




# The history of zombies

Jeremy Story Carter

 **ZOMBIEIMAGE:** ROGER LUCKHURST ARGUES THAT MODERN ZOMBIES ARE DEFINITELY RACIST CARICATURES OF HAITIAN SLAVES. (GETTY IMAGES/ANDREW M LANCE)

From 'Pride and Prejudice and Zombies' to 'The Walking Dead', zombies have shuffled into our bookshelves, TV screens and movie theatres. Yet according to one academic, these modern tales echo the unpleasant and racially charged history of the zombie myth.

Eyes bulging out of an emaciated figure with exaggerated, grotesque features: zombies might be more popular than ever, but break down their physical traits and they start to resemble antiquated racist caricatures.

According to  
Birkbeck,  
University of  
London professor

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Many think that the  
zombie in a sense is

of literature and author Roger Luckhurst, that's no coincidence.

'The original zombies are associated with the Caribbean and Haiti, which had the most brutal slave trade in the 18th century. It seemed to emerge from the plantations there.'

Luckhurst says many of the early depictions of zombies drew from these origins.

'Many think that the zombie in a sense is a metaphor for being a slave; literally working yourself to death, as so many people did in Haiti.'

The professor has traced Zombies' strange and unsettling past in his new book, *Zombies: A Cultural History*.

He argues that early zombie representations align with the black, demonised 'other'.


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**PROFESSOR ROGER LUCKHURST**

'Haiti was the only successful slave rebellion that turned itself into a republic. It was called Haiti from 1804 after the slaves overthrew the French, British and Americans,' he says.

'After that point, it is utterly demonised. They are savages, they are cannibals, they have this horrible voodoo religion that is invented largely by terrified westerners.

'What's interesting is that it's the western world's fantasies of the savage; it's not actually the practices of the so-called savage. It's us imposing something, fantasising about what the other does.'

 THE WALKING DEAD **IMAGE:** A SCENE FROM THE HUGELY POPULAR SERIES *THE WALKING DEAD* (AMC/THE WALKING DEAD)

Luckhurst points to wildly popular US television series *The Walking Dead* as an example of how the racial origins of the zombie myth are never far away.

'The idea now that we have in *The Walking Dead* of them being completely obsessed with devouring meat of the living, that goes straight back to the awful cliches of the savage and the cannibal in the colonial imagination,' he says.

He argues the show is uncomfortably grounded in the slave roots of America's Deep South.

'I think it's coming from a very particular place in America, and that it's set in the south of America, in the former slave states, is very significant and very problematic,' he says.

'There is always an uproar whenever a black character is killed, which is quite often. They don't last very long.

'That sort of sense of undertow, that background, that takes the zombie still all the way back to colonialism.'

**DEMOCRATS WANT TO OUTLAW ARCHERY BECAUSE DARRYL ON **THE WALKING DEAD** IS AN ALT-RIGHT DEEP SOUTH REDNECK CHARACTER**

*"Darryl and his crossbow might make kids want to shoot arrows at Democrats and become some sort of Alt Right Robin Hoods..."*

**Dem proposes ban on archery in school - pro...**

(WXXA) One New York lawmaker wants to put a stop to **archery programs** in schools.

Manhattan **Democrat** Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal says they promote "gun culture." She says she introduced the bill to ban such **programs** in the state after it was revealed that the Parkland Shooting suspect honed his ...

[S, wnd.com/2018/05/dem-proposes-ban-on-archery-in-...](http://wnd.com/2018/05/dem-proposes-ban-on-archery-in-...)

## Democrats bring the War on Guns even de...

**Democrats** are trying to ban all shooting sports from school **programs**, including **archery** and Airsoft. **Democrat** Linda Rosenthal even blames some of the Parklan...

[S, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tU2Ot6UltxA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tU2Ot6UltxA)

## Gun Fight! Democrat Wants to Ban School ...

A New York **Democrat** wants to ban all high school shooting **programs** in the state — including air rifle teams and **archery** clubs. **Archery** - as in [...]

<https://www.toddstarnes.com/show/gun-fight-democr...>



## Democrat Dingus Introduces Bill To Ban Ar...

We aren't quite there when it comes to cutlery confiscations but a ditzy **Democrat** s. Skip to primary ... trap shooting and **archery** as a sport in public schools.

<https://downtrend.com/donn-marten/democrat-dingu...>

## Dem proposes ban on **archery** in school - pr...

(WXXA) One New York lawmaker wants to put a stop to **archery programs** in schools.

Manhattan **Democrat** Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal says they promote "gun culture."

[S, konservativkartel.com/dem-proposes-ban-on-arche...](https://www.konservativekartel.com/dem-proposes-ban-on-archery-in-schools/)

## Liberty Archery Program - Sullivan County ...

THE KIDS WHO have been participating in the Town of Liberty Parks and Recreation Department's youth **archery program** pose for a picture with **program** instructors Josh Edwards (standing at far left) and Howard Travis (standing at far right).

[s, scdemocratonline.com/archives/2004/sports/06June...](http://scdemocratonline.com/archives/2004/sports/06June...)

## New York Bill Would Ban Shooting, **Archery** ...

New York Bill Would Ban Shooting, **Archery** From Schools Posted at 12:00 pm on April 27, 2018 by Tom Knighton ... wanting to signal that you're a good little **Democrat**.

<https://bearingarms.com/tom-k/2018/04/27/new-york...>

## Democrat Wants To Ban Archery In School...

Gorges Smythe As a certified country curmudgeon, it's been said that I have an opinion on everything and a story for every occasion. Other folks just say that I'm a windbag.

<https://gorges-smythe.blogspot.com/2018/05/democ...>

## Bill in Albany looks to ban school riflery and ...

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) -- A New York lawmaker is taking aim at riflery and **archery programs** in schools, contending they promote a gun culture. Manhattan **Democrat** Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal says she introduced her bill to ban such **programs** in the state after i

[cnycentral.com/news/local/bill-in-albany-looks-to-ba...](http://cnycentral.com/news/local/bill-in-albany-looks-to-ba...)

## Ferndale's Moore captures state **archery** titl...

It was just a few short weeks ago that Ferndale Area's Tashaun Moore picked up a bow for the first time. On March 9, the Yellow Jackets senior won the individual high school male championship, finishing with the top overall high male score at the Pennsylvania National **Archery** in Schools **Program** ...

[tribdem.com/sports/ferndale-s-moore-captures-state...](https://tribdem.com/sports/ferndale-s-moore-captures-state...)

## New York **Democrats** want to **BAN** shooting...

New York **Democrat** Linda Rosenthal introduced legislation to ban shooting sports from New York schools Friday, claiming the sports "spread gun culture." If the legislation is passed, high school shooting teams, including air rifle and even **archery** clubs, would be disbanded, Time magazine reported ...

<https://www.bizpacreview.com/2018/05/12/new-york-...>



## Hilarious Cartoon Brilliantly Sums Up Today'...

Today's **Democrat** party brilliantly summed up by one brutal cartoon: ... Rosenthal's bill would include **archery programs**. In her memo describing the need for the ...

<https://thefederalistpapers.org/us/hilarious-cartoon-b...>

## Immaculate Conception in Annandale adds ...

**Archery** was recently introduced and added to the repertoire of after school **programs** for seventh and eighth graders at Immaculate Conception School in Annandale. Under the guidelines of NASP (National **Archery** School **Program**), students are learning the skills, safety procedures, and enjoyment of ...

[nj.com/hunterdon-county-democrat/index.ssf/2015/...](http://nj.com/hunterdon-county-democrat/index.ssf/2015/...)

## Neighbors Gun Club Inc - Home | Facebook

Neighbors Gun Club Inc, ... a **Democrat** from Manhattan, ... the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation runs **archery programs** in schools.

<https://www.facebook.com/Neighbors-Gun-Club-Inc-...>

## Northern Dutchess **Archery** LLC. - Posts | F...

Northern Dutchess **Archery** LLC., Red Hook, ... a **Democrat** from Manhattan, ... the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation runs **archery programs** in schools.

[S, https://www.facebook.com/NDArchery/posts/](https://www.facebook.com/NDArchery/posts/)

## Bill targets school riflery teams, citing 'gun c...

Manhattan **Democrat** Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal says she introduced her bill to ban such **programs** in ... Rosenthal's bill would also ban school **archery programs**, ...

<https://www.apnews.com/cce12f...>

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