

# Disposable Politics?

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*"Someone has to try and change things" - Sam Greenlee, The Spook Who Sat by the Door.*

Mainstream media and film enthusiasts often misinterpret the novel *Spook*. It is important not to conflate Greenlee's motivation for writing the novel with the cult-classic film adaptation directed by Ivan Dixon.

In the novel, Dan Freeman, a Black CIA agent, turns his training into a weapon for Black liberation. After being subjected to racist treatment in the agency, he resigns and secretly uses his skills to train a Black street gang in Chicago as "Freedom Fighters," aiming to challenge systemic racism and oppression.

The movie and novel have faced criticism for being populist works aimed at inciting violence and challenging governmental authority. Finding the movie or novel on streaming services or in libraries can be difficult. The book provides valuable insights, is a good read, and I highly recommend it. The film is pure blaxploitation cinema.

Greenlee's initiatives highlight the significance of making strategic choices for achieving success in Black politics and voter engagement.

Drawing from Greenlee, let's look at the current development unfolding as widespread demonstrations are taking place across the country challenging deportation policies, and so-called government efficiency initiatives implemented by the current administration.

Many in the African American community have chosen to stay at home, the "sit your black azz down" sentiment rooted in the belief that Hispanics and white women are to blame for the 2024 election. Some have criticized those actions. I share that there is a segment of voter sentiment to blame, but here's my plan to stand while sitting.

It is often observed that political parties, whether left-wing or right-wing, Republicans or Democrats, tend to appeal to their core values. Although these values may seem advantageous for the Black community in public discourse, they are often disregarded during policy negotiations and at the voting box.

A wise man whispered to me, "Black folk politics must be disposable". We should not permanently align ourselves with party but with policy and those willing to help us fight against modern era discrimination.

There is a lesson to be learned here from Spook, our fight can be one of sitting in observation, while standing on action. So, before you sit your aZZ down let's take the intelligence we know and inform those of like mind what can be done.

Help others to ignore the chatter. The news, daily commentary, directives and executive orders are all distractions intended to frighten the resistance. The plight of the disenfranchised is a challenge of enduring and overcoming. What would Spook do, most likely organize and train those who want change.

Reexamine the war plan. What has supported African Americans through the Jim Crow era, the Post-War Civil Rights movement, and contemporary discrimination? While there may be differing opinions, it is evident that the support of religious leaders, organized labor, and civil rights activists has been instrumental.

Evaluate success on a limited scale, and when working with other groups, measure achievement in relation to the overall performance. For each advancement made, there will be occasional setbacks that necessitate reorganization, conflict resolution, and the streamlining of operations.

While my insight may not provide a solution for everyone, I am pleased to share my insights as an experienced civil rights combatant. My journey has not been one of uninterrupted success. However, I have experienced both victories and setbacks and have responded by strategically preparing for subsequent efforts. I this point I choose to be a "Spook".

Logic says it is not possible to sit and stand simultaneously. Obviously, I'm about challenging that logic.

What will be your contribution to the story being written today?

***The National Urban League mantra, "Not alms but opportunity."***

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