

Expressions of Evil

Why do we spend so much time thinking about it?



The Culture Wars

The United States has always been a nation of mixed views and religious perspectives.

The colonies were founded by people looking for religious freedom and opportunities, and while some were distinctly conservative (Puritans) some were more liberal (like Pennsylvania).

Similarly, those in the north tended to be more economically oriented, while those in the south were nobility transplants (this conflict would contribute to the Civil War).

Pat Buchanan

These, and other, debates would continue through the 19th, 20th, and into the 21st centuries.

Let's re-examine Pat Buchanan's "[culture war](#)" speech. Keep in mind that the Satanic Panic was in full swing at the time.



Politics and Religion Today

What role does religion play in politics today?
(spoiler: it's not just Evangelicals who are
concerned with it).

[The Trump Prophecy](#)

[Trump's Axis of Evil](#)

Movies and Streaming

[The Handmaid's Tale](#)

[American Gods](#)

[What We Do in the Shadows](#)

[The Purge](#)



Music

I checked, and I just don't know much about pop music today.

The best I could come up with was Travis Scott "[Goosebumps](#)."

Maybe y'all can finish this slide...



Metal



Now we're talking.

This entire genre is based on having at least one foot (or cloven hoof) in the evil camp.

Pictured here is Dani Filth from Cradle of Filth (cute, eh?).

Other bands include Gojira, Moonspell, My Dying Bride, and Zeal and Ardor (that's kind of the entry level stuff).

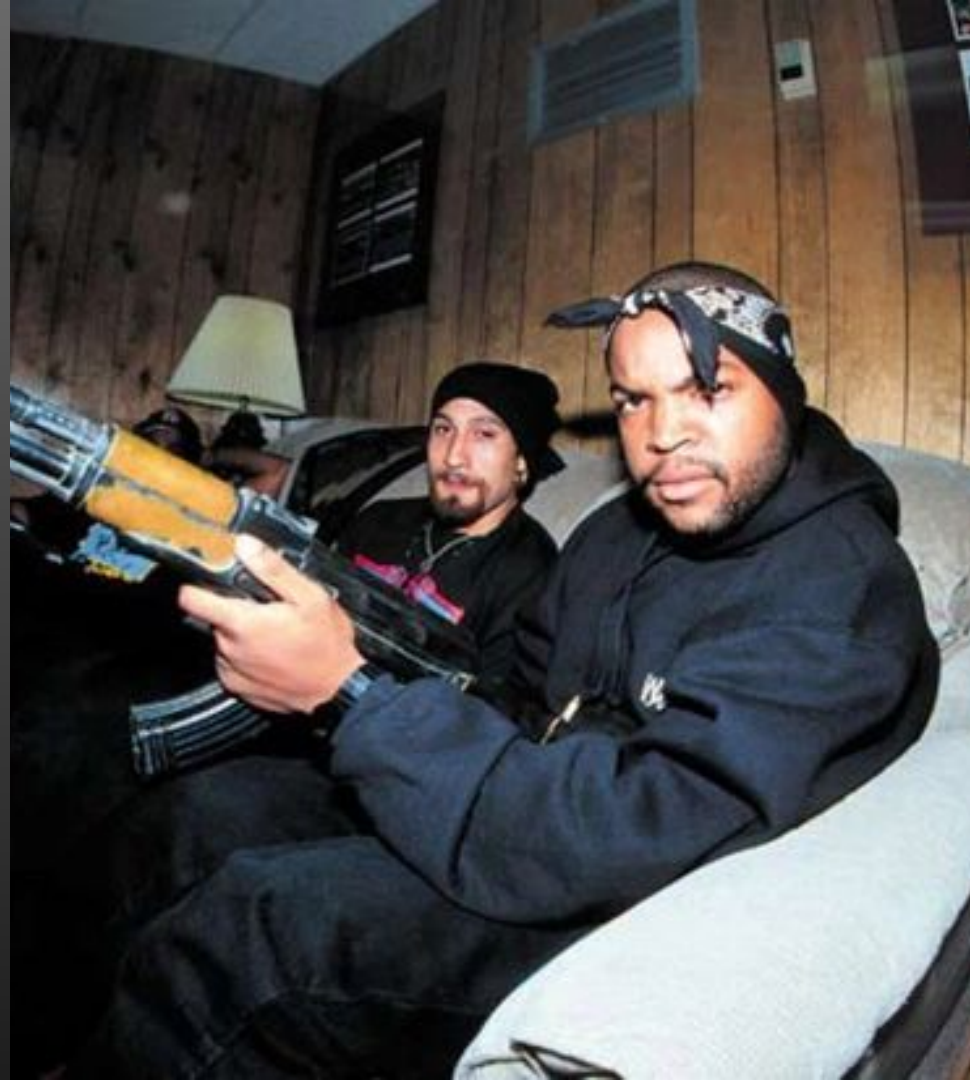
What's the appeal here?

Rap

While rappers tend to be pretty friendly these days, there was a time when rap was primarily concerned with being scary and violent.

Pictured here is Ice Cube back in his NWA days, perhaps the first “Gangsta Rap” group to make it big.

What’s the appeal?



Enhanced Interrogation

Music isn't just a form of expression and identity, however. It can also be a weapon.

These songs were used as “enhanced interrogation techniques” to assist in questioning prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.

Some describe it as worse than beating (which didn't officially happen, of course) and waterboarding. Keep in mind that one can train for physical trauma.

Consider it from the prisoners' perspective.

Theme Parks



Haunted is Fun!

Niles Haunted House

The Haunted Mansion

McKamey Manor

Religious Divisions

Americans remain divided over religion.

[Trustworthiness.](#)

[Nones.](#)

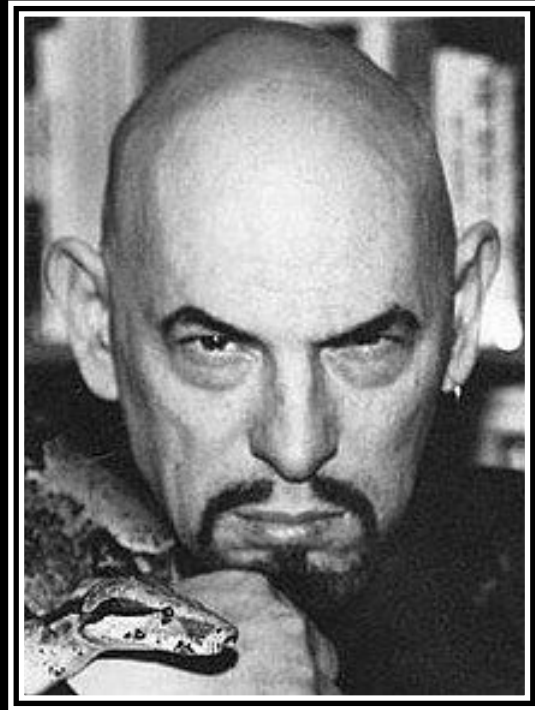
Even when we [swear in](#)
Representatives.



The Church of Satan

This was the first explicitly Satanic religion in the United States.

Founded in 1966, it has always been controversial.



The Satanic Temple

Founded in 2013, this group has been very active with various social causes and concerns.

They have a lovely headquarters, and they were very accommodating when I visited them in 2018.

