

Study Guide: The New Conscientious Objector and the Logistics of Decolonial Repair

This study guide provides an exhaustive review of the emerging paradigm of **Active Objection** and the **New Conscientious Objector (NewCO)**. It explores the transition from historical "Static Objection" to a modern framework of systemic non-collaboration designed to dismantle the **Economic Draft** and the interlocking systems of **Christian Colonial Capitalist Violence (CCCV)**.

Part I: Quiz – Understanding Active Objection

Instructions: Provide short-answer responses (2–3 sentences each) for the following questions based on the source context.

1. What is the "Economic Draft" as defined in the NewCO framework?
 2. How does the concept of "Christian Colonial Capitalist Violence" (CCCV) explain the roots of modern state violence?
 3. What is the primary difference between "Static Objection" and "Active Objection"?
 4. Why did the 1968 Richmond Declaration represent a "genealogical rupture" in Quaker practice?
 5. How does the NewCO framework propose to "decolonize" the Quaker Peace Testimony?
 6. Define the "Symmetrical Antidotes" strategy used by the NewCO movement.
 7. What were the "Whistle Brigades" in the 2026 Minneapolis "Ice Out" strike, and what was their purpose?
 8. Explain the role of "Mutual Aid" as a logistical tool rather than a charitable act.
 9. How does the "Tent of Return" function as a piece of political technology and a symbol of "Home Rule"?
 10. In the context of the potential war with Iran, how is "Active Objection" positioned as the modern iteration of the Quaker Peace Testimony?
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Part II: Answer Key

1. **The Economic Draft** is a system of "conscription by survival" that weaponizes necessities like food, housing, healthcare, and debt to compel participation in the machinery of empire. Unlike a legal military draft, it uses the "mute compulsion" of the market to ensure the working class remains desperate enough to labor for the systems that exploit them.
2. **CCCV** posits that global order is sustained by three interlocking pillars: **Christian** ideological roots (like the Doctrine of Discovery), **Colonial** territorial theft, and **Capitalist** economic extraction. These pillars are bound by **State Violence**, where police and military forces exist primarily to protect property relations established by colonial theft and capitalist accumulation.
3. **Static Objection** is a personal, "negative witness" focused on individual moral purity, such as a refusal to personally carry a gun. **Active Objection** is a collective, "systemic non-collaboration" that seeks to dismantle the logistical machinery of war by building alternative structures like mutual aid and community infrastructure.
4. The **1968 Richmond Declaration** rejected the "privileged status" of legal conscientious objector (CO) exemptions, arguing that cooperating with the draft system at all made one part of the power forcing others into war. It shifted the focus from individual exemption to the total **abolition** of the Selective Service System and established the mandate for "Meetings for Sufferings" to absorb the risk for resisters.
5. Decolonizing the testimony involves moving beyond a "privileged peace" that benefited from the violent expansion of empires and the theft of Indigenous land. The NewCO framework demands a syncretic theology that fuses non-violence with **LANDBACK** and **ReMatriation**, asserting that true peace is impossible without restoring right relationship with the land and its original stewards.
6. The **Symmetrical Antidote** strategy matches each pillar of CCCV with a specific liberatory act: **Mutual Aid** counters Capitalist extraction; **LANDBACK** counters the Colonial project; and **Abolition** (specifically community safety models) counters State Violence. This ensures that every act of oppression is met with a precise act of liberation that negates it.
7. **Whistle Brigades** were networks of neighbors who used whistles, car alarms, and noise to create a "sonic wall" during federal raids in Minneapolis. Their goal was to disrupt ICE operations, alert the community to state presence, and strip away the state's narrative control through "forensic testimony" and witnessing.
8. In the NewCO praxis, **Mutual Aid** is the "Quartermaster Corps" of the movement, providing unconditional "rations" like food and rent relief. By de-commodifying survival, it breaks the leverage of the Economic Draft, allowing workers and community members to withdraw their labor and consent from the state without the threat of starvation.
9. The **Tent of Return** is a portable symbol of sovereignty that declares a "Liberated Zone" where colonial laws do not apply. By erecting these tents in public spaces, the community asserts **"Home Rule"**—authority derived from stewardship—against the federal "Homeland" security state, creating a physical manifestation of a different truth.

10. In the face of hostilities with Iran, "Active Objection" is seen as the necessary evolution of the Peace Testimony because it recognizes that the "seeds of war" are embedded in the domestic economy. It replaces passive refusal with a comprehensive withdrawal from the logistics of empire, arguing that the only way to stop the war machine is to stop being its fuel through systemic non-collaboration.
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Part III: Essay Questions

Instructions: Use the provided source context to develop comprehensive responses to the following prompts.

1. **The Genealogy of Rupture:** Trace the evolution of Quaker resistance from the 1877 Bear Creek Separation through the 1968 Richmond Declaration to the 2026 Minneapolis Siege. How does the concept of "Incommensurability" drive these historical splits?
 2. **Logistics of Desertion:** Analyze how the NewCO framework transforms the Quaker Meeting from a place of worship into a "Logistics Center." Discuss the specific roles of "Meetings for Sufferings," "Resilience Hubs," and "4th Amendment Businesses" in this transformation.
 3. **The Anatomy of Compulsion:** Compare and contrast the "Physical Draft" of the 20th century with the modern "Economic Draft." How do mechanisms like "Job Lock," student debt, and medical bankruptcy function as tools of conscription?
 4. **Resist Not Evil (Antistēnai):** Discuss the theological reinterpretation of Matthew 5:39 within the NewCO movement. How does "Active Objection" fulfill the command to not "mirror evil" while still providing a proactive "Third Way" of engagement?
 5. **The Trans-Geographical Link:** Explore how the NewCO framework connects the local struggle for LANDBACK in the Great Plains with global movements like the Palestinian Right of Return. What role does the "Tent" play as both an architectural and political technology in these contexts?
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Part IV: Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Abolition	The practice of systemic non-collaboration with the carceral state; replacing state coercion with community safety models like Behavioral Crisis Response (BCR) teams.
Active Objection	A systemic withdrawal of consent from the state and the construction of alternative systems of care and justice; moving beyond refusing war to dismantling its causes.
Antistēnai	The Greek root of "resist not," interpreted by the NewCO as "do not mirror evil" or "do not react in kind," forming the basis for the non-violent "Third Way."
CCCV	Christian Colonial Capitalist Violence; the diagnostic framework identifying the interlocking systems of theology, land theft, and extraction that sustain the modern state.
Doctrine of Discovery	15th-century Papal Bulls granting European nations the "divine right" to seize non-Christian lands; identified as the legal bedrock of colonial property law.
Economic Blackout	A coordinated removal of participation from the capitalist engine, characterized by the slogan "No Work, No School, No Shopping."
Economic Draft	A pervasive form of conscription where individuals are forced into complicity with state violence through the weaponization of survival necessities (food, health, housing).

Genealogy of Rupture	The historical lineage of spiritual and tactical separation from compromised institutions, prioritizing "Immediatism" over "Gradualism."
Home Rule	The assertion of local, relational authority rooted in stewardship and community, as opposed to the federal "Homeland" security state.
Job Lock	A mechanism of the Economic Draft where workers remain in morally objectionable roles for fear of losing employer-sponsored health insurance.
LANDBACK	The foundational requirement of the NewCO praxis involving the return of land, assets, and authority to Indigenous stewardship to heal the harms of colonization.
Meeting for Sufferings	A revived Quaker institution designed to provide logistics (jobs, legal aid, shelter) for those who suffer for their refusal to collaborate with the state.
Mutual Aid	Strategic "People's Infrastructure" (such as free food pantries) designed to de-commodify survival and break the leverage of the Economic Draft.
NewCO	The New Conscientious Objector ; an individual or collective that practices Active Objection to dismantle the triple pillars of CCCV.
Static Objection	Historical conscientious objection characterized by personal refusal to bear arms and seeking state-sanctioned exemptions.

Systemic Non-Collaboration	The refusal to provide labor or logistics to the state, such as transit workers refusing to transport federal agents or tech workers refusing surveillance contracts.
Wetiko	An Indigenous term for the "Cannibal Spirit" or spirit of domination; identified in the NewCO framework as the true "enemy" rather than individual human agents.
