

Imagine...No Wars

John Lennon took inspiration for "Imagine" from Yoko Ono's poems from her 1964 book "Grapefruit." Lennon later said that the composition should be credited as a Lennon/Ono song, as a lot of its lyrics and the overall concept came from Yoko. John admitted that "In those days I was a bit more selfish, a bit more macho, and I sort of omitted her contribution, but it was right out of 'Grapefruit.' I just put 'Lennon' because she's just the wife and you don't put her name on, right?"

John Lennon also took the concept for the song from a Christian prayer book given by Dick Gregory. The concept of positive prayer. If you can imagine a world at peace, with no denominations of religion — not without religion but without this "my God-is-bigger-than-your-God thing" — then it can be true. https://www.ultimate-guitar.com/articles/features/the_story_behind_imagine_by_john_lennon-83853

"Imagine"

*Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people living for today*

*Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people living life in peace*

*You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one*

*Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people sharing all the world*

*You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will live as one*

"Once They Banned Imagine"

One of the slowest numbers on a deeply political album, it's a meditation on how power structures use world events to crack down on artistic expression. Specifically, it references 2001 memo Clear Channel Communications (now known as iHeart Media) sent out to more than 1,200 radio stations instructing them not to play certain songs because of the political mood of the country after the 9/11 attacks. In an interview with Paste Magazine, Songwriter Mike Cooley explained, "After the 9/11 attacks, Clear Channel put out that list of songs that their stations shouldn't play. I couldn't get my head around the notion that John Lennon's 'Imagine' was on that list, that it was something we didn't need to hear at a time when it was exactly what we needed to hear. The Red Scare, the War on Crime, the War on Terrorism, they're just excuses for cracking down on anything the establishment finds objectionable."

*We had our heart strings dangling ripe for the yanking
And lot of reasons grabby was good
Poor huddled masses singing boots up their asses
Giving grabby what he needed to pull
All the way back to where ghosts from the past were still
Fighting their wars from the grave
Complete with record burning and threatening and spurning
The crime of getting blood on the page*

*Since the big one ended we'd been mostly pretending
We'd have had the same gumption and grit
As the greatest among us when harm came upon us
We wouldn't hesitate to defend
But with or against something's been out to get us
And it looked like something finally did
No nobler cause in our lifetime for setting our sails to the wind*

*But once they banned Imagine it became the same old war its always been
Once they banned Imagine it became the war it was when we were kids*

*Are you now or have you ever been in cahoots with the notion that people can change
When history happens again if you do or you did you'll be blamed
From baseless inquiry
To no knocking entry
Becoming the law of the land
To halfcocked excuses for bullet abuse regarding anything browner than tan*

*Cause once they banned Imagine it became the same old war its always been
Once they banned Imagine it became the war it was when we were kids*