



# ArchivesSpace

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## Bill Weinberg sound recordings15428123

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Oral History Archives at Columbia

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Oral History Archives at Columbia
<b>Creator:</b>	Weinberg, Bill
<b>Title:</b>	Bill Weinberg sound recordings
<b>ID:</b>	15428123
<b>ID:</b>	OHAC
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1992-2021
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1992-2011
<b>Physical Description:</b>	57 audiocassettes 1 box
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>Bill Weinberg is a journalist, political writer, activist, and radio personality. His work and activism has focused on human rights, indigenous movements, drug policy, the environment, the Middle East, and opposition to war and authoritarianism. The Bill Weinberg sound recordings feature 57 episodes of the show Moorish Orthodox Radio Crusade (MORC), which was broadcast on WBAI radio from 1988 to 2011. The collection's recordings date from Bill Weinberg's period as part of the show's collective from 1992 to 2011. Throughout its run, MORC covered a wide range of political, cultural, and spiritual topics. Some major themes addressed in the collection's episodes include ecology, indigenous movements, anarchism, the War on Drugs, United States imperialism, Latin America, North Africa, religion, New York City political and social movements, sustainable transportation, and gardening. The collection also contains an oral history interview with Weinberg that was taken by the curator when the collection was donated to the Oral History Archives at Columbia.</p>

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## Biographical / Historical

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Bill Weinberg is a journalist, political writer, activist, and radio personality. His work and activism has focused on human rights, indigenous movements, drug policy, the environment, the Middle East, and opposition to war and authoritarianism. He is the author of the books *Homage to Chiapas: The New Indigenous Struggles in Mexico* (Verso, 2000), *War on the Land: Ecology and Politics in Central America* (Zed Books, 1991), *Avant Gardening: Ecological Struggle in the City and the World* (Autonomedia, 1999), and other books on politics, the United States' international interventions, and cannabis. Weinberg has been an editor or regular contributor to *Native Americas*, *High Times*, *The Guardian* (New York-based left-wing publication), *Project CBD*, *Cannabis Now*, and *The Village Sun*. His work has appeared in numerous other publications and won awards from the Native American Journalists Association. His online news site *CounterVortex* covers issues related to human rights, ecology, democracy, peace, and the rights of indigenous peoples. Weinberg started *CounterVortex* as *World War 4 Report* following 9/11 and the United States' initiation of a new form of warfare in the Global War on Terror.

Weinberg was a co-producer and on-air personality for the radio show *Moorish Orthodox Radio Crusade* (MORC) from 1992 to 2011. MORC was started in 1988 by Peter Lamborn Wilson, and was broadcast late night on WBAI, inheriting a timeslot held by Bob Fass' *Radio Unnameable* and James Irsay's *Primary Sources*. MORC's name was derived from a 1960s radio show from members of the Moorish Orthodox Church of America (MOCA), a small mystical sect based on the Upper West Side. In 1992, Weinberg joined Wilson on MORC. The two had met through the Libertarian Book Club, a longstanding anarchist group. Weinberg's participation brought an increased focus on political issues. International affairs, left anarchist thought, and local politics became prominently featured. Ann-Marie Hendrickson joined as a co-host in 1995. Between 1995 and 2001, the MORC collective expanded further to include Sharon Gregory as co-host, Bob McGill as engineer, Dave Smith as technical engineer, and Max Schmid as producer. In March of 2011, WBAI took MORC off the airwaves following conflicts about premiums and the views of figures at WBAI. The show continued online for a brief period before ending.

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## Content Description

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The Bill Weinberg sound recordings feature 57 episodes of the show *Moorish Orthodox Radio Crusade* (MORC), which was broadcast on WBAI radio from 1988 to 2011. The collection's recordings date from Bill Weinberg's period as part of the show's collective from 1992 to 2011. Throughout its run, MORC covered a wide range of political, cultural, and spiritual topics. Some major themes addressed in the collection's episodes include ecology, indigenous

movements, anarchism, the War on Drugs, United States imperialism, Latin America, North Africa, religion, and gardening. Some specific international topics covered by the collection include Cuba, Chiapas in Mexico, Mauritania, and the Uighurs in China. Several episodes address the Critical Mass protests and other bicycling and sustainable transportation issues. Activism and community in New York City are also major topics. Other episodes document internal affairs and conflict at radio station WBAI. Music is consistent feature across episodes, and shows feature eclectic rock, folk, and pop from around the world. The collection also contains an oral history interview with Weinberg that was taken by the curator when the collection was donated to the Oral History Archives at Columbia.

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## Arrangement

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Collection is arranged chronologically.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Oral History Archives at Columbia

### Revision Description

Links to digitized audio added. kws 2021-12-21

### Conditions Governing Access

Access: Open

### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright by Bill Weinberg or other creators. The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York hold a non-exclusive license to enable library activities.

## Processing Information

Collection processed by David A. Olson and Mollie Echeverria. Collection was processed concurrent with digitization as part of Columbia University Libraries' Mellon Foundation-funded Audio and Moving Image Project, 2021.

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

Bill Weinberg, Gift, 2021

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

Columbia University Libraries has preserved several websites related to Bill Weinberg and the Moorish Orthodox Radio Crusade show (MORC). These are:

Bill Weinberg's personal website <https://wayback.archive-it.org/2766/20211206212709/https://www.billweinberg.info/>

Bill Weinberg's descriptions of MORC shows. These sites could be particularly useful for researchers exploring the Bill Weinberg sound recordings [https://wayback.archive-it.org/2766/20211206212711/https://www.morc.info/MORC\\_Archives\\_Page-1.2.html](https://wayback.archive-it.org/2766/20211206212711/https://www.morc.info/MORC_Archives_Page-1.2.html)[https://wayback.archive-it.org/2766/20211206212703/https://www.morc.info/MORC\\_Archives\\_Page-2.2.html](https://wayback.archive-it.org/2766/20211206212703/https://www.morc.info/MORC_Archives_Page-2.2.html)

Bill Weinberg's website on MORC <https://wayback.archive-it.org/2766/20211206212711/https://www.morc.info/>

A website on MORC and the Moorish Orthodox Church of America (MOCA) by J. Christian Greer <https://wayback.archive-it.org/2766/20211207200906/https://morcarchive.squarespace.com/>

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Radio programs
- Audiocassettes

- Anarchism
- Self-determination, National
- Indigenous peoples -- Civil rights
- Latin America -- Politics and government -- 20th century
- Cycling -- Political aspects
- Africa -- Politics and government
- Chiapas (Mexico) -- History
- Radicalism -- New York (State) -- New York -- History
- Social movements -- New York (State) -- New York -- History
- New York (State) -- Politics and government -- 1951-
- Drug control -- United States
- Human ecology
- WBAI Radio (New York, N.Y.)

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## Collection Inventory

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### Bill Weinberg sound recordings, 1992-2021

Physical Description: 57 audiocassettes

Title/Description	Instances
Alternative Voices on Cuba, 1992 July 6 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 audiocassettes <u>Digital Object</u> : <a href="#">Alternative Voices on Cuba, 1992 July 6</a>	box 1
Cuba's Bicycle Revolution, 1993 May 4 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 audiocassettes <u>Digital Object</u> : <a href="#">Cuba's Bicycle Revolution, 1993 May 4</a>	box 1
¡Viva Zapata!, 1994 April 18 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 audiocassettes <u>Digital Object</u> : <a href="#">¡Viva Zapata!, 1994 April 18</a>	box 1
Darryl Cherney & the Stuggle for the Redwoods, 1996 November 26 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 audiocassettes <u>Digital Object</u> : <a href="#">Darryl Cherney &amp; the Stuggle for the Redwoods, 1996 November 26</a>	box 1
Washitaw: American Captive Nation, 1997 November 4 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 audiocassettes <u>Digital Object</u> : <a href="#">Washitaw: American Captive Nation, 1997 November 4</a>	box 1
St. Patrick's Day Special on Nicaragua, 1998 March 17 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 audiocassettes	box 1

Digital Object: [St. Patrick's Day Special on Nicaragua, 1998 March 17](#)

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Bikes for Chiapas, 1999 March 30 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Bikes for Chiapas, 1999 March 30](#)

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Reclaim the Streets! II, 1999 June 13 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Reclaim the Streets! II, 1999 June 13](#)

---

Reclaim the Streets! IV, 1999 November 30 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Reclaim the Streets! IV, 1999 November 30](#)

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Reclaim the Streets! V, 1999 Decemeber 7 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Reclaim the Streets! V, 1999 Decemeber 7](#)

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¡Viva Esperanza! II, 2000 January 11 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [¡Viva Esperanza! II, 2000 January 11](#)

---

Anarchist Roots of Pacifica, 2001 March 13 and March 14 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Anarchist Roots of Pacifica, 2001 March 13 and March 14](#)

---

Casa del Sol, 2001 May 15 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Casa del Sol, 2001 May 15](#)

---

From Chiapas to Morocco, 2001 June 6 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [From Chiapas to Morocco, 2001 June 6](#)

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NI Vavilov Remembered, 2001 July 10 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [NI Vavilov Remembered, 2001 July 10](#)

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¡Viva Charas!, 2000 July 17 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [¡Viva Charas!, 2000 July 17](#)

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More Gardens!, 2001 July 26 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes



Digital Object: [More Gardens!, 2001 July 26](#)

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Aftermath of Terror II, 2001 September 25 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Aftermath of Terror II, 2001 September 25](#)

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Adam Purple and the Garden of Eden, 2002 January 1 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Adam Purple and the Garden of Eden, 2002 January 1](#)

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WBAI Liberated!, 2011 January 15 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [WBAI Liberated!, 2011 January 15](#)

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From Chiapas to Morocco IV, 2002 July 16 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [From Chiapas to Morocco IV, 2002 July 16](#)

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Return of the Dope Squad, 2002 August 13 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Return of the Dope Squad, 2002 August 13](#)

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World War III Illustrated IV, 2003 January 7 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [World War III Illustrated IV, 2003 January 7](#)

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Anti-Zionism & Jewish Liberation IV, 2003 March 4 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Anti-Zionism & Jewish Liberation IV, 2003 March 4](#)

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Shamanism and Resistance in the Chiapas Rainforest, 2003 April 15 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Shamanism and Resistance in the Chiapas Rainforest, 2003 April 15](#)

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Jeanette Rankin Remembered, 2003 June 10 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Jeanette Rankin Remembered, 2003 June 10](#)

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Report Back from Jayyous, 2004 February 10 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Report Back from Jayyous, 2004 February 10](#)

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Dissident Voices from Iraq III, 2004 July 20 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Dissident Voices from Iraq III, 2004 July 20](#)

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From Colombia to Algeria, 2005 May 17 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [From Colombia to Algeria, 2005 May 17](#)

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The Struggle in Mauritania, 2005 August 9 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [The Struggle in Mauritania, 2005 August 9](#)

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From Baghdad to Tokyo, 2006 February 7 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [From Baghdad to Tokyo, 2006 February 7](#)

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Frogs Matter, 2006 April 4 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Frogs Matter, 2006 April 4](#)

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The Struggle for St. Brigid's Church, 2006 August 22 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [The Struggle for St. Brigid's Church, 2006 August 22](#)

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Warlock Asylum, 2006 September 5 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Warlock Asylum, 2006 September 5](#)

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From Darfur to Mauritania, 2006 September 19 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [From Darfur to Mauritania, 2006 September 19](#)

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Critical Mass Under Attack IV, 2008 May 8 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Critical Mass Under Attack IV, 2008 May 8](#)

---

The Struggle in Mauritania II, 2007 May 29 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [The Struggle in Mauritania II, 2007 May 29](#)

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From Baghdad to Tokyo II, 2007 June 14 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [From Baghdad to Tokyo II, 2007 June 14](#)

---

William Blake's Revolutionary Vision, 2008 January 8 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [William Blake's Revolutionary Vision, 2008 January 8](#)

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The Struggle for Chinatown, 2008 April 29 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [The Struggle for Chinatown, 2008 April 29](#)

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Chris Carlsson's Nowtopia, 2008 June 3 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Chris Carlsson's Nowtopia, 2008 June 3](#)

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Homage to Matoub Lounes II, 2008 June 24 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Homage to Matoub Lounes II, 2008 June 24](#)

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The Tompkins Square Riot: 20 Years Later, 2008 July 22 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [The Tompkins Square Riot: 20 Years Later, 2008 July 22](#)

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Yes We Did. Now What?, 2008 November 4 box 1

Physical Description: 2 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Yes We Did. Now What?, 2008 November 4](#)

---

The Struggle in Mauritania III, 2008 November 11 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [The Struggle in Mauritania III, 2008 November 11](#)

---

Free Somaliland, 2009 April 21 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Free Somaliland, 2009 April 21](#)

---

Lessons From 1649, 2009 July 14 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Lessons From 1649, 2009 July 14](#)

---

Solidarity with Uighurstan, 2009 January 21 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Solidarity with Uighurstan, 2009 January 21](#)

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Politics and the English Language, 2009 September 1 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Politics and the English Language, 2009 September 1](#)

---

Red Noir, 2009 December 1 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Red Noir, 2009 December 1](#)

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Report from Port-au-Prince, 2010 January 19 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Report from Port-au-Prince, 2010 January 19](#)

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Michael Jackson & the Secret of the Vegetable, 2010 June 29 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Michael Jackson & the Secret of the Vegetable, 2010 June 29](#)

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The Mosque Controversy in China, 2010 August 31 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [The Mosque Controversy in China, 2010 August 31](#)

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The Struggle for North Africa—and WBAI, 2011 January 25 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [The Struggle for North Africa—and WBAI, 2011 January 25](#)

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Elephant Talk, 2011 February 1 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Elephant Talk, 2011 February 1](#)

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The Moorish Orthodox Radio Crusade Fights Back, 2011 February 8 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [The Moorish Orthodox Radio Crusade Fights Back, 2011 February 8](#)

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Against George Galloway, 2011 March 15 box 1

Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Against George Galloway, 2011 March 15](#)

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Oral History Interview with Bill Weinberg, 2021 May 6

[Digital Object: Oral History Interview with Bill Weinberg, 2021 May 6](#)

## Scope and Contents

In this oral history interview conducted by Kimberly Springer, Bill Weinberg discusses his life, activism, and work as a journalist and author. Weinberg describes his upbringing and youth in Jackson Heights, Queens. He describes the attraction of the Lower East Side, attending punk shows in the city, and his introduction to activism. Entry points to activism included anti-draft activity, Rock Against Racism, and attendance at the Black Hills Survival Gathering in South Dakota, an American Indian Movement-sponsored event protesting uranium mining. He discusses his introduction to anarchism, the Libertarian Book Club, and his personal approaches to anarchism. Weinberg also speaks to his career as a journalist and author of books. He discusses his travels in Latin America, particularly Chiapas, and his reporting for High Times and Native Americas. He discusses the dynamic at High Times in the 1990s as well as the founding of his blog CounterVortex. Weinberg also describes his involvement with the WBAI radio show Moorish Orthodox Radio Crusade (MORC). He details how he got involved with the show, other members of the show's collective, and the character of the show. He discusses the show's name and the initial influence of the Moorish Science Movement, and muses on different varieties of "Moorish" identity. He discusses the influence of Bob Fass and his own experiences as a WBAI listener as a youth. He discusses the activities of co-host Ann-Marie Hendrickson, including her anti-nuclear activism, her contributions to MORC, and her WBAI show Mansion for a Rat. He also details his rift with WBAI over political issues that ultimately led to MORC's removal from the station. He gives an analysis of factions of the anti-imperialist Left that took unnuanced, contradictory, and anti-Semitic stances in the years following 9/11. He also discusses these contradictions in the context of United States involvement in Syria. The interview also addresses Weinberg's involvement in activism on the Lower East Side. Specific topics include the 1988 Tompkins Square Park riot and its impact through early 1990s, squatters, gentrification, the Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space, and activism around community gardens in the late 1990s through early 2000s.

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