

WHAT IS PATRIOTISM?

THE WORD FROM THE STREET






I KNOW,
BUT I DON'T CARE ABOUT OUR REGIME
AND ALL THE DESPOTIC FAT CATS.
I WANT TO PROTECT SOMETHING ELSE;
SOMETHING INSIDE MYSELF!

YOU WATCH
TOO MUCH TV!


WHO ELSE
CAN BRING PATRIOTISM
TO THE PEOPLE?





PATRIOTISM SHOULD COME FROM WITHIN: THE STUFF ON TV AND AT RALLIES IS JUST PROPAGANDA...

...USED TO CONTROL THE MASSES.



THE SAME PROPAGANDA THAT YOU SEE IN AMERICAN MOVIES, PUFFED UP WITH GRANDEUR AND FLAG-WAVING, THEY DRONE ON ABOUT HOW AWESOME THEY ARE.

THEY DRUM IT INTO YOU FROM WHEN YOU START SCHOOL, SO YOU THINK YOU'RE SUPERIOR AND CAN TELL EVERYONE ELSE HOW TO LIVE.

I BELIEVE THIS IS WRONG.

I'M FOR GLOBALIZATION. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES YOUR COUNTRY OF BIRTH REALLY MAKE?

I FEEL MORE LIKE A GAMER OR A DESIGNER THAN I DO A RUSSIAN.



SO IN SCHOOL THEY DIDN'T
TELL YOU TO LOVE YOUR
COUNTRY?

THEY DIDN'T TELL ME
ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

AND I DON'T WANT TO
LEARN ALL THAT 'CAUSE
IT'S COMPLETE CRAP.

I SEE PEOPLE AS PEOPLE,
NOT LIKE A COUNTRY AND
IT'S POLITICS.

BUT TO OTHER
PEOPLE YOU'RE
RUSSIAN.

WELL WHO
CARES ABOUT
THEM?
I JUST WON'T
HANG OUT WITH
THEM THEN!



THEY DIDN'T TEACH ME PATRIOTISM IN SCHOOL EITHER.

AND MY FAMILY DIDN'T TALK ABOUT IT.

YESTERDAY I ASKED
MY MOM:

ARE YOU
A PATRIOT?

SHE SAID:

NO,
AND IF THERE WERE
SOME KIND OF EMERGENCY,
I WOULD SELL OUT MY COUNTRY
TO SAVE MYSELF.



I WENT TO A REALLY PREPPY SCHOOL.

MY FASHION-CONSCIOUS, SNOBBISH CLASSMATES
COULD PICK OUT CALIFORNIA ON A MAP,
BUT ASK THEM WHERE PSKOV IS
AND THEY'D BE LIKE:



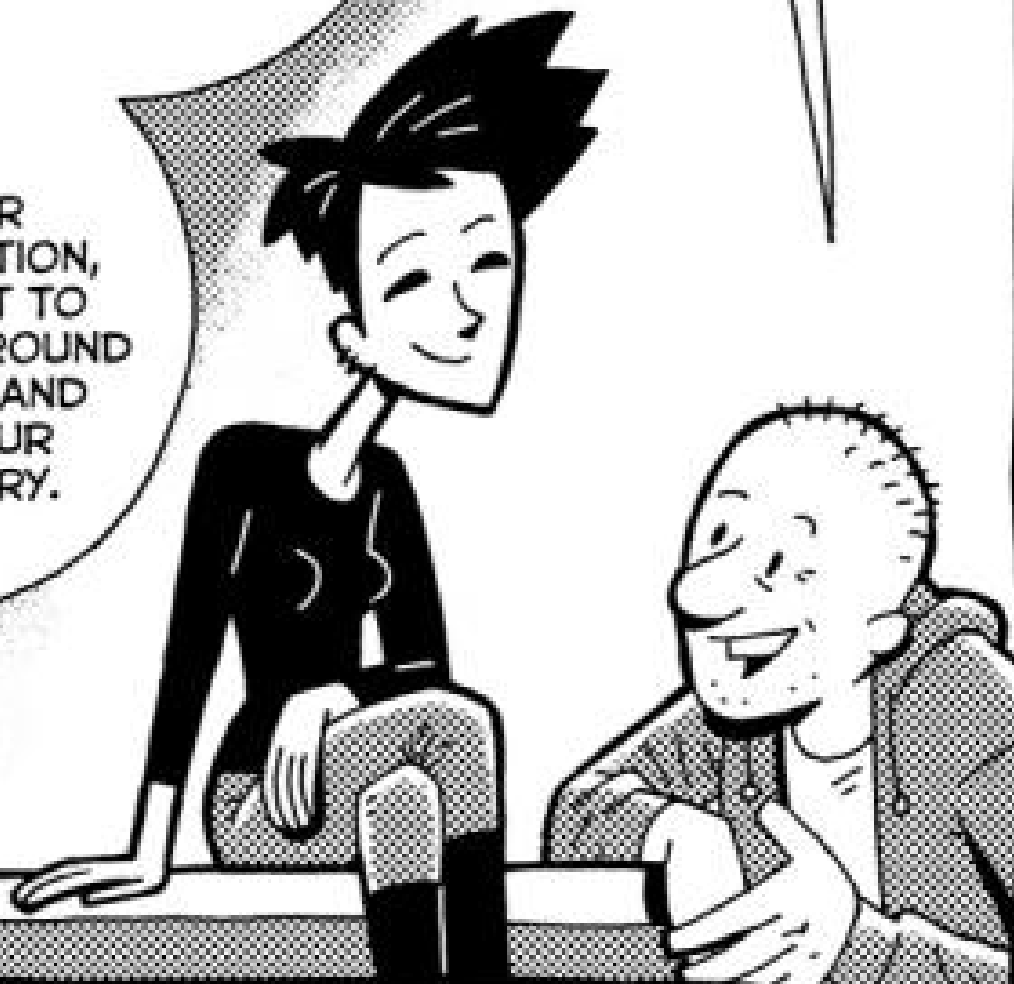
EACH OF THEM WANT TO GET
THE HELL OUT OF HERE,
THEY'RE SO SURE THAT THEY'LL
BE WELCOMED OVERSEAS AND
THAT EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT FOR THEM...

BUT REMEMBER,
IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY YOU
ARE FOREIGN AS WELL.

WHY DO PEOPLE ALWAYS THINK THE GRASS
IS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE?
I LIVED IN CORSICA AND THE LOCALS HAD
PICTURES OF BARCELONA ON THEIR WALLS,
AS IF THEY WERE LIVING IN A DUMP!

IT'D BE INTERESTING
TO LIVE ABROAD,
BUT IT'S NOT THE
BE-ALL AND END-ALL
FOR ME.

AFTER
GRADUATION,
WE WANT TO
TRAVEL AROUND
RUSSIA AND
SEE OUR
COUNTRY.



I DON'T THINK I'M THAT MUCH OF A PATRIOT,
BUT I DO GET UPSET WHEN PEOPLE
BADMOUTH RUSSIANS.
IT'S NOT RIGHT WHEN SOMEONE INSULTS
OUR COUNTRY OR OUR PEOPLE...

EVERYONE HAS SOME KIND OF NATIONAL
PRIDE, NO MATTER WHAT NATIONALITY YOU ARE.
AND OUR SOCIETY IS VERY ACCEPTING - JUST
LOOK AT HOW MANY DIFFERENT
CULTURES LIVE IN ONE COUNTRY!

HOW CAN YOU RESPECT
SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T LOVE
THEIR OWN COUNTRY?



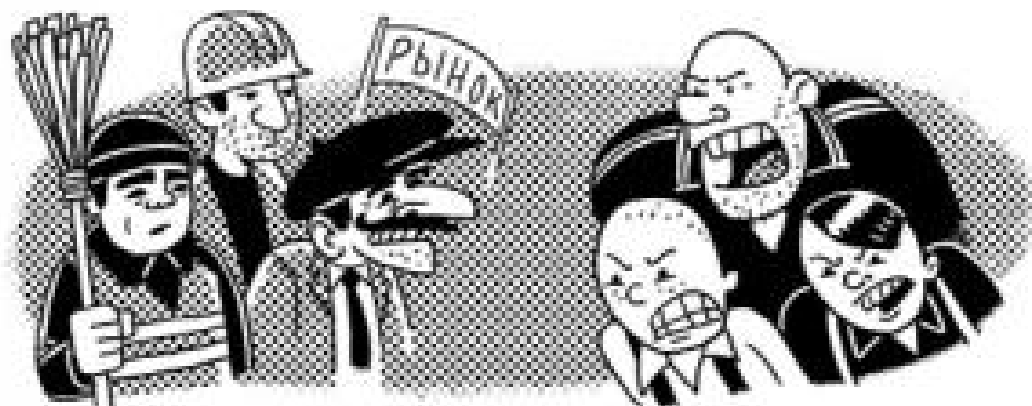
I LOVE RUSSIA,
I LOVE OUR NATURE AND OUR PEOPLE.
NOT EVERYONE, OF COURSE,
BUT THERE ARE LOTS OF COOL PEOPLE.
I JUST DON'T LIKE OUR POLITICS,
STUPID LAWS,
ALL THE "KICKBACKS" AND "BRIBES"...

BUT THINK ABOUT IT,
IF YOU'RE SAVING UP TO ESCAPE TO ANOTHER
COUNTRY EVEN AT SCHOOL THEN YOU'RE NOT
LIKELY TO TRY TO IMPROVE YOUR OWN
COUNTRY IN ORDER TO LIVE IN IT.

BUT WHY GO SOMEWHERE ELSE?
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WORK HERE,
SET UP BUSINESSES, CREATE JOBS
FOR OTHER PEOPLE, PAY TAXES,
AND MAKE LIFE BETTER IN THE COUNTRY.
THERE'S TRUE PATRIOTISM FOR YOU!

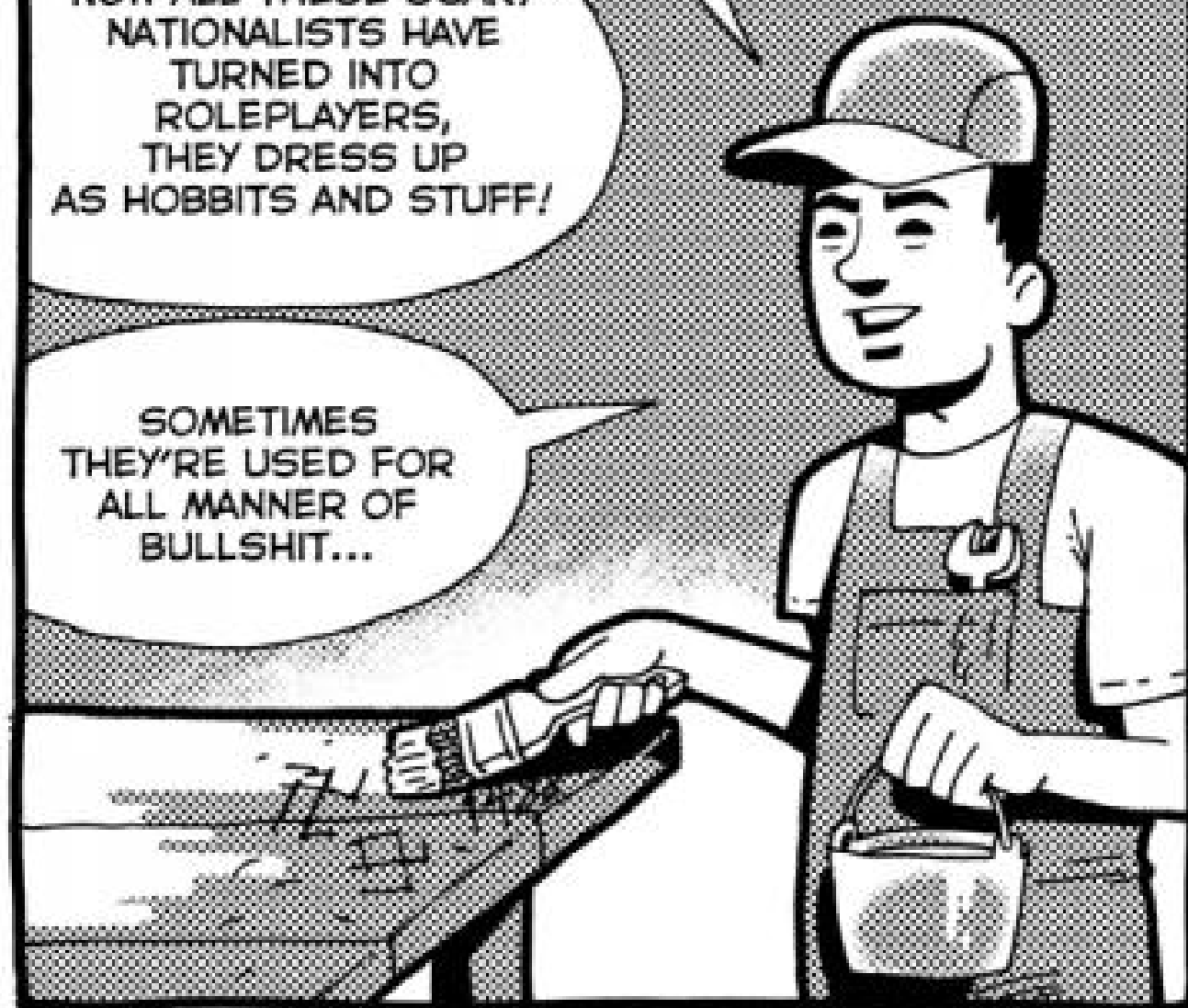


IN MY DAY, PATRIOTISM WAS A GAME FOR THOSE THAT WANTED TO ESCAPE REAL-LIFE PROBLEMS. TEENAGE REBELLION!



NOW ALL THESE SCARY NATIONALISTS HAVE TURNED INTO ROLEPLAYERS, THEY DRESS UP AS HOBBITS AND STUFF!

SOMETIMES THEY'RE USED FOR ALL MANNER OF BULLSHIT...





YEAH, LIKE ALL THESE ROLEPLAYERS WHO RUN AROUND THE WOODS IN TUNICS FIGHTING WITH SWORDS AND PRAYING TO THOR. I'M SURE THEY THINK THEY'RE BRINGING NEW LIFE TO OUR CULTURE, BUT MAYBE IT WOULD BE MORE USEFUL IF THEY PLANTED SOME TREES OR CLEANED UP THE STREETS.

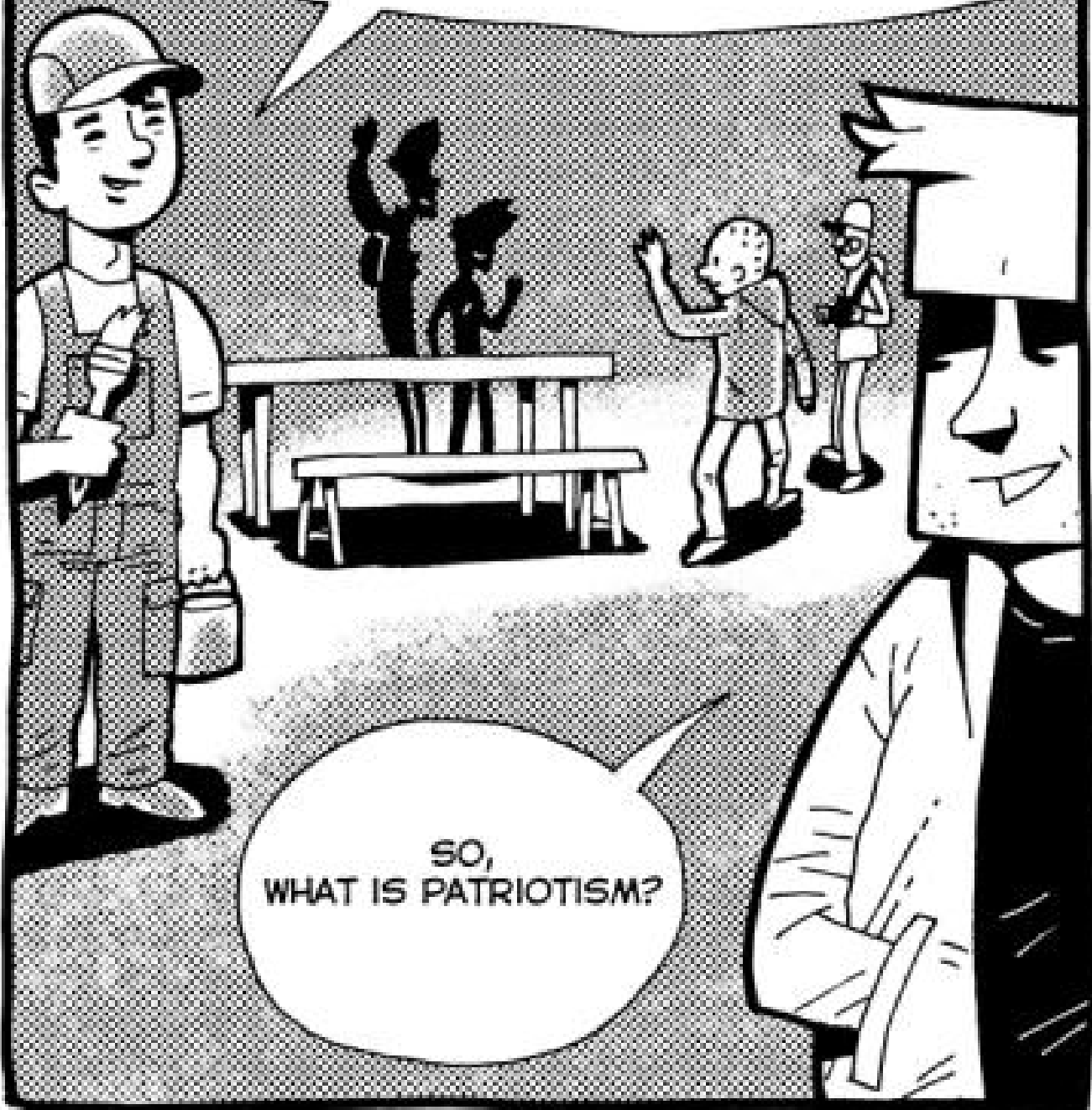


YEAH,
LIKE I DON'T SMOKE IN
THE ENTRANCE OF MY
APARTMENT BUILDING
BECAUSE I LIVE THERE,
AND SO DO FAMILIES WITH
CHILDREN.
IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT
STILL...

NEITHER SCHOOL, TELEVISION NOR THE INTERNET WILL
MAKE YOU A PATRIOT.

PATRIOTISM,
JUST LIKE A GOOD UPBRINGING,
STARTS AT HOME WITH YOUR FAMILY.

YOU JUST HAVE TO CARE FOR
AND EDUCATE YOUR CHILDREN,
MAKE SURE THEY AREN'T LEFT
TO THEIR OWN DEVICES.



SO,
WHAT IS PATRIOTISM?