

Youth Subcultures nowadays



★ The matter of my work could be enormous, that's why I determined a very concrete problem – can youth subcultures be dangerous for the dominate culture and why?

★ First of all I would like to give a definition of any subculture. Subcultures are the groupings, that have interests different from those of the mainstream culture. In the broadest sense, a subculture is any group within a large complex culture, who have interests that vary from those of the mainstream culture. But in a most specific sense, a subculture is a group with a distinct style and identity. Different subcultures have their own believes, value systems, fashion and favorite music. A particular cultural grouping is a way for young people to express their individuality.

★ Now I'd like to say about the most important and well-known youth subcultures.



Different Subcultures



★ Punks

★ Skinheads

★ Hippies



★ Freestylers

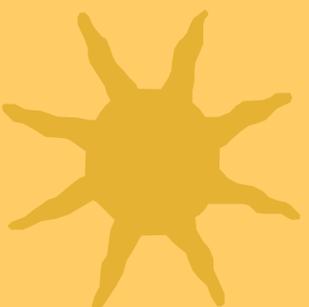
★ Ravers



★ Hackers

PUNKS



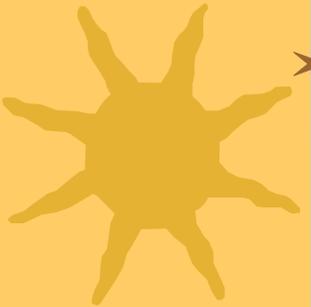


‘КНЯЗЬ’ (Prince), the leader of “Король и Шут” (“King and the joker”), Russian punk-rock band.

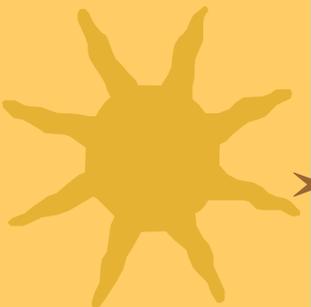
- ★ In English dictionary the word ‘punk’ means something worthless and useless.
- ★ The ideology of punks is quite simple: “Say “NO” to everything”. They are politically indifferent. They only want to express their individuality in a shocking way – brightly colored hair, metal chains. They always wear dirty clothes and never wash themselves. They use vulgar language. Usually punks are drugs consumers.



★ Punk-Rock music is very loud and aggressive. In Russia there are such bands as “Король и шут” (‘King and the joker’), “Наив” (‘Nive’), “Гражданская Оборона” (‘Civil Defensive’) and some other bands.



★ But what makes punks be so aggressive? Generally punks are people with low self-respect and intelligence. Also drugs make their minds change. They are dissatisfied with their place in society. They behave aggressive to show that they don't want to be treated only as weak segments of the society.

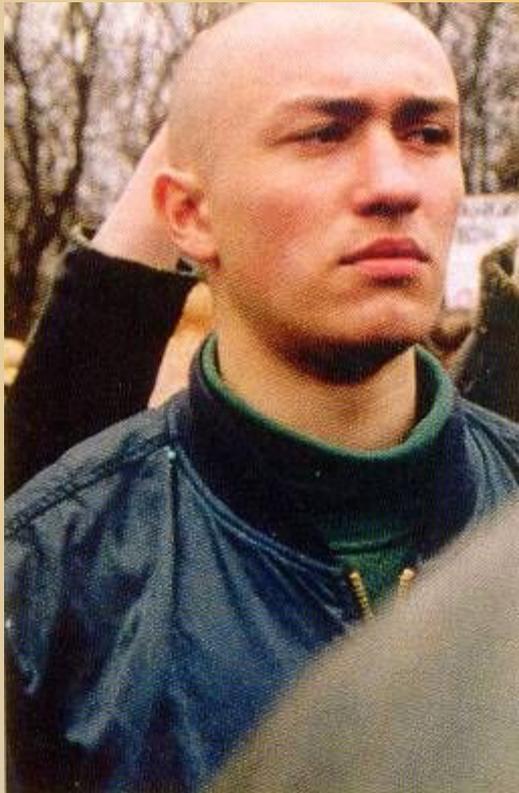


★ Nowadays punks tend to disappear. If that weren't so, punks would be a great problem to the society. But now, I think, they are not so dangerous to the society. They only oppose the traditional world in which they have been settled as fiasco elements.





SKINHEADS

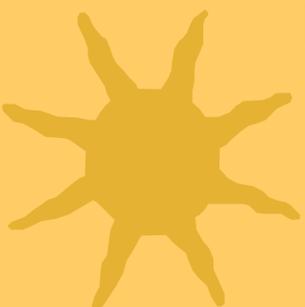


- ★ Skinhead subculture is a daughter subculture of Punks. But Punks tend to disappear and Skinheads are becoming more popular every day. Skinheads are always bolded, they wear black clothes and heavy boots (Grinders, Dr.Martin, Bulldog). Skinheads' ideology is to beat all foreigners living in any country.
- ★ They always say something like “Russia for Russians”, “England for English”, “Germany for German”.
- ★ The music, skins listen to, is Trash-Metal with racist words. This music trend is called “OI”. In Russia there are such bands as “Metal Corrosion”, “Kolovrat”, “Drugly Cat” and some others.



Metal Corrosion

- ★ The main trouble about skins in Russia is that lots of them are extremely aggressive and violent. For example, remember a terrible accident in Zaritsino.
- ★ Skinheads consider themselves to be real patriots. But none of them is eager to join our army. They prefer to demonstrate their power to people who can't answer them. They are mostly non-educated people. That's why they are rather easy to be ruled by their leaders. Willing to enlarge their number skinheads produce promotional films such as "Romper-Stomper", "American X-Story", that idealize racism.



- ★ And their music is really aggressive.
- ★ Also an important thing about them is that they never do drugs (as punks do).
- ★ Very often skins are football fans. They form fan organizations such as "Wild Butchers", "Red Blue Terror", "Clockwork Oranges" and some other. I think, Skinhead subculture is a great social problem.

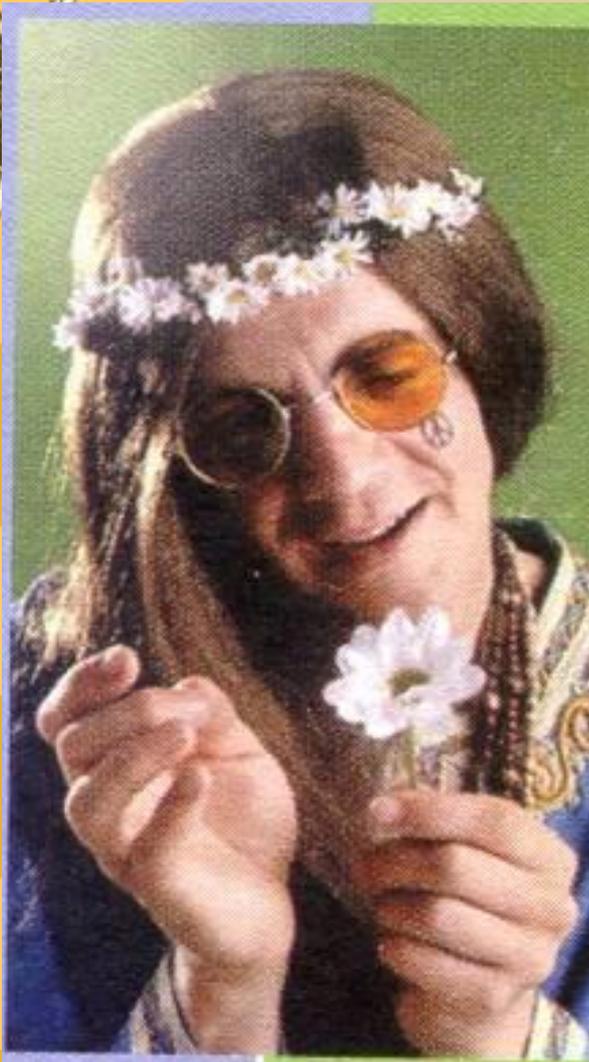
HIPPIES



★ Hippy subculture went through 3 phases. The first phase was in 60's-80's. It had great influence on young people and was one of the most popular subcultures. The 2'nd phase was in 80's – 90's. There were few hippies because of the popularity of other subcultures (skinheads, punks, goths and etc.). But during the 3'rd phase (the middle of 90's) hippies became more numerous. Neo-hippy has long hair, wears jeans, jeans' jacket or loose overall, some rings in ear or nose, bracelets made of glass beads and a tiny leather bag on the neck. He listens to Rock music.



“B-2” – Russian rock group

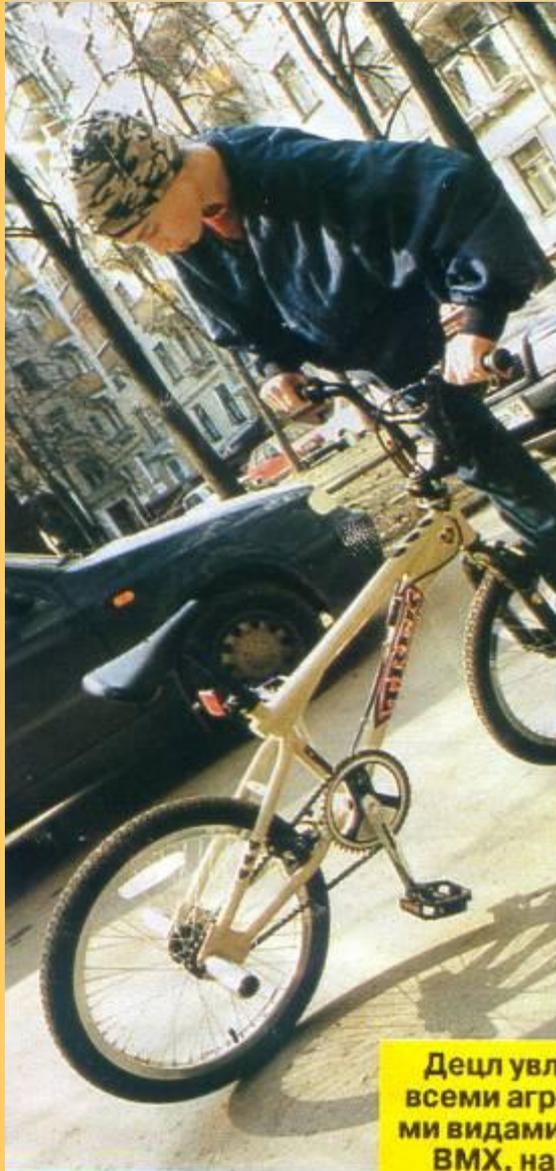


★ Neo-hippy differs from the classical hippy. The main difference is in ideology.

Classical hippy thinks that the world is beautiful and you should do nothing to improve it and make sure just not to spoil it.

Neo-hippy is interested in global and problematic matters such as self-knowledge, natural science and etc. Neo-hippy is not a lazy young man that does drugs; he or she is a serious man.

FREESTYLERS



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- ★ I think, freestyle nowadays is the most numerous subculture in Russia. Many boys and girls are freestylers: BMX-bikers, skaters, rollers- anybody attending extreme sports. They do everything that is dangerous for their life. Somebody can say that they are crazy. Maybe they are!



★ Freestylers always wear wide breeches, caps or headscarves, sport boots and anything suitable for sports.



★ There are a lot of trends in music of freestylers: Drumm'n'Bass, Hip-Hop, Jungle, Breakbeat and some others.



Coldcut – “More beats+pieces”



Freestylers' ideology is a healthy life style. Thus they usually don't smoke, don't do drugs, don't drink alcohol.

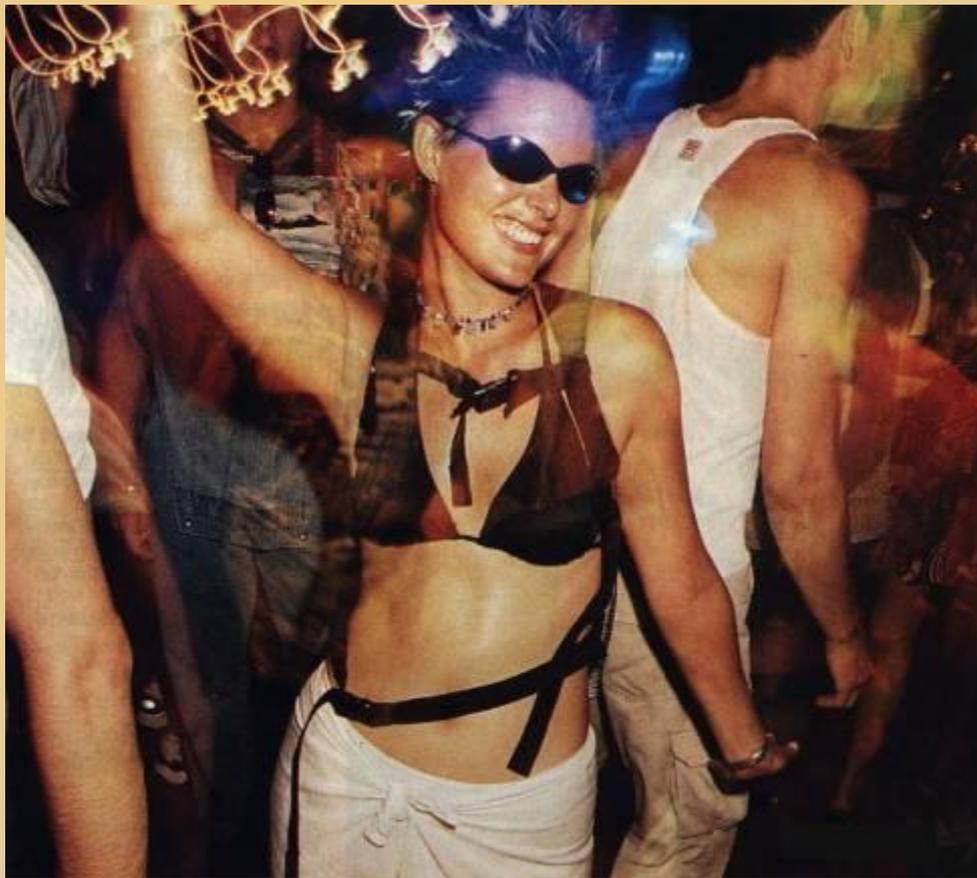


I think, freestylers are not so aggressive as punks or skinheads. Freestylers just don't have any reason to walk the streets and fight with anybody. They are not aggressive but extreme in Sports – all the time trying something new. The main social problem about them is that they always break their arms, legs, necks. Just try to jump on BMX and try not to fall! I think it is better then to do drugs or to fight with somebody.





RAVERS





★ As a matter of fact ravers nowadays differ from what they were say 5 years ago. That time a raver was something like electronic Punk and he listened to Jungle music. Now raver is a man that likes disco parties in popular night clubs. Usually ravers wear formal clothes. Their idea is to do everything to enjoy the next party. Thus, Russian ravers pay great money and go to Ibiza, "the club island" in the Mediterranean.



★ Now let's talk a bit about music. There is a great number of trends in rave music. Generally I can characterize them as Techno music. There are such trends as Hard Drum House, Goa Trance, Dream Techno, Speedy Garage and some others.



★ Many people listen to the music of such DJs as LTJ Bukem, Paul Van Dyck, Quiksilver. It is interesting that England makes all "Techno fashion". Russian DJs are also well-known in the world: lazyfish, PPK, TripleX.



★ Needless to say that on ravers party there are special effects, freak shows and laser shows. Usually ravers do DRUGS and drink alcohol.

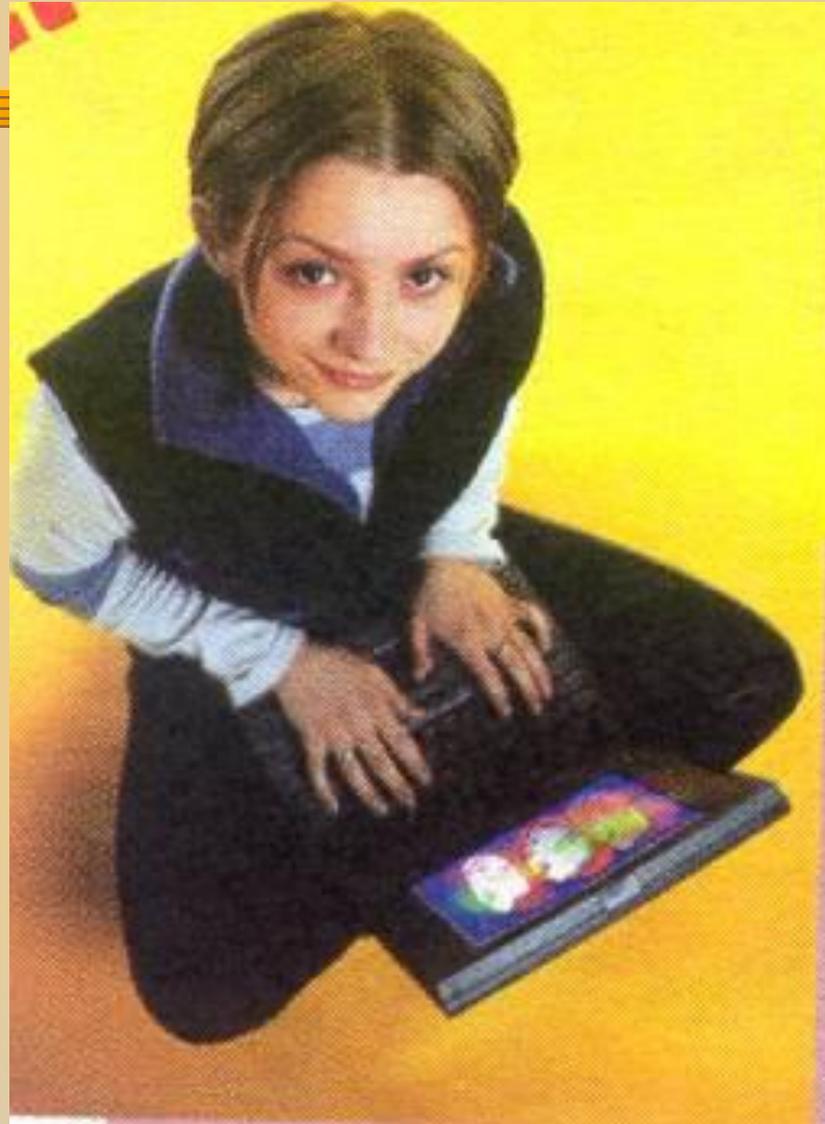


DJ TripleX – Action



★ Now more and more young people begin visiting night clubs – it is fashionable and enjoyable lifestyle. In a night club there are no parents, who can punish you. Here you can taste all you want – confused sex, all drugs assortment and etc. This is the problem about ravers. Ravers are not aggressive. But I think raver subculture can be dangerous for young people because of AIDS and drugs.

HACKERS





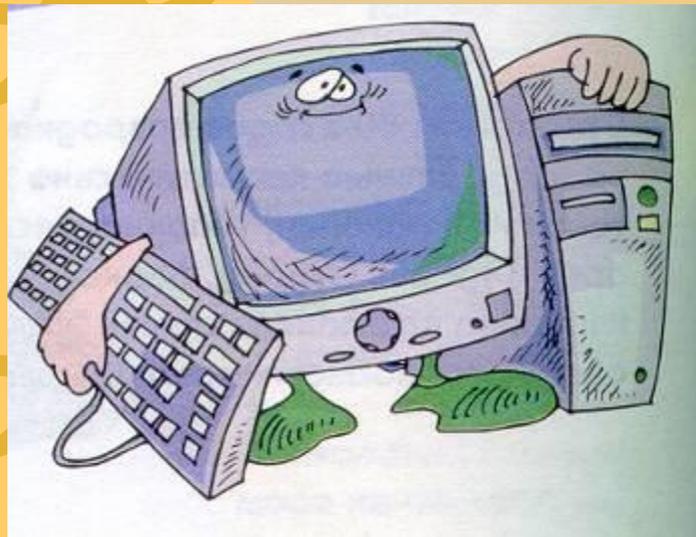
★ I think hackers nowadays form one of the most high-tech subculture.

Common people know little about them. Usually hackers wear black clothes and their hair is brightly colored. As you know, the main thing in the life of hackers is a computer. Thus, hackers pay hundreds and even thousands dollars to get the best PCs.





★ Very often hackers are called “crackers” («крякеры»). Nothing is known about them as an organization. The real cracker doesn't crack programs and banks for money, he always asks himself: “Can I do that? Am I tough enough to crack this site?” You will never know their number; they do everything not to show themselves. In Russia there is a special magazine “Hacker”. It is very interesting even for beginners.





- ★ As you see, there are a lot of youth groupings nowadays. They may be different or alike in the manner of expressing themselves or showing off. One subculture may stop its existence or overgrow into some other youth division. They all are distinguished by their nonconformity and oppose position to the mainstream culture.
- ★ Therefore, on the basis of the above facts I would say that youth subcultures can be really dangerous. Now, for what reasons are they dangerous?



★ Well, why do young join subcultures if they all seem to be opposite and aggressive to the mainstream culture and to the society? Is the youth time the time when you tend to show off in an aggressive way? Are we aggressive by nature? Why do we want to express our protest against the society? Why are we sometimes very rude and very often ready to fight for something which is not very important? Why do so many young people support skins though skinheads are the most aggressive to the society?

★ I decided to make a poll among people of different ages with a single question: what makes you be aggressive?





★ 24 pupils of the 11'Th form and 12 pupils of the 9'Th form told me the following:

1) Their parents press them and they hate it.

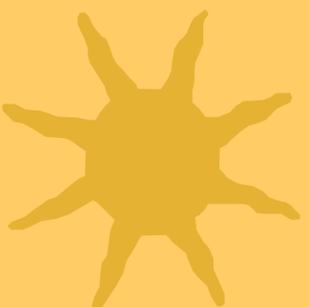
2) Their teachers press them and it's a great trouble for them.

3) Their friends annoy them very often when some of these friends want to take the leading position, but teens hate it.

4) Someone has not enough money to buy all that he or she wants and that is a great trouble for them.

5) Some of them become aggressive when they see people with non-European appearance (they call them blacks).

6) When somebody hurts his or her feelings.





★ I asked the same question to 80 teachers and they said that they become aggressive when

- 1) they have a lot of work to do, but feel they can't do it well enough;

- 2) have family problems – members of family treat them badly;

- 3) They don't earn enough of money and as a result they have a low social position;

- 4) TV news and some films annoy them very much because of the stupid plot;

- 5) political situation makes them sometimes feel very bad because they can do nothing to change anything in the country and in the world;

- 6) pupils and teachers misunderstand each other;

- 7) some Russian politicians and businessmen demonstrate their bad education.





★ I asked 10 people above 30. Here is what they said:

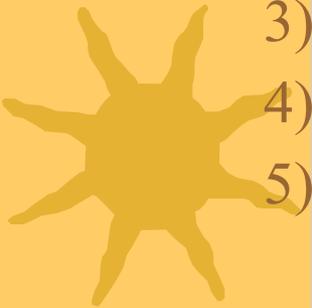
1) I become aggressive when people behave rude and aggressive.

2) I become angry when I listen to criminal news.

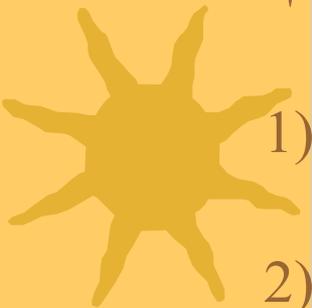
3) **I hate the injustice in our society.**

4) I hate it when stupid people ask stupid questions.

5) I'm angry when someone doesn't want to do something himself and makes me do that.



★ I think all the reasons can be divided into four main motives of people's aggression:

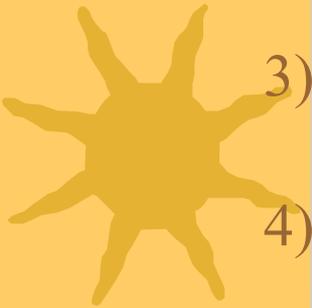


1) when somebody hurts your feelings and you want to revenge;

2) when somebody presses you and you do what you don't want to do;

3) when you want to get something what you can't get the other way;

4) when someone wants to get a leading position - it may annoy you very much;

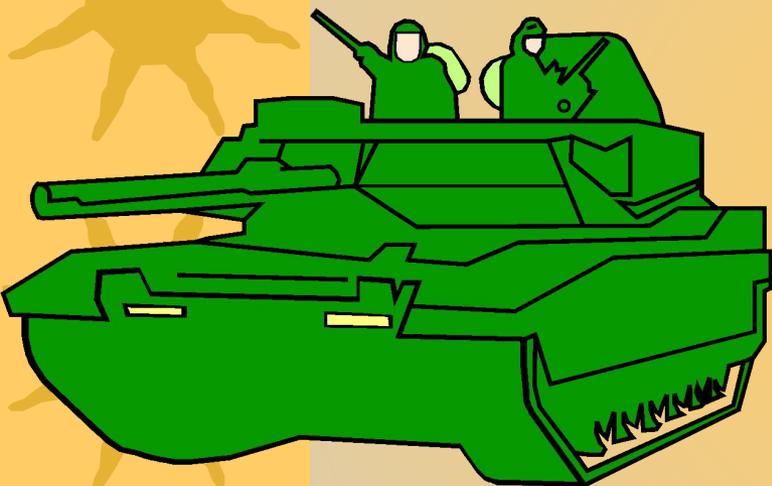
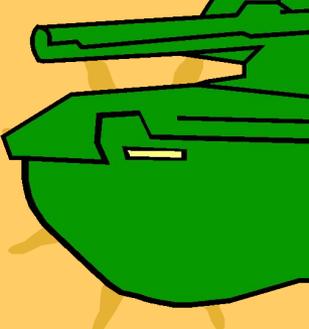
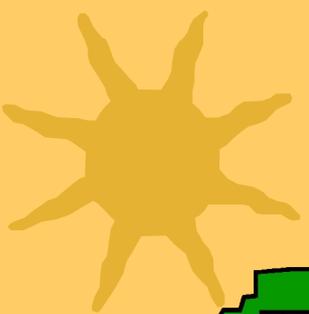




★ To prove my idea that all complicated social problems may be explained by very simple reasons I decided to find out the reasons of some well-known acts of great aggression according to these points.

★ On the 11th of September a great disaster happened in New York. Why did terrorists demonstrate their great aggression to this country and to the whole world? 1) America hurt their feelings by 2) pressing their ideology and 4) demonstrating it's leading position in the world and 3) terrorists wanted to show the whole world their hatred to America and they couldn't find the better way to get their aim.





★ Or for example the war between Israel and Palestine. It is difficult to say who is right and who is guilty. But what are the reasons of aggression between them? I think they are just the same. 1) They all hurt each other fillings and want to revenge. 2) Israel people press Palestine people and 4) don't let them take leading position in the Government. 3) Palestine people want to get freedom of Israel people and make their own state but can't get it the other way and demonstrate their willing by terrorist acts.



- ★ Let's come back to the subject of my project. As you remember, the question was: "Can youth subcultures be dangerous for the dominate culture and why?" and we answered that yes, they can,if they are aggressive. The reasons of their aggression we distinguished and proved by different facts. If our society can do nothing to prevent the appearing of aggressive subcultures, it should produce ways to live together and never let their aggression be a real disaster to the whole world.
- ★ To prevent aggression, people should follow very simple and well-known moral prescriptions: be tolerant to people around you, be kind, understanding and broad-minded, respect other individualities, be liberal to different opinions and friendly to your environment.