obs, 6 million African Americans left the agricultural South nd dispersed to the urban Northeast, Midwest and West of the ited States between 1916-1970 in a period known as The Great Migration. By 1960, of those African Americans still living in the South, half now lived in urban areas, and by 1970, § Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1921: Thousands of White folks more than 80% of African Americans nationwide lived in cities.

Bryan C. Lee, Jr., 2018: "The system of White supremacy, which existed long before Black neighborhoods tried \$ U.S. at the time, known as "Black Wall Street". In the first \$ STEP to sustain themselves, was able to destroy those neighborhoods whether by small codes or laws, or by outright violence."

Amid racial hatred and fears of racial and economic degeneration [See: Blight], this era saw the emergence of white flight and suburbanization, along with the feared massacre has been largely omitted from history education.

chipped away at reservations and further **isolated** Indigenous existing within town borders after dark upon penalty of death. advanced or effective state: to develop natural resources; to people on small parcels of land with The Dawes Act, which While these practices were rarely codified into policy, they were authorized the President to abolish tribal and communal land enforced by police and organized mobs. The first **Red Scare** was ownership and divide reservations into private property in in full swing and white Americans spread malicious rumors that

> Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the U.S., 1919: "The American Negro returning from abroad would be our greatest medium in conveying Bolshevism to America."

than 80% of the 156 million acres of land awarded by federal 1919: The Red Summer. In response to twin economic fears over Black exodus fom the South and influx to cities in the North and West, White race riots break out in 33 cities across the nation between May 10 and Oct. 1, including in New Orleans.

> between 1882 and

EN: Starting in the 1910s, the ideologies and systems that kept Black people either bound to the former plantations of their

1917: With Buchanan v. Warley, the Supreme Court strikes (PBS Archives of the West, 2001. © The West Film Project and down an overtly racist zoning law in Louisville, KY. The decision inspired city planners, among them Harland Bartholomew of St. Louis, later hired by the City of New Orleans [See: Blight], 2006: "A global dimension to the frenzy for Native land is to craft zoning laws that would allow for racial exclusion without

land; they were being driven into private ownership. Once specific neighborhoods as well as where resources could be allocated evacuated, the Red man's land would be mixed with Black labour and what types of buildings could exist. Zoning was used to prevent to produce cotton, the white gold of the Deep South. To this apartment buildings from being constructed in neighborhoods end, the international slave trade and the highest echelons of the with single-family homes, expressing an explicit class and an Pascagoula, Quapaw, Quinipissa, Souchitioni, Taensa, formal state apparatus converged across three continents with implicit racial bias to preserve White, middle-class neighborhoods.

the practice of zoning as constitutional. A Lower Court initially ruled against Euclid, noting in their judgment that the ordinance n question was being aimed implicitly, if not explicitly, at together and building the banks. The Houma are part of this greater EN: The "development" of America required the theft of stopping "the colored or certain foreign races [from] invad[ing] Indigenous land, the enslavement of Africans to cultivate it, and a residential section." The Supreme Court, on the other hand, the promise of white privilege for landless Europeans to defend it. ultimately sided with Euclid and with racial segregation.

> Lee: "[With Euclid v. Ambler] the Supreme Court essentially made neighborhoods into spaces that were now imminently enforceable by **police power**." [See: Property]

EN: In the U.S., "police power" grants the State the power to control the organization of neighborhoods and communities Exclusionary, or single-use, zoning prevents the organic growth of neighborhoods and communities according to the need of its residents. Urbanist Jane Jacobs criticised exclusionary zoning for creating urban sprawl, urban decay, chronic poverty, disinvestment, and displacement.

Lee: "What Euclid v. Ambler did was allow for cities to reach out and zone particular areas for [specific] functions, so education went here, industrial went here, commercial went here, residential over here. [...] When you create zones that are defined by simple functionalities, you start to strip away the consolidated resources that are in a particular neighborhood. When you have a neighborhood center, it makes the cost go down [and] it makes the functionality of living much easier. The side effect of this resources to control the flow of certain people in certain spaces. It made it so you could actually spread those things out, making it more difficult for Black and Brown people to concentrate themselves around those things and thusly making it easier to thin them out over space."

Atlanta City Planning Commission, 1922: neighborhoods had to be protected from any further damage to values resulting from inappropriate uses, including the encroachment of the colored.

'Zoning thus had two faces. One face, developed in part evade a prohibition on racially explicit zoning, attempted to keep African Americans out of White neighborhoods by making it difficult for lower-income families, large numbers of whom were African Americans, to live in expensive White neighborhoods. The other attempted to protect White neighborhoods from deterioration by ensuring that few industrial or environmentally unsafe businesses could locate n them. Prohibited in this fashion, polluting industry had no option but to locate near African American residences. The first contributed to the creation of exclusive White suburbs the second to creation of urban African Americans slums." how our government segregated America, 2017. p. 57.)

EN: Populations in the North and Midwest increased so rapidl mong both Black migrants and recent European immigrar that there were housing shortages in most major cities. With segregationist zoning laws in place and fewer resources available, Blacks and European immigrants were forced to compete for the oldest, most run-down housing. [See: Blight] Oftentime poor, Black neighborhoods would be zoned as Industrial. Creating neighborhoods without access to basic life necessities like grocery stores, zoning is responsible for the advent of **food deserts**.

Lee: "You saw things in the West and in the North like the destruction of Black neighborhoods after Black wealth was starting to be built between 1865 to the early 1900s [...] Looking at the distribution of Blackness across the country forced white supremacy to essentially unionize and find a way to not only distribute that hate in an interpersonal way but also in the ways and systems that allowed spaces to be created.'

arauded through the all-Black Greenwood community for two days, burning and looting homes and businesses. The nassacre destroyed the wealthiest Black business district in the aerial bombing on U.S. soil, incendiary devices destroyed 35 blocks. Over 6,000 Black residents were arrested; there were over 1,200 casualties, including an estimated 300 deaths. Around 10,000 Black families were left homeless. Direct property damages amounted to more than \$2.25 million (\$31 million in 2018). The

EXTRACTION THREE:

Extract, verb. \ik-strakt\ **1.** to draw forth (as by research): extract data.

2. to pull or take out forcibly: extract a wisdom tooth. 3. to obtain by much effort from someone unwilling:

4. to withdraw something by physical or chemical process: extract oil and gas. ("exctract," Dictionary.com.)

1901: The S.A. Spencer Company, later renamed **Jennings** Oil, is the first to drill for oil in Louisiana. "They drilled deeper and deeper into the earth until finally at 1700 feet, oil gushed forth." (Zebrowski, Ernest, and Mariah Zebrowski Leach. Hydrocarbon Hucksters: Lessons from Louisiana on Oil, Politics, and Environmental Justice, 2014. p. 25.)

Jennings Oil and its competitors collectively drain about 48,000 barrels of oil per day from the Jennings Oil Field in Jefferson Davis Parish. The companies begin building oil pipelines along, across, and through rivers and bayous.

"The 4-inch pipe line of Carnes, Bass, & Benckenstein from the ennings field to Butte la Rose, on the Atchafayala River at the head of the **Grand River**, is completed from the field to a point of the Southern Pacific branch near Egan. Two gangs are laying pipe and it is expected that the work will be completed in a month [...] the oil will be loaded on Barges at Butte la Rose and then down Grand River and up Plaquemine Bayou to Devil's Elbow, near Plaquemine, from which point it is only two miles overland to the Mississippi River. [...] A contract has been let by Carnes, Bass & Benckenstein to the Petroleum Iron Works for the construction of two 55,000 barrel steel tanks, to be located on the plantation of B.C LeBlane at Plaquemine." ("Jennings Oil Field," The Times-Picayune, 6 Apr. 1905, p. 15.)

Verdin: "Part of the Houma Nation were living in the Yakeshido, the "Big Country" between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers, until the '40s [...] when my grandfather started to migrate to St. Bernard Parish from Terrebonne/ Lafourche to trap. That was the end of the days of big time fur trapping—they were trapping mink, muskrat, otter, towards the end they started trapping nutria."

90 million acres of tribal land were stolen from Native American Indians and retailed to non-natives. [...] The ownership of the land in Jennings was controversial, yet the White settlers were able to make a profit from oil extraction, even though, just decades before, it was Choctaw and Cherokee land." (Reid, Eloise. "Losing Land to Oil," 2018.)

EN: Across the U.S., reservations that settlers previously assessed as worthless quickly became profitable. As land values rose, so did property taxes, leaving the Houma and other Indigenous tribes vulnerable to tax sales and evictions, among other predatory land-grab strategies. [See: Auction]

In one such instance, 150 families were rendered landless for a single oil company payment of \$20." (Mobers and Sesi

Verdin: "In Terrebonne/Lafourche, if you had a last name like Verdin, people knew that you were Indian and you were treated as such. Land had been swiped up in the '20s and '30s, so [people] were really suffering. That's why they were coming [to St. Bernard Parish] to trap—because they didn't have land of their own."

Underhanded business deals left Indigenous tribes with only a fraction of the profit of the oil and gas extracted from their communities. Some prospectors tricked tribal members into selling their property, offering fake leases printed in English that were actually bills of sale. Other oil companies simply began drilling with no permission. Indigenous peoples were barred from employment within the oil industry until the 1950s. By then, with traditional systems for self-sufficiency proken, the industry had become the sole option for employment.

Due to the significant economic interests at stake in [federal nationhood] acknowledgment decisions, petitioning tribes often find their claims opposed by corporations whose control of land and other resources would be threatened by federal tribal status." (Mobers and Sesi Moberg. ibid.)

EN: Oil companies promised wealth for the region, as well as an unending supply of oil.

"The investment of millions of dollars in refineries is one of the main reasons for assuming that the industry has reached a **permanent** basis. It is argued the men who are putting their money (Rothstein, Richard. The Color of Law: a forgotten history of into these large plants would not risk it on an uncertain supply of oil." ("The Oil Industry Of Texas And Louisiana. Source of Great Wealth to Both States," The Times-Picayune, 1 Sep. 1903, p. 52.)

> **1918:** "Rigs will be in place and drills will be **penetrating the** earth in Terrebonne Parish within 60 days. It was promised Thursday by the Louisiana Southern Oil and Gas Corporation the state's newest development concern." ("Drilling For Oil To Be Undertaken In Nearby Held New Concern Promises Extensive Development in," *The Times-Picayune*, 22 Feb. 1918, p. 7.)

Verdin, 2018: "[My Grandmother] was of the generation § hat witnessed the oil and gas come in and canals dredged and \S e refineries built and the land really go. It's crazy to think how quickly our reality has changed. With that, it's really interesting to see how **complex** it's become here in the vein of taking more han you need and having so many Houma and other people of this coast who are **dependent** on this extractive economy being § the oil and gas industry. We don't have any other economic engine aside from the port—that's still tied to oil and gas—and service industry—which is also, arguably, tied to oil and gas. I think that 🖁 we're in a **time of transition** where people's moral compass has § been influenced by decades of this industry controlling everything from the politics to our air quality at this point."

The Louisiana Mineral Board is constituted. an infant. [...As] an adult breadwinner

Oct. 1953, p. 66.)

EN: Further entrenching a culture and economy of extraction endear people to it. [See: Corporate Personhood]

gas industry make our profit possible by leasing our state lands all mineral resources beneath oceans. [...] and water bottoms for mineral development." (ibid.)

out about the oil and gas industry in South Louisiana you're or the arts and everything in between. Especially if you work bust, sending New Orleans' economy into a nose-dive. Industry after more than 10,000 miles of canals were dredged to reach in the industry. We are constantly duct-taping ourselves and employees fled the city; a wave of abandonment left tens of oil and gas wells. Researchers say this vast spiderweb of canals putting ourselves in the corner because we are afraid, and the thousands of blighted properties across the city. [See: Blight] [...] is responsible for up to 60% of the wetlands lost since the industry has been telling us for a long time that if you don't have oil and gas you have nothing. We've been believing that 1985: "By the mid-1980s, one in eight workers was unemployed loss." The Lens, 17 Nov 2016.) solutions because the industry is so strong here."

the political power of oil corporations. Nicknaming crude oil Orleans economy," The Times-Picayune, 28 Dec. 2011.) as "black gold", supporters of the extractive industry saw oil

("Terrebone Parish Announces A Birth and a Rebirth." New yet we have been conditioned to love the abuse of our captors. Orleans Item, 30 May 1937, p. 140.)

1952: "The oil industry is playing a major role in the industrial development of New Orleans. New Fields are opening, new refinery capacity is building, new petrochemical plants are rising as South Louisiana continues its substantial production of crude petroleum." (Industrial Development Staff, New Orleans Public Service Inc. "New Orleans Grows with Oil Industry," The Times

Picayune, 12 Oct. 1952, p. 122.) **EN:** By the early 1950s, oil extraction was the 4th largest industry in the world. One might think that Louisiana's centrality in the oil industry would make the state among the wealthiest in the

Corruption, noun. \kuh-ruhp-shuhn\:

1. the act of corrupting or state of being corrupt. **2.** moral perversion; depravity.

3. perversion of integrity. ("corruption," *Dictionary.com.*)

'Judge' Leander Henry Perez (1891-1969) was one o the most powerful political bosses in American history, ruling Plaquemines Parish with absolute control for five decades, from the 1920s through the 1960s. A millionaire oil speculator he rose to power as a race-baiting Southern political leader, becoming a virtual dictator and an ally of fellow outspoken white supremacists of his era, including George Wallace, Strom Thurmond, and Lester Maddox." (Jeansonne, Glen. "Leander Perez." Encyclopedia of Louisiana, Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, 4 Nov 2013. Web: 7 Jun 2018.)

CORRUPTION 101: HOW TO MANIPULATE PUBLIC LANDS FOR PERSONAL PROFIT !!!

Step 1: Get the governor to support constitutional amendment that will allow you to control the assets of indebted, landowning public agencies!

EN: In 1928, a constitutional amendment proposed by Perez and passed by Huey P. Long gave the Plaquemines Parish Police Jury (the official governing body of the parish) the authority to take over the bonded debt of levee districts, confiscating their assets for the duration of their indebtedness. As district attorney, Perez was the legal adviser of the Levee Board and easily kept the Board in perpetual debt.

Step 2: Enlish your friends working for the State Land Office to help!

EN: Perez then persuaded friends in the **State Land Office** to acquire federal swamplands and transfer them to the indebted Levee Boards. He also used the Board's powers of eminent domain to acquire private property. Finally, Perez interfered in the Parish School Board elections to gain power over the school district's land. The indebted levee board then set out to lease its new land's mineral rights.

Step 3: Help your friends and relatives form shell companies to buy those leases!

EN: Perez leased the levee board's mineral rights at 10 cents per acre to shell companies formed by close friends and family 2005: who then flipped the leases to legitimate oil and gas companies **THE BUST** for \$1-2 per acre, plus royalties. Perez profited by issuing lifelong contracts for his legal services.

Step 4: Put that stolen money in your bank account and be rich!!!!!

public "servant," at the time of his death in 1969, Perez's estate were going to start molding in a year (and they are). I think about made acceptable." (Shell, "The Greenhouse Effect," 1988.) was worth \$100 million (\$500 million today). Plaquemines that too in regards to our levee protection. You're doing this to Parish sued Perez' heirs for \$87 million, settling for \$12 million. protect development and corporate interests and economies and EN: According to the 2017 Carbon Majors Report, Shell is

He exercised dominion over his constituents and crushed all Because you guys know these are just bandaids..." opponents. He attained this unassailable status by way of creating wealth rather than taxation." (Jeansonne. ibid.)

Blights

Out

corporation and a state agency charged with "serving" the people Harry Truman's administration that denied Louisiana its potential "Katrina's Silver Lining," The New York Times, 8 Sept. 2005.) and needs of Louisiana. It positioned itself as the government, share of revenue from offshore oil leases. [...] Perez, acting out of the benevolent Father of Louisiana, and a business all rolled personal interests from his lucrative leases in Plaquemines Parish EN: Hurricane Katrina submerged 80% of New Orleans after change. Soon, we all will be left chasing land. Our home has into one. Cunning personification of the industry helped to [...] prevailed upon Long to turn down the deal and threatened a breach in the city's wetlands. The storm left over 1 million been been developed to death. 1953: "Like other corporations, the board must use the election to Shreveport Republican Clem Clarke, if Long accepted storm upon landfall to the loss of protective wetlands due, in best business practices to ensure maximum operations at Rayburn's offer. Caving to Perez's arm twisting, Long turned large part, to the dredging of oil and gas access canals. maximum profit, both for you and for us [...] our profit comes down the proposal. The federal government subsequently filed directly from leasing state-owned resources. You of the oil and suit against Texas and Louisiana, claiming sovereignty over 1927: "After the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927, which Radical, adjective. \rad-i-kuh l\:

Verdin: "I've been reminding people lately that if you speak decades has been calculated at \$100 billion." (Jeansonne. ibid.) land in the delta has been drying out, decomposing and sinking

really gambling with a risk of being blacklisted. That can EN: While oil industry insiders were riding high on the oil

and we don't have any outside investment into alternative in Louisiana, the highest unemployment rate in the nation. The **EN:** As the state's income from oil exploration grew, so did such as Atlanta and Dallas." ("1985: The oil bust hits the New as culpable for environmental damages caused by their operations.

predicts a world champion, big-time operator in the near future." of Louisiana is akin to **Stockholm Syndrome**. We are prisoners, Pelican Bomb, 18 May 2018. Web: 8 Jun. 2018.)

ZERO:

1916: The New Orleans Refining Company purchases 366 acres of sugar cane field from the Good Hope Plantation in St. Charles Parish to establish a marine petroleum supply terminal.

1920-1929: The New Orleans Refining Company begins refining oil in Sellers, LA. The town is renamed Norco, an abbreviation of the company name. The Shell Petroleum Corporation (later Shell Oil Company), a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell, acquires the Norco Refinery in 1929. A chemical plant is added in 1955. country. Not so; Louisiana ranks among the poorest. What gives?

> the towns of New Sarpy, Good Hope, and Norco. Collectively, these towns are part of a region known as Cancer Alley. The landscape of extraction is continuous and unbroken: former plantations have become petrochemical plants; the survivors of the old "peculiar institution" are the fenceline victims of today's peculiar institution, which threatens all life on Earth. **2002:** "The town of **Norco**, **Louisiana**, [...] is divided between

> hose who consider Shell a fair neighbor that carefully monitors s chemical emissions and the all-Black Diamond Community. As a result of Shell's industrial expansion, the size of the Diamond Community has been reduced to four streets that extend from the plant's **fence line**. Chemicals that have been identified in the air in the Norco community include **Benzene**, which is § known to cause cancer in humans; Epychlor Hydron, which § 🛚 is a suspected human cancer causing agent and has been linked 🖔 testicular dysfunction; and Toluene, Ethyl Benzene and Sulfur Compounds, which are all linked to birth defects. Out of oncern that these chemicals are adversely affecting their health,

he Diamond Community has been asking Shell to relocate them.

The rest of Norco is a mainly White community that owes its existence to the petrochemical industry. Like many esidents, Vicky Reneau has lived in Norco her entire life and is fiercely proud of this company town. Her father, Kirby, spent 🖇 O years working for Shell and the family grew up enjoying the benefits associated with being part of the 'Shell family'-free ccess to the company swimming pool, bowling alley, theater, and olf course. Along with the country club lifestyle, Shell employee enjoy some of the highest wages in the area. Vicky points ou that in addition to generous employee benefits which suppothe local economy, the company makes many contributions to the community. Shell sponsors a Christmas present give away, offers Thanksgiving turkeys to the needy, and sends employees into local schools to teach students about the importance of industry." ("Fenceline: A Company Town Divided." Dir. Grünberg Slawomir. PBS, 2002.)

EN: Remember the historic Black town of Mossville, L tablished in 1790? Today, the town has been decimated b he intrusion of a dozen hyper-polluting petrochemical plants, ncluding Sasol, Apartheid South Africa's state oil company which, in 1948, continued the unfinished work of the Nazis by commercializing their chemical technique to convert natural gas and coal into liquid fuels. (Gross, Daniel. "Thanks for the Cheap 🖇 Gas, Mr. Hitler!" Slate.com, 23 Oct. 2006. Web: 19 Jul 2018.)

KATRINA— HURRICANE ... THAT BECAME A BOOM

communities and I get that, but are we really making things better one of the top-ten companies responsible for global climate "There were two themes in Perez's career: race and power. by spending all this money to give us this false sense of security? change, yet in 2018 they plan to invest only 5% in sustainable

a miniature welfare state for Plaquemines Parish, with schools, Kathleen Blanco, Former Governor of LA (2004roads, and recreational facilities financed by the parish's mineral 2008), 2005: "The silver lining of Katrina's storm clouds is the historic opportunity that we have now to start anew."

of the Louisiana family, the mineral board has EN: Although oil and gas claims to contribute more than \$60 "As a colleague of mine says, every crisis is an opportunity. And greenwashing, tax-deductible sponsorship of our New areas of New Orleans long ago, leaving neighborhoods where and Pietrobono. ibid.) the LA Mineral Board operated as both a profit-seeking 1948: "Perez played a pivotal role in a decision during President roughly three-quarters of the people were poor." (Brooks, David.

> to take Long's nephew Russell, Huey's son and a candidate for people displaced throughout the region. 100,000 Black people US Senate, off the States' Rights ticket, virtually handing the were unable to return. Experts attribute the strength of the

> displaced 700,000 people from Illinois to New Orleans, Congress called for a system of levees to protect communities. This cut off "The estimated loss to Louisiana over the course of seven the river from its delta. Starved of sediment and freshwater, the at one of the fastest rates on the planet.

mean a multitude of things if you work in the environment **boom** of the mid-20th century, the oil glut of the 1980s led to a "The sinking that started with the levees went into overdrive 1930s." (Marshall, Bob. "Study: BP oil spill accelerated wetland

cruelest impact was on families, as fathers left their children and 2018: "In 2013, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Since then six parishes—St. John the Baptist, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Vermilion, Cameron, and Jefferson-have filed production as key to post-slavery economic development. EN: The "development" of a city is dependent on the whims of over 40 lawsuits against the oil and gas industry, calling out Helis cyclical. [...]" ("Vivir Bien," ibid.) the market. The cessation of the market's ability to extract profit Oil & Gas Energy Project, Shell Oil Company, ExxonMobil 1937: "Already, [black gold] is worth over \$25,000,000. Some from a place is cause for the abandonment of the place and its and Chevron Corporation, among many others." (Hackett, Infant! And everyone who has seen this belching youngster people. The relationship between the oil industry and the people Ann. "In the Slick of It: Art and the Oil Industry in New Orleans

> **2016:** "A new study by the U.S. Geological Survey and NASA shows the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 not only caused widespread damage to Louisiana's already crumbling wetlands but also speeded up erosion since then. [...] One year after the spill, shorelines that had shown little or no erosion in 2009 and early 2010 experienced dramatic erosion, researchers said. Erosion wa worst in areas that saw the most oil, but in 2012 the high loss rates extended to areas where little oil had been found." (Marshall. ibid.)

the Buras charts. Some had been named by French explorers the 'whole' are always in motion." n the 1700s." (Wold, Amy. "Washed away: Locations in Plaquemines Parish disappear from latest NOAA charts." The **DECOLONIZATION** Advocate, 29 Apr 2013.)

EN: The Sarpy, Good Hope, and Prospect Plantations became **2014:** "In just 80 years, some 2,000 square miles of [Louisiana's] oastal landscape have turned to open water, wiping places off maps, bringing the Gulf of Mexico to the back door of New Verdin: "I think we need to develop a better way to have a catastrophic conclusion over the next 50 years, so far unabated and how that can sustain us as opposed to being our enemy." and largely unnoticed." (Marshall, ibid.)

small towns south of New Orleans.

2017: "A **removal** and **relocation** project is underway on the Isle de Jean Charles. For over a century, the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw have inhabited the island. [...] Since 1955, more than **COMPLEMENTARITY** 90% of the island's original land mass has washed away." (Reid Eloise. "The Political Ecology of Climate Displacement," 2017.)

2016: "The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced in January that it had awarded the state-recognized tribe \$48 million to pay for a Lee: "Nearly all of planning is under this false pretense that move, most likely farther north inland, making them the first everyone needs or everyone wants a white picket fence, or community of official climate refugees in the United States." some version of an individualized housing unit that allows ("Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Get \$48 Million to Move Off of them to prosper as individuals." Disappearing Louisiana Island." *Indian Country Today*, 2016.)

EN: Yet some tribes, like the Houma whose federal tribal status has been blocked by the oil and gas industry, have not been offered a resettlement deal from the federal government. They see themselves being planned out of the future.

2011: "The United Houma Nation, a state-recognized tribe spread throughout six parishes in southeastern Louisia worries that their communities will not be protected under the 2012 Master Plan. Some areas dear to the Houma have been left out of the Morganza-to-the-Gulf levee system that is currently being built. At a public meeting in City Park, New Orleans, Houma representatives told state officials that they felt their communities would be **sacrificed** in a "trade-off" that would save others." ("Houma Nation Fears Trade Off In Louisiana Coastal Restoration", Indian Country Today, 2011.)

Imani Jacqueline Brown, 2018: "In 1988, the year I was born, Shell admitted in a previously hidden internal report titled The Greenhouse Effect the impact of fossil fuels on the incoming generation of children. [...]" (Brown, Imani Jacqueline and Pietrobono, Kenneth. "Between You and Me, Art Practical, July 2018.)

Shell Oil, 1988: "The changes in climate [...] are at an is always trying to advance to a higher level." unaccustomed distance in time for future planning, even EN: Although he never earned more than \$7,000 per year as a they put up these new things that look like pieces of plastic that All of these actions will be costly and uncertain, but could be to plan on behalf of the next 300 years and beyond.

> energy and 95% in oil and gas extraction. Rather than fund a way out of our climate crisis, the oil industry funds cultural institutions to camouflage its grave impact on people and place.

Brown: "Now, in 2018, we're letting them claim that their

more importance than most of the older agencies." billion annually to the economy, industries of extraction, sure enough, Hurricane Katrina has given us an amazing chance Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival is supporting a culture of ("Olvey Describes Board Policies," The Times-Picayune, 10 from enslavement to oil, tend to burden public health and to do something serious about urban poverty. [...] The first rule "sustainability" and "resilience". This, after Hurricane Katrina concentrate wealth in the hands of a few, leaving little money of the rebuilding effort should be: Nothing Like Before. Most caused massive migration and gentrified replacement of my for the "development" of public schools, hospitals, and housing. of the ambitious and organized people abandoned the inner-city family and a million others throughout SE Louisiana." (Brown

EN: Louisiana bears the fastest land loss in the world at 16.6 square miles per year, placing us at the frontline of climate

BACK DEVELOPMENT RADICAL

1. of or going to the root or origin; fundamental.

EN: The South American Indigenous concept of **Buen Vivir**/ Vivir Bien (Good Living) and the European Degrowth movement offer models for the future:

"Degrowth is not the opposite of growth nor a negative growth. Degrowth is a matrix of alternatives to stop the productivist cycle of extraction, production, and consumption, and to build autonomous, simple, and moderate societies." ("Degrowh," Systemic Alternatives, http://systemicalternatives.org.)

"For Vivir Bien the 'whole' is the Pacha, which includes the indissoluble unity of space and time. Within the Pacha, young adults left their parents to find work in prosperous places Authority-East filed a lawsuit naming 97 oil and gas companies the dichotomy between living beings and simple objects does not exist, there is no separation between humans and nature. Within the Pacha there is coexistence between past, present, and future. For Vivir Bien, time and space are not linear, but

EN: Radical development requires unearthing the root causes of developmental death.

Lee: "Design justice is a movement towards **reparative** rights the built environment. That means acknowledging all of the past failures, not only of architecture but of our systems at large, and as we design speaking directly to those."

"Vivir Bien seeks the balance between the contradictory parts of the 'whole'. It is not an eternal equillibrium but a dynamic and 2013: "NOAA removes 31 bays and other features from changing one because the contradictions within

EN: Radical development must address original and ongoing colonial extraction.

Orleans [...] Scientists now say one of the greatest environmental symbiotic relationship with our environment, [one where] we and economic disasters in the nation's history is rushing toward a were able to recognize the value of the living world around us

"To decolonize is to dismantle the political, **EN:** The State of Louisiana has laid out plans to start relocating economic, social, cultural and mental systems that do not let us see the 'whole', nor seek balance through the complementarity of the contradictory parts of the 'whole'."

'whole' will be."

EN: Radical development requires the decommodification of property and returning housing to its primary function as shelter—a social rather than financial investment.

"Balance is possible through complementarity and not through competititon. Complementarity seeks optimization by combining forces. The more one articulates with the other, the greater the resolution of each part and the

DEVELOPMENT

mmunal values and principles. "For Vivir Bien everything always has contradictions. To live well is to learn to

coexist in a multipolarity of contradictions:

EN: Radical development necessitates a shift to align with

individual-community, humanity-nature." EN: Radical development requires sankofa: the re membering of ancestral ways-of-being and application to our present lives; the re-membering of cultures broken over

"This notion of time that moves in spiral questions the very essence of development that

shards of colonial policy, enslavement, and extraction.

beyond the lifetime of most of the present decision makers EN: 300 years of what are we celebrating? Of colonialism. Of **Verdin:** "For so long, to develop has meant to tear down and but not beyond intimate (family) association. The changes a fdevelopment that is synonymous with displacement. Of an build something else. [...] When I hear 'development,' it feels like may be the greatest in recorded history. They could alter the extractive culture and economy justified through legally codified a false promise of betterment, especially being on the other end environment in such a way that habitability would become ignorance and the Enlightened rationalization of exemptions of a post-Katrina reality and thinking about development from more suitable in the one area and less suitable in the other area. to the innate rights of humanity. Climate change is the true [the perspective of] how all of the housing was mowed down and Adaptation, migration, and replacement could be called for. honorific of these past 300 years. Radical development asks us

> We have been developed to death, but time is a spiral. To survive, to live, we need to get radical. We need to get to the root of velopmen.

> mage: jagged oil and gas access canals penetrate the fecund and wild Mississippi River Delta Creative Commons: © Blights Out, 2018 www.blightsout.org

