

## Poisoned City in the Age of Casino Capitalism<sup>1</sup>

Henry A. Giroux<sup>2</sup>

Henry Giroux, one of the founders of Critical Pedagogy, analyzes the connection between neoliberal policies, the disenfranchisement of poor communities e.g., by appointing city managers, and the destruction of life and the environment. Using the catastrophes of Katrina and Flint, he demonstrates class war is a violent reality. Policies of dispossession and disposability for profit are intensifying with deadly consequences for the poor and vulnerable. [Article copies available for a fee from *The Transformative Studies Institute*. E-mail address: [journal@transformativestudies.org](mailto:journal@transformativestudies.org) Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2017 by Henry A. Giroux. All rights reserved.]

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In the current age of free-market forces, privatization, commodification, and deregulation, Americans are no longer bound by or interested in historical memory, connecting narratives, or modes of thinking that allow them to translate private troubles into broader systemic considerations. As Irving Howe once noted “the rhetoric of apocalypse haunts the air” accompanied by a relentless spectacle that flattens time, disconnects events, obsesses with the moment, and leaves no traces of the past, resistance, or previous totalitarian dangers.<sup>1</sup> America has become a privatized “culture of the immediate,”<sup>2</sup> a society in which the

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<sup>1</sup> A version of this paper has been published in Henry A. Giroux. 2016. *America at War with Itself*. San Francisco, CA: City Lights Open Media. Published by permission of Henry A. Giroux.

<sup>2</sup> **Henry A. Giroux**, Ph.D., is an American Canadian scholar and cultural critic. He is one of the founding theorists of critical pedagogy in the United States. Giroux is best known for his pioneering work in public pedagogy, cultural studies, youth studies, higher education, media studies, and critical theory. In 2002 Routledge named Giroux one of the top fifty educational thinkers of the modern period. He has published more than 60 books, 200 chapters, and 400 articles. He is also Global TV Network Chair in English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University. Address correspondence to: Dr. Henry Giroux, McMaster University, Chester New Hall, Room 229, 1280 Main St W, Hamilton, ON L8S 4L8, Canada; e-mail: [girouxh@mcmaster.ca](mailto:girouxh@mcmaster.ca).