

I want to conquer the  
world essay



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"I Want to Conquer the World" by Bad Religion - 1989 Bad Religion is a Los Angeles based band of the punk rock genre that was formed in 1979. The punk rock genre began its emergence in the mid 70's and is the basis of many genres since its birth. The main topics of punk rock music usually come from political ideas and violence; yet it is not limited to these two topics by any means.

The song "I Want to Conquer the World" comes from the Bad Religion album called No Control, it was written and also released in nineteen eighty nine by Epitaph Records and is a great example of political expression while actually conveying how the writer Brett Gurewitz (guitarist) desires people to seek for peace, not violence. The main theme of the song explains the tragedies of the world in which we live; from hypocritical Christians to soldiers that are ruining people's homes on a massive scale, then, in the hook Gurewitz proclaims his intentions of what he wants to do in order to make the world a better place.

It can also be argued that much of the song is anti-religious mostly based off of the band's name which is actually a common misconception. The band members claim to not be in accordance with any specific religion and more specifically Brett Gurewitz considers himself a provisional deist, which is the belief system of reason and observation of the natural world are a sufficient way of deciding if God is actually fact or fiction. The lyrics of the song reflect the time period of about the past twenty years or so when people were beginning to really notice flaws from institutions including government.

The lyrics of this song are mostly consistent with deep metaphors in order to explain what it is that outraged Gurewitz. The song is comprised of a lot of natural delivery and shifts to shouting during the hook most likely so as to give emphasis to the central idea of the writers passion to fix world problems. Two of the lyric numbers that have a great metaphor is number five and six: which asks the question does science and all of its effects actually benefit people or is it just making things worse Instead?

Which in all honesty has a great point since even trying to save the planet from pollution and other harmful mediums actually creates more of the same problems in turn. The lyrics of the song greatly coincide with the musical genre to a certain extent. Most of punk rock is based on what makes the writer angry and expresses the passion for what it is that has caused this internal moral dilemma to be so strong. While the lyrics do not necessarily contain any aggression or anger it explicitly has reasons of what created the outrage and the passion to show the writers desire of how to solve the problems.

Although violence is absent from the desire of the artist while writing the song, it still has the basis of punk rock in the lyrics as well as the instruments. Most other analyses for the most part go along with my interpretation, but some of the translations differ from my own completely. While not everyone that has put their two cents in has the same thoughts of the meaning of the lyrics, many of their opinions although still being debatable contain a lot of truth and hard facts that justify their understanding.

In most part I would say that a lot of the people that I personally and connects between their own passions, ideas, and life experiences; I do not believe that people could have the wrong idea about the meaning of the song, even if it is not what the writer had intended to portray in his poetry. Most of what I have found for the opinions people have on the song talk about the song as an ironic metaphor about how so many people want to conquer the world, which in itself is also a strong metaphor, which is about improving the world according to a thread posted on a song meanings website.

While it is hard to disagree with that translation it is easy to see that there is a bit more of a deeper meaning to those specific words, at least under my own lyrical analysis. I think the writer was just asking for everyone in the world to hear his cries for saving humanity and if everyone accepted his plans to make the world a better place he would have consequently conquered the world.