

Stars and Stripes of Corruption

Dead Kennedys

Finally got to Washington
In the middle of the night, I couldn't wait
I headed straight for the Capitol Mall
My heart began to pound
Yahoo, it really exists
The American International Pictures logo
I looked up at that Capitol Building
Couldn't help but wonder why
I felt like saying, "Hello, old friend"
Walked up the hill to touch it
Then I unzipped my pants
And pissed on it
When nobody was looking
Like a great eternal Klansman
With his two flashing red eyes
Turn around he's always watching
The Washington Monument pricks the sky
With flags like pubic hair
Ringed 'round the bottom
The symbols of our heritage
Lit up proudly in the night
Somehow fits to see
The homeless people
Passed out on the lawn
So this is where it happens
The power games and bribes
All lobbying for a piece of ass
Of the stars and stripes of corruption
Makes me feel so ashamed
To be an American
When we're too stuck up
To learn from our mistakes
Trying to start another Vietnam
Like fiddling while Rome burns at home
The Boss says, "You're laid off
Blame the Japanese"
"America's back" alright
At the game it plays the worst
Strip mining the world

Like a slave plantation
No wonder others hate us
And the Hitlers we handpick
To bleed their people dry
For our evil empire
The drug we're fed
To make us like it
Is God and country
With a band
People we know who should know better
Howl, "America riles, let's go to war"
Business scams are
What's worth dying for, fuck
Are the Soviets our worst enemy?
We're destroying ourselves instead
Who cares about our civil rights
As long as I get paid?
The blind me-generation
Doesn't care if life's a lie
So easily used, so proud to enforce
The stars and stripes of corruption
Let's bring it all down
Let's bring It all down
Let's bring it all down
Down, down, down
Tell me who's the real patriots

The Archie Bunker slobs waving flags
Or the people with the guts to work
For some real change?
Rednecks and bombs
Don't make us strong
We loot the world
Yet we can't even feed ourselves
Our real test of strength is caring
Not the war toys we sell the world
Just carry on, thankful to be farmed like worms
Old glory for a blanket as you suck on your thumbs
Real freedom scares you
'Cause it means responsibility
So you chicken out and threaten me
Saying, "Love it or leave it"
I'll get beat up if I criticize it
You say you'll fight to the death
To save your useless flag

If you want a banana republic that bad
Then why don't you go move to one
But what can just one of us do?
Against all that money and power
Trying to crush us into roaches?
We won't destroy society in a day
Until we change ourselves first
From the inside out
We can start by not lying so much
And treating other people like dirt
It's easy not to base our lives
On how much we can scam
And you know it feels good
To lift that monkey off our back
I'm thankful I live in a place
Where I can say the things I do
Without being taken out and shot
So I'm on guard against the goons
Trying to take my rights away
We've got to rise above the need for cops and laws
Let kids learn communication
Instead of schools pushing competition
How about more art
And theater instead of sports?
People will always do drugs
Let's legalize them
Crime drops when the mob can't price them
Budget's in the red, let's tax religion
No one will do it for us
We'll just have to fix ourselves
Honesty ain't all that hard
Just put Rambo back inside your pants
Causing trouble for the system is much more fun
Thank you for the toilet paper
But your flag is meaningless to me
Look around, we're all people
Who needs countries anyway?
Our land, I love it too
I think I love it more than you
I care enough to fight
For the stars and stripes of corruption
Let's bring it all down
Let's bring it all down
Let's bring it all down
If we don't try, if we just lie

If we can't find a way
To do it better than this, who will?

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