SOCIAL MEDIA TAKEOVER: MELANIN MVSKOKE

June 8, 2020

Hesci!! My name is Amber, a.k.a Melanin Mvskoke. I'm a Black (African-American) and Native/Indigenous activist and aspiring cultural critic/commentator.

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I'm an enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and I'm also of Shawnee, Yuchi, Quapaw, and Cherokee descent. I currently live in Portland, OR.

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In my activism, I seek to normalize, affirm, and advocate for Black Indigeneity, Black Liberation, and Indigenous Sovereignty. My hope is that through discourse and community-building, we will be able dispel the myth of white supremacy while dismantling world-wide settler colonialism and anti-Blackness.

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I'm honored to takeover this week and I look forward to sharing my ideas, memes, and process with all of you. I very much encourage you to interact and participate. And if you have questions, I'll do my best to answer honestly (even if it's contrary to the norm/status quo).

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Thank you for having me and for listening. May we all be stretched this week and moved towards truth and love! -MM

June 9, 2020

White Supremacy Is Not The Default

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This is a challenge. A challenge to what we've all been enculturated to believe. That one, white supremacy is the natural order of thing. It is not! And two, that we are powerless to dismantle it. It is very much within our power to deconstruct and dismantle this construct.

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White supremacy as a construct, has real-life consequences for those oppressed under its weight. So we all need to be asking ourselves, "How am I upholding, investing in, reinforcing, centering, and/or defending white supremacy?" _I challenge you to start here, with understanding your complicity if you are feeling powerless.

June 10, 2020

Indigenous peoples are sovereign. Our sovereignty isn't dependent on the settler state.

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Understanding Indigenous sovereignty begins with the understanding that Indigenous peoples existed as sovereign nations/tribes pre contact. Each with its own customs, cultures, laws, etc. Each stewarding the lands of their peoples since time immemorial.

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When we understand this, we understand that the settler state is a relatively new construct. And with that, it has no authority to either give or take away Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination or autonomy. That it can neither determine who or how much of a person is Indigenous (i.e. Blood Quantum). And lastly, that each tribes is the authority on their histories and their futures.

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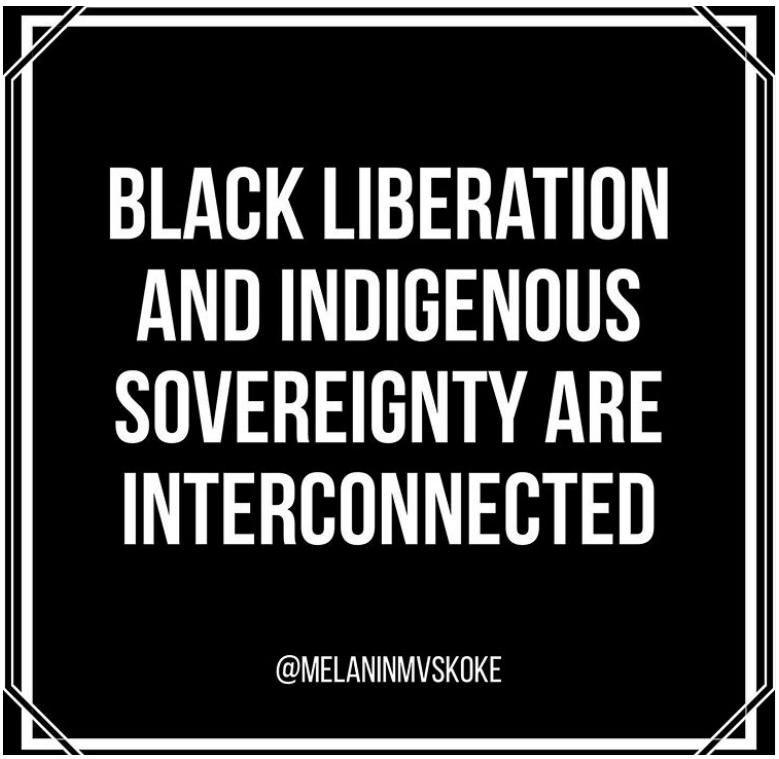
Finally, when we fully understand Indigenous sovereignty, we will understand that this land we call, "America" is not ours to own. That it should be returned to Indigenous peoples as the original, sovereign stewards of this place.



June 11, 2020

Black Liberation and Indigenous Sovereignty are interconnected

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When we speak about dismantling white supremacy and settler colonialism, it's important that we speak to and center both Indigenous Sovereignty and Black Liberation

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Settler colonialism is built on Indigenous land theft and the erasure and genocide of Native peoples. White supremacy is built on anti-blackness, Afrophobia, and the enslavement and utility of Black bodies.

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Any revolution that doesn't consider Indigenous Sovereignty and Black Liberation would simply uphold and reinforce white supremacist ideology and settler colonialism.

June 12, 2020

Under settler colonialism and white supremacy, Black Natives aren't supposed to exist

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Indigenous peoples along with stolen, enslaved Africans have been fighting together, enduring together, living together, and loving together on this land for hundreds of years. Surviving, and in some cases thriving in spite of genocide and enslavement. Out of those relationships came Afro Indigenous/Black Native children. Equally Black, equally Native.

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Simultaneously, as these relations were forming, the settler state, in an attempt to further its power and dominion, created the "one drop" rule and blood quantum laws which pit Black Natives' identities at odds. Often, our Native identities and cultures were erased, stolen from us. Our bodies, racialized as Black for the sake of utility and enslavement.

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These two ideologies, rooted in genocide and anti-Blackness, were meant for our destruction. They intended to separate Black Natives from our lands, tribes, nations, cultures, and histories. But we have continuously fought to reconnect and to reclaim. And here we are, Black and Native. Learning to love ourselves as multi-dimensional and valid._Afro Indigenous peoples exist.

June 13, 2020

Melanin Mvskoke-Final Thoughts
5 Oaks Museum- BLM Takeover Week with Melanin Mvskoke. Final Thoughts for a post-colonial world.

Watch video here:
https://www.instagram.com/p/CBZZ8eXFVNa/