Zombieland and Political Disinterest: Lock the doors, buy a book, and grab your Twinkies

JOHN PARCELL

Shutting down cities and flooding the streets, zombies have been an agent of psychological terror for Americans over the past several decades. Constant worry over zombie attacks have been so extreme in the past several years that Halo Corp (a California based security organization) has put together a training exercise for military personnel based completely on a scenario involving vicious killer zombies. The Center for Disease Control and Department of Homeland Security have joined in on the rapidly growing craze by urging all people to be prepared in case of emergency and recognize that there are several real life scenarios (e.g., hurricanes, earthquakes, and more) that could strike at any given time. While these campaigns are beneficial, there is one incredibly dangerous problem that neither Halo Corp nor any other federal agency could possibly prevent. Zombies do not have to be strictly defined as ravenous "undead" beings; in fact, people in a different sense of the word may already be filling the streets. Instead of a rapidly growing, infectious virus, people have slowly been exposed to a different type of "disease."

Over the past fifty years there have been huge drops in the number of people showing up at voting booths, participating in community activities, and trusting their neighbors in general. People have slowly been turning themselves into "civic zombies," avoiding the very connections that hold society together. Brad Barker (president of Halo Corp) acknowledges that a literal zombie apocalypse would be a federal incident, but this figurative invasion could be even more dangerous. American citizens' continued political disengagement is fundamentally changing the nation, starting on a federal level and trickling down until it reaches people's basic instincts of trusting one another. American citizens' continual political disinterest and civic disengagement have turned a participatory democracy into a country of zombies. One of the

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Author's Major: Political Science
Minor: History