

Holiday is Green Day's third single off their seventh studio album *American Idiot* and peaked the U.S. *Billboard* Hot Mainstream Rock Tracks, as well as the U.S. *Billboard* Hot Modern Rock Tracks. Lead singer Billie Joe Armstrong decided to attack the American Government directly in this song, much in contrast to the way more subtle connotations "Boulevard of Broken Dreams". Far from the impression one might get from the term "Holiday", this song is, as Billie Joe puts it, 'anti-war and anti-government' and an outright attempt to show how people who try to make a stand in America are treated. They contain quite a lot of underlying themes which relate to the situation of America just after the September 11 bombings.

Holiday

This follows the story on the album. Jesus of Suburbia has just left town and he's living his life on the streets ("Hear the sound of the falling rain..."). He is speaking out loud and acting in vain, but it seems like he's talking himself into believing that running away was the right thing to do, explaining his reasons of discontent to himself. He still feels alone, and shunned from society, but it seems he feels a little more self-confidence and happiness out on the road. It's Jesus of Suburbia yelling out and expressing his own deep beliefs onto the world. Like screaming into mid air.

Say, hey!
Hear the sound of the falling rain
Coming down like an Armageddon flame (Hey!)

The above two lines represent a military assault on a city. The falling rain, on a superficial level, is the rain which the Jesus of Suburbia (JoS) is residing under after escaping. However, on a much deeper level, the rain actually symbolizes bullets and bombs and the Armageddon flame is the fire and destruction and loss of life it ensues. Green Day attempts to bring back memories of the September 11 bombings as well as other horrific wars that had happened over the course of America's entire history. The word "Armageddon" itself, means the end of the world and to many, it is the end of the world and the ultimate destruction of all. Billie Joe Armstrong touches on some religious points as this 'Armageddon' is coming from above, from heaven. This is similar to flames rising from below, from Hell.

The shame
The ones who died without a name
NmbZ

The ones who died without a name refer to both the citizens of the countries that were the aggressors as well as those being targeted. No one was spared, there were definitely casualties on both sides and all suffered. The soldiers who lost their lives in the call of duty are definitely no exception. Since they died without a name, it just shows how insignificant they are in the government's eyes. Their lives essentially mean nothing to the higher-ups as they are just pawns for 'greater plans' and political conflicts. There must have been so many that were sacrificed that they even lost count. What a "shame", the war took its toll on the innocent while the masterminds watched from the comfort of their houses. Worst of all, these people have no choice since they did not even have a voice against the

assaults carried out.

*Hear the dogs howling out of key
To a hymn called "Faith and Misery" (Hey!)*

A hymn is actually a song to honor a God, a deity or a nation. The dogs represent the soldiers on the battlefield fighting their guts out with the belief that they are actually fighting for the greater good. Hence, they think they are fighting for something pure and noble - Faith. Then again, the bloodlust they have to equip themselves with lead them to fight also to eradicate and exterminate all enemies and forms of resistance, bringing about terror to wherever they go - Misery.

And bleed, the company lost the war today

Green Day shows how cold governments of these countries can be as the lost of lives go unnoticed and all they do is care about how their chase for their own political ideals and the result of political squabbles go. These dogs of war bleed in the conflict but the attacking country's government experiences is the bottom line of its corporate affiliates (Halliburton - the world's second largest oilfield services corporation with operations in more than 70 countries.). The company lost the war because of something not going right (the Iraq conflict). It also shows that in war, all lose.

*I beg to dream and differ from the hollow lies
This is the dawning of the rest of our lives*

The song then shifts to first person, symbolizing the individual and pointing out that the speaker is just like you and I and he refuses to bow down and believe the hollow, shallow and empty lies the government and media try to brainwash the public about. He does not accept their portrayal about the war. This stanza also shows how important the elections are since it is a crucial focal point in the country's history and there is a sense of urgency as he implores everyone to ensure that they make an accurate decision.

On holiday

Those who fail to see the importance of the elections and their decision and wish to just sit back and look on as major events occur around them are those on "holiday" since they are in fact, taking a vacation from reality.

*Hear the drum pounding out of time
Another protester has crossed the line (Hey!)
To find, the money's on the other side*

The drum pounding out of time represents the drums of war and by them not harmoniously, it symbolizes how unnecessary the conflict is actually. The protester that has crossed the line has spoken beyond his boundaries and out of his jurisdiction. He must have said something against the government but he only finds that power only favours those with the money. Hence, on the other side, there lies the government and the rich and the normal man on the street can do nothing about since they are obviously not as rich as those in power. Hence, Billie Joe

Armstrong shows how money and power are actually interlinked.

*Can I get another Amen? (Amen!)
There's a flag wrapped around a score of men (Hey!)
A gag, a plastic bag on a monument*

This stanza shows that religion plays a part in many resultant conflicts and how it is a factor and excuse for war. This is especially so since the flag that is wrapped around the men symbolize the country's flag around the coffins of the countless of dead bodies brought back from war zones to the country after a war in the name of Old Glory. Green Day does not criticize religion but simply shows how cruel governments can be and that they would stop at nothing to achieve what they want to achieve. They do this even at the expense of the civilian population and by fabricating lies even about their religion. The gag here is simply a connotation for a much deeper meaning. It speaks of war and its atrocities but that not many dare to speak up and talk about its horrors but instead keep mum and let the government continue making decisions. Hence, the lack of free speech and the undermining of the very principles America was built on. In many instances, the good and the just are depicted as an upright person or building, In the song, it is a 'monument' but a plastic bag is placed on it. We can infer that the monument is being suffocated and that the good and the just have no place in society and that they are being eradicated by the evil.

*I beg to dream and differ from the hollow lies
This is the dawning of the rest of our lives
On holiday*

*(Hey!)
(Say, hey!)*

(3,4)

"The representative from California has the floor"

This is an indication that the country in question is the United States of America. We are being told that when the government is allowed to vocalize their thoughts, there is no way anyone else would be allowed the freedom of speech.

Sieg Heil to the president Gasman

This is an important line as it sums up why George Bush would want to invade Iraq. The hidden reason is that he is in fact seeking oil, as pointed out here by with the term 'Gasman'. George Bush is being brought into the scene here and he is being criticized. 'Sieg Heil' is a German term for 'We Will Win' and it was a popular belief that the American would win upon the invasion of Iraq. It also shows that Green Day is actually comparing Hitler to George Washington Bush - that both seek world domination and that they are both cruel in doing so.

*Bombs away is your punishment
Pulverize the Eiffel towers
Who criticize your government*

This just shows how bad the American government can get. The punishment for not acting according to their wishes would just mean that bombs would be launched and that violence is their method of resolving issues. The French are mentioned here as they refused to help the United States of America in both the Iraq and Afghan conflict.

*Bang bang goes the broken glass and
Kill all the fags that don't agree*

The glass actually represents Iraq since they were completely demolished after America attacked them. America, in this song, is portrayed as a country that only believes in war. The term 'fags' refer to those nations or groups that are anti-war since, in the military, the term is used to insult those who are not as masculine as others - in simple words, sissies.

*Trials by fire, setting fire
Is not a way that's meant for me
Just cause, just cause, because we're outlaws yeah!*

The trials by fire simply mean that the American government is causing more grief through their violence all the time, which in turn, sets off more fire. The person refuses to listen and rebels against the government since he is an 'outlaw' and that it 'is not a way that's meant for me'. He will not sit back and accept the fact.

*I beg to dream and differ from the hollow lies
This is the dawning of the rest of our lives
I beg to dream and differ from the hollow lies
This is the dawning of the rest of our lives*

This is our lives on holiday

The last sentence simply sums up the aim of the entire song, which is to remind and beg people not to lay back while the media and government feeds us lies, but instead to stand up and fight for what we think is right. He hopes that everyone would not have their lives on a holiday, and not to take a vacation away from reality. The 'hollow lies of war' just emphasizes the need to vote for change.

<http://www.lyricinterpretations.com/Green-Day/Holiday>