

FLEE THE STATE FANTASY

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WHO ARE SOVEREIGN CITIZENS?

Extremist movement constructed on conspiracies:

- US is a corporation, not a country
- Each person has a gov't strawman & natural man
- Individuals can est. sovereignty

Two Trends:

- Predominant SCM (white, Christian, US becomes corp. in 1871)
- Moorish SCM (BIPOC, Moorish Science Temple, US tributary of Moroccan Empire)



Credit: Leonard Brakebill, OK Air National Guard



Your Honor,
I am informing the court that I will no longer be re
be in Propria Persona Sui Juris from henceforth to
I could not agree on the direction of the defense
we contractually agreed to, he has violated my co
the case.
If there are any questions or concerns, please ema
response.
Sincerely,
James Beeks Oil rights reserve
james beeks: --In Propria Persona Sui Juris
NOTICE TO PRINCIPLE IS NOTICE TO AGENT; NOTICE TO AGE

Credit: US District Court Filings

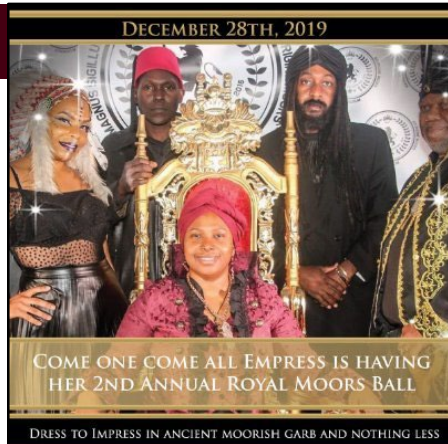
RQ: Why are people attracted to the Sovereign Citizens Movement (SCM)?

ANSWERS IN THE LIT

The Great Recession made them do it.
(Hodges 2019, Kent 2015, Middleton 2014)

However, SCM predates Great Recession, many Americans chose not to join extremist groups, many other confounding variables (increasing polarization, evolving social media environment, controversial elections, etc.

Credit: Empress of America X Account



Credit: FBI affidavit

METHODS

- Virtual Ethnography & Cultural Mapping
- 9 Groups & 30 Individuals
 - Foundational Texts
 - Personal Websites
 - YouTube videos
 - News Articles
 - SCM material culture
 - Court Documents

SCM NORMS

- Declare sovereignty
- Reject gov't regulations
- Create homemade paperwork
- Employ pseudo-legal strategies
- Utilizing titles of nobility
- Reject authority of LEOs
- Claiming property with homemade deeds
- Use code words in an attempt to avoid consequences



Screenshot from Amazon.com

SCM provides a flee the state strategy, but it's fantasy.

THEORETICAL ARGUMENT

Historically people have had three possible strategies to respond to the state: assimilate, fight, or flee the state to frontier spaces. In today's world states administer all territory—there's no frontier to flee to. The SCM norms provide members with a flee the state strategy in a system with no stateless territory. Individuals who don't want to fight or assimilate can employ their pseudo-legal strategies.

EXPLAINING SCM VIOLENCE

When pseudo-legal strategies fail (because they are just fantasy) sovereign citizens have to pick a new strategy. Some will re-assimilate, others will choose violence.