

MIM Notes



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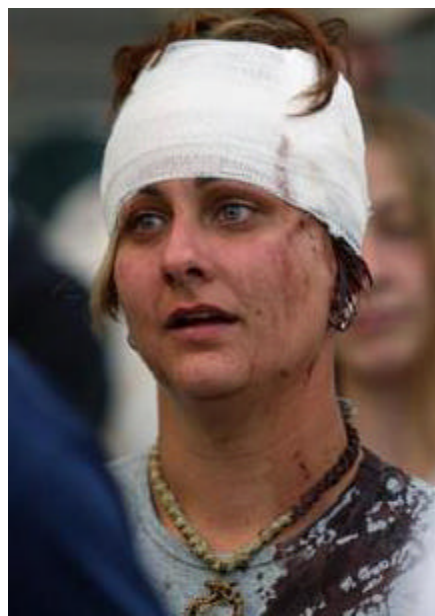
The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Miami cops attack protestors *Anti-FTAA politics are mixed bag*



Photos from <http://FTAAIMC.org>.



November 20

Thousands of protesters took to the streets in Miami, Florida to protest the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) ministerial meeting, decrying the international pact as dangerous for (Amerikan) workers and the environment, and opposing what many called "globalization," a watered down word for the system of imperialism. MIM calls for global labor and environmental standards and a global minimum wage as we fight to bring down this system of imperialism, but we don't stand with the protectionist demands of those who worry about Amerikan jobs being shipped abroad.

The police response to the protest was aggressive and brutal. The police used armored vehicles and helicopters to shut down the city. Thousands of cops in riot gear attacked protesters with tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets and various other projectiles, leading to countless injuries and hospitalizations. Many demonstrators reported that police ordered groups of demonstrators to disperse while circling the protesters, making it impossible for them to escape. Police then arrested these people for failure to obey a police order. Several of those arrested were brutalized in jail, Blacks and Latinos bearing the brunt of the abuse.

The National Lawyers Guild sent 60 legal observers to the protest and they report that eight observers were arrested and four were beaten. Police arrested one NLG observer riding his bicycle alone, responding to a call on his cell phone that a van carrying demonstrators' puppets was stopped. He stopped at a corner, by himself, to call for directions when a group of bicycle cops rode up. He was handcuffed and arrested, and his tape recorder, which was recording at the time, was taken by cops and never returned: "They snapped my cellphone in half before talking to me, and put me down on the ground" (1).

Police also rounded up many reporters in the protests. A producer of the Democracy Now! radio show wrote a statement while sitting in jail in Miami. "I was arrested because I had not embedded myself with the Police Dept before doing my job of covering the protests for the nationally syndicated

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Gay marriage battle in Amerika

On November 18 the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the state constitution guarantees gay couples the right to marry. The court gave the state legislature six months to rewrite its marriage laws to comply with the ruling. While marriage is an institution of patriarchal society, this is an easy issue for MIM: there should be nothing stopping any couple from enjoying the legal rights of marriage if that couple wants to get married.

We may not have the institution of marriage under the distant-future system of communism, when gender, class and national oppression will have been eliminated. But right now, under capitalism, marriage confers economic and legal benefits on a couple. Denying those benefits to some people because of who they choose to spend their lives with is no better than any other form of

discrimination. Legalization of gay marriage in the United States would be progress towards eliminating gender oppression.

The Massachusetts court ruling led to renewed calls from across the mainstream political spectrum for a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. President Bush took time out from his visit to London to make a statement declaring, "Marriage is a sacred institution between a man and a woman." Bush said he will "work with congressional leaders and others to do what is legally necessary to defend the sanctity of marriage" (1).

Pundits predict this will be a big issue in the 2004 presidential election, particularly because a majority of Amerikans still says they oppose gay marriage (2). Howard Dean, governor of Vermont and a leading Democratic

candidate for President, signed a law giving gay couples the right to legally unite in a civil union equivalent to

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Celebrate Mao's Birthday, December 26

by MC44

On December 26, MIM celebrates Mao Zedong's birthday by continuing the struggle against imperialism and applying the lessons of the Chinese revolution to our work in the imperialist countries. Part of MIM's task is to provide communist leadership and education to a generation of youth today who became politically aware after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, and who have been educated about socialism and China entirely by the bourgeoisie.

Even 27 years after Mao's death—110 after his birth in 1893—MIM monitors the portrayal of the Chinese revolution by the hegemonic bourgeois forces of academics, journalists, and policy-makers. To wage our own continued struggle against US imperialism, we need to understand the dominant culture's view of Mao and China so that we can undermine it and build the people's independent culture and worldview.

Toward the end of his life, Mao made one of his greatest contributions to the advancement of the human condition when he helped launch the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (GPCR) in 1966. The Chinese revolution had made great advances since the people's victory in 1949, and Mao recognized the need for continued revolution within the communist

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Letters

British comrade agrees with MIM on white working class

Dear MIM,

Although I have been aware of MIM's existence for some time, I haven't always agreed with MIM's line on a number of issues. However, my experience with "left" political groups in Britain has gradually brought me closer to the MIM line up to the point where I now agree with all three of MIM's cardinal principles.

Acceptance of the first two points required some historical reading and reading-between-the-lines. But the third cardinal proved to be a MAJOR obstacle for me. While it is really unpalatable to be told that you are bribed by your employer, bribed by the state, bribed with consumer goods and that the value of those bribes has been extracted from third world labour and natural resources—I'm afraid that it IS true. Britain consumes a great deal, produces very little and uses military power and trade tariffs to maintain this state of affairs. I accept that now.

I have some questions regarding the MIM line on various issues:

1. While the third cardinal is true today, it will not always be true. As imperialism unravels and superprofits dry up, how will MIM respond to this in terms of cardinal principle?

2. When the dictatorship of the

proletariat comes to those nations that are currently imperialist, will the uneven development of these countries cause revolution in the weaker powers or will defeated imperialist powers build socialism under occupation? Which scenario is more likely?

3. Recently there have been heavy losses of non-productive sector jobs in the poorer districts of Britain. The work of call centres, market research and telesales is moving to countries like India. Is this evidence of an emerging labour aristocracy in Asia?

4. If imperialist-nation tenants organised effectively against their private landlords, would this affect the extraction of super-profit from the third world, either way? What is MIM's attitude to such activism?

5. Why does MIM assert that "all sex is rape under imperialism"? Is this to do with the prevailing conditions of patriarchy? What about same-sex consensual relationships? If you REALLY believed this line—doesn't that effectively condemn ALL heterosexuals as rapists under imperialism? If ALL sex is rape under imperialism, isn't that like equating bonded slavery with wage slavery? Or bourgeois democracy with outright fascism?

I know you must be busy, so I don't expect a reply right away. Thank you for your time.

—A British Comrade

International Minister replies for MIM: Comrade, we are glad to hear that you are moving toward the MIM line. We take your comments in a spirit of struggle

and unity.

With regard to your first question, we believe that Germany in World War II is the most relevant model. The labor aristocracy can receive devastating blows and endure a ruined economy, yet still stand with Hitler. Concretely the subject came up whether Stalin should wait for the Germans or occupy Germany. He occupied Germany, and we believe this kind of question is always implicit in the imperialist countries—the danger of taking a soft line on parasitism always lurking.

It took generations of parasitism combined with bourgeois democracy to build the kind of habits and public opinion we see now in the Western imperialist countries. A short-term economic disaster will open eyes, but it will not create a socialist superstructure overnight. That is why we say there must now be a whole historical stage of time in which the parasitic classes of the imperialist countries must adjust to life without superprofits and the political injustices that went with them in the forms of national chauvinism, racism, patriarchy etc.

With regard to your second question, again we regard Nazi Germany as the example of what will happen in the imperialist countries. Upon the fall of Nazism from power it is important to note that neither the Red Army nor the German communists declared that eastern Germany proceeded immediately to build socialism. In practice, de-Nazifying meant not giving "socialist" credit to people who were Nazis the day before. An illusory wish for a quick turnabout from imperialist marauder to socialist constructor paves the way for a return to power of the former rulers under new names. It will be important to take a "hard line" against the bourgeoisified

classes while not accepting them at face value when they say they have adopted "socialism" upon the collapse of the imperialist regimes.

As Stalin learned in Nazi Germany, top Nazi leaders offered to switch sides very quickly and in many cases stayed at their old posts of Nazi Germany days. To bring about real change, that sort of thing cannot be permitted, which means that change will take more time, a stage of history not necessary in countries where the majority of people have a history of being exploited.

On your third question, as Lenin explained, the split in the working class is international and even in Third World countries there is always at least a small minority that is bought off and transformed into a petty-bourgeoisie. Hence, some of those jobs offered by imperialists in the Third World or even by local capitalists will also be labor aristocracy. The difference is that the petty-bourgeoisie of such a sort has no chance of numerically dominating the country in the Third World. A country must become imperialist as described by Lenin before the whole country can be thought of as a candidate for petty-bourgeoisie.

With regard to tenant struggles in the Western imperialist countries, such battles are usually intra-bourgeois struggles that result in gentrification. If tenant struggles are beneficial, it is usually for young people thinking about classes for the first time. In actuality, a tenant struggle for betterment of housing conditions in the Western imperialist countries results in a push by the imperialists for a greater crackdown on the Third World's productive labor force for the raw materials and manufacturing that go into housing. In the Western imperialist

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MIM Notes

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MIM Notes is the bi-weekly newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement. MIM Notes is the official Party voice; more complete statements are published in our journal, *MIM Theory*. Material in *MIM Notes* is the Party's position unless noted. *MIM Notes* accepts submissions and critiques from anyone. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions unless permission is specifically denied by the author; submissions are published anonymously unless authors insist on identification (prisoners are never identified by name). MIM is an underground party that does not publish the names of its comrades in order to avoid the state surveillance and repression that have historically been directed at communist parties and anti-imperialist movements. MCs, MIM comrades, are members of the Party. The Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL) is an anti-imperialist mass organization led by MIM (RCs are RAIL Comrades). MIM's ten-point program is available to anyone who sends in a SASE.

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What is MIM?

The Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) is the collection of existing or emerging Maoist internationalist parties in the English-speaking imperialist countries and their English-speaking internal semi-colonies, as well as the existing or emerging Maoist Internationalist parties in Belgium, France and Quebec and the existing or emerging Spanish-speaking Maoist Internationalist parties of Aztlan, Puerto Rico and other territories of the U.S. Empire. MIM Notes is the newspaper of MIM. *Notas Rojas* is the newspaper of the Spanish-speaking parties or emerging parties of MIM. MIM upholds the revolutionary communist ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and is an internationalist organization that works from the vantage point of the Third World proletariat. MIM struggles to end the oppression of all groups over other groups: classes, genders, nations. MIM knows this is only possibly by building public opinion to seize power through armed struggle. Revolution is a reality for North America as the military becomes over-extended in the government's attempts to maintain world hegemony. MIM differs from other communist parties on three main questions: (1) MIM holds that after the proletariat seizes power in socialist revolution, the potential exists for capitalist restoration under the leadership of a new bourgeoisie within the communist party itself. In the case of the USSR, the bourgeoisie seized power after the death of Stalin in 1953; in China, it was after Mao's death and the overthrow of the "Gang of Four" in 1976. (2) MIM upholds the Chinese Cultural Revolution as the farthest advance of communism in humyn history. (3) As Marx, Engels and Lenin formulated and MIM has reiterated through materialist analysis, imperialism extracts super-profits from the Third World and in part uses this wealth to buy off whole populations of oppressor nation so-called workers. These so-called workers bought off by imperialism form a new petty-bourgeoisie called the labor aristocracy. These classes are not the principal vehicles to advance Maoism within those countries because their standards of living depend on imperialism. At this time, imperialist super-profits create this situation in the Canada, Quebec, the United States, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Israel, Sweden and Denmark. MIM accepts people as members who agree on these basic principles and accept democratic centralism, the system of majority rule, on other questions of party line.

"The theory of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin is universally applicable. We should regard it not as dogma, but as a guide to action. Studying it is not merely a matter of learning terms and phrases, but of learning Marxism-Leninism as the science of revolution."
- Mao Zedong, Selected Works, Vol. II, p. 208.

RAIL participates in 'Education not Incarceration' week

A coalition in California hosted a week of teach-ins in schools followed by a day of action on November 19, 2003. Education not Incarceration began last May with a large demo in the capital, Sacramento, to make its demands heard (www.may8.org). Students met with state assembly members to voice their concerns.

MIM and RAIL were two of the numerous organizations and individuals working around prison issues that were invited to give presentations to classes during the week of teach-ins. We had the opportunity to work with a number of high school classes in Oakland, where the students were engaged and positive when discussing the relevance of the prison system.

Many students were quick to respond to statistics on imprisonment based on nationality in the United States with responses like "that shows the government is racist" and "Blacks and Latinos are in there because of oppression." The local legacy of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense is also well known by many of the students. One RAIL comrade made this historical link by explaining the prison boom following the break up of organizations of the oppressed like the BPP, and the subsequent creation of the Security

Housing Units (SHUs)—prisons within prisons—to combat organizing behind bars.

In California, MIM and RAIL have been waging a protracted battle to shut down the SHUs, which represent some of the most torturous conditions in prisons across the United States. We focused on this topic in our teach-ins, giving the students first hand accounts of the sensory deprivation and abuse that prisoners in the SHU go through. Many understood that such conditions are in not in the general interest when people in the SHU are going to be released back onto the streets.

In discussing the allegations of 'gang affiliations' that send people to the SHU, students were able to draw parallels to their own lives. One student mentioned having three people on a corner wearing the same color is enough to get trouble from the police. Many others had stories to share about Oakland Police using excessive force, such as putting guns to their heads. A speaker at the later rally reiterated this point, talking about Oakland's anti-loitering and vagrancy laws. The speaker said these laws parallel the state's reaction to the freeing of African slaves, which created an often-unwanted work force in this country. One high-schooler talked about

how her history of political outspokenness has led to unjust punishment by the school. She also reminded everyone that the school district brought in the Secret Service last school year when a couple of students said that Bush is whack.

From the teach-ins and rallies that we attended we can say that this week was a worthwhile step. We stand behind the oppressed-nation youth of California as they demand that money being spent to incarcerate them is used to educate them instead. As we noted on our report from the forum on education in Oakland this July, "The revolutionary content of such a campaign is inherent in the class content of those involved. We are asking for money to be taken out of repression and put into basic needs" (1).

In our last article we also wrote, "The main thrust of such a campaign will be strong only to the extent that our organizing efforts to get the money allocated differently will in turn allow us to decide how that money is used." Most of the over 200 people in attendance at the November 19th rally at Oakland City Hall were from two small autonomous schools: Street Academy and the School for Social Justice. These schools exist within the public school system but have the independence in structure and curriculum

similar to a charter school. While staying within the system, these schools seem to be a source of progressive and productive outlets for Oakland students. We do not have too much knowledge of their programs, but the students in attendance, especially those that spoke on stage, were able to spend their school day speaking out about police brutality, the prison system and even Oakland public schools.

The student leaders of this movement clearly see the links between the prison system and capitalism and hundreds of years of oppression and the majority of the students we interacted with had a negative opinion of the prison system. But when asked to come up with alternative solutions to violent crimes they were at a loss. Most of the students felt that people are going to continue to murder and rape each other and that's just how it is. This seems to be the biggest obstacle to cross to unleash a powerful movement of young people to change society. Once the Black Panthers showed people that they could change things, their support in the community increased greatly. We must learn from their example and organize people by serving the people within a larger framework of changing the whole system.

Notes: 1. MIM Notes 286, 1 September 2003.

Texas prisons withhold food, medical care

As states around the country face massive budget shortfalls, it unfortunately comes as no surprise that prisoners will pay disproportionately for the problem. MIM has received numerous letters from Texas prisoners exposing two basic areas that the state has viciously targeted for cost savings: food and medical care.

According to one Texas prison activist, "some facilities are serving only two meals daily, while other prisons reduce portion size and calorie content of the prisoners' daily fare." A prisoner writes, "Since my last missive to you, circumstances have changed for the worse. ... As of now, here at TDCJ, they are cutting back on food tremendously. This was a rumor before, now it's reality. They have cut back on desserts, three times a week, and they are making their own syrup. Yuck.

Plus, we are receiving Johnnies for breakfast (paper sack meals). ...

"The most diabolical scheme they (TDCJ) have mastered so far is the violation of religious rights, because of budget cuts, they are not allowing inmates to be 'pork free.' If you are a Muslim, or an individual who just doesn't eat pork, you will not be allowed to substitute other items for pork (beans, cheese, bread, etc.). What's on the general population menu will apply to everyone. Their slogan is, 'If you don't like it, don't eat it.'"

On another unit, a comrade reports that, "the chow hall is very filthy here. I am not from the Health Department but I would grade the chow hall unsatisfactory. When you walk in the chow hall there are puddles of standing water. The walls are covered with dead insects. Water leaks out of the cracks in the wall. They don't give us our 20 minutes to eat.... The plastic-ware that is provided for us is dirty; food is dried between the sporks. Food is still on the trays and the line where food is served has food from 2 or 3 days ago still on it — still sitting in the same place. They always run out of food, the chow hall does not ever have ice...."

At the same time that prisoners are going hungry (there has been no cutback of the amount of work they're forced to do, for no pay), guards are living high on hog. The Texas activist writes: "Hunger never visits the officers' dining rooms

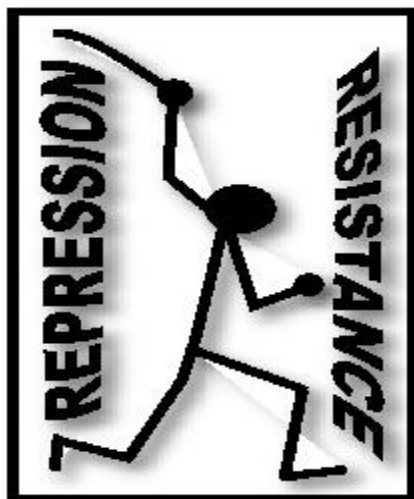
[ODRs]. There is never a shortage of soups, salads, eggs, meats, condiments, ice cream, cakes, pies and other desserts served continuously and in unlimited quantities and varieties — at no extra charge — to the 40,000 employees of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice." Since the Officers Dining Rooms are open 365 days a year, "some guards visit [them] for a free meal on their days off rather than pay for a meal in a local restaurant or cook a meal at home."

And it turns out that differential meals in the ODRs, compared with those served to the prison population, constitute a violation of state law. The Texas activist writes: "Section 13 provides that the TDCJ may provide food items to employee dining facilities only after the food requirements of prisoners are met. Because prisoners never see the types of varieties of food served in the ODRs, the prisoners' food requirements are scarcely met. Guards and staff are served the best of everything. Prisoners are served leftovers and scraps. Section 13 goes on to provide that the food served to prisoners shall be the same as the food served to employees. Prison officials, who have always seen themselves as being above the law, ignore this provision of section 13."

Our Texas prison comrades have also written to tell us about cuts in medical services as a result of the budget situation. One writes, "They have gotten rid of some of the medical staff. They do not have a

lab tech anymore. So it will be a long time before inmates will receive blood tests to discover if they have HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and other blood related analysis. ... I am currently waiting to have a blood test to determine if I have an ulcer or not. It has been three weeks, and they have yet to take the test. ... Brother, this place is going to the dawgs; actually it already went, but now the dawg is shitting it out."

It does not surprise prison activists that state budget cuts are being directed at the state's most disenfranchised population, but it should outrage everyone. MIM urges our readers to get involved in our ongoing campaigns against injustice in the US prison system.



We constantly update MIM's coverage of the U.S. war on our web site, with news and opinion, agitation materials, articles in English, Spanish, French, Chinese and Russian!

Read and distribute the newspaper -- and get the latest:

www.etext.org/Politics/MIM

Miami cops attack protestors

Anti-FTAA politics are mixed bag

public radio and TV program Democracy Now! Instead, I was swept up late Friday afternoon with about 70 others as we tried to obey an order to disperse from an ‘unlawful’ jail solidarity rally.” She went on to explain that police arrested four other independent reporters with her, and she knew of several other arrested reporters including an Independent Media Center reporter—police smashed his camera and charged him with two felonies (2).

“Free Trade” and Amerikan chauvinism

Because of significant opposition by Latin American countries, the FTAA meeting failed to produce a comprehensive trade agreement. Instead it scaled back the agreement to a statement that countries can make whatever trade commitments they want (now called “FTAA lite”), basically meaning that trade agreements must be negotiated between countries. This outcome represented a scaled-back plan from the pan-American common market the U.S. wants. That open market would include the North American Free Trade Agreement enacted 10 years ago between the U.S., Canada and Mexico. With the failure of FTAA negotiations, the Amerikan government now must push for aggressive bilateral trade agreements with individual countries.

While some are pleased that the outcome of the talks failed to produce a comprehensive trade agreement that could force Western hemisphere countries to give large corporations free reign across borders, the United States still holds the power in the region: power backed by both guns and money. And the United States can force its Latin American lackeys to do whatever Amerika wants. Some analysts see these bilateral agreements as potentially even more dangerous to the economies of Latin American countries.

Some activists at the protests (and around the world) recognize the economic and environmental destruction that imperialism wreaks on Third World countries where regulations are few and labor is cheap. Amerikan corporations can make great profits exploiting their cheap labor, stealing their natural resources, and avoiding expensive environmental protections. But it would be wrong to pretend that this environmental destruction will be avoided if these large trade agreements like the FTAA are stopped. U.S. corporations have already devastated the economies and environments of countries across the Western Hemisphere with the help of trade agreements negotiated between the U.S. and individual countries. It is not the trade agreements that cause these



Undercover cops infiltrated the crowd and seized several protestors, one of whom was dragged away, according to witnesses. (<http://FTAAIMC.org>)

problems; it is the system of imperialism. By focusing on trade agreements activists are misleading people away from the problem. “Globalization” is not a new phenomenon—it’s the same old global system of imperialism that has been oppressing and exploiting the world’s people for decades.

Amerikan activists frequently argue that the FTAA means that jobs will be lost to the Third World. This is why many labor unions are joining in the anti-FTAA protests. These protestors display blatant Amerika-first chauvinism and are the same people who favor keeping the Amerikan borders closed to keep out immigrant labor which might compete for jobs which they feel are an Amerikan’s god-given right.

At the Miami protests the AFL-CIO set up a program in the Amphitheater and held a march through the city with 20,000 people. A large contingent of steelworkers union members led the march with t-shirts reading “FTAA Sucks” as the marchers chanted “FTAA, Don’t Take Our Jobs Away.”(2)

An AFL-CIO statement from November 20 explained their opposition to the FTAA: “If approved, the FTAA would eliminate tariffs from 34 countries with a combined population of more than 800 million and accelerate the staggering job loss and environmental damage experienced under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). U.S. workers lost 879,280 jobs and real wages in Mexico have fallen as a result of NAFTA in the past 10 years, according to the nonprofit Economic Policy Institute.” This statement is correct about the environmental damage, and wages in Mexico, but MIM finds any focus on Amerikan jobs being given to Third World

workers as barely disguised chauvinism. Some individual union members quoted in this statement were even more blatantly chauvinist: “We need to write every senator and representative and let them know that this is a big issue—we don’t want to give away our jobs.”(3)

The real solution is Mao’s solution of socialism to end unemployment and hunger, thus doubling the life expectancy of his people. We in the imperialist countries may have food on the table, but the masses in Third World do not. Maoists

in the Third World do not want to see their countries enslaved to U.S. monopoly capital and they have every reason to have faith in their own people to organize their countries for full employment and economic development.

Notes:

1. Miami Herald, Nov 20, 2003
2. FTAAIMC.org, November 23, 2003
3. aflcio.org, Nov 20, 2003 statement

What is militarism?

Militarism is war-mongering or the advocacy of war or actual carrying out of war or its preparations.

While true pacifists condemn all violence as equally repugnant, we Maoists do not consider self-defense or the violence of oppressed nations against imperialism to be militarism. Militarism is mostly caused by imperialism at this time. Imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism—seen in countries like the United States, England and France.

Under capitalism, capitalists often profit from war or its preparations. Yet, it is the proletariat that does the dying in the wars. The proletariat wants a system in which people do not have self-interest on the side of war-profiteering or war for imperialism.

Militarism is one of the most important reasons to overthrow capitalism. It even infects oppressed nations and causes them to fight each other.

It is important not to let capitalists risk our lives in their ideas about war and peace or the environment. They have already had two world wars admitted by themselves in the last 100 years and they are conducting a third right now against the Third World.

Even a one percent annual chance of nuclear war destruction caused by capitalist aggressiveness or “greed” as the people call it should not be tolerated by the proletariat. After playing Russian Roulette (in which the bullet chamber is different each time and not related at all to the one that came up in previous spins) with 100 chambers and one bullet, the chance of survival is only 60.5% after 50 turns. In other words, a seemingly small one percent annual chance of world war means eventual doom. After 100 years or turns of Russian Roulette, the chances of survival are only 36.6%. After 200 years, survival has only a 13.4% chance.

MIAMI: Trade Agreements are not the problem

We often hear corporate shills promoting agreements like NAFTA, GATT, and now the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) complain about barriers to the free movement of investments and profits. But we rarely hear them complain about barriers to the free movement of labor (i.e. people).

This is because monopoly corporations — and the privilege enjoyed by First World countries generally — depend on the depressed wages in Third World countries. Workers in the Third World earn an average of \$0.48 an hour, while U.S. workers earn \$16.40.(1) How is this possible? Those Third World workers live under death-squad governments, which use force to set wage rates and attack union organizers.

Those regimes that do not use military force are competing against those that do—and they face the threat of covert and overt military aggression. Witness U.S. sponsored coups or invasions in Iran, Guatemala, Vietnam, Chile, etc.

So if the big capitalists are going to clamor for a WTO to protect their “free market” — never mind that the “free market” is dominated by First World monopolies and the WTO is controlled by a few bullies like the united States — we should demand WTO-like protections on a global, free, fair labor market.

Professor Voradvidh from Thailand has

it right: “We need a GATT on labor conditions and on the minimum wage, we need a standard on the minimum conditions for work and a higher standard for children.”(2) Countries that use death squads against union organizers should face severe trade penalties. Unions seeking to obtain wages higher than minimum wage should get to go before a WTO-like body.

Of course, a global minimum wage and other guarantees for a “free and fair” labor market are reforms within a capitalist system, currently dominated by big monopoly capital from the First World, a.k.a. imperialism. The Maoist Internationalist Movement believes a revolutionary struggle for socialism — where people’s needs are placed first and individual profit comes last or never — is a necessary step to eliminate exploitation and the related evils of poverty, disease, and starvation that kill millions every year.

Anti-imperialist struggle with a socialist perspective in Third World countries can remove those countries from the dictates of First World monopoly capital and all its institutions: the IMF, World Bank, WTO, etc. The best thing we can do here is prepare to topple Amerikan imperialism when the time is right—and make sure it never arises again.

That said, global regulations on labor conditions are a progressive reform



MIM supports a global minimum wage, which would benefit workers like these, who work on banana plantations in the Philippines (MIM photo).

struggle. For hundreds of millions of toilers a wage hike can mean the difference between life and death. And, although global labor-market regulations are consistent with capitalism, they undermine the principal prop of modern capitalism: the super-profits sucked out of the Third World.

MIM does not raise the call “Stop the Free Trade Area of the Americas,” for several reasons. MIM opposes imperialism generally. Many of the problems opponents of the FTAA, NAFTA, neoliberalism, and privatization point out are in fact symptoms of imperialism. The commodification of labor, depressed wages, and destruction of the environment predated these policies. Overturning them might mean a shift in the balance of forces and a return to a “new deal” type of social democracy in Amerika—but super-exploitation and other problems built into the capitalist system like monumental waste would continue.

Because of the current political

climate, raising economic nationalism in Amerika is bound to reinforce “Amerika-first” chauvinism. The main reason for this is that it’s not just a few fat cat millionaires who benefit from imperialist exploitation. Americans generally benefit, through cheap prices on imported goods or relatively inflated wages. The campaign against NAFTA fed the usual (incorrect) grouching about “them” stealing “our jobs.”

It is no longer progressive to fight for “30 for 40” in the imperialist countries, because those workers are not exploited. However, demands for a global minimum wage or international labor rights are still entirely progressive and do not increase the existing world war by encouraging imperialist country nationalism.

Notes:

1. Section C.6., Imperialism and its Class Structure in 1997, <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mt/imp97/>

2. William Greider, One World Ready or Not: The Manic Logic of Global Capitalism, NY:Simon and Schuster, 1997.

Letters

Continued from page 2...

countries, it fits in the category of “no good deed goes unpunished,” as with so many things under capitalism.

On the last point, we ask people to read Engels on the nature of the patriarchy and particularly to note those passages where he equates marriage with prostitution under capitalism. For example, a passage in the “Communist Manifesto” says that capitalism turns family relations into monetary ones. From this we gather that Marx and Engels did not think gender oppression was a question of lifestyle choices, the line undergirding sexual Liberalism. At our party Congresses we have wrestled with the line that “all sex is prostitution” in the spirit of Engels and consequently that “all rape is like theft” and we consciously chose to deny these lines for reasons we will get into.

Since the day of Engels, the bourgeois system has attempted—as Marx and Engels predicted—to put more and more customs and culture (including sexual ones) on a contract basis with its attendant ideology. In Engels’s day, there was no such thing in law and culture as “rape in marriage.” Now there is that in addition to rape of prostitutes and “date rape.”

The notion of freely given consent in individual contracts is the essence of bourgeois ideology and does in fact represent an advance in many aspects of culture that oppress wimmin. The

whole idea of “marital rape” is an example of how the bourgeois culture aims at making every moment of every relationship consensual on an individual basis, no matter the inequality of the underlying groups of people making those agreements. We do not believe it should be the role of the communists to disagree with the evolution of sexual mores within capitalism—especially when we can see that that evolution in expanding the concept of rape was attempting to handle some kind of oppression which also existed before capitalism.

Rather it is the job of the communists to attack reformism and individualism. It is our job to show how capitalism cannot ever fully eliminate gender oppression despite expanding the bourgeoisie’s influence through ideas like marital rape or date rape. Looking at this evolution since the days of Engels, MIM concluded that lifestyle Liberals are dividing the gender oppressed with their concepts of rape and sexual harassment and that not all gender oppression is ultimately about money. For that reason we adopted the line that “all sex is rape” and not “all sex is prostitution” as our means of opposing sexual Liberalism connected to bourgeois society. We recognize the “all sex is prostitution”-because-of-economic-inequality approach as opposing sexual Liberalism, but we believe it does not fully reflect our times and misses fundamental aspects of gender oppression rooted in leisure time dynamics.



November 2003 Central Task Report

This month the good news in our report is that we at MIM set out to put U.S. prison oppression on the map globally and the Internet statistics show that is what we have made great strides toward this past year. All over the world the State Department propaganda boasts that the United States is a “free country” bringing freedom to Iraq, Afghanistan etc. Yet the united States imprisons more people per capita than any other country and censors MIM for trying to spread the word.

We also see that the completion of the FAQ in French and Chinese continues to bear dividends in Internet readership long after the work went up on the web page. The statistics for readers versus pages taken show that the Russians are the most serious readers per reader, followed by the Chinese. The figures also show that Chinese is now by far the second-most important language on the MIM web pages.

With regard to some statistics showing negative percent changes—the one sad spot is the art page set back in traffic. The problem with the megabytes per day is that we no longer offer the large file we once did. We are moving toward DVD use.

Finally, another bright spot is that MIM Notes circulation set a record in

November. This has come in a process of changing how we do MIM Notes distribution. We have shifted increasingly away from trusting people with distributing papers unless they are contributing with large sums of money or providing other indications of dedication. Resources are going to the proven successful distributors who distribute the most papers at the lowest per paper cost. It is not a case that newspapers and transport are free and we only need occasional and whimsical amateur distributors. For some people lacking any money or other distribution-relevant skills or resources, we can suggest fighting on the Internet instead, something that many people in

the imperialist countries consider “free.” Others may want to learn about taking out credit cards or other debts that allow them to contribute to MIM Notes in one yearly sum. Still others may need to learn how to type before they go onto the Internet. It comes down to skills and resources, so before saying “I can’t,” one should take a materialist approach and focus on what is in reach. Learning how to type may be an important contribution, the most important one one can make at a given stage of political development. For each person, the situation is different, but we must all improve our skills and make it a point of figuring out how to obtain resources. There is always something we

can do to improve and that means there is always something we can do for the proletarian movement.

Number of users	11/02	11/03
Chinese	849	2083
French	612	1297
Russian	92	236
Spanish	1046	1328
Prisons agitation	138	2421

Summary statistics comparing November 2002 and November 2003

	Nov. 2002	Nov. 2003	Change
Different computers MIM served	23,553	44,469*	89%
Avg. MIM pages served per day	2,346	3652	56%
MIM data transferred (Mb/day)	226.6	117.7	-48%
MIM Notes (English) printed copies compared with pre-911=100		200	
All language newspapers printed copies compared with pre-911=100		200	
Number of top 53 cites of U.S./Kanada receiving at least 1000 MIM Notes**	Unknown	15	
MIM prison circulation averaged over two months Jan 2002=100		94	
Number of Art page users	6,442	4,995	-23%
Number of different MIM web page files actively chosen from	4,046	4,517	12%

*This report excludes all art, and most robots and developer hits for 2003 but not 2002.

**Top 50 U.S. cities plus Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto

Celebrate Mao's Birthday, December 26

Continued from page 1...

leadership itself to consolidate and further advance the construction of socialism in China. A key policy within the GPCR promoted the movement of urban Chinese youth to the countryside to labor alongside the peasants, sharing their own technical expertise and at the same time being reeducated in class orientation by the peasants.

Bourgeois authors blast GPCR

In February 1999, a leading American academic journal, the American Sociological Review, published an article assessing the later life course of children who were “sent-down” to rural areas during the GPCR.(1) [The pornographic Cultural Revolution “memoir” has also become a popular literary genre in the West. Needless to say, publishers are not shelling out big bucks for manuscripts that discuss politics or principled service to the people instead of sex. See e.g. our review of Ma Bo’s memoir “Blood Red Sunset”: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/books/china/mabo.html>.]

Much of this debate is a well-worn path for MIM—as we confront the familiar charges that these youth, along with their intellectual parents, were “persecuted” during this time.(2) But the article offered some new information, and it provides another opportunity to expose the bourgeois hypocrisy embedded in imperialist education, and to celebrate

some undeniable truths about the Maoist experience.

The first problem with the article, “Children of the Cultural Revolution: the State and the Life Course in the People’s Republic of China,” is that the authors, Xueguang Zhou and Liren Hou, do not make a distinction between the revolutionary government of 1949-1976, and the reactionary leadership which seized power in a coup following Mao’s death and restored capitalism to China. So when the article talks about promises the government made to youth in the early 1970s—including employment upon their return to the cities—the authors talk about the betrayal of those promises in the 1980s as if they were dealing with the same political leadership. Similarly, the authors portray changes in China’s educational system under the reactionary capitalist-roaders, such as the restoration of “merit” based college entrance exams in 1977, as a cruel deception by the revolutionary government instead of the actions of new and entirely different regime.(2)

As Maoists, we take responsibility for mistakes made by Mao and the Chinese Communist Party, including those that led to the capitalists’ victory. But we make sure people understand that once the capitalist roaders took power, they changed the political, economic and social development of China. The authors are right about the period after 1976, and the worsening conditions they portray only underscore MIM’s support of revolutionary China under Mao, and our opposition to the restoration of capitalism that took place after his death. The

second problem with the ASR article is that its measurements of well-being later in life of the sent-down youth—persynal income, position in the urban labor force, age of marriage and bearing children, and educational attainment—are fraught with petty bourgeois individualism. In recounting the experience of urban youth in the countryside as it happened and its later impact on their lives, never do the scholars wonder about the effect of this state policy on the well being of the rural peasants—the majority of China’s population. Were the peasants better or worse off during and as a result of this policy? Like the bourgeois China scholars before them, they don’t care.

Nobel prize committee rewards service to the people

But the bourgeoisie wants to have it both ways. In October 1999, an international organization called Doctors Without Borders won the Nobel Peace Prize for its work providing international emergency medical services—usually in the context of a national crisis. Recent recipients of their help have been in Turkey following the massive earthquake in August 1999, and even more recently in East Timor.

In an acknowledgement (that pretends to be apolitical) of how rare and unusual it is for people with lucrative professions in First World countries to leave their comfortable lives, go somewhere dangerous and serve the people, Doctors Without Borders got a prize worth a million dollars. At the same time, academic scholars, policy makers, journalists, and the rest of the bourgeoisie

continue to vilify China’s GPCR for taking this important principle and making it mandatory policy affecting millions of people. [These writers also hypocritically accept mandatory military or public service in countries like Germany or Israel.]

The press release announcing Doctors Without Borders’ Nobel Prize reads, “Since its foundation in the early 1970s, Medecins Sans Frontiers [the group’s French name] has adhered to the fundamental principle that all disaster victims, whether the disaster is natural or human in origin, have a right to professional assistance, given as quickly and efficiently as possible. National boundaries and political circumstances or sympathies must have no influence on who is to receive humanitarian help.”(3) MIM asks, so why didn’t Chinese peasants have this same right in the 1970s? If they did—and we believe they did—why was it wrong to express this right in a mandatory state program?

As long as the prize committee wants to recognize advances in medical care and service to the masses, they could also have looked at Mao’s China in the 1960s. “One of many socialist programs developed in China was the barefoot doctors, who were peasants trained for a few months in basic medical care and then worked in their village to prevent disease and injury, improve sanitation, and treat common medical problems.”(4) Neither Mao, nor anyone in the Chinese government under Mao was ever offered the Nobel Peace Prize, but the impact of their work achieved more just in terms of

Continued on page 8...

Engels on equal rights and gender oppression

The oppression of gays and lesbians is part of the system of gender oppression, a system of power relations between groups. As such, Liberal legal reform cannot eliminate it, since Liberal legal principles ignore power differences between individuals. However, legal reform can still be progressive, as the following passage by Marx' co-worker Frederick Engels illustrates. The passage addresses the oppression of wimmin by men, but it applies to the issue of equal rights for gays and lesbians.

"In the industrial world, the specific character of the economic oppression weighing on the proletariat appears in its sharpest outlines only after all special privileges of the capitalist class are abolished and full legal equality of both classes is established. A democratic republic does not abolish the distinction between the two classes. On the contrary, it offers the battleground on which the distinction can be fought out. Likewise the peculiar character of man's rule over woman in the modern family, the necessity and the manner of accomplishing real social equality between the two, will appear in broad daylight only then, when both of them will enjoy complete legal equality." Frederick Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*, Chicago: Charles H. Kerr & Company, 1902, pp. 89-90.

Queers for Peace and Justice speak out

MIM asked Queers for Peace and Justice, an organization based in the United States and an ally in many anti-imperialist struggles, what they think about the gay marriage issue. Their response follows:

We'd generally agree with our comrades in ProGay Philippines which we work closely with and helped organize a speaking tour of one of their leaders in 2001. We would still oppose any laws that specifically discriminate against any group in the society; whether that be women, people of color, queer people. Currently, queer people are specifically excluded by laws that discriminate against them. Queers suffer disproportionately high rates of violence aimed at them, etc. ... Marriage was not the issue many queer people focused on, but is the issue that is now on the table in the larger society given the rabid right-wing that exists here (check out the website of groups such as the Family Research Council), it's fine to critique, it's even better to struggle against bigotry on all fronts.

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What's New @ MIM's Homepage

Gay marriage battle in Amerika

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marriage, after the Vermont Supreme Court ruled in favor of this in 1999. But even Dean opposes gay marriages. All the major Democratic candidates for President walk a fine line opposing gay marriage but supporting some form of civil union (3). This "separate but equal" idea is just a different spin on the religious "sanctity of marriage."

Meanwhile, almost three quarters of the state legislatures in Amerika have adopted laws or constitutional provisions defining marriage as a union between a man and a womyn. And in 1996 President Clinton signed the federal Defense of Marriage Act that allows states to refuse to recognize gay marriages performed in other states.

There is no such thing as "sanctity of marriage" outside of a religious context. Sanctity means holiness and those advocating reserving marriage for straight couples are saying there is some special privilege god wants to give to straight couples that gay couples should not enjoy. It is no coincidence that this privilege

includes significant economic and legal benefits, just as it is no coincidence that the Christian churches have played a significant hand in exploitation and oppression of Third World peoples by allying themselves with fascists and imperialists for their economic and political benefit. Religion as an institution has been based on preserving privilege for certain groups of people at the expense of others. The gay marriage issue just provides further evidence of the failure of religious-based politics.

While supporting the right of gay and lesbian couples to marry, we see that this is not an issue of life and death, but rather an issue of relative gender privilege within a country that is already enjoying significant gender privilege at the expense of the majority of the world's people. For instance, Amerikans have access to cheap and diverse options for birth control thanks in part to forced testing on Third World men and wimmin (4).

In Amerika where the vast majority of the legal population already enjoys a standard of living financed by the

exploitation and oppression of the Third World people, there is the luxury to consider issues like gay marriage. But in many countries forced into poverty as servants to imperialism, queer activists don't have the luxury of emphasizing the fight for marriage rights. In the Philippines, the organization ProGay, which is a part of the national democratic movement, "links discrimination and homophobia with the struggle against feudalism and imperialism." When this group surveyed gays in the Philippines they found "gays say the problem is they don't have jobs, money, housing, money to support their brothers and sisters...not that they have a problem finding a date or discrimination" (5).

In advanced imperialist countries like Amerika communists have a responsibility to push for an end to oppression of groups of people. But while we do this we have to retain an internationalist perspective and keep in mind the relative significance of each battle. The progressive demands of all queer people world-wide must be supported. And the vocal queer rights

movement in Amerika needs to take up the fight against imperialism to challenge class, nation and gender oppression world-wide.

Notes:

1. AP Nov 18, 2003.

2. According to a mid-October survey by the Pew Research Center for The People & The Press and the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, 59 percent of Americans said they oppose legalizing gay marriage.

3. Candidates Kucinich and Sharpton support gay marriage, and Mosely-Braun has said "discrimination against same-sex couples is wrong" but has not specifically supported gay marriage. See <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/11/11/national/main583048.shtml>

4. Betsy Hartmann's book *The Global Politics of Population Control*, particularly the first version, is a good source for information on this subject.

5. MIM Notes 245, quotes from Edgar "Oscar" Atadero, president of ProGay Philippines.

Celebrate Mao's Birthday, December 26

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saving lives and providing medical service to people than Doctors Without Borders will ever achieve.

Urban intellectuals in the countryside

Between 1967-1978, 17 million urban Chinese youth were sent to the countryside.(5) The movement began as a volunteer effort among the Red Guards in 1967, and the Communist Party soon endorsed the effort and made it into policy.(6) Although the bourgeoisie likes to portray the program as "anarchic," the authors of the recent ASR study admit that the government made deliberate and materialist choices about who was sent.

First, the authors concede students most likely to be sent down were those that had completed high school, and that "most urban youth graduated from secondary school during the Cultural Revolution."(7) Second, the authors state that "an increase in urban employment opportunities reduced the probability of being sent to rural areas."(8) And as every anti-Cultural Revolution scholar before them, Zhou and Hou criticize China for making urban youth work "12 hours a day, 7 days a week." There is no mention of whether the peasants who they worked alongside had to work those hours (or more) before, during or after the program.

As usual, the petit bourgeoisie is outraged when privileged people have to live like the great majority — but they turn a blind eye to the sufferings in the countryside, and don't care to acknowledge the unprecedented improvements in peasant life during the Mao years.

The international proletariat measures the success and failures of the send-down practice in different terms. We observe that the practice helped to destroy class differences by requiring youth of privileged classes to perform manual labor, at the same time as it recognized that educated youth had a lot to learn from the peasants. We recognize that this program served the peasants, as students brought technical and scientific expertise to remote villages. Of Long Bow village in 1978, William Hinton writes in *The Great Reversal*, a book about the de-collectivization of Chinese agriculture under the capitalist regime:

"The educated youth in the village, ninety strong in 1977, but reduced to a handful by 1979 as the authorities stopped sending city dwellers to the countryside, were evenly divided between young men and women. ... Their contribution to the life of the village was deep and many faceted. There contribution to the life of the village was deep and many faceted. There were science majors, musicians, actors, dancers, artists, and athletes among them. ... they helped to discover how to overcome the alkalinity of Long Bow's soil."(9)

During the GPCR, Hinton explained



how socialism developed and old oppressive educational ideas were dismantled in the context of a famous institute of science and engineering:

"Students now spend as much time in the factories and on the construction sites of greater Peking as they do in classrooms and laboratories, and professors devote as much energy to developing liaison with the scores of factories and enterprises with which the university is allied as they do to lecturing and advising students. No longer will thousands of privileged young men and women withdraw into the leafy wonderland of Tsinghua to crack books until they are too old to laugh. No longer will they stuff their heads with mathematical formulas relating to the outmoded industrial practices of pre-war Europe and America, sweat through 'surprise attack' exams, and then emerge after years of isolation from production and political engagement unable to tell high-carbon steel from ordinary steel or a 'proletarian revolutionary' from a 'revisionist.'(10)

How does capitalism measure up?

Bourgeois academics continue to insist that the Cultural Revolution "interrupted" the education of China's urban youth, even though they recognize that education in general was vastly expanded and improved in China after Liberation in 1949. In 1997, an article in the *American Journal of Sociology* about education in Cultural Revolution, explained: "... the Chinese government sought to increase educational opportunity for the children of workers and peasants by providing more schools. The number of schools at each level and the portion of school age children enrolled in them both increased continuously from the 1950s through the 1970s. By 1981, primary schools were three times more numerous than they had ever been before 1949. The fraction of children of primary school age enrolled

in school rose from 20% in 1949 to 85% in 1965 and to 93% in 1981. By 1981 [right before the commune system was dismantled by the capitalists], almost every commune had its own lower secondary school. Also, the number of tertiary educational institutes in China increased from 210 in 1950 to 434 in 1965 and to 704 in 1981."(11)

This article too portrays China seamlessly from the revolutionary government into the capitalist era in 1981. But the principal gains made were under Mao. And what can the United States count as its contributions to the education of the international proletariat? That it has financed and set up reactionary dictatorships around the world, squelching the education and well-being of youth from Soweto to Palestine to South Central Los Angeles.

MIM finds that the petit bourgeois propagandists for imperialism keep trying to have it both ways. A charity project to help some people in need is considered nice, and given a small reward and a lot of press. But they vilify an unprecedented social revolution intended to eliminate the basis for the continued suffering and premature death of millions from similar causes. The Chinese Revolution, led by Mao Zedong, shone a light on the revolutionary path to wiping out starvation, needless deaths from illness, oppression and inequality. It is that path that MIM attempts to travel in the next century.

The original version of this article originally appeared in the 15 Dec 1999 MIM Notes. MC206 contributed to this update.

Notes:

1. "Children of the Cultural Revolution: the State and Life Course in the People's Republic of China." *American Sociological Review*. February 1999, v. 64, no. 1. pp. 12- 36.
2. ASR, p. 15
3. http://www.nobel.se/announcement-99/peace99_eng.html
4. "Myths About Maoism," from What is

MIM.

5. ASR, p. 12.

6. ASR, p. 15.

7. ASR, p. 26.

8. ASR, p. 22.

9. *The Great Reversal*. by William Hinton. p. 35.

10. *The Hundred Day War: The Cultural Revolution at Tsinghua University*. by William Hinton, available from MIM for \$15.

11. "The impact of the cultural revolution on educational attainment in the People's Republic of China," Zhong Deng and Donald J. Treiman. *American Journal of Sociology*. Sept. 1997, v. 103, n.2. p. 39.

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Kid Rock and the long-haired rednecks' place in the world

"Kid Rock"
Kid Rock
Atlantic Recording Corporation
2003

reviewed by MC5
November 2003

This album was "classic rock" as soon as it appeared in 2003 and I mean that by way of criticism. Here Kid Rock is claiming to be better than the "Rolling Stones" and numerous other bands. Yet his music lacks newness. Listeners will hear "ZZ Top" and other influences some of which he mentions, but while he claims in "I am" that "you'll never put your finger on me," because he's mastered southern, country, hip-hop and soul, this is just old classic rock as soon as it came out.

The exception might be the one rap song, "Intro." It's not that he does a bad job playing classic rock. "Feel Like Makin' Love" is done well as far as that goes. It's uncommon for an artist to do a cover better than the original, and Kid Rock might claim that he has with this tune.

MIM has explained that one might even "like" this music while knowing rationally that there is something wrong with it, maybe even profoundly wrong and evil. Being a Maoist means being a revolutionary scientist and that means having the ability to question everything that we like.

It's irritating how every musician has to tell fans of his or her originality and synthesis of previous genres. We Maoists consider this a petty-bourgeois thing—the belief in individuals above it all. Pop musicians tend to buy petty-bourgeois politics with a vengeance. The best part is that this petty-bourgeois attitude comes into shape in antagonism toward the corporations that sell their music. Kid Rock has gone so far as to produce his own music before turning it over to Atlantic. The point is that these artists know very well that they are under pressure from monopoly capitalist corporations.

The down side of this corporations versus artists conflict is that it carries over into everything else, as when Kid Rock sings his own private virtues. If it is artist versus the corporation, then it pays to name brand one's self and that's what Kid Rock does. Such individualism is corrosive to all class, national and gender struggle in which the oppressed cannot win one-on-one fights but must find a path of unity that leads out of group oppression.

Today Kid Rock might be better known for his one-time relationship with supermodel Pam Anderson. Like most popular rock musicians, Kid Rock builds an image of conquering wimmin. The song "Rock n' Roll" is about sex with groupies and a rough attitude. However, even apart from the self-hyping attitude, MIM would have a beef with Kid Rock because of his identity politics. In "Hillbilly Stomp" and "Son of Detroit," Kid Rock proudly



proclaims he is a long-haired redneck.

Kid Rock probably has good intentions with this bit about Detroit and being a redneck. Detroit and rap have an image of being all-Black. Kid Rock is obviously making some peace his way. On the other hand, many whites who accept that whites have oppressed react in a narrow way. They stop claiming to be better than everyone else or having a right to own slaves, but they build individual identities of which to be proud.

For MIM, there is no reason to be proud of being a redneck yet (and the long-haired bit is irrelevant though some people who have problems with it are intolerant of the wrong things in general as Kid Rock would probably agree). White trash are reacting to what other people with other identities are doing when what needs to be done is for white people to transform themselves, not stand in pride in their existing identities or find the details that they see oppressed groups searching for in their own history.

The redneck says he or she is not responsible for his ancestors' being slaveowners or lynch-mob members. Many will go so far as to say the United States should not try to be the global cop as in Iraq right now. Yet if the redneck is not responsible for the invasion of Iraq, then no one is. It was not just a handful of corporate bankers going in there Rambo-style guns ablazin' and though national minorities are disproportionately in the military services, 68% of Blacks opposed the war before it started while only 20% of whites did. This means that 2% of rednecks opposed the war once we exclude the Northern and West Coast urban professional whites. The whole world is looking to the Amerikkkan redneck and wondering when s/he expects to get along with the rest of world. The redneck population of the world is the 10% facing off against the 90%. It stands to reason that the 10% are going to be at war with the 90% as in Iraq and that the sooner and more thoroughly the rednecks go through self-transformation, the sooner the peace can come.

ITAL Reviews of other "pop" music at: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/music/pop/index.html>. END

Two sides to Tupac

"Resurrection"
Tupac Shakur
www.2Paclegacy.com
2003

This is the recent Tupac Shakur album to buy. Although he died in 1996, 2Pac continues to have albums come out and blow away most of the competition.

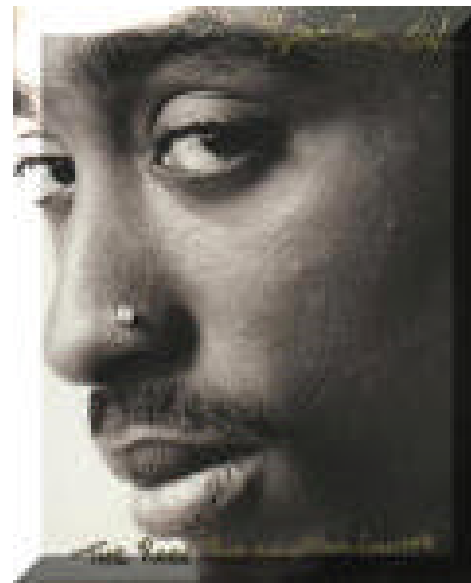
As everyone has pointed out, the Tupac story seems to center on a thug vs. angel dynamic. This album's executive producer is Tupac Shakur's mother Afeni Shakur. It's not surprising that this album comes out better than some of the others that might be more motivated by money.

In this album and "Nu-Mixx Klazzics," Tupac Shakur has numerous songs about his impending death. He was not "paranoid" despite idiots like the Amazon reviewer who said he had a "persecution complex." It just goes to show how stupid people can be that even after 2Pac saw friends shot, got shot once and survived and after being shot dead, people say 2Pac had a persecution complex and not real persecution. Tupac Shakur had a real problem. Middle-class people should not try to lump in everyone else with their own latest trip to the psychiatrist or pop-psych reading.

As others have pointed out, the one down side to this album is the collaboration with 50 Cent who had a cameo with 2pac back in the day. Today 50 Cent is the big deal popularity-wise. However, as others have also pointed out, this will also feed 2Pac's ongoing fame. Eminem also produced two of the tracks and 2Pac borrowed some Phil Collins with permission.

There are some negative aspects of the album. "I ain't got time for bitches" is a repeated lyric in "Bury Me a G." The context is better for the use of the word "ho," because he says he has to look out for his "riches." A repeated theme is that 2Pac does not trust anyone except his family. He has girlfriends and other "friends" he does not trust and he named various individuals as police agents. Tupac lived on the edge between revolution and lumpen gangster life. His lyrics show that he knew that. One thing we like about 2Pac is that in some circumstances he was exceptionally anti-Liberal. He identifies with the man who has to stand guard at the door with an AK-47 (a common image of Malcolm X). At the same time, we don't always see the best goals from Tupac Shakur. Like subsequent rap, he is talking about making a lot of money while also completely rebelling against the government. The problem is that rappers like 50 Cent took only the bourgeois part of 2Pac's lumpen attitude—not the politics. One has to wonder whether the mafia's distrust of the government is the model and not the Black Panthers. 2Pac answers that with the song "Panther Power" in this album.

We are not the only reviewer confused by the "Bury Me a G" song. It says that he was a thug as a younger teenage man and tells his mother to bury him a "G."



One unfortunate thing is that "G-Man" is an FBI man, but it appears from a 1996 interview that 2Pac uses "G" for gangster.(1) In the same interview he says he's looking for the perfect womyn, which might say he does not think all wimmin are bitches.

At the same time, what 2Pac does is introduce theory into common language. For him a "thug life" is an acronym for the "the hate you gave little infants fucks up everybody." There's also an acronym for "niggaz."

"I believe that, I've always discussed this. I feel like I'm one of them old-fashioned type of guys, where as soon as I find a women that doesn't mind the fact that I want to be in charge and that I believe that just like with the yin and yang there's a masculine and feminine. I believe in that in a relationship. I believe that most of our problems as black people and as period, as people in general, is that we've forgotten our roles. The men have forgotten their roles as men, therefore, the women have forgotten their roles. And that's where we get all this duplicity in lovemaking and duplicity in sexuality is because we've forgotten our roles and we're willing to settle for less. Not that they're not legitimate with people who really do like this style, but a lot of it right now is just, 'Niggas ain't shit, so I want some pussy,' you know what I mean?"(2)

MIM does not agree with that, because the root problem is the imprisonment rate and the early death of Black men relative to wimmin and white men. However, the quote shows that 2Pac does not intend to be calling all wimmin bitches.

More hip-hop reviews at <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/music/hiphop/index.html>.

Notes:

1. <http://www.hitemup.com/tupac/interviews.html>

2. http://v037182.km0805.kasserver.com/His%20Life/Interviews/interview%20tupac_on_women.htm; also, http://tupac_a_shakur.tripod.com/id288.htm

Join the fight against the injustice system

While we fight to end the criminal injustice system MIM engages in reformist battles to improve the lives of prisoners. Below are some of the campaigns we are currently waging, and ways people behind the bars and on the outside can get involved. More info can be found on our prison web site: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons>

Stop Censorship in Prison: Prisons frequently censor books, newspapers and magazines coming from MIM's books for prisoners program. We need help from lawyers, paralegals and jailhouse lawyers to fight this censorship.

Books for Prisoners: This program focuses on political education of prisoners. Send donations of books and money for our Books for Prisoners program.

End the Three Strikes laws: This campaign is actively fighting the repressive California laws, but similar laws exist in other states. Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Send articles and information on three strike laws.

Shut Down the Control Units: Across the country there are a growing number of prison control units. These are permanently designated prisons or cells in prisons that lock prisoners up in solitary or small group confinement for 22 or more hours a day with no congregate dining, exercise or other services, and virtually no programs for prisoners. Prisoners are placed in control units for extended periods of time. These units cause both mental and physical problems for prisoners.

Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Get your organization to sign the statement demanding control units be shut down. Send us information about where there are control units in your state. Include the names of the prisons as well as the number of control unit beds/cells in each prison if that is known. Send us anti-control unit artwork.

MIM's Re-Lease on Life Program: This program provides support for our comrades who have been recently released from the prison system, to help them meet their basic needs and also continue with their revolutionary organizing on the outside. We need funds, housing, and job resources. We also need prisoner's input on the following survey questions:

1. What are the biggest challenges you face being released from prison?
2. How can these problems be addressed?
3. What are the important elements of a successful release program?

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

Pennsylvania continues censorship

Recently I was sent to another slave plantation / concentration camp which happens to be on the complete opposite side of the state. This plantation is into the exact same type of censorship as the last one I was in. [...]

After an initial complaint was made about the censorship in [my former prison], the prisoncrats began to relent a little, you know, spoon-feeding me the Notes, so as not to draw my full wrath. But when I contacted my Sister- Queen and told her of the situation, the issue of censorship—due to the fact that it started to affect other mail that was sent to me also not to mention outgoing mail as well—she blew a fuse in her mental brain computer.

The prisoncrats' way of responding to this situation was to lie to her and put me under close observation. If you don't know what that means I'll put it in simple terms... they temporarily locked me down, then transferred me. [...]

[The prisoncrats] fear the mental revolution that MIM and the Notes can initiate.

A luta continua...

—A Pennsylvania prisoner

Voting won't end the injustice system

I would like my fellow comrades to know how thousands of inmates in the Pennsylvania State prison system were politically manipulated and deceived by a man named Ernie Preate. Ernie Preate is a former Attorney General of Pennsylvania. He lost his job and was sentenced to a minor prison term because he was caught stealing money. Now Mr. Preate is a so-called left-wing activist for prisoners rights. He came to this prison and many other state prisons in Pennsylvania and made speeches. At this time, Ed Rendell was running for governor. Ernie Preate informed us that if Ed Rendell got into office, he would give us "good time / earned time."

Pennsylvania gives out very harsh prison sentences. And the "good time / earned time" package that the reactionary scum Ernie Preate was talking about would have dramatically reduced the sentences of a lot of state prisoners. So naturally, the inmates wanted Ed Rendell to become governor. I personally know many inmates who got their family members on the outside to vote for Ed Rendell. I however did not; neither I nor my family members believe in voting. I just wanted to shed light on how these scumbags will manipulate prisoners and attempt to suck votes out of their family members.

Me and my friends stay informed on political and judicial matters taking place in this state, and we have not heard any concrete proof that such a bill (a "good time / earned time" bill) is even being considered.

[MIM searched for "Ed Rendell" and "Department of Corrections" on the internet and found no sites referring to "earned time" reforms. However, we did learn that Ed Rendell

kept the veteran Secretary of Corrections from the previous governor, Jeffrey Beard. Governor Rendell also opposes any moratorium on the death penalty, claiming the death penalty as implemented is fair. This should not be too surprising, as Rendell sent 24 people to death row while he was District Attorney in Philadelphia. 21 of the 24 were black (<http://citypaper.net/articles/2003-05-01/cb.shtml>.)

It is evident to me that we were lied to. When are we gonna stand up and stop going for this? We should refuse to attend any speeches given by politicians.

—A Pennsylvania prisoner, October 2003

Fight the system, not each other

I encourage all prisoners to stop fighting amongst each other. We know who our real enemies are, don't we?

If your food is cold—put a grievance in. If a pig even looks at you wrong— put a grievance in. Put a grievance in for anything. Make them do paperwork, let them know we are against everything they stand for.

In most cases, there is only a small band of inmates who are truly revolutionary, who will step up to the plate and attempt to get things done for all of our fellow prisoners. I know first hand how hard it is to organize and pass out information behind these walls, but I also know that it is possible.

Let people that you know and trust read your MIM Notes, give them a different perspective to view our situation from.

Keep the revolution alive, maintain your composure and hold your heads up comrades!

—A Pennsylvania prisoner, October 2003

Three-Strikes law is a sham

I am writing in the hope that the information I am providing you with will help you fight against the 3 Strikes Law. And that at the same time we can bring to the Public's attention that the Department of Parole and Community Services, a Division of the California Department of Corrections, has for years been failing to provide parolees with the programs that are necessary to assist them in their transition between imprisonment and discharge, thereby ensuring a continually growing prison population.

The Three-Strikes Law is a sham, it is one of the biggest frauds that has ever been committed in the State of California, if not the entire United States. The reason I say this is very simple, the entire passing of the Three-Strikes Law hinges on one well-publicized case in which the public wanted to know how a criminal with such an extensive criminal history had been released from prison so soon. And that is where the deception occurred as the District Attorneys of California, the parole officers, the Director of Corrections, the CCPOA, and the Governor all pointed to the Laws and said they were not tough enough. But never once did

anyone bring up the fact that the District Attorneys were not following the laws when they were giving plea-bargains to criminals with long criminal histories or when they were giving plea bargains to people charged with serious, or violent felonies. And all this can easily be proven by checking strikers prior case files, and transcripts, of the proceedings. To see just how often District Attorney did adhere to the laws of California, during their prosecution of the above named cases. (The Penal Codes they violated are Penal Code 667, 667.75, 1192.7, subd (a).

But not only were the district Attorneys negligent in their handling of the above named cases, but so was and still is the Department of Parole and Community Services, a Division of the California Department of Corrections when they failed to place parolees in educational, vocational, family, and personal counseling necessary to assist parolees in the transition between imprisonment and discharge these programs are to be provided by the State of California and the Counties of the State of California (Penal code 3000, subd. (a)(1), 3074.)

The CDC created the recidivism problem

MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

MIM seeks to build public opinion against Amerika's criminal injustice system, and to eventually replace the bourgeois injustice system with proletarian justice. The bourgeois injustice system imprisons and executes a disproportionately large and growing number of oppressed people while letting the biggest mass murderers — the imperialists and their lackeys — roam free. Imperialism is not opposed to murder or theft, it only insists that these crimes be committed in the interests of the bourgeoisie.

"All U.S. citizens are criminals—accomplices and accessories to the crimes of U.S. oppression globally until the day U.S. imperialism is overcome. All U.S. citizens should start from the point of view that they are reforming criminals."

MIM does not advocate that all prisoners go free today; we have a more effective program for fighting crime as was demonstrated in China prior to the restoration of capitalism there in 1976. We say that all prisoners are political prisoners because under the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, all imprisonment is substantively political. It is our responsibility to exert revolutionary leadership and conduct political agitation and organization among prisoners — whose material conditions make them an overwhelmingly revolutionary group. Some prisoners should and will work on self-criticism under a future dictatorship of the proletariat in those cases in which prisoners really did do something wrong by proletarian standards.

and is making the problem worse by its failure to follow law. Instead of helping parolees reintegrate, they just look for any excuse to revoke parole.

The California Department of Corrections fails to follow California laws that mandate they will provide programs to parolees upon their release (see Penal Codes 3000, subd. (a)(1), 3068, 3070, 3074.) The Department of Corrections does make it almost impossible for a parolee to find. (I know, I had to use a CDC 602 to learn anything of importance. And the Parole Office didn't even answer my letters.) So it is very hard to learn what help is to actually provided. The Pre-release Class and Education Department do what they can, but their information is out of date, or limited so that most parolees do not know about these programs, or do not receive them.

Nor do they provide parolees with a list of these specific programs to parolees for their counties, or of counties they can be transferred to, so that they can receive these programs and other programs and resources provided specifically to parolees.

Parolees often abscond just to get out of the state, because they know that they have very little, if no chance of living free in California. Absconders can find employment, avoid harassment, and remain free from the threat of petty parole revocation s if they are outside of the State of California.

The parole Hearings Division has for many years simply been revoking the Parole of California Parolees who have absconded from parole in California to other states without ever considering that they have two other options. In CCR Title 15, Div. 3, Article 16, sec 3901.31.2, subd (c) Absconde Locate, (2) Parole Hearings Division Action, (B) Located Out of California, (1) which clearly states, "Shall determine whether the parolee should be discharged, referred for supervision in the other jurisdiction or scheduled for revocation proceedings as provided in this subsection." Thereby creating a larger prison population then it would otherwise have. Under Penal Code 3074 "The Legislature finds and declares that the period immediately following incarceration is critical to successful reintegration of the offender into society and to positive citizenship."

If an ex-offender has reintegrated into society and obtained positive citizenship in another jurisdiction, then it is a travesty of justice to return that parolee to California. But it does not stop there; the California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Article 15, section 3901.29.5 State and National Warrant Systems (b) National Warrant System (1) Criteria for Entering Warrant in the National System.

(G) Is likely to have absconded to another state

(H) Might be accepted for supervision in another state

(I) The parole hearings division shall consider any other relevant information

including the expense of returning a parolee to California

And (b)(4) Purging Warrants. "If the warrant has not been executed eighteen months after entering it in the NCIC, the parole hearings division shall review the case." And in most cases remove the warrant.

Parolees who have absconded to another state, and have reintegrated into society, and have positive citizenship should be allowed to remain in that State without having the constant threat of parole revocation hanging over their head.

— a California prisoner, September 2003

Join the Three Strike Backlash Campaign

The National Plantation Psychosis Awareness Committee (NPPAC) invites all prisoners throughout California to join us in this progressive statewide 3-strike Backlash Campaign which calls upon each and every one of you to strategically, legally, and collectively resist CDCs illegal practice of FORCED double celling. The only thing that makes California's race/class based 3-strike lynch clause and no parole policy for 7 to lifers physically and economically possible is our own willingness to accept a cellmate and/or be double celled.

NPPAC contends that when CDC and its states Governor wake up one morning to discover its prison yards, dayrooms, classrooms, etc. bursting at its seams with illegal tents, sleeping bags and cots, and in an immediate need for 50,000 (plus) unavailable cells as a direct result of us simply but strategically, collectively and legally resisting CDC's arbitrary practice of FORCED double celling, then and only then will we have established an effective platform capable of politically and economically challenging and abolishing this draconian 3-strike lynch clause and no parole policy for seven to lifers.

This 3-strike backlash campaign strategy effectively supercedes all forms of prison resistance, including hunger strikes, work strikes, riots, etc. and will legally, strategically, and completely shut down CDC indefinitely and force the states hand to abolish its draconian laws and policies that deliberately and systematically target people of color in general and Black males in particular.

It is therefore incumbent upon all groups and/or individuals who are propagating and actively mobilizing, organizing and participating in this statewide 3-strike Backlash Campaign in your respective prisons, yards and/or buildings to submit articles of notification and updates in that we may continue to monitor our growth throughout the state and better propagate and facilitate our agenda to set the captives free.

We of the National Plantation Psychosis Awareness Committee (NPPAC) would also like to share this small but significant victory and development with you. On July 31, 2003, CDC found the Minister of Defense (MOD) for NPPAC not guilty of all charges of "Inciting to Disrupt the normal operations of CDC."

These charges stemmed from our on-going state-wide and progressive 3-strike Backlash Campaign to resist CDC's illegal practice of forced double celling, after it was discovered that we were soliciting the main stream media to publicize this campaign/demonstration. (See MIM Notes, No 271, ULK article entitled "Fighting the 3-strike law in California.")

Nonetheless, all charges were dismissed against the MOD on the grounds that our 3-strike backlash campaign is functioning within the guidelines of NPPAC's first amendment right to freedom of speech under the United States constitution.

NPPAC has solicited Attorney Catherine Campbell, who is the Johnny Cocran for CDC PPOWs to represent us on a class action suit challenging CDCs illegal practice of forced double celling. We realize that the courts can not legislate manhood or courage into the PPOWs, however if we can get the courts to spell out to them in explicit language that CDCs practice of forced double celling is illegal then these PPOWs will be more readily inclined to resist CDCs illegal practices and support this statewide 3-strike backlash Campaign of resistance.

Thus it is incumbent upon every PPOW who has ever received a CDC 115 (RVR) for refusing a cellmate, or for a mutual combat or assault on a cellmate to immediately send a final copy of these CDC 115s to:

Attorney Catherine Campbell

PO Box 4470

Fresno, CA 93744

In re: Imara Rafiki, et. al., v. CDC Director

—a California prisoner, October 2003

Censorship in Vacaville California

I am writing to let you know that I received your mailing today, unopened and unsearched. Looks like your [censorship protest] letter did the trick. Now that it has been demonstrated that my mail is indeed being censored, I cannot help but wonder what else has been sent to me and refused by the institution's mailroom. I receive several newsletters which tend to arrive somewhat less than regularly... I have also been waiting for many months to hear from the publishers of material which could arguably be described as subversive; by extension I must now assume that there are other cases of this prison's arbitrary censorship policies depriving me of literature which I legally have the right to receive.

I was not notified of the refusal of your earlier mailing to me so I can expect that this was not the first instance [of censorship.] I am very pleased that your tenacity and sense of justice enabled me to become apprised of the mailroom situation here at this facility. I am willing to fight my own legal battles but I need a place to start; I can't very well combat censorship unless and until I can discern what is being censored from what has merely failed to arrive for other reasons. Hopefully, working together, we can effect a change in the repressive conditions extant at this facility.

—a California prisoner, Vacaville, November 2003

MIM adds: This prisoner is referring to the protest letter we sent to the mailroom and warden of California Medical Facility in Vacaville after the Prison returned the standard introductory form letter we sent to this prisoner, stamped "refused/unapproved mail." As a part of our Prisoners Legal Clinic we provide our comrades behind bars with the tools to fight censorship and other repression in the legal system. This prisoner was sent our guide to fighting censorship in prison. A jailhouse lawyer in California recently put together a guide to fighting censorship in California prisons which we will be distributing in that state.

These battles can be won, but they require lots of hard work from behind the bars filing out all the needed paperwork and following the administrative and legal steps. At the same time we need people on the outside to write letters of protest and call the prison to put pressure on them to stop the censorship. We still have not received a response from the warden so we can not assume the censorship has ended. Protest letters can be sent to:

Warden Teresa A. Schwartz

PO Box 2000

Vacaville, CA 95696

Mail problems at Pelican Bay, CA

We are still experiencing major delays with our mail, and anything coming from the streets. As of right now we are in the process of trying to rectify the problem through the appeal process. However, as you may know, this whole appeal process is a joke. They claim to be understaffed in the mail department due to the budget crisis. But we know for a fact that Gray Davis restructured a new contract for CDC in order to give everyone a pay raise. One of the comrades here has already exhausted this bogus appeal process. He has already filed a write of habeus corpus with the court. We are supposed to get a response by November 10, 2003.

By the way, we were recently granted a decision in our favor by the courts! We are no longer required to have an "Address Label Form" attached to our book orders. To most this may seem a bit insignificant. Because they used that "Address Label Form" to discourage us from trying to order books. In order to keep us uneducated and blind to all the injustice.

—a California prisoner, Pelican Bay, November 2003

Facts on US imprisonment

The facts about imprisonment in the United States are that the United States has been the world's leading prison-state per capita for the last 25 years, with a brief exception during Boris Yeltsin's declaration of a state of emergency.(1)

That means that while Reagan was talking about a Soviet "evil empire" he was the head of a state that imprisoned more people per capita. In supposedly "hard-line" Bulgaria of the Soviet bloc of the 1980s, the imprisonment rate was less than half that of the United States.(2,3)

To find a comparison with U.S. imprisonment of Black people, there is no statistic in any country that compares including apartheid South Africa of the era before Mandela was president. The last situation remotely comparable to the situation today was under Stalin during war time. The majority of prisoners are non-violent offenders(4) and the U.S. Government now holds about a half million more prisoners than China; even though China is four times our population.(5)

The rednecks tell MIM that we live in a "free country." They live in an Orwellian 1984 situation where freedom is imprisonment.

Notes: 1. Marc Mauer, "Americans Behind Bars: The International Use of Incarceration 1993," The Prison Sentencing Project, 918 F. St. NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20004 (202) 628-0871 Reference: SRI: R8965-2, 1994

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

3. United Nations Development Programme, "Human Development Report 1994,:" Oxford University Press, p. 186.

4. Figure of 51.2 percent for state prisoners there for non-violent offenses. Abstract of the United States 1993, p. 211.

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.





El Tío Sam no siempre sabe

El lío en torno a las armas de destrucción masiva en Irak: una revelación para luchadores que llevan las de perder.

Traducido por Células de Estudio para la Liberación de Aztlán y América Latina.

A menudo oímos la aserción que la lucha política es inútil porque cada año el Tío Sam gasta miles de millones de dólares con el fin de espiar a todo el mundo a través de satélites y submarinos. Los medios de comunicación árabes dijeron que el Tío Sam sabía de qué color era la ropa interior de Saddam Hussein. Hace poco el sitio de Internet "marxists.org" (1) dijo que era posible identificar cada computadora por medio de equipo colocado en servidores remotos. Semejantes argumentos apuntan a la idea de que cualquier tipo de lucha contra el Tío Sam es futil y que, por lo tanto, hay que unírnos a la lucha propagada por el Tío Sam y respetar sus reglas del juego; sin embargo, el lío en torno a las armas de destrucción masiva (ADM) revela el fallo de asumir una actitud liberal hacia el tema de la lucha y seguridad.

Diez meses antes del discurso equivocado sobre el Estado de la Unión en el que George Bush citaba pruebas

falsas sobre la supuesta venta de uranio por parte de Níger a Irak, la CIA le dijo a Bush que dicha información era falsa. Aparte de la CIA, un embajador también informó a la administración Bush que esta información no era cierta. Esto significa que hasta la posesión de información correcta no garantiza el uso de la misma. (2) La administración Bush ha emitido un sinfín de otras declaraciones falsas sobre la naturaleza y la justificación de la guerra contra Irak. (3) Basándose en fuentes de información estadounidenses, Tony Blair declaró que Saddam Hussein estaba listo para utilizar ADM 45 minutos después de un aviso-algo que jamás sucedió. (4)

Los estudiantes probélicos y los que asumieron una postura neutral desconocían el hecho de que el archivo de inteligencia compuesto y utilizado por el gobierno británico con el fin de justificar la guerra contra Irak, provenía en gran parte de un trabajo no citado de un estudiante estadounidense disponible para el público. (5) En nuestro periódico MIM Notes 274, criticamos a un estudiante quien asumió la típica postura monárquica que justifica la apatía y la falta de lucha contra la guerra. Según el estudiante, "Basamos nuestras opiniones sobre la



política externa e interna en la información que recibimos de coberturas parciales de medios de comunicación, opiniones de nuestros amigos y preguntas de nuestros profesores. Bush basa sus opiniones en datos secretos de inteligencia obtenidos a través de múltiples fuentes, estimaciones nacionales de altos funcionarios de servicios de inteligencia y consejos de expertos. Si ni siquiera él tiene la información completa, nuestro entendimiento de la situación equivale a una pieza insignificante del rompecabezas". Resulta que a alguien le entraron ganas de tomarle el pelo a la administración Bush mediante una falsificación de documentos sobre los programas de armas nucleares de Irak; éstos fueron utilizados por Bush con el fin de promover su plan bélico contra Irak diseñado antes del año 2000. Resulta, por lo tanto, que la posesión de inteligencia secreta fue un impedimento más que una ventaja. La mera posesión de la información "completa" no garantiza el uso correcto de la misma.

Los luchadores por la justicia que llevan las de perder deberían tener en cuenta que un acceso a todas las fuentes de información no garantiza el uso de las mismas por parte de los que los que están en el poder. De hecho, el capitalismo corrompe toda la producción del conocimiento, desde el conocimiento de medicinas cuyas ventas se someten a fines lucrativos hasta los análisis de la eficacia de sistemas de armas adquiridas por el Pentágono. Como ya hemos mencionado en la sección sobre la seguridad en nuestra página web: "El

imperialismo estadounidense de ninguna manera se puede permitir el lujo de filtrar la información correcta y separarla de la falsa." En este sentido, el MIM ha señalado que la acumulación de información proveniente de una fuente no garantiza que el propósito de dicha fuente sea el de desviar información.

Los imperialistas buscan un conocimiento que les otorgue ganancias individuales. Como consecuencia, los imperialistas jamás podrán alcanzar la capacidad que tiene el proletariado para encontrar la verdad. Aunque los gastos monetarios de los imperialistas en servicios de inteligencia sobrepasen los del proletariado, los imperialistas son incapaces de usar la información obtenida, y si la llegan a usar, entran en conflicto con otros imperialistas cuyos intereses de propiedad y agendas políticas son distintos. Por esta razón, cualquier tipo de lucha que dificulte el espionaje de los oprimidos y explotados por parte de los imperialistas es siempre justificado. Como ya hemos mencionado en nuestra reseña del sitio marxists.org, "Hay múltiples razones para no someterse: 1) Existe la posibilidad de aumentar el costo del enemigo ya que cualquier forma de espionaje correcto cuesta. 2) Una vez que se obtenga información, el enemigo tiene que separar la información correcta de la falsa. 3) Puede que el enemigo no haga nada. "

Fuentes consultadas:

1. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/links/marxistsorg.html>
2. http://abcnews.go.com/sections/wnt/World/iraq030616_uranium.html; también véase <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/iraq/story/0,12956,972651,00.html>
3. Véase por ejemplo <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A43615-2003Jun11.html>
4. Para leer el testimonio de un exoficial de la CIA véase: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,89923,00.html>; véase también <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,89649,00.html>
5. <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/iraq/story/0,12956,970035,00.html>

¿Que es el MIM?

El Movimiento Internacionalista Maoísta (MIM) es un partido revolucionario comunista que ejerce el Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoísmo. El MIM es una organización internacionalista que trabaja desde el punto de vista del proletariado del Tercer Mundo; es por esto que sus miembros no son americanos sino ciudadanos del mundo.

El MIM lucha para acabar con la opresión de todos los grupos sobre cualquier otro, naciones por naciones, clases por clases, y géneros por géneros. La revolución es una realidad para los Estados Unidos mientras su ejército continúa extendiéndose en su esfuerzo por asegurar la hegemonía mundial.

El MIM difiere de otros partidos en tres puntos básicos: (1) El MIM sostiene que después que el proletariado conquiste el poder estatal, existiera aún el potencial para una restauración de tipo capitalista, bajo la dirección de una burguesía nueva dentro del mismo partido comunista. En el caso de la Unión Soviética, la burguesía se apoderó del gobierno después de la muerte de Stalin, en 1953; y en China después de la muerte de Mao y del derrocamiento de la llamada "banda de los cuatro" en 1976. (2) El MIM sostiene que la Revolución Cultural en China es la fase ms avanzada a la que llegó el comunismo en la historia. (3) El MIM afirma que la clase trabajadora blanca de los EE.UU. es primordialmente, una élite trabajadora no revolucionaria en el presente. Es por esto que no es el principal vehículo para avanzar el Maoísmo en este país.

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