Toilers suffer in brewing India-Pakistan war

by MCS
May 25, 2002

In the week from May 17th to May 24th, Pakistan and India had twice as many mortar duels as in all of 2001. Both sides used heavy artillery in the Kashmir region. The two sides exchanged fire periodically with regard to disputed territory.(1)

Deaths resulting included villagers and troops. China reported 10 dead Pakistanis who were apparently villagers and 70 to 100 Pakistani troop deaths total in one week.(2)

Nuclear threat The English Independent wrote a nice summation of the situation: “The world quakes at what will happen if the Pakistani leader, General Pervez Musharraf, or Mr. Vajpayee [the Indian Prime Minister] press the nuclear button. Estimates of India’s and Pakistan’s nuclear strengths vary wildly, but at the low end of the scale Pakistan is estimated to have at least 40 nuclear bombs compared with India’s 60—quite sufficient for the task.

“Both nations also have the missiles needed to deliver them, so that in theory all Pakistan’s cities and many of India’s are within range. A missile from Rawalpindi could deliver its nuclear payload to Delhi within three minutes, and vice versa.”

But India and Pakistan are also braced to fight a very different kind of war—a war such as Europe has not seen for more than 55 years. “Three quarters of a million Indian troops are strung out along India’s 2000-mile border with Pakistan, from the torrid salt marshes of Gujarat to the frozen peaks of Siachen Glacier in the High Himalayas. They are confronted by a quarter of a million Pakistanis.”(3)

In early April the president of Pakistan made of point of saying that it is prepared...
**Letters**

Prisoner contributes to MIM

Revolutionary greetings,

Enclosed with this letter I’ve sent a money order for $25. I want to contribute to help MIM in the agitation and education of the masses politically. Like I’ve said, of all the prisons papers I’ve read, especially of Marxist ideology, MIM stands above the rest in its analysis and solutions to the problems of the oppressed internationally. So good I had to be leery and wonder was this some oppressed internationally. So good I had papers; distributors get them onto the market.

... In the meantime I’ll bite my time in study so MIM keep the revolutionary spirit and movement alive.

In struggle,
A Texas Prisoner, May 2002

MIM replies: The prisoner also included a list of study materials he needs to move forward. We print this letter as an example, especially to those on the outside, who are reading MIM Notes but not contributing, or not contributing as much as they can. If this prisoner can cough up $25, who can you do? Many people who have some disagreements with MIM hold out on supporting the party while they hem and haw. This prisoner steps forward to support and work with MIM, even while he struggles over issues that may still divide us. That is the dialectical materialist approach to working with a revolutionary organization. Find what’s best, and get active while struggling over other issues, and either changing your mind or improving the party in the process. Follow this prisoner’s example, and get moving!

**MIM Notes**

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement

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**MIM**

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A call for MIM Notes sponsors and distributors!

MIM is looking for distributors and sponsors to step forward. Sponsors pay for papers; distributors get them onto the streets and officers do both distribution and financial support:

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If you know if you have some good places distribute, we suggest starting at 200 and working your way up. If you are not willing to distribute, just send money. If you are not willing to pay, then request papers after somehow proving to the party that you are serious (words won’t count). You will who cough up/raise the money to distribute 900 papers each issue and then do the distribution -- you are what drives this party forward.

Make anonymous money orders payable to “MIM.” Send to MIM, attn: Camb. branch, PO Box 400559, Cambridge, MA 02140. Or write mim3@mim.org.

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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 local 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 classes and nations. MIM knows this is only possible 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 a capitalist restoration under the leadership of the communist party itself. In the case of the USSR, the bourgeois 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 human history. (3) As Marx, Engels and Lenin formulated and MIM has reiterated throughout 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 Marxism 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.”

A call for MIM Notes sponsors and distributors!

MIM Notes has seen a big spike in circulation since the “war on terrorism” began. It’s not surprising: MIM Notes is a free and independent newspaper. Yes, there are imperialists and now knee-jerk patriots who believe everything Bush says and pass by a chance to read MIM Notes. There are other patriots and internationalists who realize that at this time papers like MIM Notes can undo the huge spectacle that Uncle Sam is creating for its own benefit.

Sure, you have seen MIM Notes around, but MIM Notes needs people to do two simple things: 1) Pay for it (postage and printing), 2) Distribute it!

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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

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UNITED FRONT

Get the new issue of MIM Theory, #14, and read the latest theory on building the movement to overthrow imperialism once and for all, in 174 pages. Articles include MIM congress resolutions, history from the Spanish Civil War to Puerto Rico, Kenya, and Stalin -- plus international documents, reviews, and much more. Send $7.50 to the address on page 2.
won’t—the war against terrorism can never be won. The best the nation can achieve is a long succession of stalemates. There can be no checkmate against hydra-headed foes.

“Until now, insurers and reinsurers have blithely assumed the financial consequences from the inculcable risks I have described.

“Under a ‘close-to-worst-case’ scenario, which could conceivably involve $1 trillion of damage, the insurance industry would be destroyed unless it manages in some manner to dramatically limit its assumption of terrorism risks. Only the U.S. Government has the resources to absorb such a blow. If it is unwilling to do so on a prospective basis, the general citizenry must bear its own costs and count on the Government to come to its rescue after a disaster occurs.

“Would you might ask, didn’t I recognize the above facts before September 11th? The answer, sadly, is that I did—but I didn’t convert thought into action. I violated the Noah rule: Predicting rain doesn’t count; building ark does. I consequently let Berkshire operate with a dangerous level of risk—at General Re in particular. I’m sorry to say that much risk for which we haven’t been compensated remains on our books, but it is running off by the day.

“At Berkshire, it should be noted, we have for some years been willing to assume more risk than any other insurer has knowingly taken on. That’s still the case. We are perfectly willing to lose $2 billion to $2.5 billion in a single event (as we did on September 11th) if we have been paid properly for assuming the risk that caused the loss (which on that occasion we weren’t).”

“Indeed, we have a major competitive advantage because of our tolerance for huge losses.”(2)

Buffet goes on to add that his company benefits those investors who are most “liquid” and able to buy shares of ruined companies on the stock market. Hence, there are economic reasons for certain sectors of the capitalist class to want to speak of the terrorism threat.

Politically, realism on the ugliness of capitalism means that those in favor of a reduced government role such as many American Republicans and libertarians will seek to encourage the public to bear the price of higher insurance premiums to pay for future nuclear catastrophes. That may be the reason we have seen a succession of Bush administration officials admit that there is no stopping terrorists completely, including in nuclear attacks.

In all fairness, MIM has to give limited credit to Buffet, nut-case reactionary “Secretary of Defense” Donald Rumsfeld, Vice-President Cheney and FBI Director Robert S. Mueller for succeeding in at least part of their “intelligence” capacities—and responsibly informing the public of the risks it now faces. These rulers will draw their own conclusions, but the rest of the world is free to draw proletarian conclusions.

On May 20th, Mueller said that suicide bombings on U.S. soil were “inevitable.”(3) On May 21st, Rumsfeld delivered the final blow in a long series of blows regarding the “war on terrorism” by telling the public: “Let there be no doubt, it is only a matter of time before terrorist states armed with weapons of mass destruction develop the capability to deliver those weapons to U.S. cities, giving them the ability to try to hold America hostage to nuclear blackmail.”(3) While Buffet suggested raising insurance premiums and denying coverage to those weapons, Rumsfeld’s suggestion was to build better defenses against nuclear attack.

According to former “Defense Secretary” and current Vice-President Dick Cheney, the ability of al Qaeda leaders to keep their own followers in the dark about operations as they proceed is a stunning reason why relying on al Qaeda and other “terrorists” won’t work completely. Cheney concluded it was “almost certain” that the “terrorists” would succeed in striking the United States again.(4)

Buffet, Mueller, Cheney, Rumsfeld — each in his own way gave the public something to chew on, a report on the “struggle” against “terrorists.” That is, a minimum level of acting responsibly that MIM credits them for. Although nuclear weapons are not equally distributed, in this world, the struggles of the oppressed have become part of the imperialists’ calculations.

Hence from these rich men and rulers we have heard that it is impossible to completely stop “terrorism” and the spread of nuclear weapons. We agree with them on the nature of the risk even to U.S. citizens. It took them too long to say what MIM has been saying, but they have now admitted important facts. Now it is a question of solutions. In actuality, while succeeding rather late in their intelligence capacities, each of these people lacks the political courage and know-how to change the situation. Their answers range from increasing budgets for spying and chasing terrorists, to building “Star Wars” defense systems, to increasing insurance premiums to admitting that since Israel does it, Amerikkkans can live through suicide bombings too. Vaguely, the rulers seem to realize that while they do more of the same without a vision of a new future, “the terrorists” also will do more of the same, especially now that September 11th proved what was possible.

None of these two have the political courage to admit that a system falling apart in so many ways and needing patching by their own logic in so many areas has to be replaced by a system built in which there is no such risk of aggressive motivation by anyone. They think we can afford to live under the same economic system as the past. The rulers want to retain the right to oppress others by military force—even if that creates ‘terrorists’ who strike back with inevitable nuclear attacks. These rulers also want a profit-system of rewards that pays people to invent, deliver and distribute weapons of mass destruction. They are afraid to abolish money and track luxury good consumption. They are also against guaranteeing every person on this earth food, shelter, clothing and the best-possible sustainable environment and non-militarist atmosphere. That is what it would take to avoid nuclear catastrophes, but the way it looks right now, Amerikkkans will have to suffer one or two “nuclear events” before they figure it out. Unfortunately, that may be too late for the whole species, thanks to the development of the means of destruction.

Notes:

1. http://www.guardian.co.uk/uslatest/story/0,1282,-1713422,00.html

**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 various forms of oppression 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 symbol 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 (even with 100 years of Russian Roulette, the chances of survival are only 36.6%). After 200 years, survival has only a 13.4% chance.

Continued from page 1...
The Joint Chiefs of Staff apparently feel that they must maneuver for maximum flexibility in military strikes, because taking on all of the Third World at once is considered at present to be too difficult, reported the English Guardian newspaper May 25th. Already waging an active war in Afghanistan, the U.S. military mentioned the India-Pakistan dispute as one reason it cannot afford to jump into Iraq with 200,000 troops in a full-scale invasion to put in a new lackey regime.

U.S. “Special Forces” already serve in the Philippines and Yemen. The U.S. military leaders say their military is too small both to defend the homeland and operate in so many countries at once. Air Force head John Jumper said, “We never sized ourselves to have to do high force-protection levels at home and overseas at the same time. We’re stretched very thin in security forces,’ he was quoted as saying by the New York Times.”(1)

From its inception, MIM has said that the United States is in World War III. When we hear the U.S. military admit that it is already overstretched, it confirms that World War III against the Third World is an accurate description. What it means for the Third World is that its natural trajectory of growth and adoption of new weapons means that the United States will not be able to control all of the Third World forever; even though the United States will likely retain many technological and military advantages for the immediate future.

If the human species does not die in a nuclear holocaust, revolution will come about through the overstretching of the earth’s environment with one good bomb. Whether it be resolving thousands of phonry anthrax letters and catching the real perpetrators, doing more racial profiling, running more wiretaps on MIM and others, keeping tabs on millions of people who could be “terrorists” or intervening in various wars, the U.S. rulers do not realize that time is passing them by. They cannot stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or the capability to spoil the earth’s environment with one good bomb. They cannot do that anymore than they could win the “war on drugs.” The reason is that the economic system motivates many millions of people to do things that the U.S. rulers cannot control.

The press reports only months after the fact that the FBI had its own problems in chasing “the terrorists.” The press even reports that one FBI agent was receiving bribes that may have connected to 911—what a shock under capitalism, that someone might want money to spend on a luxurious life and would do something “competitive” to get that money!(2)

Instead of realizing the extent and numbers involved in the problem, the press likes to believe we are pointing at one operation and needing to detain one Osama bin Laden. Even ultra-reactionary nutcase “Defense Secretary” Rumsfeld is tired of settler individualist stupidity, at least on this question: “Asked whether terrorist leader Osama bin Laden is still alive, Rumsfeld said he didn’t know.”

“...This isn’t our business, the secretary of defense’s business, to track down a single individual,” he said. “We’ve never organized ourselves as a law enforcement agency. That is a very difficult thing to do. It’s like finding a needle in a haystack.”(3)

The press tells us about the one memo that got overlooked in catching the 911 hijackers. The same press does not tell us how many memos the one agent wrote that were wrong—never mind the number of memos that all the FBI agents combined wrote that were wrong.(4)

This has to do with the mathematical illiteracy of the public in the dumbocracy that is the world’s superpower. Amerikkkans who believe in settling “their own” piece of land and “rugged individualism” have always been slow learners when it comes to classing a large number of events together and analyzing probabilities between 1 and 99%. It’s not enough to stop an individual, because a one percent chance in a game of Russian Roulette means a 63% chance of failure after 100 turns.

Even being right 99 in 100 times is not enough and today this means we need a communist system to motivate everyone to be harmonious. We humyns do not have to have perfect bodies or minds. Yet even with our flaws we lived in communism before industrial society when we lived in tribes.

We just need to remove the causes of aggressive behavior instead of trying to repress everyone who opposes the United States, as if the opposition cannot strike back, ever.

Thanks to our individualism and our middle-class existence backing mathematical illiteracy, Amerikkkans show every likelihood that like other imperialists populations before, we will be able to learn the United States, maybe getting ourselves nuked once or twice and losing protracted wars in the Third World. After we get nuked, hopefully no Amerikkkans will be whining about the one memo or the one anti-missile launcher that failed in the Star Wars defensive shield. MIM hopes that the people here will be able to take a more thorough approach and change. Species survival should not depend on a memo or anti-missile missile launcher.

Notes:
1. http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,2763,722053,00.html
4. An example of the furor that is now acceptable in the mainstream imperialist press is http://www.usatoday.com/news/attack/2002/05/24/whistle.htm

**Reactionaries focus on missile threat to United States and England**

Weapons are not equally distributed by country in this world, but as nuclear and missile technology inevitably spreads, there are those who seek to stem the wheel of history. Such people seeking to go back to a time when only a handful of countries could commit hari-kari through nuclear war are by definition reactionaries—backwards-looking people—and they are a danger to the whole world. The recent uproar over “routine” Pakistan missile tests on May 25th(1) proves that the rulers of Western governments and media are unqualified to lead to global peace.

Nuclear and missile proliferation is inevitable. The sooner that everyone grasps that and its implications, the better. Right now various weak and incompetent rulers in the leading imperialist countries fantasize about missile defense shields and sending in special forces teams to capture nuclear weapons before they are used.

It’s definitely the same-old, same-old. These rulers lack the vision that only the international proletariat can bring to the table—a world where people need not fear each other, a world that necessarily has an international minimum wage, full employment, land reform—basic food, shelter, clothing and environment rights and economic growth. That is the ONLY way in which the economic system is not designed to take chances with the peace.

These rulers think they buried communism, but now reactionaries ranging from the Moonies to British intelligence fret about northern Korea selling missiles to Arabs for profit.(2) Well, duh, that’s capitalism for you.

Oh sure, it galls these old rulers from old imperialist countries that some dark-skinned persyn in some yet-to-industrialize country could destroy the atmosphere we all need to live—just in a single fitful and suicidal act. Those are the emotions the imperialist country rulers and population feel, but they do not contribute one iota to a solution.

People who feel that they have the good life economically and place a value on their lives should see to it that the rest of the world gets to the same place. Instead, the populations of England and the United States look backwards instead of accepting the inevitable and adjusting accordingly.

Notes:

Did you know?
There are more than 200 back issues of MIM Notes available on the MIM website? Not only can you browse more than 15 years of the newspaper, you can also keep up with the very latest on MIM agitation campaigns, prisoner news, all the latest on the US war, and much more. MIM's website is an indispensable tool for the revolutionary movement. Get involved! www.etext.org/Politics/MIM
Maoist Movie Reviews

Star Wars: Episode II: Attack of the Clones
Directed by George Lucas, 2002
Review by MC5

The politics in this movie is light considering that the movie is about empires, government leaders, secession, war and contention between good and evil. Nonetheless we give this movie a limited endorsement.

There was not much to complain about politically in the first installments of "Star Wars," which were both anti-fascist and anti-imperialist. The role of Black characters and the rebel "Red Guard" in the key battles did not go unnoticed at MIM. In this movie, we learn less democracy is the preferred government of the "good guys" of the Republic. Although the characters' endorsement of democracy is rather shallow—like the current understanding of democracy in the United States—the movie itself offers slightly more analysis.

We learn right away that corruption and wrangling are ruining the Senate of the Republic. At age 20, future evil incarnate Darth Vader is just Anakin Skywalker, one of the most skilled Jedi warriors. We can tell that he is going to grow up to be an imperialist when he tells Obi-Wan Kenobi not to let him anymore on politics and economics. According to Anakin Skywalker, he only trusts 2 or 3 politicians and therefore the subjects of politics and economics themselves are contaminated—a huge mistake to throw out the bath with the baby water. He also favors dictatorship; although we learn that he himself wants to become the most powerful in the world when his mother dies.

The death of his mother at the hands of odious scavengers also raises the question of the powers that be. Anakin Skywalker kills every single member of the camp or tribe responsible. Democratic Senator and future wife of Anakin Skywalker, Padme Amidala has no criticisms when she learns of this slaughter. To be sure, majorities of white people vetoed the "Bill of Rights" as a way to stop states to take land from Indians, so democracy and genocide are compatible. We wish there had been more discussion of the merits and demerits of this particular group that Anakin Skywalker went out.

Distrust of politicians, favorable attitudes toward dictatorship, inclinations toward genocide—clearly Anakin Skywalker has the makings of a classic Nazi. Just as Hitler copied much of Lenin to have done almost no research to fail, so that other group known as the "Constitution" was not higher priority than the Reagan appointees’ wishes. Readers can check the video "FBI's War on Black America." Ward Churchill et. al. also wrote a book called "Agents of Repression." The government's own documents on these cases have all been released, but the brainwashing on "freedom" in the United States is so thorough and based in so much super-profit bribery that they do not make much dent in public consciousness.

Since most Amerikkkans do not even know this history of which is so openly documented, it also cannot be expected that they would know that people have been thrown in solitary confinement for having MIM Notes or that distributors of MIM Notes have been confined for having MIM Notes or that distributors of MIM Notes have been thrown in jail for distributing MIM Notes. The overwhelming pubic ignorance of the political consciousness would prevent the majority from ever caring enough to know.

As for drug addiction in China, one has to have done almost no research to fail to know that the White-straider principle of "nationalism" and low political consciousness would prevent the majority from ever caring enough to know.

Continued on page 8...

MIM debates Seattle Buddhism on ‘freedom,’ Tibet

Continued from page 3... them swear allegiance and implement changes before he was going to allow them back into the Union. He was right. There are no two sides to tolerate entirely, as if choosing between Burger King and McDonald’s.

You continue to make justifications for Tibetan slavery and the world’s highest imprisonment rate in the world in the United States. Yet you continue to talk about “freedom” against us Maoists. Do you or don’t you think the state with the highest imprisonment rate in the world is a democracy? Prove it.

Some people arise to oppose a union of territories. The local authority in one set of territories did not abolish slavery prior to union. Another political authority used to have slavery but did then abolish it with the help of slaves from both territories. A movement arises in the territory that used to tolerate slavery, and that movement wants to return to the past: is it the KKK after the U.S. Civil War or the “Free Tibet” Movement of 1959? There would be no way to tell.

By the way, Palden Gyatso has admitted that the persyn who tortured him in Tibet was Tibetan, not Han Chinese. So much for Shangri-La in Tibet. (1)

If prison and torture are bad, how about murder? I see you haven’t answered our questions on that. Apparently it’s OK for pro-slavery activists to kill anti-slavery monks.

Of course there was widespread violence in 1959. If you read the Dalai Lama, it is clear that he was powerless to stop the violent resistance of some Tibetans to the revolution. The U.S. Civil War was horrible too—horrible but necessary thanks to problems in “human nature.”

MIM conclusion: MIM was busy fighting with this Buddhist’s justifications for the #1 prison-state, serfdom and slavery. The typical “Free Tibet” activists feel no compunction about ignoring the fact that serfdom and slavery were legal under the Dalai Lama and only made illegal under the communist movement, composed partly of Tibetans. We hope our readers will understand that we had some basic priorities to handle with the above and did not cover all the details.

It would be too much to ask that this persyn know factually that in fact the United States does not “tolerate” Maoism—such as is done by Maoist Black Panthers can attest, including one shot to death in his sleep, Fred Hampton. These facts are now known and in many cases attested to by former police agents, as in the case of Fred Hampton.

As for speech, Black Panther Eldridge Cleaver was never put in prison for his political activity— as was admitted by one judge who was subsequently overturned by judges saying the California Adult Authority had the power to take back paroles for anything that the Reagan administration wanted and that the First Amendment being merely a piece of that scrap paper entitled the “Bill of Rights” as a way to stop states to take land from Indians, so democracy and genocide are compatible. We wish there had been more discussion of the merits and demerits of this particular group that Anakin Skywalker went out.

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Distrust of politicians, favorable attitudes toward dictatorship, inclinations toward genocide—clearly Anakin Skywalker has the makings of a classic Nazi. Just as Hitler copied much of Lenin to have done almost no research to fail, so that other group known as the “Constitution” was not higher priority than the Reagan appointees’ wishes. Readers can check the video "FBI's War on Black America." Ward Churchill et. al. also wrote a book called "Agents of Repression." The government's own documents on these cases have all been released, but the brainwashing on "freedom" in the United States is so thorough and based in so much super-profit bribery that they do not make much dent in public consciousness.

Since most Amerikkkans do not even know this history of which is so openly documented, it also cannot be expected that they would know that people have been thrown in solitary confinement for having MIM Notes or that distributors of MIM Notes have been thrown in jail for distributing MIM Notes. The overwhelming pubic ignorance of the political consciousness would prevent the majority from ever caring enough to know.

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Clones: A note on dialectical, materialist acting

Reviews of “Attack of the Clones” in the bourgeois press were mixed. Those panning the film usually cited its “boring” subject matter—politics—and bad acting. Of course, for those of us interested in art as a means for arousing people to fight oppression and not an end in itself, there is nothing a priori boring about politics. There was enough meat to “Attack of the Clones” to keep MIM interested and entertained—despite director and writer Lucas’ muddle-headed idealism.

Bad acting is another matter. As Mao taught us, “Works of art which lack artistic quality have no force, however progressive they are politically.” (“Talks at the Yanen Forum on Literature and Art,” Selected Works, vol. 3) The bad acting in “Attack…” is not simply a matter of unprofessionalism, however. Rather, it’s a matter of a materialist vs. an idealist approach.

Stephen Hunter from the Washington Post grasped some of this. His review is worth quoting at length:

“...[The movie is kind of a laboratory on American vs. British technique. Score: Brits 10, Yanks 0. That’s because to the Brits, who work from the outside in, acting is physical mastery of face and voice and body, strategically employed at certain moments for impact. An actor immerses himself in the character, and invents charm and wit and sparkle where none exists. So even the guy playing Palpatine (Ian McKellen) is creepy-elegant, and McGregor, athletic and earnest, can even bring a little life to a line like, ‘I am concerned for my Padawan. He is not ready to be given this assignment on his own yet.’ Also of note Christopher Lee of Dracula and British special forces intelligence fame as the evil count Dooku.]

“The Americans, on the other hand, are trained to get into the character’s mind and imagine as he would imagine, to work from the inside out. But there is no inside here: These characters are nothing but pop-cult props, and that leaves the performers helpless and inert... [E]ven an actual great actor, Samuel L. Jackson, seems ridiculous. He never looks comfortable as the Jedi Mace Windu, in robes and boots, and there’s nothing he can do at all with a line like ‘The Genosiann’s aren’t warriors. One Jedi has to be worth a hundred Genosiens!’”

Hunter’s comments remind MIM of commie-symp playwright Bertolt Brecht’s writings on acting. Brecht hated the “method acting” approach where actors draw on their personal experiences to “feel what their characters are feeling” so that audiences also “feel their pain” etc. Why, Brecht asked, should the audience rejouce with the British soldiers who just put down a colonial revolt? Instead of getting caught up in the euphoria, the audience should be encouraged to make their own intellectual and emotional assessment—in this case, sorrow and anger.

Brecht’s preferred acting style—based on what he called the alienation (or distancing) effect—was similar to what Hunter calls “British technique.” For Brecht, the point was not to “injekt charm and sparkle,” but class analysis, proletarian politics.

Hunter and other reviewers may dismiss “Attack’s” characters as “nothing but pop-cult props” and its utilitarian, expository dialogue, but MIM does not—even if the film’s political line. After all, in one of our favorite films—“Breaking With Old Ideas,” made in China during the Cultural Revolution—the characters are not so much bourgeois individuals with personal psychological histories as representations of particular classes and political lines.

Hunter’s point is relevant: there is no way a seventeen-year-old actor from the ‘burbs will be able to “get into himself” and find his “inner Anakin”—a former slave—or use navel-gazing to comment sensibly on Anakin’s youthful impatience or fascist leanings.

So what on the surface looks like a matter of bad acting vs. good acting reveals itself as a conflict between subjectivism and post-modernism on the one hand and dialectics and materialism on the other.

Clones review

Continued from previous page...

Knights before becoming a full-fledged imperialist.

One of the parts we like about the movie is the discussion of the secession movement by the politicians still loyal to the Republic. They talk repeatedly of negotiating with the thousands of planetary systems breaking away from the Republic. In fact, there is no standing army in the Republic. The Jedi Knights make a point of saying “we’re only peacekeepers, not an army.”

The formation of a standing army in this movie is obviously tied to profit. By the Yenan Forum on Literature and Art.

This problem neatly parallels our own in this day. Somehow we have found ourselves in circumstances where standing armies exist, act and arm themselves in connection to the profit motive. Contrary to anarchists who mistake their own wishes for reality or a means to achieve a new reality, we scientific socialists agree with Marx on the need for an interim dictatorship of the proletariat. Yoda had no choice but to use that army, because society was not ready for any other approach. A society needing an army is a dictatorship of some kind or another, whether openly fascist or cloaked as “democracy.”

The problem is not to “inject charm and sparkle,” but class analysis, Brecht, the point was not to “injekt charm and sparkle,” but class analysis, proletarian politics.

“Episode II” of “Star Wars” deserves a parting shot in the direction of the new characters. “Episode I” of “Star Wars” deserves some more serious political discussion, not just political correctness on Jar Jar Binks.

Spiderman review

Continued from previous page...

comes great responsibility.” This is what MIM refers to as the “leadership principle.” The great power Parker refers to is his spider-power; the power we refer to is state power (or proto-state power when referring to leadership positions in our party). Leaders in the bourgeois government and economy are not held responsible for the 14 million children every year who die of malnutrition worldwide — they are not even held accountable for the few score middle-class Americans who died because of the shoddy workmanship on their SUVs and tires. Bourgeois leaders need not be particularly intelligent, courageous or devoted to the common good — they simply need daddy’s money and a few friends in the right places. On the contrary, MIM would restrict leadership positions in the dictatorship of the proletariat to the most dedicated, with a proven track record of struggle and results. Furthermore, these leaders would understand that if they made a mistake that cost other people their lives, they could be held accountable with their own life.
Toilers suffer in brewing India-Pakistan war

Continued from page 1...

to use nuclear weapons in its war with India.(4)

Pakistan and the unspoken truth

On the Pakistan side, there have been four wars with India since Indian independence in 1947. The Pakistani view involves its tit-for-tat conflict over religion and nationality with India. However, the situation with the United States since September 11th has definitely changed the dynamic in the conflict. On May 25th, Pakistan announced it was withdrawing troops along the border with Afghanistan.(5) Although the move did not receive much fanfare, and Pakistan also withdrew troops from U.S.-operations, the troop movement is a very significant one. Most analysts agree that the India conflict comes first and helping the United States with its war on terrorism is a secondary role for Pakistan. The deal seems precipitate the shifting priorities in Pakistan seen May 25th. The deal seems to be that the United States has to keep India off Pakistan’s back while Pakistan cooperates on al Qaeda. At the same time, the United States flexes muscle via India. A more intensive involvement of India in the war in Pakistan would represent a higher stage of bargaining with the United States by Pakistan, but once the war started, who knows if al Qaeda would ever again appear to be a strong priority.

We at MIM clearly oppose any U.S. thoughts of taking on Pakistan. The United States is going deep into a reactionary fantasy world instead of accepting the inevitable that it will not be able to control every country in the world without being “struck back.”

Currently, Pakistani rulers feel that U.S. military maneuvers could turn against Pakistan in alliance with India. Pakistan’s military brass has made the statement that the Indian and the United States just concluded joint war games against Pakistan.(6) This is a difficult situation to interpret, but MIM’s analysis is that Pakistani bourgeois nationalists are correct in interpreting the situation of U.S. pressure. (See “U.S. brass fear military stretched too thin.”) MIM Notes previously reported that in all of the Third World countries polled there was one that was enthusiastic about their role, the underlying conditions of oppression and exploitation. Likewise, in the oppressor nations, MIM has said there is an underlying economic condition of explorer-status, and not surprisingly, a Gallup poll showed imperialists lined up for the U.S. war.(7)

And India has come through the rule that Third World countries wanted a peaceful resolution, and for this reason, MIM does not hesitate to speak of an overwhelming “false consciousness” in India. Marxists say that a group demonstrates “false consciousness” if it is very effective and serves others’ interests. Typically the newly born proletariat of Marx’s day was not aware of its own interests as a class. When Indians become excited about religious or caste strife, they are demonstrating “false consciousness”—except for the rulers who benefit from such distractions that keep the exploited from uniting.

On May 24th, the Chinese and Indian Foreign Ministers exchanged phone calls about the war on the border between India and Pakistan. The Chinese reported that the Indian minister actually agreed that the United States is forcing Pakistan and India to use nuclear weapons in its war with India. The Chinese also withdrew troops from U.N. forces and cited the cause as the limited clothing trade deal with Pakistan and India and that we should not be applying a global minimum wage and other global inducements for Pakistan’s clothing exports. Considering that Bush says he is for free trade he should eliminate the taxes on Pakistan’s exports to the United States long ago, but instead he offered the trade deal as a bribe for peaceful “anti-terrorist” behavior, which the people of Congress regard as such. This would be better served by focusing on economic development instead of war.(8)

Although the populations of both India and Pakistan are riled up for war against each other, and it is not just a matter of the rulers’ wanting war, the people of south and central Asia have nothing to gain. The workers and peasants will do the dying while the arms merchants will make the profits.

Backward preoccupations

Western news agencies focused on the missile tests by Pakistan that both sides tested India called “routine” and we did not see China’s emphasis on reporting the actual battles in progress between India and Pakistan. Recently, according to Pravda, (and we believe news coverage reflects it), England has labeled all countries with ballistic missile programs that do not use U.S. technology on a list they have voiced a similar view, especially regarding northern Korea, Iran, Iraq and others they refer to as the “axis of evil.”

Although it is questionable that George W. Bush realizes it, U.S. imperialism encourages countries around the world to keep the exploited from uniting. For example, Pakistan’s exports to the United States long ago, but instead he offered the trade deal as a bribe for peaceful “anti-terrorist” behavior, which the people of Congress regard as such. This would be better served by focusing on economic development instead of war.(8)

MIM debates Seattle Buddhist on ‘freedom,’ Tibet

Continued from page 6...

brothers, opium dens, and other forms of organized vice.”(4) This book also points to several other authors on this point in their page 3. Even reactionary authors know this.

Tibet by all accounts is in a difficult patch of geography. This allows some people to fantasize about a paradise on earth out of human view. The Western “Free Tibet” movement wants us to envision a spiritually unified people living in Shangri-La. In contrast, we believe they lived in difficult economic conditions and that we should not be surprised that former slaves and serfs became communists.

People with any sense of geography and reality will listen to the following accounts, and not put stock in a Dalai Lama who says serfdom was mild in Tibet:

“I was born in a slave’s family in Konka County, Tibet. . .I was a slave for nine years and lived like a beast of burden. . .They beat and abused me every day. . .I was so tired I would sometimes doze off. Choma would take a big pin from her collar and poke it into my head. Blood streamed down my head and I felt dizzy. Nine years of enslavement brought me to the verge of death. One summer day in 1956, I was beaten unconscious by Choma’s daughter. A gust of cold evening wind woke me up. My body covered with wounds and blood, I thought of our kinsmen the People’s Liberation Army. (Tibet was peacefully liberated as early as 1951. But the Democratic Reform was not yet carried out in 1956 and the manorial lords continued to rule the serfs.). I remembered a P.L.A. unit had been stationed in our village in 1954 . . .That night the masters were having a drinking party and I took advantage of their merry-making and the departure of guards to run away from the lair. After five days and six night I finally found the P.L.A. who saved me.”—Pasang, Vice-Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region, 1972

“I had nine children. My heart almost broke when three of my daughters died of hunger and cold. Thanks to Chairman Mao, now we have a happy life.”—A mother whose own mother, father and two siblings also died while being held captive by the Dalai Lama’s rule “90 per cent of the cadres at the district level are of Tibetan nationality.”—1972, “Great Changes in Tibet,” (Peking: Foreign Languages Press)

“More than 95 per cent of the members of their revolutionary committees at all levels are emancipated serfs and slaves.”(ibid.)

“In Lamaist temples all things related to feudal oppression and exploitation must be reformed”—Panchen Lama, July, 1959

Notes:

1. For more on Palden Gyatso, see MIM Notes 258, 15 May 2002.
along with the opportunity for civil disobedience by anyone interested. They attempted to obtain all necessary permits to ensure that the event be legal for those who did not wish to be arrested.

The organizers negotiated with bridge authorities for weeks prior to the rally, but the authorities made arbitrary last-minute decisions to sabotage the event. They allowed the pre-march rally to be held at Crissy Field, but in a specially designated “First Amendment” area, well away from any public walkways or roads. They allowed no stage or sound system, only 4 bullhorns for crowd control, no chanting, and no large banners. The bridge authorities also denied organizers access to the supposedly public Golden Gate Bridge after noon, forcing them to change the time of the protest. And access before noon came with the restrictions that no one be off the bridge by 2 p.m. and no one hold any anti-war signs on the bridge.

When the marchers reached the entrance to the pedestrian walkway at the Golden Gate Bridge, police who insisted and “Imperialism: the majority of the” Fighting Imperialism is not Terrorism” the posters with messages such as provided to people to tape on their shirts. 11x17 and 8 1/2 x 11 paper which we shirts to wear across the bridge instead march organizers, chanting (in spite of several anti-imperialist speeches by the bridge. The marchers were certainly not a threat to anyone, but were quite threatened by the protectors of imperialism. These goons clearly saw a problem with this in a strong anti-imperialist movement.

Predictably, the mainstream media message was that people were too hassled by this anti-war protest. Channel 5 interviewed one woman stuck in traffic, who said, “Sure I’m anti-war, but I’m 9 months pregnant.” The news message was clear: I can only oppose brutality and oppression when it is convenient. No doubt some wealthy Marin residents were annoyed by the traffic problems. (The Golden Gate Bridge connects San Francisco with Marin County, a wealthy area with many nature preserves that are popular destinations for weekend hikes and picnics.)

Mainstream news did not report that most reactions from passing cars were unimpaired. But once the cops blocked the marchers chanted with fists in the air, keeping within the walkway while trying to make the anti-war message clear to passers-by. Flanked by police, fully armed national guards, police boats and what looked like snipers in the hills, the marchers were certainly not a threat to anyone, but were quite threatened by the protectors of imperialism. These goons clearly saw a problem with this in a strong anti-imperialist movement.

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If you cannot afford an attorney, you cannot afford justice

Since 1999 I’ve been in the Shelby County Jail awaiting trial. I have a public defender who has not worked to get me one court appearance, one pretrial motion hearing, or even bothered to come and speak with me concerning my charges. In 2000, I was assaulted by an officer in the Shelby County Jail in Memphis TN. I have a constitutional law library that doesn’t meet the state and federal standards imposed on institutions to provide “meaningful, adequate and effective access to the courts.” Inmates are permitted only 30 minutes a month in the law library without the assistance of a paralegal or one trained in the law.

Considering these dual violations of my constitutional rights, it is obvious that my ability to prepare a defense for myself is hindered, causing irreparable harm to my representation in court. As I filed grievance after grievance, I was retaliated against by the jail administration with hole time, medical neglect and other inmate abuse. The Federal courts require that inmates “exhaust all administrative remedies” before filing lawsuits against lock up facilities, which I did. However, after I submitted a thorough claim of relief sought, the federal courts dismissed my lawsuit in its entirety, stating that “the only time that Federal courts interfere with criminal state courts is where extraordinary circumstances exist.”

The U.S. Constitution has set forth guaranteed rights to all inmates/prisoners which we are “ordinarily” entitled to during incarceration, while going through court. When these “ordinary” rights are denied and no longer guaranteed, thus producing a prejudicial effect, such conditions/circumstances become extraordinary. I am not the only inmate in this facility facing these extraordinary circumstances. Over 65% of the inmate population here are indigent with worthless public defenders and are not able to defend themselves in court. With the poor condition of our law library (access to courts), an indigent doesn’t stand a chance in the courtroom defending himself. This is the Shelby County criminal courts conspiracy of keeping Black men incarcerated in this city. If you can’t afford an attorney, you can’t afford justice.

— A prisoner in Tennessee, May 2002

Struggling for signatures in Texas

[This prisoner has been collecting signatures on MIM’s campaign to stop Texas prisons from forcing prisoners to work even when they are sick or injured, and punishing them with loss of good-time if they can’t or won’t work. Contact MIM for copies of the petition to submit signatures. —ed]

I just received your letter, MIM Notes, and some other info on the revolution. You stressed the fact that I need to help in the struggle. Damn right! But I had not heard from you nor received any MIM Notes. Thank you though. I got as many signatures [on the Texas labor petition] as I could. I was just released from Ad Seg and placed in a high security unit in closed custody. We are in the house 22 hours a day and recreate for 2 hours. We have no way to pass things around and if we’re caught doing so it’s a disciplinary case. More of my good time/money I had didn’t help me at all taken away. But I had as many as I could.

MIM I have a personal experience with this reactionary policy TDCJ has, I injured my shoulder lifting weights. The Dr. ignored me since it was fractional, Still I had to go to third shift bрошm squad. When the pain was too much I quit. I was made to stand for 4 hours at night at line control before I was stripped naked and put in a cold cell, which is to cool you off. After 2 hours in there I was written a major case for refusing to work. But my doctor later made my bond and the case was then thrown out, that was in ’98.

In 2000, I was assaulted by an officer and my shoulder was reinjured. I’ve been on pain medication for it because I have constant pain. At times it hurts to write. It hurts when I wake up and when I go to sleep. It’s so bad I can’t sleep on my right side. I get more pain medication and sent back to work. I’ve been like this since 2000, still TDC makes me work their fields. If I quit I get a case! When will the madness stop? I asked the doctor that question, he said, “I gotta work, and sometimes I get sick,” and put me back to work. No relief!

— A Texas Prisoner, May 2002

Jail abuse can’t squelch interest in MIM Theory

I got put in lock up with no privileges after three prisoners jumped me for no reason at all. They took my visitation, telephone, and library privileges, among others, and even tried to place me on a diet called food loaf, which is wholly inadequate, for 7 days. This was stopped after I put in a grievance threatening to write the TX jail commission.

Around 25 days later a guard came into my cell while I was at an attorney visit and wrote me up for several rules that aren’t ever enforced unless the “good old boy” system feels like having a joke with ya. When I came back to my cell my stuff was thrown everywhere. Pictures of my girl and mom were all torn up, my towels and clothes were thrown on the floor, my drinking cup was in the toilet and the toilet was pissed in; there was piss all around the toilet on the floor too.

I mentioned this at my disciplinary hearing and still got 60 days with no privileges.

Six dollars in stamps are enclosed for you MIM Theory 9, “Psychology and Imperialism.” I’ve always been interested in this subject, and I plan on collecting the entire MIM Theory.

In struggle.

— A Texas Prisoner, February 2002

Stand up against censorship

Censorship is an issue which is effective beyond these prison walls. The US Government and its court systems in Amerika has broadened the scope in the way the Constitution is interpreted regarding how much of our rights to free speech is protected. The recent call of Amerika’s attention to the Sept. 11 incident which triggered several Americans opinionated responses is yet another example of what political views the US Government feels are acceptable. Although most americans or those living in amerika have a firm belief that the US Government protects all individual’s rights to exercise their own political views, why is it that when someone’s political views provide a mass of its own people with factual truth of Governmental oppressive actions against a people or nation of people, it’s no longer a protected right, but an unacceptable form of anarchy?

It appears that a great majority of americans continue to believe that this country guarantees the right to free speech and its own political views until they’re actually faced with having to figure out why the same constitutional right to free speech and political views didn’t protect them or their loved ones as it alleges.

Together, we comrades of MIM must continue to broaden our analysis of this censorship issue in order to eliminate the limitations that the institutions and the Government may place on our views regardless of whether on the inside of these prison walls or on the outside looking in.

— A New York prisoner, May 2002

Department of Corrections? Or Department of Abuse?

By a NY prisoner

Originally written 16 July 1999

Why do they call this a “Correctional Facility”? Why is it overseen by a so-called “Department of Corrections”? These names or titles give society the impression that prisoners are being “corrected” in these places. Nothing could be further from the truth. The simple truth of the matter is that correctional facilities are places where correctional Officers and civilian employees live out their perversion fantasies of power at the expense of the charges under their care.

Every day in prison men and women are subjected to physical, mental and emotional atrocities. The type of abuse that would never be accepted in a free society. Pat frisks that go beyond what the Courts in their esteemed wisdom call sexual harassment. What many prisoners have been and still are subjected to is blatant sexual abuse. Yet to complain of this mistreatment, more often than not, only leads to other forms of harassment and abuse.

MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

MIM seeks to build public opinion against America’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 a proletarian political class. This is why the same constitutional right to free speech is protected. The recent call of Amerika’s attention to the Sept. 11 incident which triggered several Americans opinionated responses is yet another example of what political views the US Government feels are acceptable.

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Every day in prison men and women are subjected to physical, mental and emotional atrocities. The type of abuse that would never be accepted in a free society. Pat frisks that go beyond what the Courts in their esteemed wisdom call sexual harassment. What many prisoners have been and still are subjected to is blatant sexual abuse. Yet to complain of this mistreatment, more often than not, only leads to other forms of harassment and abuse.
Some uninformed but well-meaning people in society would say: “use legal remedies to stop the harassment.” In civilized society this is a very effective means of stopping sexual harassment. The problem is, prison is not like civilized society. There are no “effective” legal remedies in prisons to stop the abuse and harassment. The most a prisoner can hope for is that bringing attention to the problem will prompt prison officials to remedy the situation. However, this does little to stop the ensuing mental and emotional abuse the prisoners who lodged the complaint will continue to suffer until their release from prison.

Prisoners who have been victims of physical abuse have, or I should say, had a good chance to receive compensation from the courts for physical harm they suffered at the hands of correctional staff. Changes in the law of New York State over the past few years have made it not only harder to prove physical abuse, but, have set limits on the amount of compensation that a prisoner is entitled to.

Mental and emotional abuse are a widespread normality in the prison system. Rule infractions [tickets] based on lies is a favorite harassment technique used by correctional staff. When a prisoner is “written up” for something that not only he or she knows is a lie but that the administration knows to be a lie, this is abuse of power. Prisoners have little recourse to deal with such abuse of power. Complaints to the highest levels of correctional staff are usually met with silence or indifference. Often times complaints lead to more harassment and abuse by correctional staff. This is done as a form of retaliation and to show the prisoner that complaints can’t help them. Is it any wonder that prisoners often feel they can get no justice in prison? That they become embittered by their abuse and harassment? That they feel they can get no justice in prison? That they become embittered by their abuse and harassment? That they feel they can get no justice in prison? That they become embittered by their abuse and harassment?

MIM adds: This comrade is right on in this discussion of the effectiveness of so-called “Correctional” facilities. Unfortunately, using a legalism position are used primarily as a tool of repression with little concern for those who are incarcerated. Even though it would be in the self-interest of all people to help prisoners integrate into society, this is rarely attempted because this is not the purpose of the prisons.

We encourage this comrade, and others interested in this topic to investigate the use of prisons during socialist China. Two books that address this subject are the autobiographies of Pu Yi, and Prisoners of Liberation by Allyn and Adele Rickett. These books describe the effectiveness of Chinese prisons from the view point of the last emperor of China and two petty-bourgeois Americans, respectively. While prisons are always tools of repression since they are part of the state, which serves certain class interests, in socialist China this repression was aimed at those opposing the class rule of the workers and peasants. In order for these prisons to work in the interests of the masses, they had to reform the prisoners to realize why the things they did were deemed criminal under the dictatorship of the proletariat. MIM looks to the Chinese model as an example of how prisons should be run until the day when prisons are no longer necessary. None of the leaders of the NYS Latin Kings (ALKQN) have served any time. 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)

The rednecks tell MIM that we live in a “free country.” They live in an Orwellian 1984 situation where freedom is imprisonment. In supposed “hard-line” Bulgaria of the Soviet bloc of the 1980s, the imprisonment rate was less than half that of the United States.(2,3)

Some uninformed but well-meaning people in society would say: “use legal remedies to stop the harassment.” In civilized society this is a very effective means of stopping sexual harassment. The problem is, prison is not like civilized society. There are no “effective” legal remedies in prisons to stop the abuse and harassment. The most a prisoner can hope for is that bringing attention to the problem will prompt prison officials to remedy the situation. However, this does little to stop the ensuing mental and emotional abuse the prisoners who lodged the complaint will continue to suffer until their release from prison.

Prisoners who have been victims of physical abuse have, or I should say, had a good chance to receive compensation from the courts for physical harm they suffered at the hands of correctional staff. Changes in the law of New York State over the past few years have made it not only harder to prove physical abuse, but, have set limits on the amount of compensation that a prisoner is entitled to.

Mental and emotional abuse are a widespread normality in the prison system. Rule infractions [tickets] based on lies is a favorite harassment technique used by correctional staff. When a prisoner is “written up” for something that not only he or she knows is a lie but that the administration knows to be a lie, this is abuse of power. Prisoners have little recourse to deal with such abuse of power. Complaints to the highest levels of correctional staff are usually met with silence or indifference. Often times complaints lead to more harassment and abuse by correctional staff. This is done as a form of retaliation and to show the prisoner that complaints can’t help them. Is it any wonder that prisoners often feel they can get no justice in prison? That they become embittered by their abuse and harassment? That they feel they can get no justice in prison? That they become embittered by their abuse and harassment? That they feel they can get no justice in prison? That they become embittered by their abuse and harassment? That they feel they can get no justice in prison? That they become embittered by their abuse and harassment?

MIM adds: This comrade is right on in this discussion of the effectiveness of so-called “Correctional” facilities. Unfortunately, using a legalism position are used primarily as a tool of repression with little concern for those who are incarcerated. Even though it would be in the self-interest of all people to help prisoners integrate into society, this is rarely attempted because this is not the purpose of the prisons.

We encourage this comrade, and others interested in this topic to investigate the use of prisons during socialist China. Two books that address this subject are the autobiographies of Pu Yi, and Prisoners of Liberation by Allyn and Adele Rickett. These books describe the effectiveness of Chinese prisons from the view point of the last emperor of China and two petty-bourgeois Americans, respectively. While prisons are always tools of repression since they are part of the state, which serves certain class interests, in socialist China this repression was aimed at those opposing the class rule of the workers and peasants. In order for these prisons to work in the interests of the masses, they had to reform the prisoners to realize why the things they did were deemed criminal under the dictatorship of the proletariat. MIM looks to the Chinese model as an example of how prisons should be run until the day when prisons are no longer necessary.

Facts on U$ 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)

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To find a comparison with U.$, imprisonment of Black people, there is no statistic in any country that compares including apartheid South Africa. The majority of prisoners are non-violent offenders(4) and the U.S. Government now holds about a half million more prisoners than China this repression was aimed at those opposing the class rule of the workers and peasants. In order for these prisons to work in the interests of the masses, they had to reform the prisoners to realize why the things they did were deemed criminal under the dictatorship of the proletariat. MIM looks to the Chinese model as an example of how prisons should be run until the day when prisons are no longer necessary.

MIM adds: This comrade enclosed the misbehavior reports he has received, many of which he denies ever happening. Many of the reports are regarding alleged mail intercepted by the pigs that contained ALKQN materials. One Ad Seg recommendation read, “It has been determined through your own admission in a handwritten letter, that you are now the leader of the Latin Kings in the NYS department of corrections. This admission poses a threat to the safety and security of [this facility].” Whether the accusation is true or not, this is a clear example of the targeted repression the comrade writes about. Being a leader of ALKQN, an organization fighting oppression, is reason enough to be put in segregation in the NYSDOC. A close look will show that political repression is the main purpose of the U.$ prison system.

What is internationalism?


Internationalism is the ethical belief or scientific approach in which peoples of different nations are held to be or assumed to be equal. Internationalism is opposed to racism and national chauvinism.

We Maoists believe the nationalism of nations experiencing oppression of imperialism is “applied internationalism.” We oppose nationalism of oppressed nations directed at other oppressed nations, because the economic content of such nationalism is intra-proletarian conflict. We seek a united front of oppressed nations led by the international proletariat against imperialism.

“I must argue, not from the point of view of ‘my’ country (for that is the argument of a wretched, stupid, petty-bourgeois nationalist who does not realize that he is only a playing in the hands of the imperialist bourgeoisie), but from the point of view of my share in the preparation, in the propaganda, and in the acceleration of the world proletarian revolution. That is not internationalism means, and that is the duty of the internationalist, of the revolutionary worker, of the genuine Socialist.”

V. I. Lenin, “What Is Internationalism?”

Miles de personas protestan contra el militarismo yanqui y la agresión israelí

Traducido por CELAAL
Abril 21
San Francisco
Más de veinte mil personas marcharon ayer desde Mission District hacia City Hall para protestar contra el militarismo y el imperialismo yanqui. Multitudes de manifestantes denunciaron ruidosamente la reciente agresión israelí en la Franja de Gaza respaldada por EE.UU. Todos los gritos del lema “¡Libertad para Palestina!” que se daban durante pausas en medio de canciones recibieron fuertes respuestas por parte de decenas o cientos de personas.

La presencia de los activistas del Movimiento Maoísta Internacionalista (MIM) y la Liga Revolucionaria Antiglobalista (RAIL) fue muy notable y bien recibida, en gran parte debido a una serie de carteles muy artísticos diseñados por los camaradas de RAIL. En uno de los carteles salía el presidente Bush tirando los hilos de su títere- el Primer Ministro israelí Sharon; otro mostraba un hambriento africano acunado a un vehículo para uso deportivo yanqui bajo el lema “La mayoría del mundo no pueden convivir con el imperialismo, y tú ¿Puedes vivir sin él?” Todos esos carteles recibieron comentarios de aprobación por parte de otros manifestantes.

Algunos de los camaradas del MIM y RAIL participaron además en una menor manifestación organizada por BAYAN-International EE.UU., una organización democrática nacional de ciudadanos filipinos. Esta manifestación resultó bastante tumultuosa; los cantantes de lemas consiguieron inspirar a las multitudes saliendo con el hip y canciones originales (fue una buena idea apartarse de las de siempre como “Uno, dos, tres, cuatro…” y “Hey heh ho ho…”). Los estribillos no carecieron de una dirección política: algunos de ellos decían: “Desde Afganistán hasta las Filipinas, paren la máquina bélica yanqui!” y “Fascista Bush, no creas que podrás sobre vivirnos!”

Los organizadores de la manifestación lograron promover el internacionalismo. Traían banderas y hacían uso de estribillos con fin de respaldar la lucha palestina por la autodeterminación. Los oradores de la manifestación cuyo punto de partida fue el corazón del distrito Latino Mission poblado por inmigrantes, discutieron con militantes anarquistas y unánimes en una dirección política: algunos de ellos decían: “Desde Afganistán hasta las Filipinas, paren la máquina bélica yanqui!” y “Fascista Bush, no creas que podrás sobre vivirnos!”

En el rally más grande participó un veterano de la brigada Abraham Lincoln de 89 años de edad. La brigada de Abraham Lincoln fundada por los comunistas luchó en la guerra civil española contra los nacionalistas respaldados por los nazis. “Me da mucho orgullo luchar contra el fascismo y la opresión, ya sea en España, Alemania o Israel”, -dijo.

Al MIM le da mucha alegría oir este tipo de comentarios desde el punto de vista internacionalista y presenciar la participación de tanta gente en la protesta contra el imperialismo yanqui y una creciente ola del fascismo. Sin embargo, los sentimientos reflejan la actitud de la minoría del pueblo yanqui (véase los artículos sobre las protestas en Santa Cruz y la Universidad Estatal de San Francisco en esta página y en las páginas cuatro, cinco y ocho).

Durante el rally, los camaradas del MIM y RAIL, distribuyeron el periódico del MIM- MIM Notes, así como recogieron firmas a favor de la demanda de quitar las restricciones de acceso a visitas impuestas sobre los prisioneros (véase página tres) y exigir que el Fiscal General de EE.UU. provea información sobre más de mil personas detenidas desde el 11 de septiembre bajo supuestos cargos de sospecha de actividades terroristas.


¿Campana para aumentar la circulación de MIM Notes!

Nueva York, El Paso, Chapel Hill/ Greensboro Carolina del Norte, Madison Wisconsin, Champaign/Urbana Illinois: ¡No dejen de recibir la cantidad de MIM Notes que les corresponde! Desde el comienzo de la “guerra contra el terrorismo” la circulación de MIM Notes ha aumentado rápidamente. El hecho es sorprendente: MIM Notes es un periódico gratuito e independiente. Claro, en estos tiempos hay más patriotas impulsivos que se tragan todo lo que dice Bush, y se les pasa la oportunidad de leer MIM Notes. Pero hay otros patriotas e internacionales que se dan cuenta de que ahora periódicos como MIM Notes pueden desenmascarar el gran espectáculo que el Tío Sam está poniendo a su favor.

Claro, Uds. han visto MIM Notes en español contra los nacionalistas respaldados por los nazis. “Me da mucho orgullo luchar contra el fascismo y la opresión, ya sea en España, Alemania o Israel”, -dijo.

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