

People's Temple Script

DANIEL:

Founded in 1955 by a man named James Warren Jones, The People's Temple of the Disciples of Christ was inspired by the idea of a society that could put an end to racism and poverty. Believing in elements of Christianity, they also preached communist and socialist ideals as well as racial equality. After gaining traction in Indiana, the Temple decided to pack up and move to California in the late 60's. Jim Jones predicted an apocalypse was to come, and that it would create a socialist Eden on Earth. The location he settled on was Redwood Valley, as he had been inspired by a recent report that deemed the location one of the safest doomsday locations in the U.S.

Notable to the belief systems and persuasion techniques was that a large population of the Temple were African-Americans, something unexpected from other infamous cults. Jones encouragement to join the tribe was largely based on his ideals of putting an end to racism, and there was a vast difference in the temples members. The movement became more recognizable and well known among Californians, and in the mid-70's, the temple had expanded to over a dozen locations across the state, including big cities such as Los Angeles and San Francisco. Eventually Jones decided to move the headquarters to San Francisco, where the temple remained until July of 1977.

It was then that Jones gathered over 1000 Temple members and fled to a remote jungle compound in Guyana after media reports surfaced about the temple. They created a settlement known as Jonestown. Jones spoke of the new settlement as it was an escape from media scrutiny, and a chance for the temple and its members to live out their lives the way they wished. Jones was a master of persuasion, and had completely brainwashed temple members to buy in to his radical ideologies. The temple claimed to have over 20,000 members, however is more likely there were around 3 to 5 thousand.

Maggie part (don't include massacre)

- very similar parallels between jonestown and lord of the flies
- to start, both tribes have a heavy focus on the following of a common leader
- jonestown: allowing a new way to live life outside of the real world
- it was an escape from the hardships and struggles of middle america
- members were provided with what they needed, from food and jobs to drug rehabilitation

- jim jones led members of the temple to completely trust him and his voice
- this allowance of trust continued to grow
- mirroring lord of the flies: the boys seek to release their internal desires of savagery through jack and his lead
- jack represents the absence of questioning
- a similarity of the boys on the island and members of the people's temple : neither group took the time to question what they believed
- it's vital to be constantly questioning decisions and beliefs, or society won't progress. an important way question belief in a cause is to ask how this idea was formed and what it effects.
- in the People's temple, common aspects of a cult, such as isolation or displacement of power were present, but members did not question their trust in jones
- this same situation is prominent in Lord of the Flies, as the boys don't question the killing and savagery that is incurring because jack has won them over even with a lack of logic.

Jamie part

Maggie part about the actual massacre

- as similar to lotf, jonestown became a tribe with an absence of social normalities.
- members of jonestown left their entire lives behind them as they believed so strongly in jones
- he was seen as a voice of reason in an unreasonable world
- this was enough for nearly a thousand people to completely leave civilization
- the theme of irrational decision making is very prominent in both of these tribes.

-the belief of a common cause, such as jim jones, allows for individuals to be heard even when they don't actually have a say

-this is very similar to the way that the boys in lord of the flies follow jack after ralph's tribe falls apart

-jonestown is a tribe with a common outlook held by many tribes: us vs them.

-the tribe is held together by the common principles of christianity and anti racism which keeps the tribe to be quote on quote "together against the world"

-the same principle applies to lord of the flies. as jack shapes the boys into going against the beast, they have an approach that is lacking research into the opposition. their chant of kill the beast spill it's blood is not based off of any actual proof of the beast, but rather the horrific desire to kill.

-reliance on followers keeps tribe leaders strong, but when their power is doubted it can lead to aggression

-this is apparent in lord of the flies as jack's only motive is to constantly hold the power over the boys

-this even means killing in the process

-This theme can be similarity seen in Jonestown. Jim jones had a large following but when desire to overthrow or leave his power he acts irrationality and does everything possible not to lose his control

-the extreme isolation in both settings allows for misinformation being spread

-Jonestown residents were told that they were a target of the us military and that America was rounding up black people into concentration camps. As residents had no other outside information, they believed jones

-the fear of where they'd come from or "escaped" kept most of jones' followers willingly on the island. There was little to no rebellion against jones because his followers trusted his word

-this parallels lord of the flies as the boys follow jack since he is completely confident in his ideals. As many of his boys were under his reign in the choir to begin with, it is easier for the boys to accept the idea of him being control.

-as they had trusted his word back home, it was easy for jack to keep this control. This is the same approach that kept Jonestown running.