

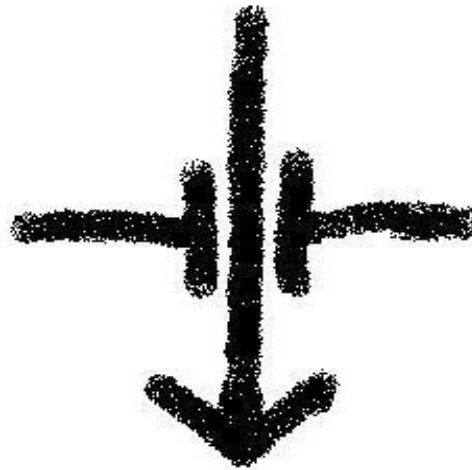
**FRONT**



**ON BACK**

**FAITH ALONE**

**INTO THE**



**UNDERGROUND**

**AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL LOOK AT  
PUNK**

Adam L. Ramien

**Culture: The Set of learned behaviors, beliefs, attitudes, values, and ideals that are characteristic of a particular society or population. (As defined by most anthropologists) Ember Ember 2002 (15)**

Punk is a culture, actually a counterculture, which began as a response to several different factors. Some of the factors include rebelling against the hippy rock culture that became too passive for the younger generation. You see, the youth in the 70's had to start their own musical style that complimented and expressed their anger and frustration. Jimmie Hendricks and Led Zeppelin didn't have that fire and fury that captured their auditory taste thus punk rock was born. Eventually punk became part of the American subculture of Rock and Roll. Punk exhibits the norms, musical artistic expression and self-expression, that are found in all cultures. Punk expresses their feelings through music that is called punk rock. Punks dress and music was a complete aboutface from the disco trend of the 70's. Rock and Roll itself is the voice of the poor and working class. Punk Rock music mimics the same voice as rock and roll but punk has a political/social/humanistic philosophy and it is expressed daily. This is conceivable because punk is a part of the mental makeup of a human being. Besides being a culture punk is a social movement.

This essay will attempt to explain why punk is one of the most unique cultures. I will show the evolution of punk from social misfit to social activist, and give some theories on punk and so much more.

The Webster's New World Dictionary and Thesaurus Copyright 1996 by Simon & Schuster, Inc defines punk and Punk Rock as

**Punk: a) a young hoodlum b) a young person regarded as inexperienced, insignificant, etc. Punk rock a loud, fast, and deliberately offensive style of rock music**

This definition is a superficial macro view of a culture. It remains to be too broad, to reveal the complexities of this diverse segment of the population.

This writer can tell you from experience that punk and punk rock are extremely significant for society. Punk Rock is an outlet for people with inner frustrations about the problems in society. Punks are people that have an inert drive to dare to question and change society and all of its faults. Punk and Punk Rock speaks of anti-racism, anti-fascism, being an individual that can think for your selves, fallacies about religion and other social phenomena to heighten awareness and promote change. You see, punk rock is a musical vehicle for social change, which is the

manifest function. The latent function is that it is the element that unifies us.

Greg Graffin, the lead vocalist from *Bad Religion* has contributed the Punk Manifesto, which was written in 1998. In this publication he states that punk is "a reflection of what it means to be human", and a "movement that serves to refute social attitudes that have been perpetuated through willful ignorance of human nature." (2) He considers it to be a "personal expression of humanity. A movement that challenges unchallenged social attitudes through questioning in an attempt to force change that will better the world; even at risk of personal harm." (9)

A "Punk" is one type of philosopher. They work to make this world a better place for everyone. The early punks were considered to be anarchists. This anarchy philosophy is the classic Marxism theory of alienation. Stephen W. Baron categorizes punks as neo-Marxist in the 1989 publication *The Canadian West Coast Punk Subculture: A Field Study*. If you look deeper, through the anger, frustration, and feelings of alienation you will find that some anarchist hold the same views of the Libertarians Party. They are just people that are looking to escape the grip of too much regulation and alienation. Anarchists are trying to find their place in the world, like a stranded

puzzle piece they seek the right connection, the place that they fit the best. Anarchists are just looking for an easier way to have social mobility. They are looking for freedom which is characterized by having more choices that leads to success without feeling like they are working for "the man", or in other words, a system that they are opposed to.

Today, the United States has anarchists who hold dear the classic anarchist philosophy to attempt to promote equality. This philosophy attempts to heighten awareness and encourage others to take unified action against the corrupted, greedy, and powerful grip of large corporations and the government, only to hale in a new way of life that promotes equality and the destruction of nationalist views that are potentially harmful to society. The blending of punk rock and anarchy philosophy is caricaturized best by the UK band Crass. They truly lived up to there name.

The Essex-based Crass was an extreme example of a band that incorporated the ideals of their lyrics into their lifestyle. Formed in Essex, England in 1976, partly in the Sham 69 image, they soon evolved into an anarchist commune. The band established several independent record labels and an information service. Crass espoused the ideals of anti-violence, feminism, and flushing out hypocrisy in organized religion in the context of their ear-damaging vehemence on their records... While eventually finding them selves embroiled in legal battles with various government agencies, Crass stood as a successful model of dead-serious political commitment in the punk/skinhead movement. Several bands reflected Crass's influence both

politically and 'musically' including The Ex in Amsterdam, the Conflict, the Gang Of Four, and the Mekons in Leeds, the Pop Group in Bristol and the Fall in Manchester.

<http://www.rarevinyl.net/punk02.htm>

It is evident that the *Sex Pistols* were well known as anarchists but my understanding of what it means to be an anarchist leads me to discount and deny them the title as such. One of the U.S. anarchy punk bands that look and acts along the same model, as Crass is *Anti-Flag*. Having a similar impact on society, Anti-Flag tours around pissing off, informing, and fighting the social state of the U.S.

Normally punks in the U.S. in the 70's hated life and drowned out their sorrows and anger with loud music, drugs, and alcohol. They really had no direction and organization, just a lot of frustration.

The primary norm of the U.S. punk culture is that it stands against racism. Today, punks are persecuted for being allegedly racist. Ironically, Punk received a bad name in the 70's and 80's because society mistakenly associated them with the skinhead neo-nazis. There is an explanation for this that comes from Henry Rollins the lead vocalist for Black Flag. Black Flag was a hard-core band that attracted the ruff and tuff hard-core outfit.

Henry Rollins learned about racism the hard way, at the knuckles of white supremacists whose idea of a good time in the '80s was disrupting Black Flag shows. Since his early days as the singer with the classic hardcore punk outfit, Rollins has become a glib commentator on American social

mores as both poet and spoken work performer, and leader of his musically vicious Rollins Band.

**VH1:** What role does music play in recruiting for hate groups?

**Henry Rollins:** Music gets young people together. Back in the '80's, white power groups used to be at Black Flag shows in the Midwest. They'd hand out their newspapers with horrible drawings of black men with huge lips and Jewish guys with big noses and moneybags. They would come to a lot of punk rock gigs looking for angry young people going, 'Hey, you're pissed off? You afraid of your sister getting raped? I'd be afraid to have my white sister walking down the street without protection. We got to take care of this. Here's a card. Anytime you wanna hang, come on down, we'll have a beer.' That speaks a lot to a young angry person who might not have a dad around to go, 'Hey man, you don't wanna go there.' It's easy to recruit.

**VH1:** Gigs obviously draw different groups. In the Black Flag days, weren't there different types of skinheads?

**HR:** Sure. In Chicago, you would have the S.H.A.R.P. guys - Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice. In the South, there were Budweiser slobs who just wanted to kick some ass and would've been better suited to a Lynryd Skynyrd concert. The most terrifying were the people on this nationalist agenda of 'We're gonna clean this country up and get rid of all the non-whites.' They had this zeal that was damn frightening.

**VH1:** These people aren't your standard fans, why did they gravitate towards punk music?

**HR:** If they went to go see Judas Priest, they might get their butts kicked in the parking lot by Priest guys who are pretty heavy-duty dudes themselves. If you're a skinhead and go to the Depeche Mode show, you're not going to get any recruits or play with the ladies, because they look at you and go "eek." If you go to a punk rock show, you might meet some people. The music might be aggressive enough. A lot of skinheads thought they liked Black Flag until they met us and saw that we weren't into their program.

[http://www.vh1.com/shows/dyn/vh1\\_news\\_special/56815/episode\\_interviews\\_int.jhtml](http://www.vh1.com/shows/dyn/vh1_news_special/56815/episode_interviews_int.jhtml)

...The skinhead subculture had already taken root in the U.S. by 1977... With the help of fascists like Bob Heick, leader of a national Nazi youth group called **The American Front**, fascism also took root in American by 1985, when Nazi skinhead violence exploded at **Haight-Ashbury** in San Francisco that summer.

'*There were always idiots*' says **Tim Yohannan**, editor of **Maximum Rockroll**. '*Now there's idiots with ideology*'.

Skinheads distinguished each other with the terms '*baldies*' for

the leftist non-racist skinheads, and '*boneheads*' for the white-power Nazi skinheads. Boneheads had no music scene of their own to speak of, since **Skrewdriver** was never allowed into the United States, and domestic white-power bands were wooden amateurs who lacked broad appeal. So the bones crashed the punk clubs, sometimes taking a razor blade to the locks of a longhair or ripping an anti-racist button off a peace punk's shirt. By the time the mainstream had declared the death of punk in 1979, or 1980, or 1981, etc., the influence of punk, the skinheads's Oi! and anti-racist 2-Tone and the do-it-yourself ethic had spread all over the world.

The dozens throughout Europe, North America, Australia, and a few countries in Africa created independent labels. Especially around urban areas, independent fanzines could be found with music critique of all the newly formed bands and their demos, interviews, comics, Xerox art, poetry, fiction, news, investigative reporting, political agendas and more. It was a renaissance for those who were stranded from or chose to avoid the elitist upper-class artists and intellectuals who communicated only with their peers in art and academic journals, and the commercial culture targeted for everyone else that presumably did not deserve to have a voice. Many people are ignorant of the many post-punk subcultures because they are not as easily pegged and defined as the simple days of the Sex Pistols. The perpetual process of sharing cultural ideas and developing new hybrids of music blur the distinctions between one style and the next. Punk has evolved into or influenced popular styles like hardcore, hip-hop, jazz/speed funk, industrial, goth/glam, metal, thrash, speedmetal/speedcore, and other styles that defy labels. Younger kids involved in musical subcultures are looking back toward the roots of the past generation, with bands like the Red Skins and International Jet Set. They started an anti-racist organization founded in San Diego called S.H.A.R.P. (*Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice*), in addition to the Syndicate. It has already spread to England, Europe and Australia. There has also been a rise of anti-Nazi fanzines like Zoot and Spy Kids.

<http://www.rarevinyl.net/punk02.htm>

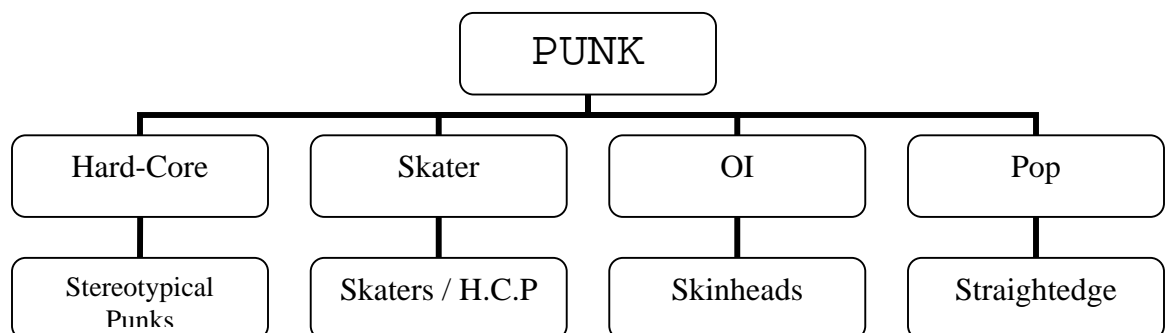
In addition to the S.H.A.R.P.s, another organization that fights racism is the Anti Racist Action Group or the ARA.

Anti-Racist Action is an international movement of people dedicated to stopping racism, sexism, homophobia and other forms of bigotry from harming our

communities. We work hard to "expose, oppose, and confront" hate in whatever form threatens the diversity and safety of the places we live in and the people we live with. We also firmly believe in building a fun, diverse, liberated and explicitly anti-racist, anti-sexist and anti-homophobic youth culture. <http://www.aranet.org>

The norm of the Punk culture involves following a philosophy that may be misinterpreted as a threat in the eyes of society. This perhaps is because society fails to inquire and examine the complexities of the culture and its motivations. Punks are, in fact, a questioning counterculture, or conflict theorists if you will.

In addition to these norms, punks have chosen to express their ideas and persona through the art of music, dress, and hairstyles. Punks have their own music, which is Punk Rock. The music reflects the ideology, values, and struggle of this group. In Punk Rock we have many variations amongst the members. There are four distinct variations: skater, hard core, oi, and pop.



Skater punk has no real direction and is not really specific lyric wise. I can tell you that skater's love the rhythmic beat because it compliments the fast speed of skateboarding. Some bands that characterize this movement include *Guttermouth*, *Nofx*, and *Descendents*. Most of these bands speak indirectly but you can find social motivations to change the current state of society and the government.

Hard-core bands include *Bad Religion*, *Rancid*, *Anti-Flag*, *Dead Kennedys* and *Black Flag*. Philosophers can be found within this group. They focus on questioning society and its perception of the world. Hard-core bands are more mobilized and take a specific stand on a topic or situation. Hard core punk is more sophisticated. They tend to be of higher philosophical standing and more scholarly in manufacturing their lyrics. The term "hard core" can obviously be referred to the "in your face attitude," but for me, being hard core means that you know where you stand on a topic or that you have a musical / social agenda aside from producing music for entertainment for the masses.

Oi punk includes *Dropkick Murphies* and *The Business*. The oi consists of skinheads. They, however, are S.H.A.R.P.s. Oi Punk is very interesting because it has its roots specifically in the working class. In this sector of punk you find references to the union worker. Oi Punk is

the voice of the industrial worker. Some bands that have a punk beat and that fall under the dictionaries definition of punk are sometimes nazi oi bands. These bands of nazi punks do not represent the United States punk philosophy but mainly a close-minded and superficial segment of the population.

Pop Punk, because it is the MTV version, is somewhat ostracized in the punk community. Bands, including *Blink 182*, *Mxpx*, and *New Found Glory*, only give lip service to the culture's ideals while cashing their royalty checks. Pop Punk is not seen as real punk according to other punks. This is because punks do not think punk rock should be "commercialized" or in other words, exploited by mainstream media. Some of the songs that are produced by pop punk bands fall under the title "emo". *Emeo* is a style of punk or pop rock that literally whines about being dumped by your girl friend or boy friend. You see, punk is not about whining youth that lost their first girl friend. I would have to say, "get the fuck over it and move on."

Punks and punk music likes to disperse their philosophy in the underground and covertly share information. An example of this is imbedding documentary videos that report information to you that you will not find on major news networks. An example of this is Nofx's

album *War On Errorism and Anti-Flags* The Terror State flyer that you can photocopy and post at your own free will

The protest culture has a lot of targets, which are political, social, and issues with the environment. The protest culture can be broken up into two groups' *hippies* and *punks*. Both punks and hippies protest which is evident, but they each vary in their topics and reasons. First, hippies tend to deal with topics like the environment and human / animal rights. Some topics that they tackle are environmental racism, gun control, and animal testing. Next, punks tend to target political and social issues such as racism, fascism, oppression, religion, and misuse of political power. The motivations to act between hippies and punks are polar opposites. Hippies act out of love and compassion. Punks act out of anger and frustration. This can be used to explain why punks hate hippies.

#### Example

The war in Iraq: Hippies protested the bombing in Iraq based on the love for life and the death of the innocent victims. Punks protested the war based on the image that George W. Bush was acting in a fascist manner.

In addition, punks express themselves through their attire or wardrobe. Punks have changed from generation to

generation. In the 70's long hair and black leather jackets were considered punk. Also, in the 70's torn jeans and old torn T-shirts came to be punk. Punk started to take a sexual article of clothing and added a plaid print to end up with the punk "bondage pants." The bondage pants would be complemented sometimes with a sleeveless shirt. Some of the shirts would be home made. They would depict the person's favorite band or some of their beliefs.

You might be pondering this question, what makes a person punk? This is the ultimate question. Punk is in the mind and it lies in your philosophy and your personal religion. Punk is not what you wear. The clothes are merely the things you wear. Wearing the latest punk band shirt from your local punk store does not make you punk. It is a life experience that inhabits your mind, body and spirit. It is what ever you make it. Punk can be a motivator, a source of empowerment, a spirituality, or a type of hooliganism. It depends on the individual and there reaction to it that makes punk what it is for individuals. Any definition of punk is rooted in what philosophy calls t-truth. That means punk is what you make it. But to have a mature definition of punk is takes not just looking at the ocean but getting your feet wet, if you know what I mean.

Punk has been expressive with their choice of hairstyles. Some of the early punks wore long "Howard Stern" hair or short stubble. In the punk scene one American hairstyle jumped off of the reservation and into the punk culture. This was the Mohawk. A Mohawk on a punk might be dyed black, red, blue, or other colors on the color wheel. Today punks have a full range of looks from the bondage pants with Mohawks to clean-cut casual.

You are probably thinking to yourself where did punk start and where did it really come from? There are multiple ways that you can answer this. First, if punk is a mind set, one in which you question the current state of things, then punk has been around since the dawn of human thought. Secondly, punk as the rebellious sub-culture can be said to be started in the 70's or you can go as far as to say punk actions started with the beatniks and changing into hippies then into punks. If you support that view then punk is an evolutionary stage of the rebel life style. If you support this theory it would have to be and is the final frontier of the "true rebel." Being a true rebel means that you are not in it for the fashion but for the revolution.

You might have heard of the term "punker," which is a person that listens to Punk Rock. These people just like punk for any reason. Punks are not punks. Some people are

punk by birth because they are like that. The other punks start out being punkers, they tap into the analytic frame of mind and adopt the punk philosophy. Anyway you become a punk is ok in the punk community. This writer, for your info, started out being a punker. I can tell you from experience that the phenomenon from punker to punk can happen with your processing of the lyrics from your favorite punk band. You will start to discover that there is some truth to the lyrics. Then you will begin to think and question the things that you have been taught by society. Voila! You have become a punk because you question. It is possible to be punk and not even know it. You may have the philosophical ideology and be completely disfranchised from the whole punk scene.

The most courageous act is making a dream come true despite the odds. Punk goes against all what we have been taught to be. We make a stand against greed, racism, complacency, and fascism that all make up the underlying ideas of the American frame of mind. It is a combination of humanistic and conflict theorist ideas. Punk is also a brother/sisterhood that can be witnessed at any punk show and any punk establishment. I have to say personally that punks are one of the most loving and happy people. This is testimony from a friend that I took to a local punk show in

San Antonio, "that show was cool it was like a big brotherhood, people didn't even know each other and gave pats on one another's back to show that they were unified and happy to experience the show together."

You can say that the punks that stand on the protest line fighting against corporate greed can be evidence of Karl Marx's ideas on capitalism. His theory says that capitalism holds the seeds for its own destruction. The punk can represent the angry proletariat. Throughout punk's 30+-year life span, punk has evolved from rebel misfits to social activist. What the future holds for punk is dependent of the state on society and politics.

Punk has been around for a long time no matter how you define it. As a youth movement it has sustained itself by multiple factors, it is as a group, that all "outsiders" are welcomed, it gets people together with the same desires and passions, but above all of this it is the *do it yourself* "D.I.Y" work ethic which has sustained punk more than anything.

Do it yourself (D.I.Y) is a work ethic that empowers all who live by it to be independent and work hard at any venture they embark on. It is that driving force that keeps punk underground and out of the main stream. D.I.Y is a work ethic that feeds the soul because normally anyone that

embarks on independent ventures makes sacrifice of finance and time.

Symbolism is a deeply ingrained phenomenon in the punk culture. Symbols express the inner feelings of an individual. Punks display their beliefs through the band's symbols. Supporting and displaying a band's symbol is a voiceless shout out to the world that they identify and agree with the bands philosophy. I find that punks have the deepest devotion to the symbols that they support. I can only compare this devotion to the Christians and their devotion to the cross or patriotic Americans that fly the U.S. flag. The only difference between punks devotion and any other is that if one of the symbols are displayed in a desecrated fashion punk don't get bent out of shape about it, because punks believe in t-truth and will except the desecration as freedom of speech.

The symbols that follow are images that reflect the punk philosophy. Some symbols sustain a meaning outside of the punk community.



The crossbuster showed up on the punk seen in 1980 with the band Bad Religion. It is a symbol used to speak out against religions that entrap people's thoughts to the point of mindlessness. An example of this is excepting science as truth

based on research. The band does not intend it to be an anti-Christian, Muslim, or Jewish symbol.



The anarchy sign is a reflection of Karl Marx's theory of alienation and freeing people's lives from governmental and social regulation.



The swastika buster has an anti-racism and/or anti-fascism sentiment. The band Dead Kennedys support this symbol.



Quote: <http://www.multimania.com/antiflag/>

Anti-flag does not mean Anti-American. Anti-Flag means anti-war. Anti-Flag means the common people of the world are better off living in unity and peace. Anti-Flag means to stand against corporate greed that hurts millions while benefiting a handful of extremely rich. Anti-Flag means to fight against mindless nationalism. Anti-Flag means unity." This symbol originally started out as a distress symbol. The same idea is expressed but is more in-depth.



The fist is a sign of power. It is not a symbol exclusive to punks. People like Malcolm X and the Black Panthers raised their fist to show they are dedicated to their cause.



The band Black Flag states that the black flag means anarchy. If you look through the anger and frustration of the people that fly it you will find a different meaning. The black flag is a symbol of not backing down and not giving up. It means to any one that flies it that they will stand their ground unlike and at the polar opposite side of the white flag. It is not a symbol exclusive to punks. NASCAR uses the black flag to disqualify a car.



Unity Star: This red star symbolizes unity with in the punk community. It is not a symbol exclusive to punks. The communists used this same red star. The difference between the punk's usage and communist usage is that punks support unity by choice not unity by force.

The following is a new symbol that expresses punks feelings towards understanding. In this world with its vast fields of study and multiple factors that influence the mental and physical world, we seek what mainstream philosophers call t-truth. Little t-truth is characterized by our individual truths about any beliefs or "facts" on any given situation or topic. This truth comes from our own experiences and vantage point. The first question that has to be asked is how do we arrive at t-truth without being superficial? This leads up to understanding.

What is understanding, and how can it lead us to t-truth? Before understanding something, we have to shed as much of our "bias" as we can. The bias within us can be contributed from religion, nationalistic and social views that are passed along through the socialization process. We have to put those factors that influence our thoughts

aside. We have to accept any answer and believe anything is possible to truly understand. The second element that we must shed is doubt. Doubt is not something that is learned through the socialization process, but quite the opposite. It is generated through our conscious. Sometimes doubt is a response to what we don't want to be true. What is doubt: but a roadblock for some, but for others a door that leads to more questions. The difference between the roadblock and the door is the level of ambition on the part of the individual to understand.

#### t-truth V.S. Fact

Little t-truth is a product of questioning and understanding that is evident. On the other hand what is fact? "Facts" are anything that are irrefutable "T-truth" which is the polar opposite of t-truth. It is something that cannot be denied by even the skeptic of all skeptics. It is pitch black or pearly white with no gray to be seen at the immediate time. Things like humans having a cellular makeup or the Earth being a sphere are some of the various "Facts" in this world.

This view totally goes against the philosophical stance that T-truth comes from God. You see God, and the belief in it should be a **personal life experience**, one that empowers you and influences your outlook on life and all

that inhabits the Earth. The influence on "personal" refers to the belief in God being segregated to your "faith life" or "spiritual life" and not infecting your research or understanding life. This doesn't mean that you can't understand God. It is put forth to keep God separate from your answers to your questions. "It is Gods will" is not an acceptable answer for a person that is devoted to understanding.

"T-truth is Fact"

"Facts are irrefutable"

"God is not T-truth"

"God is t-truth"

"There for God is not Fact"

"The existence of God is arguable"

"God is nether fact more fiction"

My dedication to truth whether it is t or T truth has led me to create the flag below. It is an expression of devotion to understanding through scientific research and philosophical inquiry.



### Understanding:

To learn with minimal bias, to suspend judgment until all facts are in, to be open to all possibilities, to be aware, to seek knowledge of a given phenomena or element, to fight superficiality, to resist ignorance, to resist complacency, to ask questions that leads to knowing, and to think for yourself.

In our social world we express ourselves through the symbols that we use. Some symbols divulge or display our loyalties and our deepest convictions. We as a society manufacture symbols in order to express to the world how we feel, a sort of paraphrase or in other words a visual image of what we want to express.

The flag above is an expression of my loyalty to T- truth and t-truth (fact and personal views). This flag is a direct expression of my loyalty to understanding through research. I wanted to create a symbol that will stand the test of time and would be a symbol of what I feel punk should be and is.

The UNDERSTANDING flag is

- ✓ A gray field: Gray symbolizes the complexities of society and shades of truth within it.
- ✓ A black star: The star symbolizes independence like the Burnet Blue flag that also symbolizes independence for Texas. The only difference is that I used a black star. The black symbolizes devotion and not backing down like the black flag.

- ✓ The UNDERSTANDING: Do I really have to explain it? Understanding is just that but the color red is a symbol of passion.

So here it is the unveiling of a new symbol, one that everyone in his or her specific fields of research can embrace!!!

Some people take punk and all of its facets so serious to the point that punk becomes a spirituality. Going to a show or listening to a specific song can endues energy and happiness along with adrenalin that feeds the soul. Take this writers case as an example. Whenever I get down or if something happened that I could get depressed about, I think about Black Flags lyrics, specifically "rise above". When I crank up the volume and the decibel level is at max and I hear "rise above, rice above, where guna rise above" I get the biggest rush of confidence and happiness. This happiness is achieved after I pull my mined out of a vegetated / depressive state utilizing what psychologist call the supper ego. The whole experience feels like an emotional jumpstart. Another example from my punk life is, whenever I hear or think about Bad Religion's lyrics "despite circumstance you have a chance" from the album New America I feel, like despite my economic situation or social state, I have a chance to make it better. I only have to look at all my options to escape the present state.

I gain a sense of reassurance that my life will go on and progress despite that state I am in at the present time.

The key to punk as a spirituality is that you have to use the adrenalin you gain as motivation and keeping the adrenalin replenished from time to time. Some people make punk one of the most important things in their life and to take it away from them is to induce a sort of death state within the individual, absences the death of the biological body of course. You may be thinking that punk may be a religion? This is not so because all religions have an image of the afterlife. Punk as a whole is lacking that image.

#### Proactive and Reactive

##### Punks

As humans we are thinking biological beings. We gain knowledge and wisdom through questioning and reasoning. Punk is one type of thinking culture. There are two types of punks within this culture. I have categorized them as *proactive* and *reactive* punks, my findings are based on my own observations.

I have heard the argument that punks are just followers and don't have a mind of their own. This is far from the truth. You see, punks do have a mind and they do think for themselves but for some punks they have to have

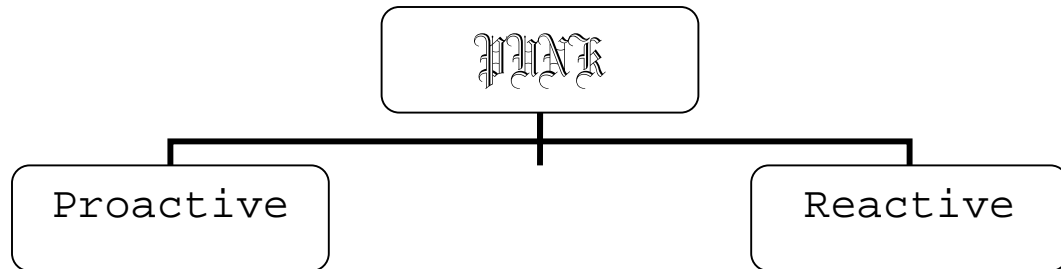
someone open the door for them and through the synthesis process the knowledge will come.

Reactive Punks are punks that take the lyrics and words of song's or from books and analyze them with their values and beliefs. After the analytical stage there will come a new belief or value. The new belief or value is part of the synthesis stage. For example, a child brings home a new album by their favorite band. As they listen to all the tracks they notice that some of the lyrics speak out against war. That strikes the child's inter-inquirer. The child starts to ask questions about war and all the parameters that make it up. Then the child finds out that in war people get killed and more than likely if a draft begins the people in the lower and working classes will get drafted first. They might also uncover that wars are sometimes fought over the differing belief structure. This information does not sit well with the child and almost instantly the child starts to feel that war is wrong. That's what a reactive punk does, takes a thesis (there initial beliefs or values), analyses the anti-thesis (the lyrics or passages in a book), then analyses their own beliefs, comparing the anti-thesis and the thesis to find what sounds more logical and what works for them thus, creates the syntheses.

Punk's initial thoughts (theses) - Purchases album and  
analyses lyrics (antitheses) -New belief arises  
(syntheses).

Proactive Punks are punks that are more in touch with the ability to ask questions and reason. They only rely on themselves to figure out things. They are punks by birth. They are the children that question all the time. You might have seen a child ask question after question sometimes annoying the parents. If you come in contact with one of these children you should not squelch their ability to ask questions because that is a true gift. A Proactive Punk is one that might be stimulated by what is around them on a day-to-day bases. They don't rely on an antithesis like music or books to make up their own mind. Proactive punks also are the ones that bring in awareness to others by researching and utilizing the sciences and philosophies to manufacture produces like books and lyrics to be consumed by the masses.

The demographics of it all are somewhat shady. Proactive Punks tend to be based in social environments that challenge their beliefs or where a group strives to maintain control over a social thought that punks don't agree with.



Punk has influences on popular culture.  
 There is a new workout aerobic exercise called PUNK  
 ROCK AEROBICS PRA.

**Mission: Take control of your body! Take control of your mind! PRA is not about how you look but how you feel. Tight abs doesn't mean shit if you're a spineless fuck who can't think for yourself. We aim to inspire, empower, and have a good time. The PRA fitness revolution starts in your mind. Free your mind and your ass will follow.**  
<http://www.punkrockaerobics.com/index1.html>

PRA uses the skank, a mosh pit dance, as the base for the work out. The skank is a barbaric march usually in a circle pit. Punk Rock Aerobics classes are regularly held in and around Boston.

There are no real ways to measure the impact of this culture on society, but it is evident that punk has direction and it is the anti-thesis to the world's racist, greedy, fascist, ignorant, complacent thesis.

This concludes this research paper for now. Whether you agree with my observations and theory's is irrelevant. Whether the "faces or views" are correct is insignificant compared to your own. The information that is given is to act as a thesis for your own research. I encourage you, the reader, to get out and research your self, only to have a deeper understanding of what it means to be

# PUNK .

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