

INDYPENDENT READER

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The United States of Fear with Arun Gupta

Contributed by:

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On Friday, August 2nd, 2013, Arun Gupta came to Baltimore for two events: "The Importance of Independent Media" and "The United States of Fear." The first was a small workshop with local journalists and those interested in journalism, primarily between *Indyreader* [3] and *Word on the Street* [4]. The second was a lecture-style event at the local pub, *Liam's Ale House* [5], which is owned by founding *Red Emma's* [6] collective members. The event was sponsored by: *The Independent Reader (Indyreader)*, *Word on the Street (WOTS)*, and *Red Emma's Bookstore Coffeehouse*.

Arun Gupta stands as one of our most respected independent journalists of this age. Among many

accolades, Gupta co-founded NYC'S The Independent and Occupied Wall Street Journal, as well as is regular contributor to Salon, The Guardian, and Altnet. In this event, Gupta draws on his reporting over the last three years, on the Tea Party movement, Occupy Wall Street and labor struggles, in order to examine how the fear generated by corporations and the state shapes people's worldview, how they see themselves as social actors, and the effects on political organizing. Gupta argues that, "Nearly everywhere I have gone in the U.S. there is pervasive fear: of poverty, of joblessness, of the police, of the state. In such an atmosphere, few people are willing to speak their minds and fewer still stand up for their rights or the rights of others. Where fear rules, democracy is absent. And, yes, this fear is also prevalent on the left. It takes a different form, but is all too real. Many of us are afraid to challenge our assumptions, examine our failures and perhaps most of all, are afraid to admit we don't know everything and maybe are not right all the time."

Gupta then argues a path forward towards directly challenging the types of fear the state, corporations, and police use to repress the population, including: identifying our fears, having honest dialogue, and build real relationships and communities of trust and solidarity.

Please enjoy the audio from this powerful and important event.

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