

Breaking the Chains of Capitalism - The Houdinist Call for Unity Amidst Climate Crisis

Amid the turbulence of our era, an original and audacious philosophy rises to challenge the status quo - Houdinism. This philosophy, intricately woven with threads of historical resilience and contemporary urgency, embodies a spirited call for a revolutionary transformation in American society and government.

Named after the legendary escape artist Harry Houdini, Houdinism adopts the daring spirit of its namesake to create a bold and ambitious blueprint for change. Houdini, an immigrant who rose from poverty to awe-inspiring renown, encapsulates the essence of the American Dream. Houdinism, however, does not shy away from confronting the inherent contradictions of this dream. Instead, it advocates for a great escape act – a revolutionary shift away from the constraining chains of capitalism and the deep-seated social inequities it perpetuates.

Drawing inspiration from Marxist-Leninist ideologies, Houdinism acknowledges their valuable critique of capitalist exploitation and their envisioning of a worker-led society. However, it does not merely replicate these doctrines. Houdinism is reshaped and reimagined to address the unique complexities and contradictions of the American socio-political landscape. It echoes the revolutionary spirit of the American Revolution, the transformative aspirations of leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., and the empowering rhetoric of the Labor Movement.

Houdinism finds resonance in diverse historical movements that have sculpted America's social landscape - the abolitionist struggle against the brutalities of slavery, the Civil Rights Movement challenging systemic racial discrimination, and early socialist and labor movements standing against the ruthless advance of capitalism. These struggles, this canon of American resistance, informs Houdinism's clarion call for a radical overhaul of our socio-economic system.

But Houdinism is not merely a theoretical construct. It is an active and urgent response to our contemporary crises – rising economic inequality, pervasive racial injustice, the impending disaster of climate change, and unchecked imperialist militarism. It recognizes these issues as interconnected strands of the same oppressive system – capitalism – and rallies for a comprehensive and revolutionary change in society and governance.

The distinguishing aspect of Houdinism is its audacity and relentless optimism. Just as Houdini defied seemingly impossible physical constraints, Houdinism proposes an audacious confrontation with the seemingly unassailable socio-political structures. It challenges despair, replacing it with the exhilarating thrill of struggle, viewing each act of defiance not just as a clash with the oppressive capitalist order but as an affirmation of our collective potential for radical societal transformation. It acknowledges the interwoven threads of global labor movements while critically recognizing the limitations of traditional leftist theories in the face of the 21st century's complex realities. These include the looming threats of nuclear warfare, the relentless march of climate change, and the omnipresence of the internet.

Houdinists argue that Marxism was never intended to be dogmatically followed, nor did Lenin envision the uniquely modern challenges that today's society grapples with. Importantly, Houdinists resist the divisive practice of over-labeling within the leftist movement, a trend that paradoxically mirrors the individualistic ethos

of the capitalism they strive to challenge. Instead, Houdinism pivots towards a more action-oriented focus on the cause of the proletariat. Houdinists recognize their unique position as activists inside of the Imperial Core.

Introducing Houdinism - a bold ideology born out of our turbulent times, unphased by the magnitude of our challenges, and fundamentally rooted in the belief in our collective power to bring about a revolutionary shift in American society and government. Houdinism transforms the struggle from a grim battle to a daring act of liberation, offering a clear and audacious path to escape from the chains of our present to the limitless possibilities of a better, more equitable future.

Implementing Houdinism: A Multi-Dimensional Strategy for Unification

Drawing on the principles of Chaos Marxism, Houdinism advocates for a radical and unifying belief in the cause of the workers. It considers all theories, tactics, and ideologies as mere tools in the service of this central cause, strongly asserting against the divisive misuse of these tools as sources of conflict or fragmentation. Houdinism presents a vision for a unified, potent, and dynamic leftist movement.

This vision is built on a blend of cohesion and decentralization, aiming to bring together a diverse array of leftist organizations across the U.S. under a singular, shared goal, whilst preserving the diversity and autonomy of each faction. It proposes the organization of a convention that assembles this myriad of leftist ideologies – a move that echoes the nation-building constitutional conventions of America's inception.

This convention would be a platform for representatives from a wide spectrum of leftist ideologies and organizations – Marxists, Anarchists, Posadists, Trotskyists, black power advocates, grassroots organizations like Food Not Bombs, and many others. Its aim is not to blur the distinctions between these groups but to create an environment where these diverse ideologies and tactics converge to serve a unified purpose.

The purpose of this convention is dual-fold. Firstly, it seeks to articulate a thorough and robust critique of capitalism through a collectively authored document – the "99 Theses of Capitalism." This critique aims to dissect the multi-dimensional issues of capitalism, laying bare its exploitative nature, and delineating the ways in which it perpetuates inequality and ecological harm.

The second goal of the convention is the drafting of a new constitution for a future Houdinist America. This constitution is envisioned as more than a static piece of legislation or a one-time agreement. Instead, it is seen as a living and evolving framework that changes and adapts in response to societal transformations. In this way, Houdinism avoids the trappings of inflexible dogma and personality cults, instead promoting an adaptive and responsive governance model.

By emphasizing the unifying cause of the proletariat's welfare and advocating for an adaptable and comprehensive constitution, Houdinism provides a robust and dynamic strategy to guide the leftist movement. It encourages unity in diversity, focusing on collective action against capitalist exploitation, while celebrating the various ideological perspectives that enrich the movement.

The American Context: Internationalism and its Challenges

A significant part of the Houdinist discourse revolves around the inescapable influence of the United States on global geopolitics and the complications this presents for the internationalist aspirations of the left. The U.S has been notorious for its interventions in foreign nations, notably where socialist revolutions were gaining momentum. Its arsenal is not limited to military invasions but also includes economic tactics such as sanctions and embargoes, which can potentially cripple a country's economy and derail any revolutionary ambitions. Therefore, Houdinists contend that for an international workers' revolution to succeed, it must originate within the U.S, thus presenting a twisted iteration of American exceptionalism.

However, triggering a revolution of such scale within the U.S is akin to a Herculean task, akin to Harry Houdini's most daring feats. The obstacles are manifold - from a deeply entrenched culture of capitalist individualism to a politically polarized society, from powerful corporate interests to a pervasive media narrative that demonizes socialism. But the most formidable of all is the ticking clock of the climate crisis.

Unlike previous revolutions, this uprising against the neoliberal order does not have the luxury of time. The urgency imposed by climate change demands swift and decisive action. The grim reality of our environmental situation doesn't allow for a drawn-out internal conflict, as a civil war scenario would only serve to lengthen the timeline, intensify the climate crisis through increased fossil fuel consumption, and accelerate the destruction of already dwindling natural resources.

Thus, Houdinists recognize the necessity for swift, revolutionary transformation rather than a slow evolution. They advocate for a quick transition to a post-capitalist society, which necessitates not only radical changes in economic structures but also a paradigm shift in societal attitudes towards cooperation, collective welfare, and sustainability. The confluence of these elements underlines the daunting yet crucial task of this proposed revolution: the need for rapid, comprehensive change in the face of existential crisis.

Houdinism: A Detailed Strategy for a New America through Multifaceted Action

Deriving its name and inspiration from the audacious performances of the famous escape artist, Houdini, the Houdinist movement sets forth a bold, radical blueprint for societal change. It aspires to break free from the chains of capitalism and confront the ominous wave of climate change, symbolizing a dramatic leap into seemingly insurmountable circumstances. The strategy is multifaceted, employing a comprehensive array of tactics to cultivate unity and stimulate collective action against deeply entrenched systems of exploitation and environmental neglect.

Revitalizing American Governance through a New Constitutional Convention:

One of the fundamental aspects of the Houdinist strategy revolves around the call for a new constitutional convention. Echoing the spirit of the assemblies that gave birth to the American nation, this convention seeks to bridge the chasm between diverse leftist organizations and thought leaders. The primary aim of this endeavor is to co-create a unifying document that is wide-ranging and inclusive of the multitude of interests present in the collective. In doing so, it aims to provide a radical yet cohesive blueprint for American governance.

Houdinists view this task as an iterative process rather than a single decisive meeting. The convention symbolizes an ongoing democratic exercise, open to modifications and improvements as society evolves. This approach emphasizes that the constitution is a living document, reflecting the changing needs, aspirations, and sentiments of the American populace over time.

Promotion of Unionization and Direct Action:

Central to the Houdinist ideology is the promotion of direct action and unionization. Union leaders, as representatives of the working class, play an integral role in the convention. They are the voice of the labor force within the decision-making process, providing valuable insights and perspectives into the struggle against capitalist exploitation. The presence of union leaders in the convention ensures that the needs, concerns, and interests of the workers are represented and addressed adequately within the constitution.

Leveraging the Power of the Media:

Houdinists understand the power of the media in shaping societal discourse and mobilizing public opinion. They contend that the apparent lack of socialist discourse in online platforms is not a reflection of public sentiment but an artifact of astroturfing. In response, Houdinists urge progressive media outlets, bloggers, YouTubers, influencers, and opinion leaders to legitimize and amplify discussions around the constitutional convention and the wider Houdinist movement. By harnessing the potential of these platforms, Houdinists aim to counteract capitalist propaganda and bring socialist narratives into the mainstream.

Invoking Article V through State and Territory-Based Organizations:

Given the prevailing issues with the current state legislatures, Houdinists argue for the creation of state and territory-based organizations, a move designed to better represent the interests of various progressive elements within each state. This is not just a strategic move to decentralize power and enhance representation, but also a tactical measure to invoke Article V of the U.S. Constitution.

Article V provides for the process to alter the Constitution, either through a two-thirds majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, or by a constitutional convention called for by two-thirds of the State legislatures. While the former approach is unlikely to succeed given the grip of established interests on the federal legislative branches, the latter provides a potential pathway to the fundamental restructuring of American governance.

By forming these state and territory-based organizations and challenging the legitimacy of existing state legislatures, the Houdinist strategy could conceivably bypass the conventional legislative structures and call for a constitutional convention. This move would not only uphold the Constitution's own mechanism for self-alteration but also add an aura of legitimacy to the Houdinist movement.

Drafting New Amendments:

Crucially, Article V does not impose any limit on the number of amendments that can be proposed during a constitutional convention. This ambiguity leaves room for the drafting of an entirely new document during these meetings, one that aligns with Houdinist principles and the diverse interests of the American populace.

In essence, Houdinists argue for retaining the sociocultural framework of the U.S. Constitution while fundamentally overhauling its content. By doing so, they seek to balance respect for American political heritage with the urgent need for societal transformation.

Expanding Representation:

One powerful implication of the Houdinist strategy is its potential to extend representation to traditionally marginalized or overlooked groups. While Article V refers to delegates from each state, Houdinists argue that the term 'state' should be expansively interpreted, given the illegitimacy of modern legislatures. This interpretation enables the inclusion of delegates from colonial territories and Native American reservations, fostering a more inclusive, representative convention.

Mitigating the Risk of a Runaway Convention:

By basing the new document on the original Constitution, Houdinists aim to limit the risk of a "runaway convention," where the process becomes uncontrolled and leads to wholesale changes that could potentially destabilize the nation. Given Houdinism's keen acknowledgment of the urgent timeline presented by climate change, this serves as a compelling argument for a deep yet measured overhaul of the existing document.

Revisiting the Bill of Rights:

In the context of these potential amendments, Houdinists strongly advocate for revisiting the concept of a new Bill of Rights. The revised Bill of Rights could incorporate expansive protections for labor, healthcare, the environment, and digital privacy, among other issues, reflecting the evolving needs and challenges of the 21st-century citizen. Such a move would mark a significant step towards achieving Houdinism's end goal: the welfare and liberation of the proletariat.

In sum, the Houdinist strategy's emphasis on creating state and territory-based organizations is not merely about addressing the democratic deficits of current legislatures. It is a well-thought-out plan to invoke Article V, draft wide-ranging constitutional amendments, and create a truly democratic, progressive, and inclusive American society.

Arguments Challenging the Legitimacy of the Existing State Legislature System:

Houdinists put forth several arguments to challenge the legitimacy of the current state legislature system:

1. **Gerrymandering:** This is a widely criticized practice of drawing electoral districts to favor one party over the other, undermining the principle of equal representation. By artificially amplifying the political power of certain groups and diluting the power of others, gerrymandering erodes the democratic essence of the state legislatures.
2. **Money in Politics:** The influence of money in U.S. politics, especially post the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, raises serious concerns about the extent to which wealthy individuals and corporations can sway political outcomes. This undermines the democratic principle of "one person, one vote" and calls into question the representation of ordinary citizens in state legislatures.
3. **Inaction on Popular Issues and Action on Undemocratic Issues:** Houdinists point to the disconnect between public opinion and legislative action on issues like healthcare, drug policy, and economic reform as evidence of state legislatures' failure to represent the will of the people. They also highlight instances

where legislatures have pursued policies that can be deemed undemocratic, such as restrictions on abortion and defunding public libraries and schools.

4. **Taxation Without Proper Representation:** Drawing parallels with colonial-era grievances, Houdinists argue that modern citizens are taxed without receiving adequate representation in government. This argument is especially powerful when coupled with the points about gerrymandering, the role of money in politics, and legislative inaction.
5. **Militarization of Police and the Third Amendment:** The militarization of police forces in the U.S. has raised significant concerns about the blurring of lines between military and domestic law enforcement roles. Houdinists argue that this may violate the Third Amendment, which prohibits the quartering of soldiers in private homes without the owner's consent, in "peace time". While this argument is more contentious, it taps into broader concerns about the role of the military in domestic affairs.

Towards a More Inclusive and Collaborative Constitution:

Houdinists view the initial documents penned by the author as a starting point, not the final product. They promote a collaborative and iterative approach to constitution-building. The idea is to engage a broader array of voices in the shaping of the constitution, thereby ensuring it is robust, encompassing, and reflective of a collective vision.

The Unwavering Focus on Proletariat Welfare and Liberation:

Despite the diversity of tactics and ideologies encompassed within the Houdinist strategy, the end goal remains clear—the welfare and liberation of the proletariat. Every action, every policy proposal, and every political maneuver serves this ultimate purpose.

In essence, the Houdinist strategy is a call to arms, a rallying cry for unity and collective action. It presents a challenging path, a race against time, and a struggle for both the planet and the proletariat. The call to action is unmistakable: "Join, or die." Through this detailed, multifaceted strategy, Houdinists seek to steer America towards a more equitable, representative, and sustainable future.

Revival of the Share Our Wealth Program

The Share Our Wealth program, resurrected by the Houdinists, serves as a direct challenge to the unsustainable wealth disparities perpetuated by the capitalist system. By refocusing resources back into the hands of the people, this proposal sets a new standard for economic justice and wealth distribution. Its core components include:

1. **Wealth Caps:** To combat obscene wealth accumulation and promote a more equitable society, personal fortunes will be capped at \$96 million. Annual income will be limited to \$12 million, and inheritances to \$60 million.
2. **Guaranteed Income:** To ensure every individual has their basic needs met, we guarantee an annual income of \$20,000, with additional support for those with children.
3. **Olive Branch Debt Jubilee:** In a bid to alleviate the crippling debt crisis, all debts, personal or institutional, will be wiped clean. This is an offer extended to both workers and capitalists, a fresh start for all. Should this offer be refused by capitalists, the jubilee will proceed nonetheless.
4. **Education for All:** Free college education, vocational training, and lifelong learning opportunities via community programs will be provided to ensure everyone has the opportunity to pursue their intellectual

interests and enhance their skills.

5. **Reduced Retirement Age:** In recognition of the value of leisure and relaxation, the age for accessing social security will be reduced from 67 to 60.
6. **Universal Healthcare and Childcare:** Comprehensive, high-quality healthcare and childcare services will be provided universally, relieving families of these substantial burdens.
7. **Reduced Work Week:** In alignment with our anti-work stance, the workweek will be reduced to 25 hours, giving individuals more time for leisure, self-care, and community engagement.
8. **Mandatory Vacation:** To foster well-being and work-life balance, every worker will be entitled to a four-week vacation.
9. **Paid Parental Leave:** Recognizing the importance of parental bonding, we propose six months of paid maternal and paternal leave for all workers.
10. **Commodity Regulation:** Greater regulation of commodity production will be implemented to stabilize prices and prevent the manipulation and exploitation rampant in unchecked capitalist markets.

This bold plan stands as a testament to the Houdinist's commitment to creating an equitable society, one where resources are shared, people's needs are prioritized, and the chains of capitalist exploitation are forever broken. Like Houdini, we are audacious, and it is this audacity that drives our pursuit of a new world order.

400 Days to be Unchained - Pamphlet for Radical Socialist Change in America

Day 1: The Declaration and Kickstart of Houdinism

- The Declaration is made public, initiating the Houdinism movement. The Declaration contains historical analysis, clear objectives, and an articulate critique of the existing capitalist order, and announces the 400-day mandate for the formation of state organizations.
- The Declaration's proposals include the establishment of a new workers' democracy, "Land Back" initiatives for indigenous communities, radical wealth redistribution and an end to the Military Industrial Complex.
- Additionally, it proposes trials for entities responsible for environmental destruction. This could involve setting up people's tribunals or advocating for international courts to recognize ecocide as a crime against humanity.

Day 1-30: Spreading the Word

- The Declaration is disseminated through various channels, including social media, public forums, and influencers, to create public awareness and build momentum.

Day 30-100: Assembling State Organizations and Beginning the Protracted People's War

- The organizations are created in a decentralized manner, with local leadership taking the lead, and leveraging existing networks of leftist organizations to build broader coalitions.
- Guidance is provided through a toolkit to help local leaders understand the broader goals of the movement and how they can contribute to achieving them.
- These organizations are formed rapidly, ideally within 400 days of the declaration, using a sense of urgency to motivate quick action.

Day 100-170: Democratic Delegate Selection and Vanguardism

- These state organizations are tasked with selecting delegates to a new Constitutional Convention.
- The method of delegate selection is not explicitly defined in Article V of the Constitution, opening up possibilities for democratic selection by the state organizations.
- Delegates, akin to Lenin's revolutionary vanguard, receive education and training on Marxist-Leninist-Maoist theory and the specific objectives of Houdinism.
- These individuals should be prepared to drive the movement's goals forward in the spirit of Lenin's concept of a revolutionary vanguard.

Day 240-310: Invoking Article V

- The provision in the U.S. Constitution allowing for a Constitutional Convention through state consensus is invoked.
- The convention serves as a platform to announce the people's grievances and desire for a new constitutional overhaul.

Day 310-380: The Constitutional Convention

- The new constitution aims to establish a 'new democracy', as Mao Zedong conceptualized, transitioning the government towards socialism. The new democracy represents a transitional phase in which all progressive classes are united against the bourgeois class and the global threat of climate collapse.
- The delegates propose a radical renewal of the Constitution at the convention, leveraging the existing framework for amendments to avoid the lengthy process of creating a new document.
- A large number of amendments can be proposed at the convention, opening up possibilities for comprehensive structural change.
- 21st Century Worker's Bill of Rights is drafted.
- In parallel, the state organizations and smaller progressive organizations inside also serve to build dual power structures, contesting and sharing state power, reflecting Lenin's understanding of the dual power phenomenon during revolutionary periods.

Day 380-400: Building Dual Power Structures and Transitional Government

- New Constitution and list of grievances by We the people of the United States of America is sent to official offices
- State organizations continue to operate post-convention, working to build dual power structures and challenge existing state power.
- An interim coalition government, representing all progressive classes against bourgeois domination, is set up in line with Mao's concept of New Democracy.

Day 400+: Post-Convention Actions and Continuous People's War for Liberation from Chains of Capitalism

- Capitalists respond.
- Efforts continue to push for the implementation of the proposed amendments, through various forms of direct action, lobbying, and public campaigning.
- Education and training programs are maintained to foster continuous revolution and keep the movement active.
- International solidarity is fostered by connecting with similar global movements, sharing experiences, and offering mutual support.

As a Houdinist, I affirm:

1. We are fearlessly committed to exposing and opposing the capitalist system that thrives on exploitation, inequality, and ecological destruction. Our goal is not reform, but a revolutionary transformation towards a just and sustainable socialist society.
2. We support the formation of a democratic governance of the masses, guided by a Scientific Council, Workers' Unions, and an elected House of Representatives. This trinity will ensure that our society is founded on reason, informed by evidence, and responsive to the needs of its citizens.
3. We demand an immediate dismantling of the Military Industrial Complex. The resources and manpower of this complex will be redeployed to form a Climate Corps, tasked with battling the existential threat of climate change and restoring our planet.
4. We insist on accountability for those who have committed war crimes and environmental atrocities. The establishment of a court similar to Nuremberg will ensure that those who have perpetuated harm under the guise of 'defense' or 'industry' will face justice. These trials will show the world that a new America has been birthed, let the blood of the sinners wash away the sins of the meek.
5. We champion the rights of all individuals, regardless of gender, to make informed choices about their bodies and lives. We are steadfast advocates for women's rights and LGBTQ+ rights, viewing them as integral to our struggle for a society free from all forms of oppression. We maintain a commitment to positive freedoms and individual autonomy.
6. We demand a total restructure of the educational system. The elimination of legacy admissions and the provision of free access to education for all are critical steps in this process. Knowledge should be freely accessible to all, and libraries, internet access, and other tools of learning are foundational to this. Nationalization of all internet companies is critical in this aspect, a due response to their continued squandering of tax payer funds.
7. We seek reparations for those wronged by the oppressive structures of capitalism, including victims of war crimes, ecological destruction, and systemic racial and economic injustices. To heal the wounds of our past, we must confront them directly.
8. We call for the dismantling of the fossil fuel industry and the creation of a system to hold those responsible for climate crimes accountable. Our environment should be cherished, not exploited, and those who have caused harm must pay their dues.
9. We propose the nationalization of key industries, including but not limited to Walmart, Amazon, rail companies, and companies with extensive contracts with the US government. We reject the myth of the 'great man' or 'job creator,' recognizing that wealth and resources should serve all, not just the few.
10. We advocate for a comprehensive health care system that provides for all citizens, irrespective of their socioeconomic status. Health care is a fundamental right, not a privilege, and Medicare for All is a necessary step in this direction.
11. We demand a radical redistribution of wealth, rejecting the illusion of the 'American Dream' in favor of an equitable society where prosperity is shared, not hoarded.
12. We embrace Houdini's audacity, using it as a guiding principle in our struggle. Our tactics will be daring, spectacular, and designed to disrupt the status quo, mirroring Houdini's own challenges to conventional wisdom and authority.
13. We acknowledge the reality of being a socialist in the contemporary era. Like Houdini, we face daunting odds and powerful adversaries. But we are prepared to face these challenges with courage and resolve, recognizing that our cause is just and our struggle necessary. We understand the term "revolutionary

suicide" as defined by comrade Huey P Newton, recognizing that the struggle for justice may demand our ultimate sacrifice, yet our cause is worthy of such a price.

14. We call for a new constitution, written in consultation with various left-leaning groups including anarchists, tito, Marxists, and Posadists. This constitution will reflect our shared values and offer a vision for a society that is just, equitable, and sustainable. This constitution will be crafted through inclusive, democratic meetings to ensure all voices are heard and considered .We are committed to facilitating a series of democratic meetings to deliberate and draft this new guiding document, we must draw upon previous revolutionary conventions, including those of our original revolutions.
15. Our advocacy for an unconditional debt jubilee. In extending an olive branch to capitalists, we propose a clean slate for all: their debts erased, our debts erased. Should the olive branch be rejected, the jubilee will proceed nonetheless.
16. We believe in the promise of a better world. Like Houdini, we see a way out of our current predicament, an escape from the chains of capitalism, and the prospect of a new society emerging from the ashes of the old.
17. We recognize that our struggle is rooted in the specific history and circumstances of America. As such, we draw inspiration from the American Revolution, the abolitionist movement, the civil rights movement, and other struggles for justice in our country's past. We also duly recognize the failure of reconstruction and it's lasting effects on American society, we understand that radical action must be taken to atone for these gravest of sins.
18. We understand that our struggle is against not only domestic injustice, but also the global system of neoliberal capitalism. Our struggle against it must, therefore, be global. We stand with our comrades worldwide, supporting each other in our shared fight for justice and equality.
19. We recognize that our struggle is not only against an economic system, but also against a culture that glorifies greed, militarism, and ecological destruction. We seek to create a new culture based on solidarity, peace, and respect for our planet.
20. Finally, our commitment to relentless struggle for a just, equitable, and sustainable world. We understand our fight as akin to Houdini's legendary escape acts: a daring, death-defying endeavor to break free from the chains of capitalism and usher in a new world order. We, the Houdinists, will not surrender.