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—Dr. David Jeremiah

Responding Courageously to Our
Culture's Assault on Christianity

*We Will
Not Be
SILENCED*

Erwin W. Lutzer

Biblical Framework

- In the Old Testament, we read about “the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do” (1 Chronicles 12:32). Likewise, we need to understand our times with knowledge of what we should do.
- We should also plan for the future. Isaiah 32:8 says that “the noble man devises noble plans, and by noble plans he stands.”
- Proverbs 16:9 says, “the mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.”

How We Got Here

- The secular left does not believe that America can be fixed: they say it must be destroyed.
- Those who resist this utopian vision are to be vilified, bullied, and shamed until they admit to the mistakes of the past and embrace the secular left's great hope for the future.
- It's difficult to even have a real conversation on the many social issues of our day, such as policies advocating unrestricted immigration and sweeping proposals to combat climate change.

How We Got Here

- Haddon Robinson - in the past, American Christians had a home-field advantage, most in the crowd were either on our side or indifferent to us.
- All of that has changed. Now we play the game on enemy turf.
- A minority are on our side, while the wider culture shouts at us and the elitists in the skyboxes cheer them on.
- But praise be to God we are on the playing field and calling some off the bench to join us.

How We Got Here

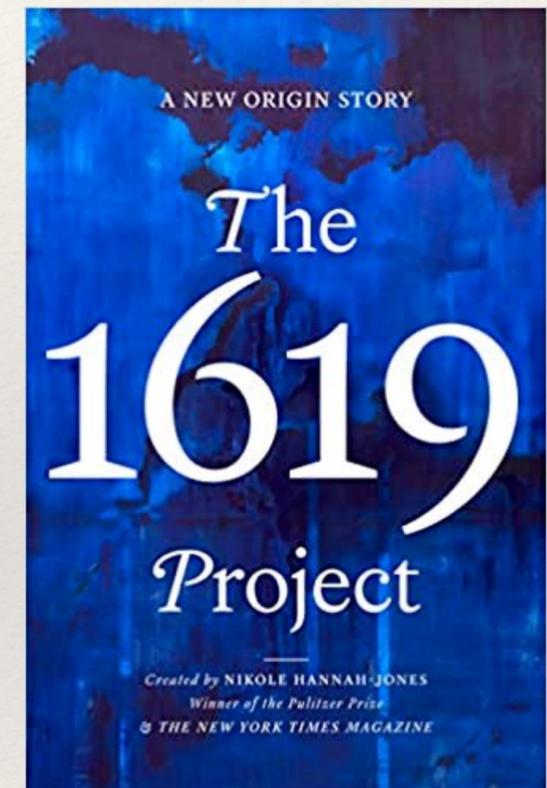
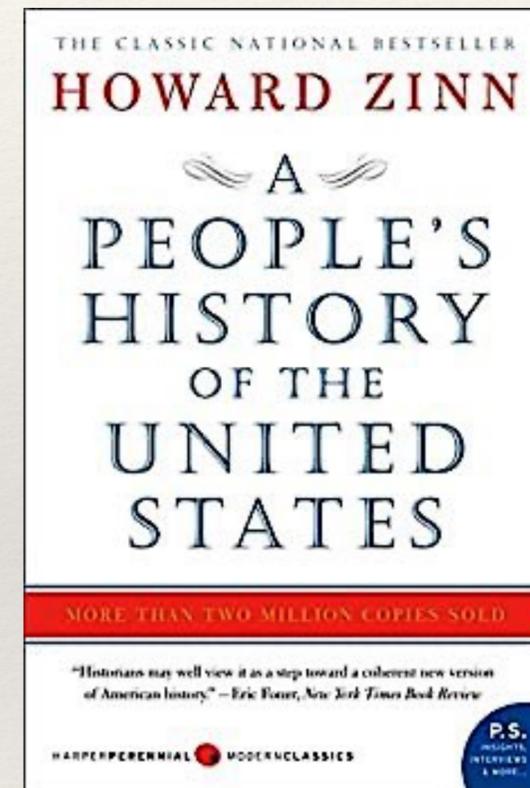
- Cultural Marxism's Growing Shadow - winning hearts and minds of people incrementally by gradual transformation of the culture.
- Destruction of the Nuclear Family - it is standing in the way of changes.
- Marx - restrictions limiting sexuality were invented by religion to maintain dominance, belief in God and the Bible was the source of oppression.
- Oppression is the Key to History - the goal is to exploit the existing and often real grievances (originally in class, but now in areas like race, gender, sexual orientation).

How We Got Here

- The Media: Leading the Culture - the media not only *reflects* the culture but *directs* the culture.
- The Ominous Choice We Face - Robert P. Jones, *The End of White Christian America* - says those who hold to biblical values concerning marriage will be forced “into cultural irrelevance.”
- The Silent Church - time for the church to step up and seize the moral ground.
- Dr. Lutzer - phone call to the church, tore up copy of his book on same-sex marriage on the steps of The Moody Church.

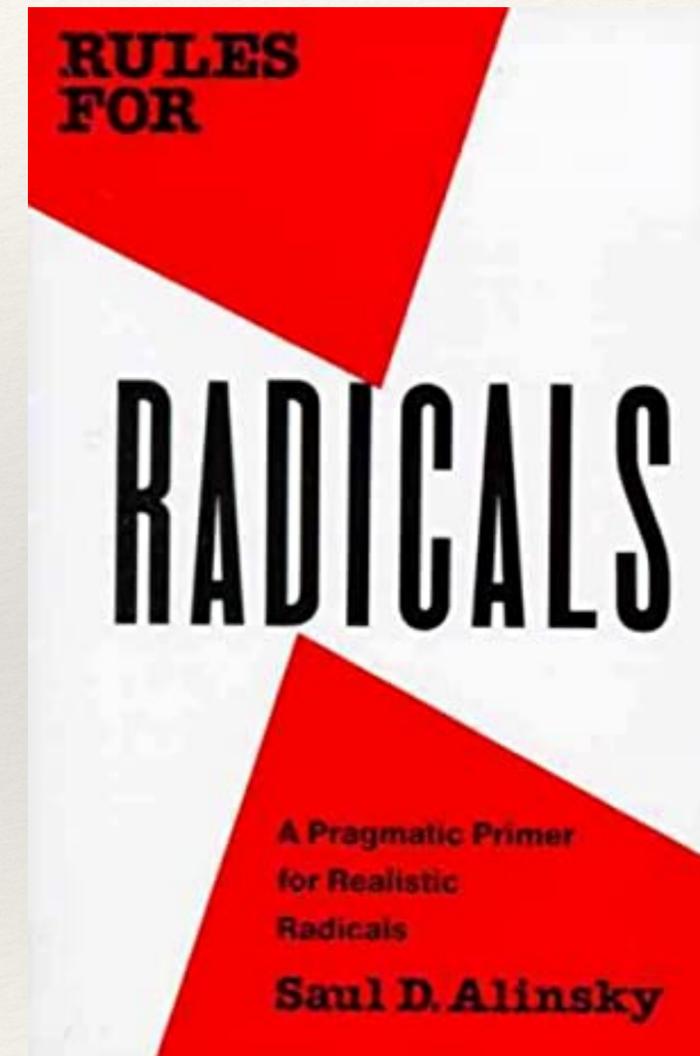
Rewrite the Past to Control the Future

- Destruction of Monuments - started with Confederate monuments, but more and more statues were being torn down.
- Marxist History of the United States - Howard Zinn, *A People's History of the United States*
- The 1619 Project - American history began with slavery in Jamestown.
- Denouncing Western Civilization



Using Diversity to Divide and Destroy

- Saul Alinsky, *Rules for Radicals*
- Don't solve problems, use them.
- “An organizer must stir up dissatisfaction and discontent.”
- Dedicated the book to “Lucifer, the first radical, who rebelled against the establishment.”



Using Diversity to Divide and Destroy

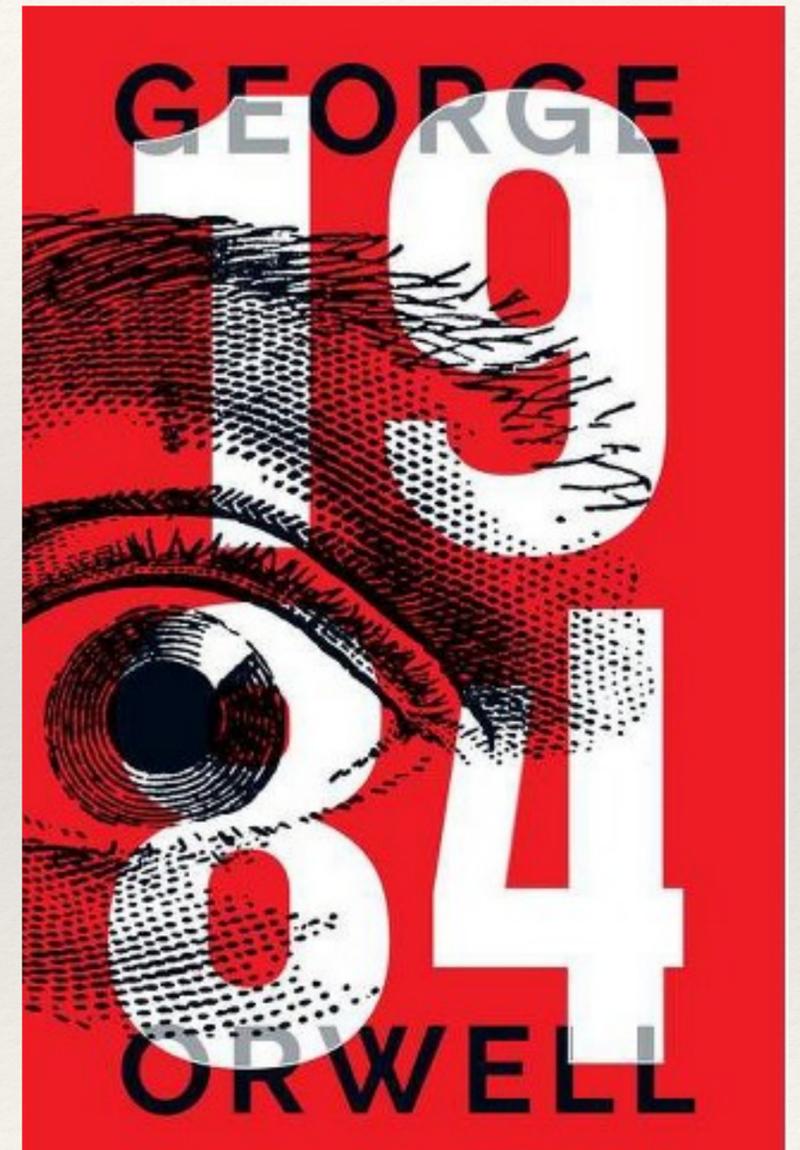
- Quest for Social Justice - biblical justice means equality under the law, but we dare not apply justice to values that are sinful or evil.
- The current idea of justice is based upon “critical race theory”
- Heather Mac Donald - “Students specializing in critical race theory play the race card incessantly against their fellow students and their professors, leading to an atmosphere of nervousness self-censorship.”
- Intersectionality - multiple layers of oppression

Freedom of Speech for Me, But Not for Thee

- Value of Free Speech - University of California, Berkeley - free speech movement, Skokie, Illinois - National Socialist Party of America
- Argument for Banning Free Speech - Herbert Marcuse - “Tolerance is extended to policies, conditions, and modes of behavior which should not be tolerated because they are impeding, if not destroying, the chances of creation and existence without fear and misery.”
- Jeffery A. Tucker - “if you oppose policies like social security or Obamacare, you should be denied the freedom of speech and assembly. . . If you have the wrong views, you have no rights.”

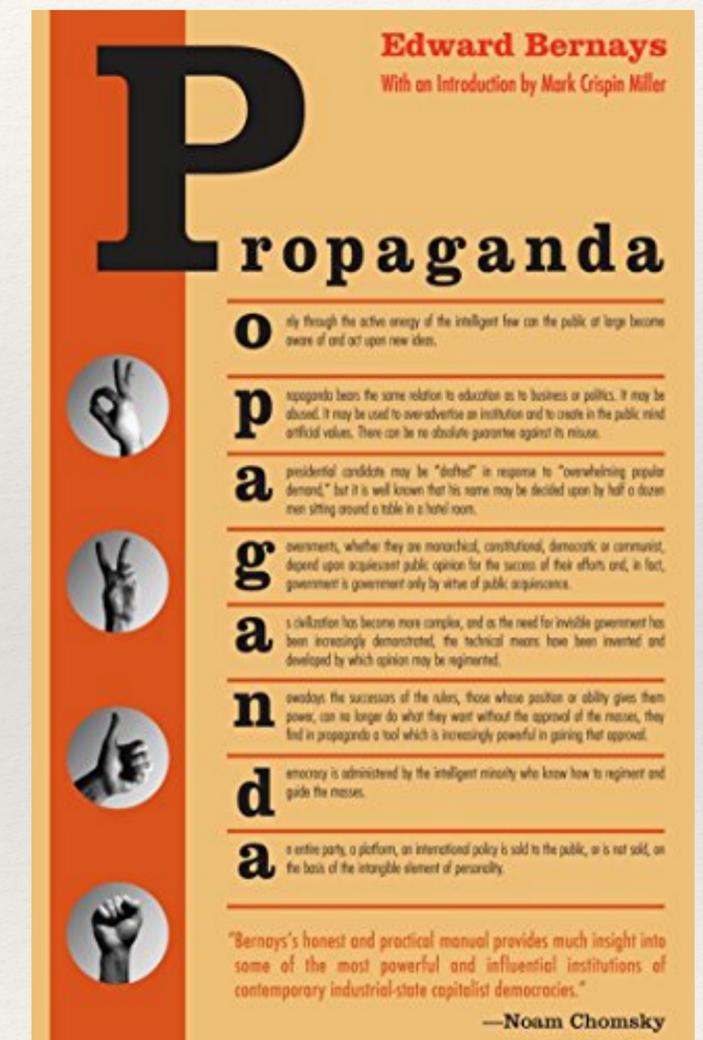
Sell It as a Noble Cause

- George Orwell, novel 1984
- Ministry of Truth
- “War is peace; freedom is slavery; ignorance is strength.”
- Newspeak, Doublethink, Thought Police, Big Brother are all words that have entered our vocabulary



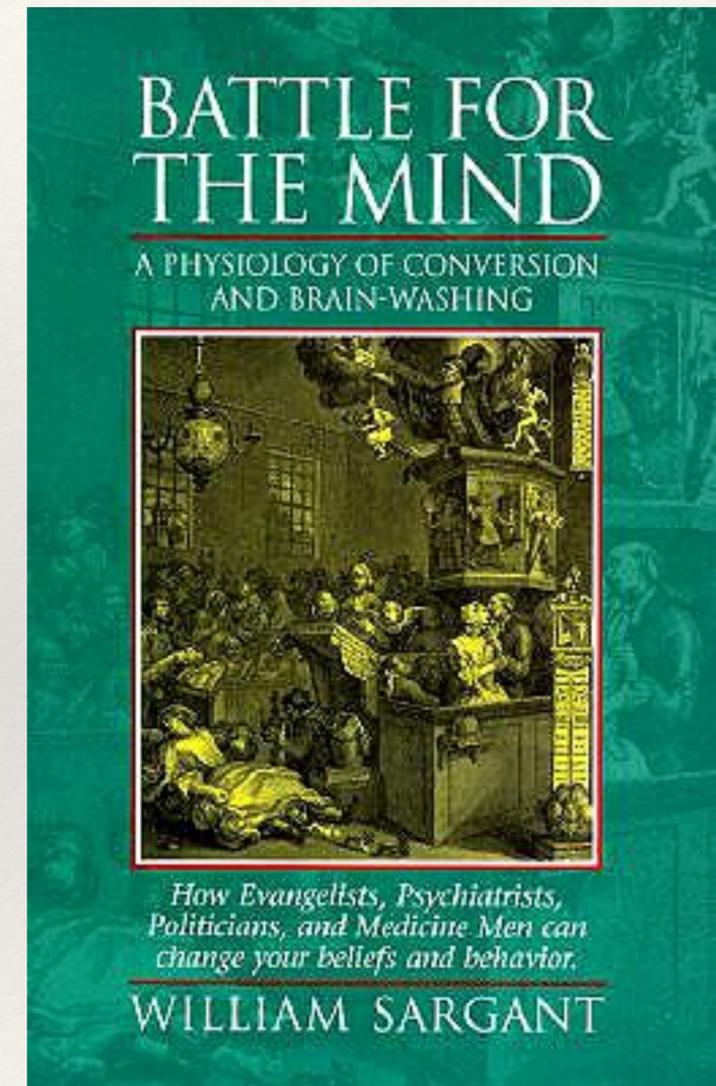
Sell It as a Noble Cause

- Edward Bernays, *Propaganda*
- “Those who manipulate this unseen mechanism of society constitute an invisible government which is the true ruling power of our country.”
- He writes that “we are governed, our minds molded, our tastes formed, our ideas suggested, largely by men we have never heard of . . . It is they who pull the wires which control the public mind, who harness old social forces.”



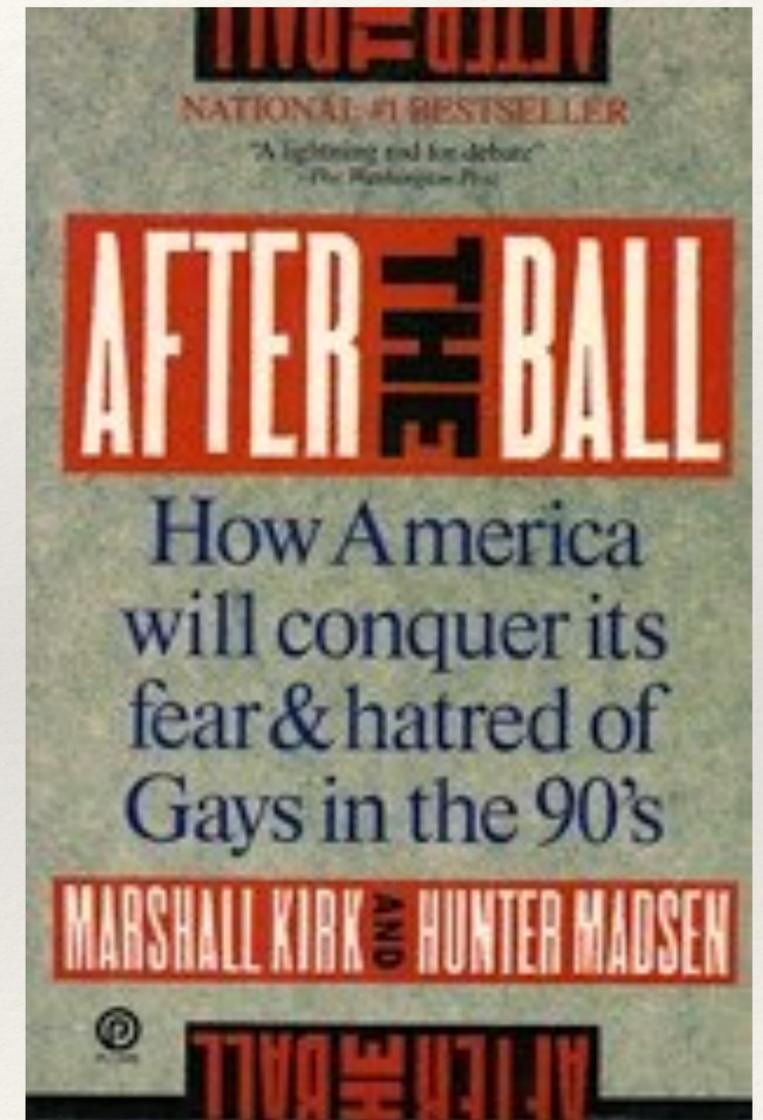
Sell It as a Noble Cause

- Key elements of propaganda
 - Appealing to a higher good
 - Using slogans to mask evil
 - Preach noble goals and hide your end game
- Williams Sargant, *Battle for the Mind: A Physiology of Conversion and Brain Washing*
- Impaired judgment - wartime, severe epidemics



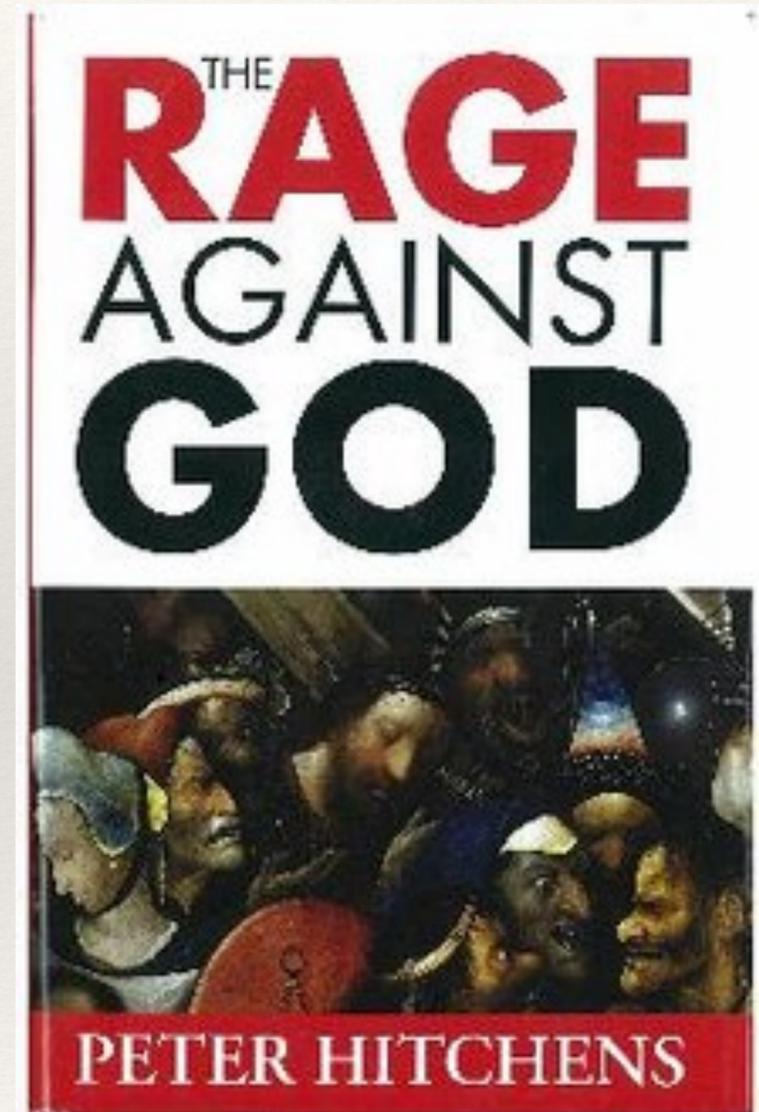
Sell It as a Noble Cause

- Propaganda and the Sexual Revolution
 - Marshall Kirk and Hunter Madsen, *After the Ball*
 - Sell it as a civil right
 - Sell it as love and compassion
 - Using language to destroy gender



Sexualize the Children

- Parents—and I include most Christian parents—no longer raise their children, Rather, culture does—most significantly through the Internet.
- Peter Hitchens, *The Rage Against God*
- “Any ideological or revolutionary state must always alienate the young from their pre-revolutionary parents if it hopes to survive into future.”



Capitalism is the Disease; Socialism is the Cure

- Socialism will provide: *free* college, *free* healthcare, *free* retirement income, a guaranteed job, and a decent living.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has fueled the notion that the government can pay.
- Trillions of dollars were approved to bail out businesses and give checks to millions of newly unemployed workers.
- A Case Study of Democratic Socialism - Venezuela, Sweden
- Does the Bible Teach Socialism? - Acts 4-5

Vilify! Vilify! Vilify!

- Saul Alinsky: “Pick the target, freeze it, personally it, and polarize it.”
 - Public shaming
 - Denunciation in the public square
 - Vilification on campus
 - The search for allies

Wake Up! Strengthen What Remains!

- These words were spoken by Jesus to a church He loved.
- There are some aspects of the culture we can embrace, but there is much that must be opposed.
- Our ability to discern what we can and cannot embrace is critical to the continuation of our witness as a church.
- The church in Sardis evidently felt comfortable next to sexually permissive temples and succumbed to the temptations offered by the culture.

Wake Up! Strengthen What Remains!

- Hearing the Voice of Jesus Today
 - Be resolved to be gospel driven in your life and witness.
 - Be resolved that you will not bow to the culture's sexual revolution.
 - Be resolved to love Jesus passionately and suffer well for His name.
- We must have the courage to both engage the culture and stand against it.

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