

MIM Notes



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The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

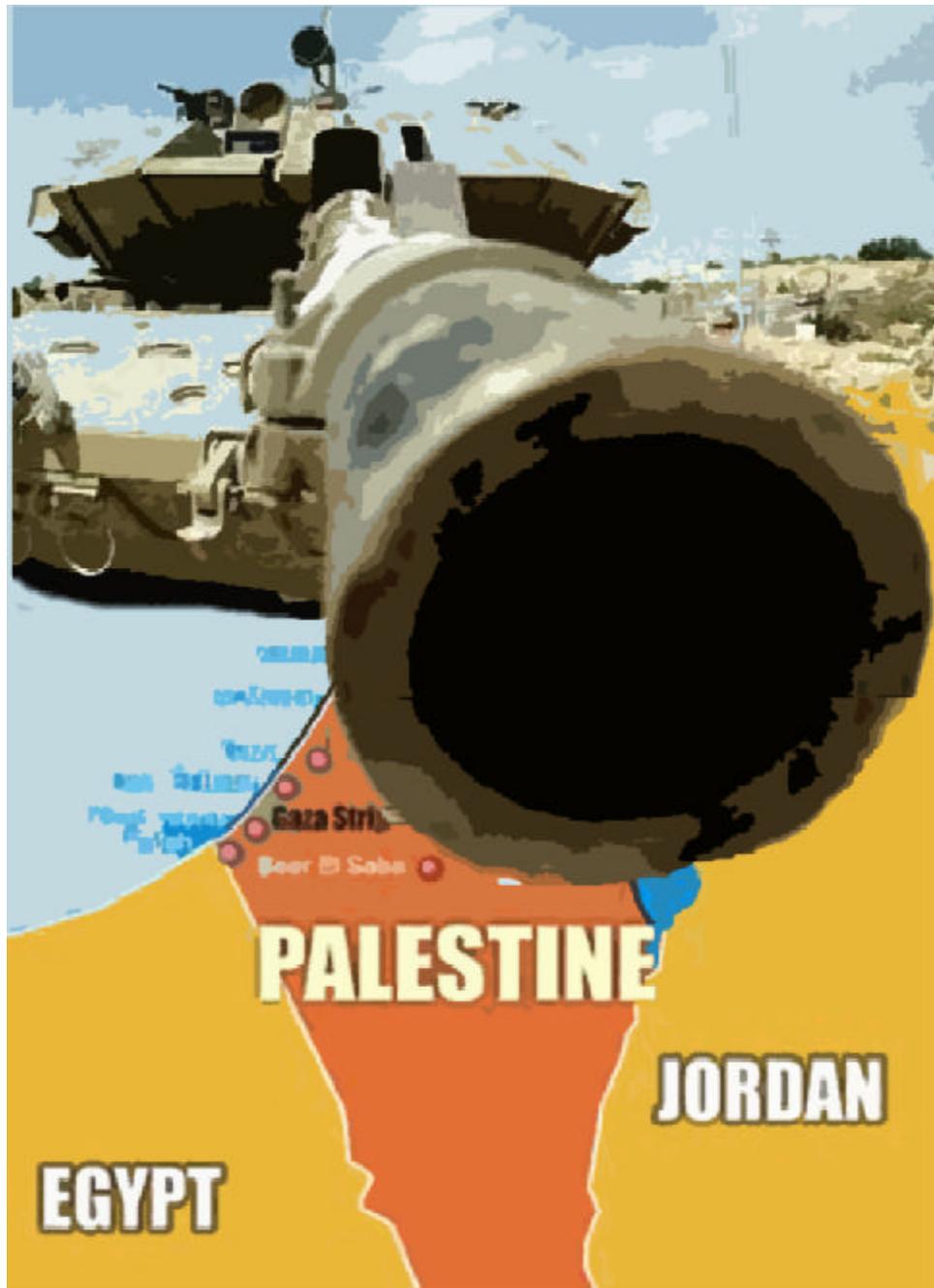
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U\$ Plans for Palestine 'Road' to Nowhere

The United States and its partners the European Union, United Nations and Russia presented Israeli and Palestinian leaders a "road map to peace" on April 30. According to hype, this is a new plan that will demand equal concessions from both Israelis and Palestinians. In fact, the "road map" rehashes earlier failed proposals. In particular, it demands the Palestinians renounce armed struggle unconditionally, ignoring the basic reality that Israel's settlements make it the aggressor—and aggressor with massive military superiority.

Some neo-conservatives and Zionists believe the "road map" is different because the geopolitical situation has changed. The recent Iraq war showed the world that resistance to the United States is futile, they argue. Oppressed peoples like the Palestinians should just suck it up and accept whatever crumbs Uncle Sam wants to give them. Such arguments reveal what kind of "peace" these war-mongers want—secure domination of the oppressors over the oppressed. They do not want to justly address the roots of conflict: in this case, the unfulfilled right of the Palestinians to self-determination.

The "peace" these warmongers seek is chimeric. Just like the "success" of covert operations in Afghanistan in the 1980s led to September 11, and like the "success" of Israel's military and political moves against the first Palestinian intifadah led to the current uprising, the current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq will lead to future tragedy and war. In their own long-term interests—to say nothing of the interests of huminity as a whole—Amerikans need to break with their leaders who have proven incapable of



finding a just solution to the problem of peace and security.

As a public service we review propaganda guidelines put out by the pro-Israel Wexler Analysis (see page nine). While admitting privately that Israeli settlements in Palestine are Israel's

"Achilles heel," the guidelines aim to place the blame for the inevitable failure of the "road map" on the Palestinians.

Southern Culture Reviewed

MIM never shies away from unpleasant tasks, so when debates over pro-slavery symbols in the Georgia state flag and the Dixie Chicks grab headlines, we speak up. Nor is nostalgia for open white supremacy limited to the South, as seen in recent comments from Cal. Republican Bill Back. The lesson communists take from these incidents is that "supporting majority rule when the majority could well be Back or Lott supporters is unacceptable." We also review the film *Gods and Generals*, aimed at the Civil War reenactment set. See pages six and seven.

Rai and Chomsky give 'ten reasons against war on Iraq'

This review was written just after U.S. ground forces invaded Iraq and published on our website. It remains relevant, as the Amerikan war-mongers have turned the deceitful rhetoric they used against Iraq towards other countries, such as Syria and North Korea. For example, there is this lie that Amerikan military aggression can stop the spread of "weapons of mass destruction" ...

War Plan Iraq: Ten Reasons against War on Iraq
by Milan Rai & Noam Chomsky
London: Verso, 2002, 240pp. pb

This book contains pleas for peace from 911 victims, photos of potential Iraqi victims, a chapter by Noam Chomsky and a thorough account of the background leading to the war in 2003. Milan Rai helps us refute a number of myths being spread by the war-mongers right now:

1. Myth: there was 12 years time for diplomacy to work in disarming Saddam Hussein. Now it's time for "action."

Fact: The United States never backed disarming Hussein and ordered the end of UN inspections in 1998 just before they were going to certify Hussein free of weapons of mass destruction.

In the whole 12 years, Iraq was under military occupation with no-fly zones in the north and the south. Also thanks to ongoing military action unreasonably extended, Iraq was not able to trade without the use of smugglers. Although most Amerikkans were not paying attention to any news at all before 911, the war in Afghanistan and now Gulf War II, the military all along said it was in charge of Iraq's infrastructure. Colonel John Warden explained how the United States was using humanitarian disaster to

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Letters

MIM writes truth about imperialism and Iraq

MIM gives us the truth behind U.S. imperialism and its dynamics. It is true that anyone who supports the policies in this country and its jingoism supports the blood thirsty killers who are bent on totally colonizing the Middle East to enrich themselves even more with the Middle Eastern natural resources. To even further my statement, it is true that anyone who perpetuates the economics of the u.s. thru whatever way receives blood money. Not only has the Middle East been colonized but 90 countries have been invaded by the filth of western culture. Iraq is to be sucked into the vacuum of America in this war in Iraq.

What is amazing to me is that there is not one Muslim in this country even attempting to at least protest this war. It seems there are more whites protesting the war in Iraq. A percentage of these whites protest the war but they support the decision to have Hussein removed from office by the U.S. when the U.S. has no business trying to dictate to anyone but themselves. Domestic problems of this country have not been addressed but yet the taxpayer's money is going towards this war in Iraq.

Another issue that is disturbing is the Arab countries in the Middle East are allowing the destruction of Iraq as we

something. More proof that political line and umph are what counts, not mere numbers.

speaking. People in the world have their priorities hideously mixed up. Anyone with any sense of politics knows that this war in Iraq is behind oil and Iraq's geographical location to spy on Iran and other neighboring Middle Eastern countries. Organizations like MIM know the real truth. This disease of the white predatory political economy that must create war must do what it does because murder is a dynamic of the capitalist system. Thanks to your organization's publication we are kept abreast of those facts.

— A prisoner in California, April 2003

MIM responds: We have seen many Muslim individuals and organizations on the streets protesting the war in Iraq. Many Arab Muslims in particular correctly tie this war to the situation in Palestine where Amerika finances genocidal colonialism by Israel. And by making these ties they push the anti-war movement to a broader understanding of imperialism.

Aside from the anti-imperialists who have led the anti-war organizing, the anti-war movement has a liberal pacifist character. This keeps it from addressing the colonization of internal (and external) oppressed nations—and in that sense, the anti-war movement is indeed white and held up by its compulsion to appeal to middle Amerika. Spokespeople for the liberal “anti-war” majority have ruthlessly criticized the radical minority for failing to reach out to the chauvinist white majority—yet it's the anti-imperialist minority that's actually accomplished

something. More proof that political line and umph are what counts, not mere numbers.

How does Uncle Sam spell relief?

Well, the U.S. has finally invaded Iraq and as we know a win will guarantee a long term oil supply for the capitalists' economy. It's not only for profit but also control as to foreign policy and oil companies here in the u.s. The capitalistic government knows that Saudi Arabia will begin to use its resources as influence since they are the biggest exporters from this oil rich region. So instead of seeing a repeat of the oil embargo of 1973, the capitalists jump on the chance to make billions of dollars for Texaco, Chevron and Exxon Mobil by waging war and give the people the impression that they are deposing a tyrant with weapons of mass destruction and penchant for violence. Also the stolen petroleum will help rebuild the country it bombarded with its own weapons of destruction.

—a New York prisoner March 2003

Keep up the good work!

Dear MIM,

Greetings to all. First and foremost, thank you for MIM Notes and the RAIL website. These are sources of information vital to the struggles around the world and here in Amerika. With today's mass media being the center of censorship, it's nice to have REAL news! Being an avid reader of MIM Notes, and being somewhat of a writer myself, I have written some poetry inspired from reading MIM [printed on page 6]. I am not entirely sure about your policies on submissions,

but I thought I would write and send you these poems anyway. I have noticed a few printed by you from prisoners in the last few issues, I thought I would pass them on. Delete them, print them, or criticize them, I don't mind. I thank you for your time, and your efforts. Your a wealth of information, and I will continue to read MIM and RAIL always.

Thank you,

—an Internet reader

MIM Responds: We welcome submissions of news articles, short poetry and artwork. Guidelines for news submissions can be found at <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/mnstyle.html>. Ideas for artistic submissions are also available: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/art/frustart.html>.



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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.

The paper is free to all prisoners, as long as they write to us every 90 days to confirm their subscriptions. There are no individual subscriptions for people outside prison.

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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.

MIM media keep growing

April, 2003 Central Task Report by PIRAO Chief, May 1, 2003

Again, thanks in part to the heroic struggle of the Iraqi people against imperialist invaders, April was a big breakthrough month for the web page and MIM Notes distribution. It's difficult to celebrate when we know that much of the interest in our web page arose from the brutality of the war on Iraq and when we also know we did not succeed in stopping the terrorism of our government.

We did not maintain the blistering pace of the first few days of April, because the population largely concluded that the "war is over." Attention dropped off and then resumed at a higher and steadier level toward the end of the month. For MIM, the brightest spot is the improvement of our agitation numbers from low levels. Especially in the past year, we seemed to be attracting people more and more consistently for historical and theoretical purposes. People were reading more material and deepening their understanding of MIM. Now we have a "widening" trend going on with a large influx of people looking at our web page.

In this report we compare March with April. We have to remember that March has one more day than April and thus we expect our monthly totals of people visiting a web page to be lower if a department merely stagnated. If number of visitors only shrunk 3% over March in a department, then the department was stagnant, not actually shrinking on a per day traffic basis.

This month, the Black Panther page, MIM Notes 1-250 and the arts page each had more hits than the home page. The above table counts the languages all the same way, based on number of visitors. It reveals that Spanish is now language

Table 1. Summary statistics: April 2003 vs. April 2002

Statistic	April, 2002	April, 2003	% change
Number of different MIM web page files actively chosen from	3,784	3,436	-9
Avg. MIM pages served per day	1,977	3,735*	89
MIM data transferred	99 Mb/day	214 Mb/day	114
Number of different computers MIM served	22,875	51,029*	123
Amazon visitors sent from web page	213	677	218
Number of Art page users	Unknown	6,355	N/A
MIM Notes printed copies compared with pre-911			211
MIM prison circulation averaged over two months Jan 2002			112

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

number two, Chinese third and French fourth for our web page.

Of note on the agitation page, the first article listed was not the most popular. The most popular new April article was "Amerikkans: The Redcoats of the 21st Century" with 503 hits.

We expect May will be another big month for MIM. We are also working again this year to see what we can do to avoid the summer slump we usually see.

At the current pace of growth, MIM would achieve the suggested Five Year Plan for web page growth in less than three years. If there are a number of wars going on, perhaps MIM would achieve the goal sooner. There are both external factors beyond our control and internal factors within our grasp. MIM has never had a better understanding of what it is that increases our web page traffic. There is continuous demand for our documents. Although at some points in our history we have had trouble giving out papers and articles fast enough, we are definitely now in a position where we cannot write material fast enough or find enough money to get the material out there.

Table 2. Web traffic: March vs. April, 2003

Department	Mar-03	Apr-03	% chnge
Agitation	2,145	7,209	236
Bookstore	5,342	10,764	102
Albany	55	104	89
Chinese	787	1,204	53
Russian	94	135	44
FAQ	4,084	5,674	39
Classic quotes	564	763	35
New York City	60	81	35
Movies	1,482	1,995	35
Turkish	65	86	32
Contemporary controversies/countries page	842	1,088	29
What is MIM?	4,089	5,089	25
California	883	1,062	20
Black Panther page	4,303	5,101	19
Notas Rojas	1,127	1,318	17
Study packs	103	118	15
French	975	1,103	13
MIM Theory	2,882	3,240	12
Maoist Sojourner	223	248	11
German	207	230	11
MIM Notes	5,614	6,213	11
RAIL	2,350	2,570	9
Finnish	166	168	1
RAIL fliers (within RAIL page)	603	562	-7
Art	7,369	6,355	-14

California slashes education budget, boosts prisons spending

On February 24 about 150 students from the California State University system's 23 universities rallied on the steps of the capitol in Sacramento protesting increased student fees. There has already been a 10% increase in fees this year and Davis has proposed increasing them by another 25%.(1)

As MIM Notes reported recently, Davis announced sweeping budget cuts in January in response to a huge budget deficit. However, after cutting funds from nearly everything in the state, Davis announced a proposed 1% budget increase for the Department of Corrections. Davis has accepted more than \$3 million in campaign contributions from the prison guards' union, so it is no surprise Davis wants to increase funding for the powerful union. Contrast this increase to his proposed reduction in spending on education: a 4.2% decrease

for the University of California and a 4.5% decrease for California State University.(2)

On March 1 MIM and RAIL attended a conference on social justice for social workers at Cal State Sacramento to collect signatures to shut down the SHU (Security Housing Units) control units in California prisons, at the invitation of one of the organizers. Several people connected the issue of Davis' proposed increase in the prison budget to cuts in education funding.

The audience was largely supportive with several attendees working in the prison system and many people quickly agreeing to sign the petition and encouraging their friends to do the same. Those who challenged us, claiming that violent prisoners need to be punished and isolated, were quickly shot down by arguments from their fellow conference

participants who had worked in prisons or studied the issue. They pointed out that the SHU is used to target politically active prisoners, that California prison guards are notorious for setting up the violence and gang fights they claim to be stopping, and that the SHU only drives prisoners crazy.

The Third World Forum, a publication by students at UC Davis, provides useful information on a connection between the prison and education issues: "The UC employed Lehman Brothers, a Wall Street investment bank that has become the major financial backer of the U.S. prison industry, to sell \$196 million of bonds in 1999, \$132 million in 2001, and \$45 million in 2002. This makes the UC one of Lehman's biggest clients. Lehman made a profit of approximately \$2 million from those deals. That is profit that was made from capital which mostly came from OUR student fees. A movement calling for the UC to divest from it's stake in Lehman is already underway.... This fight is not impossible, recent history has taught us that the University can be forced to

put People over profits when it was forced to have Sodexo divest it's 10% state in Corrections Corporation of America."(3) This refers to the victory in 2000 when a student movement on 60 campuses forced campus caterer Sodexo-Marriott Services to sell its leading stake in CCA.

MIM calls on education and prison activists to connect these issues and join us in the fight against the criminal injustice system. Since 1984 California has built 21 prisons and only one public university. The state ranks #1 in prison spending and #43 in spending on public education.(3) In California and across the country Amerika is imprisoning more and more Black and Latino youth while cutting educational opportunities. To get involved in the fight check out the latest news and actions at <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons>

Notes:

1. The State Hornet, CSU Sacramento, Feb 26, 2003.
2. MIM Notes #275, Feb 1, 2003
3. Third World Forum, Vol 24 #2, Feb. 2003.

Rai and Chomsky give 'ten reasons against war on Iraq'

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shape Saddam Hussein's behavior: "Saddam, when you agree to do these things, we will allow people to come in and fix your electricity." (p. 139) The war in Iraq never ended; hence to blame failure on "diplomacy" as if military means were not in use the whole time is misleading.

In March 1997, Bill Clinton's U.S. Secretary of State Madelaine Albright said that even if Iraq complied with the UN resolutions, (p. 47) the United States would not lift economic sanctions against Iraq, contrary to Paragraph 22 of the UN Resolution 687 on Iraq. Needless to say this gave Iraq little reason to cooperate with UN arms inspectors and Iraq had no choice but to consider war to end the sanctions and deter the United States, which clearly indicated that weapons inspections were secondary to some other U.S. goal in Iraq.

In 1998, Russia, China and France asked the United States to uphold Paragraph 22 if Iraq disarmed. On October 30th, the United States said "no" again. (p. 48) At this time, many (including U.S. employees) realized that the United States was stabbing the UN in the back, and trying to force the UN to fail in order to justify U.S. pursuit of other interests besides weapons inspections.

In fact, the United States was caught using the weapons inspectors to infiltrate with a team of CIA spies attempting to overthrow Saddam Hussein. (pp. 55, 201) Whatever it was the United States was trying to achieve, it was willing to sacrifice the weapons inspections to stage a coup against Saddam Hussein. Of course, Iraq had no choice but to oppose inspections that were not inspections.

Twice in 1998, the UNSCOM weapons inspectors had to all withdraw from Iraq, because the United States told Richard Butler it was about to attack Iraq. When Butler withdrew, he did not even tell his boss—the UN Security Council—and thus Russia, France, China and England had no chance to stop the United States from ruining the weapons inspections process again. After the second time and U.S. bombing of Iraq, the UN weapons inspectors did not return. Richard Butler temporarily covered up for the United States by making up some lame excuses for why the inspections had failed. Russia and China exposed Butler to the whole world in the UN Security Council in 1998 as U.S. bombing was going on. By his own admission, when the United States attacked, Butler was 6 to 8 weeks away from completing all inspections and certifying Iraq free of weapons of mass destruction.

A US intelligence officer admitted in February 2002 that the U.S. strategy was "not to take yes for an answer" from Iraq. (p. 61) Finally in April, 2002, Bush and Blair held a press conference in the open where they said "regime change" was their goal. In such a circumstance, it is useful for the imperialists to pretend the weapons inspections failed when they

did. They can then justify "regime change."

As we go to press, it's been over a week of war, but the U.S. Government failed to meet one of its stated objectives. Planners had said they would have 48 hours to get Saddam Hussein before his deployments of weapons of mass destruction took place. (p. 161)

2. Myth: France stabbed the United States in the back.

Fact: Going back several years, France voted to enforce the existing UN resolutions consistently, along with Russia and China and occasionally England. The French vote against war is consistent with its earlier stances, the United Nations charter and the relevant UN resolutions on Iraq.

The United States did not want to allow Iraq to resume oil exports or allow weapons inspections to succeed, so there was no way for the United States to vote along with the other members of the Security Council. Those members of the Security Council wanted the original UN resolution enforced but were unable to enforce it, because the United States and England had veto power. It is now a matter of public record that the United States all along had another agenda besides enforcing UN resolutions.

3. Myth: Democrats would not have carried out this war.

Facts: Bill Clinton was the one in charge when the United States intentionally sabotaged UN resolutions on Iraq including Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. He also carried out military operation "Desert Fox" against Iraq and attempted a coup against Saddam Hussein by using weapons inspectors for purposes other than those declared by the UN. The "Desert Fox" bombing in December, 1998 was against international law even according to a one-time British Minister of "Defence," Lord Healey. (p. 145)

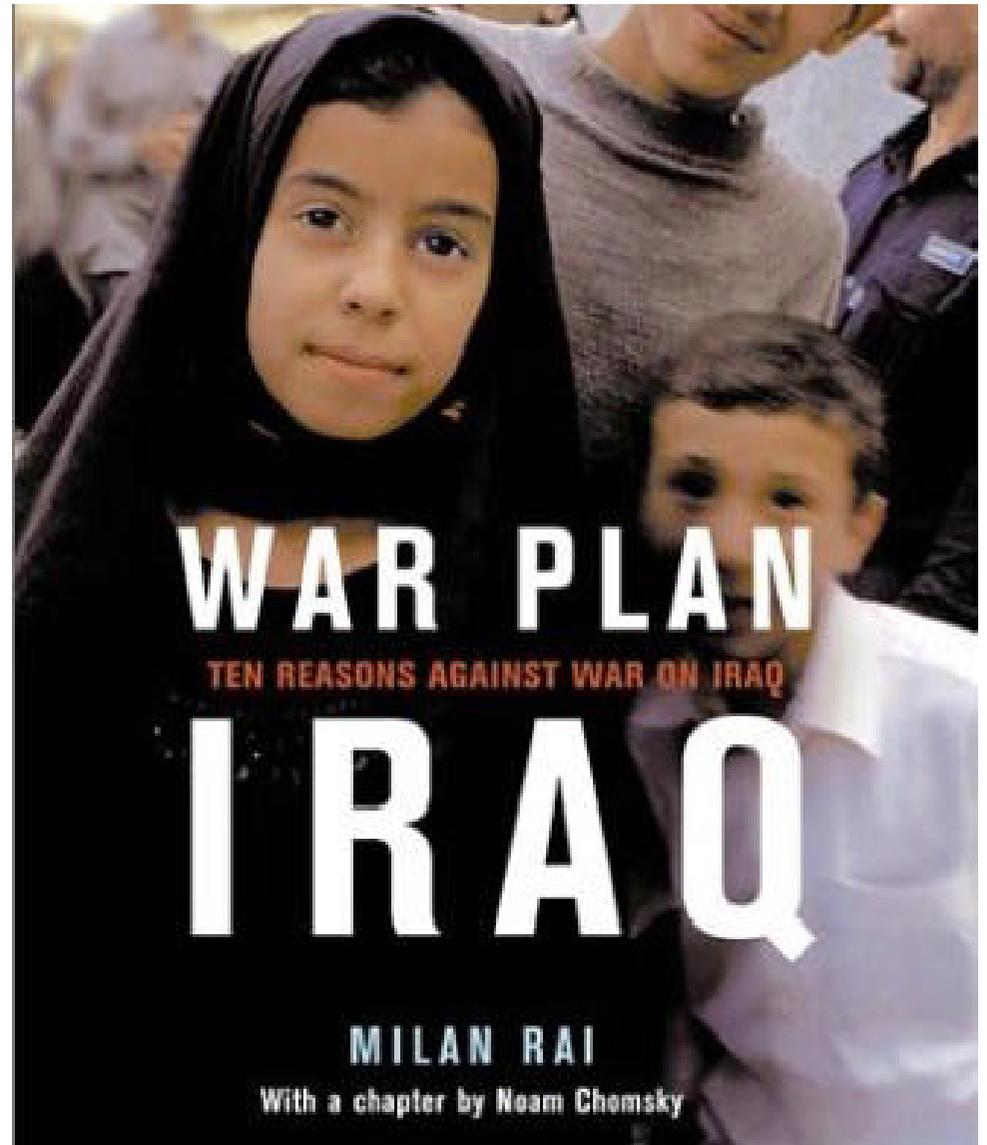
Clinton's bombing of Iraq ended UN weapons inspections until just before the 2003 war. As Colin Powell correctly stated, the goal of "regime change" really started under Clinton: "We have had a policy of regime change, which really has been there all along but was crystallized by President Clinton in 1998 at the time of Desert Fox." (p. 75)

Under Clinton, there was also the 23 Tomahawk cruise missiles launched against Iraq for a faked bomb plot against Bush Sr. in 1993. (p. 132)

4. Myth: The Labour Party's soul is against the war, so Blair cannot win a vote by using democratic methods.

Facts: A March 2002 survey showed that Labour Party supporters had higher percentages in favor of war than either the Conservatives or the Liberal-Democrats. Labour and Conservatives were essentially equal in their support of the war. (p. 167)

Milan Rai said in 2002, "hence Mr. Blair's decision not to put the invasion of



Iraq to a vote of the House of Commons. The Prime Minister is determined to launch what US hawks call a 'war for democracy' in Iraq by undemocratic methods." (p. 7)

In 2003, we see that Milan Rai was wrong: Blair did hold a vote and he won it despite a defection of a minority of his party. If the Labour Party were so concerned, it could have removed Blair in 2002, never mind 2003. True, the Labour Party felt that this issue deserved more discussion than any other issue in recent decades, but in the end, it voiced some qualms but went along with the prime minister and Bush.

Milan Rai correctly pointed out that Blair had a self-interest in making more ridiculous claims than Bush did, because Blair had more of a public opinion poll gap to make up. (p. 118) All along, Blair correctly perceived which way the public would go. Once at war, 54% of the public swung around to support him, up from 36%. (1) Blair had said about previous polls in April 2002: "It's hardly surprising frankly if people are concerned about military action at this present time because we are not suggesting it at this present time." (p. 165)

The reason for all this is that the peace movement has too many bourgeois democratic prejudices to be able to understand the true nature of the power struggle going on. That is why Blair won it. Even if England eventually retreats under repeated blows, the fact remains that the English peace movement was too

weak to stop Blair's throwing the dice, and taking a chance with the whole world's survival.

On the question of "democracy," the more relevant problem than fools who do not understand electoral politics as well as Blair does was the Conservative Minister justifying support for the war by "secret intelligence reports." (p. 119) Justifying a war with "secret intelligence reports" is fine in a monarchy or fascism, but in "democracy" the citizenry is supposed to be informed.

5. Myth: Colin Powell is a moderate without influence in the Bush administration.

Facts: Powell won the strategic battle against Perle, Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz. The United States went to the United Nations and feigned interest in weapons inspections one last time before unleashing war in 2003. More crucially, contrary to New York Times propaganda attempting to protect and manipulate Powell through his putative future electoral base as a presidential candidate, the basic military strategy in Iraq was Powell's.

The "cakewalk" faction of reactionaries so reactionary that they are "radical" favored using Amerikkkan air power to back an invasion of Iraqi exiles. They believed that the Iraqis would greet them with "flowers and song" while throwing rice to their "liberators." The "radicals" of the Bush administration

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believe that Amerikkka is so loved and Saddam Hussein so hated that toppling Saddam Hussein would be like toppling the Taliban despite the fact that everyone knew Saddam Hussein has several divisions of regular troops and equipment that the Taliban did not.

Ironically, Milan Rai shares the assumptions of the Pentagon “revolutionaries.” He said the revolt of the people to be liberated should have been supported at the end of the first Gulf War and the whole Republican Guard annihilated when U.S. forces had the chance. (p. 86) Some of the press predictions about targets of the war that said the United States would not attack the Republican Guard in Gulf War II (p. 95) have proved wrong as we write this.

In contrast with the Pentagon “revolutionaries” today, Powell argued for use of overwhelming force (250,000 troops) and no reliance on “half-assed” people with schemes about Iraqi exiles. Even a compromise position of 80,000 troops fell to the wayside, so complete was Powell’s victory in the Bush administration. 250,000 troops ended up going and more may be on the way as we write this.

An article in the New York Times called on Powell to resign and another New York Times article incorrectly concluded Powell did not get what he wanted on Iraq strategy, but Powell replied that Gallup polls show he is still popular for the job he is doing. Powell himself answered the New York Times on March 26, 2003: “Personally, I’m very much in sync with the president and he values my services,” Powell told National Public Radio.”(2)

6. Myth: Nothing else works but military force.

Facts: Nothing else has failed but military force. All through history, the United States has used the same means it is using now and that has not stopped terrorism, war and economic disaster. The CIA created Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden and now we hear idiots globally calling for the same means to be used to rid the world of Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden, who themselves were only the means of destroying previous enemies.

The same reactionaries who said Saddam Hussein was so evil and assured us that he has chemical, biological and nuclear weapons are now counting on Saddam Hussein’s good intentions not to start a five or six digit slaughter of Amerikkans and possibly Israeils. It looks like something other than military force is involved, because the United States did not kill Saddam Hussein within the first 48 hours as planned.

Saddam Hussein got his start with the CIA by assassinating a “communist” relative and providing lists of “communists” to the CIA. (p. 97) Now when something goes wrong with Saddam Hussein the same reactionaries are saying to use the same methods as in

the past. Once again the CIA is in there, with Special Forces. Once again, the United States is trying to make some deal with the Kurds inside Iraqi borders, but in 1963, the CIA supported the Kurds and then spit them out. It delivered weapons to Turkey and Iran to crush the Kurds. (That’s how Saddam Hussein’s party came to power in the first place. Junior Saddam Hussein only climbed the ranks with more of the same and won especial favor from U.S. masters for his war in the 1980s with Iran.)

Likewise, in 1991, Bush Sr. called for a revolt of the people against Saddam Hussein. The Amerikkans allowed the revolt to be crushed by Saddam Hussein. In particular, they refused to let one Iraqi rebel battalion have its weapons to fight Saddam Hussein. Saddam Hussein promptly slaughtered the rebel battalion, once again with U.S. assistance.

We are told repeatedly thanks to a computer programming glitch lasting more than a week at www.abcnews.com that the FBI is rounding up Saddam Hussein supporters in the uSA. When will the FBI start arresting the CIA? When will Bush Sr. be put in the clink?

This should teach all Third World and former-Soviet bloc people that solidarity against U.S. imperialism has to come first and foremost before everything else. The U.S. uses its friends and then spits them out. Ask Manuel Noriega or Saddam Hussein.

What the peace movement in the imperialist countries should learn from all this is that the government is not serious about ending terrorism. The only beneficiaries of this continuous CIA/military action are the arms dealers and manufacturers. Give the weapons to one side and then the other—make profits off both.

People globally should also learn that the United States will assume ANY guise to get a job done. In the past and now the CIA is posing as the most militant communists in order to avoid being detected. In order to install a king and overthrow parliamentary democracy in Iran in 1950s, the CIA organized a mob of “communists,” so that the military could find a justification for seizing power in August, 1953. (p. 100) We have to learn when communists are getting things done and support them, even if we cannot be sure who they are exactly.

We of the peace movement have the radical idea that we can actually PAY for gasoline and thereby get along with people, expand trade and create global prosperity. We also see no reason to trust our government officials to weapons manufacturers and dealers willing to bribe anybody for a short-run profit. Our means to prosperity may not be as obvious as selling weapons to opposing sides of a war, but we believe the communist plan of peace and prosperity is much more sound for the long-run.

Noam Chomsky

In contrast with some other more wilting writing of his recently, MIM

appreciates the chapter in this book. In concrete form, Chomsky expresses internationalism.

Chomsky points out that Bush is a criminal even on bourgeois legal grounds. Ironically, now that there are Amerikan POWs held by Iraq, Rumsfeld is all rhetoric about Iraq’s respecting the Geneva Conventions on war crimes, but before the war started, Chomsky was already criticizing the United States for undermining the Geneva Conventions in the Middle East. Even Bush Sr. as a diplomat in 1971 admitted that Israel was violating the Geneva Conventions. Despite this and numerous UN resolutions, the United States never enforced the relevant resolutions. “As High Contracting Parties, the US and the European powers are obligated by solemn treaty to apprehend and prosecute those responsible for such crimes, including their own leadership when they are parties to them. By continuing to reject that duty, they are enhancing terror directly and significantly.” (p. 30) Just remember Amerikkans, when you see those POWs on TV, what goes around comes around.

Criticism of the book

We have a few complaints about this book. This goes for any book that attempts to handle the details of war and imperialist “foreign policy”: in the process of refuting lies or bringing forward history now ignored in today’s headlines, we have to be careful about ending up sharing the unspoken assumption of our opponents. Quoting at length from former U.N. weapons inspector Scott Ritter—who voted for Bush after all—is an example. To understand what the rulers are really trying to do, we do have to read Ritter and Milan Rai; however, if we end up arguing forever in the Ritter vein, that Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction or that the best way to find out is to send in inspectors (and not troops who may be the victims of those weapons of mass destruction), we will lose out on a theoretical level.

For the public, we understand “theory” often means “speculation” or “values,” but for MIM, following Marx, Lenin and Mao, “theory” is something even more valuable than an individual fact, because theory is a generalization about facts that tells us how facts are linked together. There are two keys theoretical aspects missing from both the works of Ritter and Milan Rai: 1) capitalist economic organization as it ties to militarism. 2) internationalism and how it is an expression of the social forces capable of bringing global peace.

We can see ignorant nationalism masquerading as bourgeois democratic prejudice in Milan Rai’s statement, when he calls the United States and England “two of the freest societies ever to have existed.” (p. 189) Quite the contrary, the United States imprisons more people percentagewise than any other country and England does more than anyone else in the European Union. (3)

Milan Rai says “in the case of Iraq, inspection is an option, and almost certainly the only effective one.” (p. 74) This includes the assumption that the causes of war and militarism cannot be addressed effectively, so the United States may continue to use weapons of mass destruction while Iraq cannot. It’s quite ironic to see Donald Rumsfeld sing the glories of capitalism and then fret that northern Korea could sell nuclear weapons for profit. Now the United States is trying to stigmatize Russian arms sales to Syria and Yemen as going to Iraq. Russia replies that it sold arms quite legally to Syria and Yemen. The United States says those weapons then ended up in Iraq. Anyone looking at Uncle Sam has to ask: “What are you bitching about? Capitalism is the system you asked for!”

That is all details of one bourgeois telling another that his or her sales are illegitimate. The fact is that weapons production is profitable all across the world. Where there are sanctions as in the case of Iraq, there are smugglers. When it comes to smuggling, there are people of all nationalities willing to take risk for profit. That means there will be attempts to supply demand wherever it is.

On the demand side, there are also more than a few bourgeois with an interest in seeing the United States slowed or defeated in Iraq. To think it is only Iraq defending itself is a big mistake of narrowness in thinking. That is why the Arab League finally did condemn the U.S. war in Iraq, with many quietly saying the United States better suffer some in Iraq or everyone will be tempted to knock off Arab regimes at the drop of a hat.

All of the smuggling of arms and expertise to Iraq is inevitable under capitalism. Only a global socialist order would eliminate the incentives to arms smuggling. This raises another point: to think for some reason that the Amerikkkan bourgeoisie should have the right to own and use weapons of mass destruction while the Iraqi bourgeoisie does not is not internationalist. Such a thought cannot bring peace. Large portions of the Milan Rai book and the Ritter book carry the underlying assumption that Iraq should be disarmed but not the United States. At best, these authors share a belief in international law and the United Nations, a kind of bourgeois internationalism which in practice means hands off the United States as the greatest bourgeois power that cannot be stopped or brought to order anyway.

Only socialist internationalism is the ideology that can organize the forces that can bring U.S. imperialism to order. There is no other slumbering giant capable of the task without fatal bourgeois divisiveness.

Notes:

1. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/2883171.stm
2. <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/news/news-iraq-usa-powell.html>
3. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/freecoun.html>

Georgia heads for Confederate past; another Lott gets caught

“Bill Back, a candidate in next month’s [February 2003—MC5] election for the chairmanship of the California Republican Party, has issued a statement apologizing for distributing an article that suggested the country might be better off, in everything from race relations to international affairs to morality, had the South had won the Civil War.”(1)

Back was already Republican Party vice-chairman for California when he sent out the article by William S. Lind of the reactionary Free Congress Foundation in 1999.(1) Back’s newsletter did not comment against the article in editorial notes either.

Despite the article that Back distributed in his newsletter, some California Republican Party members continued to support him for chair of the California party. Instead Duf Sundheim, the former chair of the Lincoln Club of Northern California won the position.(2)

The Republican Party in particular plays on white fears of Blacks in most close elections, because the USA is crawling with Amerikkans like Lind. As a result, some people suggest that we vote for Democrats. However, Democrats tolerate politicians like Back and Lott, often by hushing up criticisms. At the very least, they all hold that it is legitimate to alternate office with the Trent Lotts and

Bill Backs of the world. In contrast, we at MIM are intolerant of racism and national chauvinism. We do not believe that such people as Back and Lott should have the right to vote—and that’s one of the reasons we favor the “dictatorship of the proletariat,” not bourgeois democracy. These reactionary scum like Back and Lott should serve only as a negative political example in public discussion.

Supporting majority rule when the majority could well be Back or Lott supporters is unacceptable. All people, all minorities have to have certain guaranteed minimal rights before democracy (a.k.a. “majority rule”) can be non-threatening to basic freedom.

The difference between those who tolerate racism in a system of majority rule and those who do not nicely separates Liberals from communists. Whether they call themselves communist or not, Liberals tolerate racism and national oppression one way or another at the highest levels of state power and the economy. Truly opposing racism means recognizing the enemy when we see him or her—calling a spade a spade instead of adjusting to a power imbalance created by “majority rule” in a majority Amerikkkan state. Many people make excuses for racism saying that it’s an “ignorance” thing or a

“false consciousness” thing. However, in fact, in the united States today, it’s an active enemy behavior.

To prove MIM right, on April 8th Georgia’s state government voted 111-67 to offer voters a chance at two state flags, both with full-scale Confederate pasts.(3) In 2001, the state government voted to change the flag to put in a miniature emblem of the Confederate past instead of allowing the flag to serve as a symbol of continuity with the Confederacy. In MIM’s opinion, even the miniature emblem is a violation of minimal minority rights that should exist in any society.

This is not an example of “apathy.” Georgians elected Governor Sonny Perdue over the issue of the changed flag. The Georgian whites actively had to have back their symbols of the slave South that betrayed the Union in the U.S. Civil War.

Now Georgians will get a referendum in which they will get to pick a new Confederate flag or go back to the old one in a subsequent referendum if the new Confederate flag fails. Reverend Joseph Lowery pointed out that the vote had the support of white Democrats and Blacks had to walk out in protest.(3) Nonetheless, Black Democrats continued to say there would be a Black-white alliance in the

Democratic Party.

This is where majority rule fails utterly. There should not be a Black Democrat left in the whole country after an event like that in Georgia. Some will say that the solution is for Blacks to form their own nation; yet it’s clear that with such an attitude, white Georgia would continue to menace a Black nation. The only solution is the dictatorship of the proletariat of the oppressed nations of the Third World over white Amerika. There are certain minimal “rights”—food, clothing, shelter, medicine, freedom from racism and national chauvinism—that only intolerance can guarantee at the moment. That’s why we should all be communists and seek allies in the Third World to bring about the changes everyone needs.

The real friends of oppressed people are not white Democrats, but the oppressed people internationally. The war on Iraq shows this clearly. Globally, national oppression and white racism is in the minority.

Notes:

1. <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/4880564.htm>
2. <http://www.marini.com/Stories/0,1413,234~24407~1248596,00.html>
3. <http://www.accessatlanta.com/ajc/metro/politics/0403/10flagback.html>

Gods and Generals: A Racist Warmonger’s Movie

This lily-white, almost-four-hour-long movie glories in commonplace, pompous “historical” shibboleths: the kind of “wink-wink” racism Trent Lott would enjoy. The Civil War, the line goes, was not about slavery, rather about northern industrialists looking for a profit and southern patriots fighting for their “self-determination”—never mind that this included the “right” to buy, sell exploit and torture other humyn beings.

There are only two black characters in the film, despite the fact that Blacks played central political and eventually military roles in the war. One is the slave of southern General Stonewall Jackson, who naively takes Jackson at his word when Jackson claims the Confederacy will someday free him.(1)

“Gods and Generals” is Ted Turner’s second multi-million dollar love gift to the Civil War reenactment crowd—the racist throng which uses their tacky parades to glorify continuing war of attrition against the oppressed peoples of Third World nations in the guise of “cultural celebration of their (white) ethnicities.” The first was 1993’s bore-fest “Gettysburg.” In both, slaveowners and those fighting to preserve the “rights” of slaveowners are “humanized”—while thousands of extras are slaughtered for no apparent reason than some old greybeard’s “honor.”

Stonewall Jackson—a raving superstitious loon—is “Gods and Generals” central character. He is a



Another Amerikan lunatic: Jackson.

copy of Mel Gibson’s “We Were Soldiers” role: praying to god so he can kill all his enemies. Like other Pentagon-Hollywood axis movies, such as “Blackhawk Down,” “We Were Soldiers,” and “Collateral Damage,” “Gods and Generals” is just another psychological warfare movie to prepare the minds of the American public to patronize war the U.S.-Bush War of Terror against the oppressed peoples of the world in the United States and the whole world.

Notes:

1. Yes, yes, we know, some southern rebel leaders did eventually propose freeing the slaves. But (a) they didn’t, and (b) it took serious military defeats at Vicksburg, Gettysburg, etc. and Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation to force even a few rebel leaders to consider such “drastic” measures.

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.



Dixie Chicks: it ain't easy being bland

“Home” (Sony 2002)

Dixie Chicks

The “Dixie Chicks” only caught our attention because of controversy on their stand on the Iraq War of 2003. Singer Natalie Maines told a London audience, “Just so you know, we’re ashamed the president of the United States is from Texas.”

For those who do not know, “Dixie” is a word referring to the southern region of the USA. The U.S. Civil War was about Dixie’s attempt to form its own country apart from the USA. A “chick” is a light-hearted but offensive reference to a young adult female.

Originally the “Dixie Chicks” said on March 12th, “We’ve been overseas for several weeks and have been reading and following the news accounts of our governments’ position. The anti-American sentiment that has unfolded here is astounding. While we support our troops, there is nothing more frightening than the notion of going to war with Iraq and the prospect of all the innocent lives that will be lost.”

Maines further stated, “I feel the President is ignoring the opinions of many in the U.S. and alienating the rest of the world. My comments were made in frustration and one of the privileges of being an American is you are free to voice your own point of view.”(1)

Unfortunately, “Dixie Chicks” apologized on March 14th: “As a concerned American citizen, I apologize to President Bush because my remark was disrespectful. I feel that whoever holds that office should be treated with the utmost respect. We are currently in Europe and witnessing a huge anti-American sentiment as a result of the perceived rush to war. While war may remain a viable option, as a mother, I just want to see every possible alternative exhausted before children and American soldiers’ lives are lost. I love my country. I am a proud American.”(1)

MIM was very sorry to hear the March 14th apology, because a war criminal and the world’s greatest international terrorist deserves no respect whether he was pseudo-elected or not. He wasn’t pseudo-elected to carry out “regime change” in Iraq, only the USA. Now we at MIM understand that most “Dixie Chicks” fans don’t care enough about politics to have investigated why MIM says this about Bush, but surely they realize that elected officials handed power to Hitler and Hitler himself was elected to office, so we cannot always just respect people in office. We have to be right about respecting them or majority-rule will boil down to whoever manipulates the ignorant best.

According to the “Dixie Chicks” manager Simon Renshaw, the “Dixie Chicks” won’t be making more apologies and stated they are in a no-win situation.(2) Meanwhile, reactionary big-

mouth www.rushlimbaugh.com called for a boycott of “Dixie Chicks.” Rush Limbaugh wondered whether they were trying to spur European sales. MIM does not know the motivations of the Dixie Chicks, whether or not they were frustrated with not being able to get their kind of music to breakthrough in Europe.

“In response to outrage from many Bush supporters, the country trio’s songs were pulled from several radio stations’ playlists, despite Maines’ public explanation (“My comments were made in frustration ...”) issued almost immediately after the news broke. The controversy took its toll at retail, as sales of Home fell by more than 42 percent, from 123,000 copies to 71,000. The LP, which has resided near the top of the chart for 30 weeks, will slide three spots to #7.”(3) (On the other hand, the first few days of the controversy saw the album go up two spots to #4 according to Yahoo. “Dixie Chicks” were due to fall anyway after being on the charts more than 30 weeks.)

On TV, redneck protesters took “Dixie Chicks” merchandise and used a steamroller to crush it all on the street. It’s a typical reaction in the united States when fans don’t like something their band did, going back at least to when John Lennon made some comments about god and Jesus that the redneck public did not like.

Anyway, we checked out “Home” to see if it has any content to it. Musically, it’s the standard southern jangle. There’s nothing innovative about it. It could have been done in 1850 except for mentions of the Vietnam War.

Fans report liking “Home,” because it sounds like angels singing in harmony and has that “bluegrass feel,” again another Kentucky/southern reference. Strangely, one reviewer is so enthusiastic he says the “Dixie Chicks” “rock,” which most assuredly they do not, but this is the fan perception of her music. Yes, this music is polished. It will turn out that the emphasis on harmony goes for the sexual values espoused in the music as well.

The reason that “Dixie Chicks” are so popular is that they are nothing new or threatening. They are wives and mothers, so even though they benefit largely from their pictures of themselves [including posing “naked” on a magazine cover in the name of “free speech], they give off the family aura at the same time. What we mean is that if we took the same music by a band of wimmin who were just ordinary-looking it would not sell so well. Then if we added in some lyrics with some discontent in them, the result would be disastrous for sales. “Dixie Chicks” music is uncontroversial to its audience, reactionary even.

“Travelin’ Soldier” is now a famous song about a womyn who stays in love with a much older man who goes to war in Vietnam. The song fell from #1 to #3 on the country charts (a popularity

measure) after the flap about Iraq.(4) In love with the military, much of the rural South and rural areas of the North which are similar still believes that it was wrong to treat returned soldiers from Vietnam as war criminals when they were just “serving their country.” MIM does not believe the returned soldiers got nearly as bad a treatment from the population (leaving aside government programs and benefits) as the war-mongers say. If the treatment were as bad and radical as they make out, the world would have entered socialism by now. For this sort, having the sexy wives of “Dixie Chicks” soothe their souls and promise to be loyal even after war crimes was just the ticket to popularity.

“Truth No. 2” may have mentioned domestic violence, but it’s surrounded in the usual romance pop and not threatening. “White Trash wedding” talks about a man without the money to buy a

diamond ring and how father is not happy, but a baby is on the way. It’s an ancient subject with no new angle from the “Dixie Chicks.”

The formula for wimmin pop stars continues to the letter with “A Home” the title of the album. Although it does not mention genders or sexual preferences, with the Dixie Chicks singing it reads as a heterosexual womyn regretting that she turned away the love of a man who could have built her a “home.” Now she spends her time wondering what the “home” would have been like.

Then there is “More Love” and “I Believe in Love.” “Godspeed” also mentions love and “Top of the World” mentions Jesus. There’s not a word of intelligent discontent on this album and that’s what makes it popular.

We are not saying the patriarchy is any

Continued on next page...

what the flag means to me

A growing trend inside Amerika,
red, white, and blue propaganda.
Pasted to belching deaths bumper,
reprinted in record number.
I can’t turn away, for all I see,
is this display of national purity.
Can’t anyone recall the party,
the banners hung from every house.
A genocidal christian plan,
to purify a nation.
They too hung flags for all,
this nationalism has gone to far.
Patriotism for corporate terrorism.
If you saw what some have seen,
or heard the blasphemous things;
you’d burn that flag in a hurry,
you’d question their authority,
you’d raise your fists loudly,
you’d demand the whole fucking
story!
These red, white, and blue bars,
hold us back inside its walls.
For freedom they say.
For those lost that fateful September
day.
Fuck you, I say.
I turn my flag to the symbol of distress,
I don’t take pride in this fucking mess.
Murder, corruption, imperialism, and
greed.
This is what the flag means to me.
So wear is proudly, fiend.
Because I don’t, I am your enemy.

—by an internet MIM Notes reader

there is evil among us

There is Evil among us.
Not what you may think,
not what you may dream,
but what remains unseen.

It is not in the minds,
of those who fight.
It is not in the minds,
of those who write.
It is not in the minds,
of those who spite.

There is Evil among us.
They dress nice;
white shirt,
red tie,
and blue eyes.
Breeding all those lies.

This Evil I speak of;
lives in a white house,
not in a bunker,
is a christian warrior,
not a jihad supporter.

This Evil deceives us,
blinds us.
Manipulates what we hear,
see,
and feel.

This Evil is real.
It extends its many arms,
to obtain what it desires.
This Evil bombs nations
It pretends it’s for “freedom”,
to obtain what it desires.

There is Evil among us.
Not what you may think,
not what you may dream,
but what remains, unseen.

—by an internet MIM Notes reader

Life under occupation, up close and personal

Gaza Strip (2002)
James Longley
2002

“Gaza Strip” is a film with a clear political message delivered without any filmmaker narration. The camera acts as silent observer and documenter of the atrocities experienced by Palestinians at the hands of the Israeli government and its military. As the director explains on the film’s website: “The Gaza Strip is essentially an open-air prison for Palestinian refugees, guarded on all sides by the Israeli military. Barely 28 miles long and 4 miles wide, it contains more than 1,200,000 Palestinians — over one third of them living in squalid refugee camps built in 1948 to hold the people forced out of their homes by the creation of modern-day Israel. It is one of the most densely populated places on the planet. Nobody can pass through its borders without the permission of the Israeli soldiers. Like the West Bank, the Gaza Strip has been under Israeli military occupation since 1967.”(1)

Filmed in the first four months of 2001, “Gaza Strip” focuses on a 13-year-old, well-spoken paper boy, Mohammed Hejazi. He explains the situation with the occupation, the deaths of many of his friends at the hands of the Israeli military, and his reason for repeatedly returning to throw stones at the Israeli tanks across

the barbwire fences.

During the filming Ariel Sharon was elected prime minister (an event that Mohammed denounces while also ranting against Arafat) and the Israeli military stepped up attacks in Gaza. In addition to following Mohammed, the film includes interviews with Palestinian women and children whose homes were bulldozed, and with many who witnessed the Israeli military’s controversial gas attack in the Khan Younis refugee camp. There the military threw canisters of an unidentified gas which hospitalized hundreds of Palestinians. Friends also recall those who died before the filming, particularly children, many of whom were killed while trying to collect scrap metal to sell, either shot by Israeli soldiers or blown up by bombs.

The film also includes scenes of resistance, ranging from Palestinians driving around a roadblock to marching in political protests. The Palestinian people in the film express hopelessness about the current situation and a longing for peace. They speak about how things must change and how the Palestinian people will not give up the fight.

This film is a stark reminder of the hypocrisy of Amerika which denounces Saddam Hussein for having weapons of mass destruction (of which they can’t



even produce evidence) while financing the Israeli government as it terrorizes the Palestinian people. Although it never directly addresses the form of the Palestinian resistance, after Mohammed Hejazi talks about the deaths of all his friends and speculates that he himself would probably be better off dead the audience can form a clear picture of why Palestinian youth martyr themselves in

suicide attacks on Israel.

Although Europe is broadcasting this film, it has been turned down by all the major TV outlets in the United States. MIM recommends this movie for its historical documentation of the situation in the Gaza Strip in 2001.

Notes:

1. Gaza Strip web site, <http://www.littleredbutton.com/gaza/about.html>

Dixie Chicks: it ain't easy being bland

Continued from previous page...

more fierce in the South than the North. There are some reactionary patriarchal religions such as Mormonism that are above average in oppressiveness. Mormonism promotes child abuse masked as polygamy, but a large swath of Country-listening Amerikkka is probably not that excessively religious.

Being in harmony with patriarchy like the “Dixie Chicks” has its downsides, but most of what calls itself “feminism” is really more of the same, sometimes worse. It’s an open question whether southern wimmin will be able to make the transition to communism more easily than, say, pseudo-feminist Northern wimmin. The problem with this audience that used to buy “Dixie Chicks” albums is that it’s a lot easier to say you are for “true love” and “support our troops” than to know what’s wrong with gender relations generally or what caused 911. It’s clear that albums like “Home” are actually working hard to avoid “politics.”

It’s not easy to come up with this material that is so consistently non-controversial to southern whites. Our questions to “Dixie Chicks” are as follows: What if you love someone who was a mass-murderer in Vietnam? What if he was one of the troops going around raping and killing wimmin and children? What then Dixie Chicks? What if “support

our troops” becomes a substitute for addressing the causes of war? What if every country supported war just because its troops were in a perilous position on the border of another country? These “support our troops” types claim to be non-political, but they are not. Their emotions support war. We say “support our troops” emotions and naive patriotism in past wars actually caused 911.

Even though the “Dixie Chicks” apologized and their music is ultra-conservative, they oppose the war. For that, we love them. People who are going to buy this sort of tripe anyway might want to keep that in mind. It is our hope that the “Dixie Chicks” manage to remake themselves, maybe abandon their musical roots on the next album if they have to. If they go beyond the pure emotions of love, maybe they can keep a fraction of their old audience and build for an audience in Amerikkka and Europe ready to hear some discontent.

Something the “Dixie Chicks” are going to have to realize is that what they are talking about is way beyond the vast majority of Amerikkkans who choose not to know more about politics, because of their contentment, ironically expressed partly as obsessing over Dixie Chicks. According to UPI, “A Knight-Ridder poll asked, ‘How many of the Sept. 11

hijackers were Iraqi citizens?’ Only 17 percent gave the right answer: none.”(5) The war-mongers are the ones who buy Dixie Chicks albums: “Overall, those sectors of the public that supported Bush in 2000 have been most eager for war today. White evangelical Protestants and rural citizens, for example, are big Bush advocates today, as they were in 2000.”(5)

People who do not understand the 100 million people of the Amerikkkan “Bible Belt” and other rural evangelicals should really encounter some before assuming that all people are the same in Amerikkka, which is a huge territory with 290 million people and with more justification for having more countries than some of those in Eastern Europe or the Arab world created by British colonialism.

Our advice to “Dixie Chicks” is that the trouble with marketing music is that marketing political discontent is not easy. However, it would not be hard for the “Dixie Chicks” to change to folk singers. They could write peace songs for the world and not be tied down to the country music audience. That is our most realistic and best hope for the Dixie Chicks.

Not all Amerikkkans care that much what the Europeans say: “One reason for this was suggested by the Pew analysts: ‘In the U.S., college graduates are much

more supportive of maintaining close ties with Western Europe compared with those with no more than a high school education (77 percent vs. 55 percent).”(5) The “Dixie Chicks” are proof that the criticism of Amerikkkans by Europeans does count. If we can find some whites in Europe to say the right things, it does matter: keep it up Europeans. Whether it is Mumia Abu-Jamal’s case or the Iraq war, there is definitely a little adjustment that Amerikkkan people can make from looking at Europeans. Although France and Germany are major imperialist powers, the people there can sometimes help whites to see themselves a little more objectively in Amerikkka.

Notes:

1. www.dixiechicks.com
2. <http://www.themilwaukeechannel.com/entertainment/2065117/detail.html>http://www.mtv.com/news/articles/1470769/20030326/50_cent.jhtml?headlines=true
3. <http://www.themilwaukeechannel.com/entertainment/2065117/detail.html>
4. <http://www.nynewsday.com/entertainment/local/newyork/ny-3194944mar30,0,2866443.story?coll=ny-nyc-entertainment-headlines>
5. <http://www.upi.com/view.cfm?StoryID=20030314-022023-3781r>

Author Edward Said speaks against I\$raeli occupation

By slala12@mim.org

Students greeted internationally recognized pro-Palestine author and activist Edward Said with a standing ovation at a talk on 20 February at the University of California, Los Angeles. Said's speech then drew fire from Zionists for its realistic assessment of I\$rael's attacks on Palestinian humyn rights since the creation of the settler state in 1948.

Said said the misnamed Oslo Peace Accords were "designed to postpone Palestinian self-determination." While concrete discussion of Palestinian statehood was put off throughout the 90s, United States and I\$rael made facts on the ground. They "partitioned and appropriated Palestine in the name of the 'peace process,'" for example by building illegal settlements.

Said also criticized the imperialist U.\$ media for intentionally distorting the occupation of Palestine and making it seem that the resources and military power of Palestinians are equal to that of I\$rael. He said this is a gross misrepresentation because the United States funnels billions annually into I\$rael, to the tune of \$18 million per day, in support of the occupation.(1) This is in contrast to the exaggerated clamor and protest from u.\$ warmongers and Zionists which erupt whenever Palestinians try to acquire weapons for self-defense.(2)

Said likened I\$rael to an apartheid state, saying that Palestinians in I\$rael were like Indians under British rule and Blacks in South Africa. The wall being constructed around the West Bank and the electric fence that surrounds the Gaza Strip turn these territories into prisons, crisscrossed

by I\$raeli-controlled roads and settlements. At the same time, Palestinians continue to be politically powerless in I\$rael proper. For example, the I\$raeli Law of Return grants automatic I\$raeli Citizenship only to Jews; there is no such law for non-Jews.

Pro-Palestinian activism is growing around the world, Said noted. "Free Palestine" is a recognized progressive demand; every recent demonstration around the world against the [then] impending war U.\$ war on Iraq had a pro-Palestine element. He said that at a time when I\$raeli forces are breaking into offices and universities, destroying computers, archives and destroying Palestinian newspapers, university divest campaigns are an important part of fortifying Palestinian national identity and actively showing solidarity with the people of Palestine.(3)

When an audience member asked what could be done now to end the I\$raeli-Palestinian conflict, Said said bluntly, "End the occupation [of Palestinian lands seized by I\$rael in 1967]." He encouraged everyone to continue to struggle and said that people in the United States must stop funding I\$rael to shut down the I\$raeli war machine.

Said blasted the tired I\$raeli tactic of justifying I\$rael's crimes against Palestinians by invoking past injustices against Jews and making it seem as if I\$raelis are the victims. He said that humyn rights violations occur in proportion to the military capacity of the belligerent parties and that the vast inequity in economic and military power between I\$raelis and Palestinians is reflected in the scale of I\$rael's violations of



Palestinians' humyn rights.

Said's closing remarks centered around his concern for purely "humanitarian interests independent of ideology" and the promotion of his solution to the conflict between I\$rael and the Palestinians. He envisions a single secular state in Palestine where I\$raelis and Palestinians enjoy equal rights and equitable cultural and economic ties. As proof that this is a realistic goal in the present situation, he pointed to his work organizing music workshops in Europe with I\$raeli, Palestinian, and other Arab teenagers. He argued that there is always some intermingling of cultures and that building walls is foolish, because ignorance of one another is not progress.

What Said failed to realize is that the walls erected around occupied Palestine are not only cultural filters but I\$rael's real means of violently holding another nation in bondage. (Furthermore, Palestinians are not ignorant of I\$raelis and their culture. Palestinians and I\$raelis "intermingle" every day at military checkpoints and the workplace—or they

did, before border closures kept Palestinians from taking jobs in I\$rael. Such "everyday human intercourse" has not fundamentally changed Palestinians' problems, such as occupation, landlessness and unemployment.) The problems of rebuilding and economy and putting an end to war in the Middle East cannot be reduced to cultural differences and will prove insurmountable for those who distrust political programs in general. Only a political program grounded in the interests of the Palestinian masses and the means to enforce it can achieve democracy and peace.

Zionists disrupted Said's talk since the beginning and attempted to deceive the crowd by handing "programs" slandering Said by claiming that he is a violent individual and not really a "peace activist." Many people crumpled up the flyers and tossed them into the isle, others simply shoved them back into the hands of the Zionists. Other disrupters provoked shouting matches and minor fistfights. But they failed to shut down the event and only succeeded in discrediting their own position, which rests on ignorance (or conscious distortion) of the truth.

Notes:

1. Zionism: The Forgotten Apartheid, 2nd Ed. P. 13.
2. "Imperialists find Excuses for War Against Palestine" <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/mn252/Palestine.html>
3. University of California Divest Campaign. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/cal/divestisrael.htm>
4. "A Real Mideast Peace Initiative Owed by the U.\$." <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/cong/mideastpeace2002.html>

The pro-I\$rael propoganda machine: a peek behind the curtain

The Electronic Intifada recently published a copy of a leaked "communications manual" for allies of I\$rael in the United States. The manual advises keeping Saddam Hussein alive as a bogeyman for at least a year and voicing sympathy with the Palestinian people while blaming their poverty on the Palestinian Authority. The Wexner Analysis also admits that I\$raeli settlements on Palestinian land are the "Achilles heel" of the pro-I\$rael lobby and says that the bad news in the "roadmap to peace" is that the Amerikans expect I\$rael, not just the Palestinians, to abide by roadmap's provisions. The 17-page Wexler Analysis is available at <http://electronicintifada.net/v2/article1395.shtml>. We print some choice excerpts here, with our responses:

Why the United States still needs I\$rael

"With all the anti-Americanism across the globe and all the protests and demonstrations, we are looking for allies that share our commitment to security and an end to terrorism and are prepared to say so. Israel is just such an ally."(p.1)

MIM responds: If Amerika wants genuine security, it should cease its wars of aggression and acquisition. A policy of war towards the majority of people in the world is no way to promote peace at home.

On Saddam Hussein

"The day we allow Saddam to take his eventual place in the trash heap of history is the day we loose [sic] our strongest weapon in the linguistic defense of Israel."(p. 4)

MIM responds: In other words: let's keep the war-time lingo alive as an excuse for keeping Amerikan military aid flowing.

On the settlements

"SECURITY" sells. Security has become the key fundamental principle for all Americans. Security is the context by which you should explain Israeli need for loan guarantees and military aid, as well as why Israel can't just give up land. The settlements are our Achilles heel, and the best response (which is still quite weak) is the need for security that this buffer creates."(p. 3)

MIM responds: The settlements in the West Bank and Gaza are in violation of international law and scores of U.N. resolutions. Their presence, and the I\$raeli army's defense of them, robs the Palestinian people of their security. Palestinians are unable to travel, work, attend school, shop for food or obtain medical care without passing I\$raeli checkpoints. Apartheid for the Palestinians would be too high a price for I\$raeli security—and in fact it undermines I\$raeli security, just as U.\$ military adventures undermine Amerikans' security.

Lip-service to the Palestinians

"You need to talk continually about your understanding of the 'plight of the Palestinians' and a commitment to helping them. Yes, this IS a double standard (no one expects anything pro-Israeli from the Palestinians) but that's just the way things are."(p. 3)

MIM responds: I\$rael has a state, and an army that helps deprive the Palestinian people of their own state with U.\$3 billion per year. On top of this I\$rael needs kind

words from the people whose necks are under its boot?

Anyway, it's not true "no one expects anything pro-I\$raeli from the Palestinians." The U.\$ government has always insisted that Palestinians recognize I\$rael and its security before substantive peace talks begin—never mind that their favorite whipping boys like Yassir Arafat have long conceded these points in principle.

On Mahmoud Abbas

"The emergence of Mahmoud Abbas as the new Palestinian Prime Minister comes exactly at the wrong time. His ascent to power seems legitimate. He is a fresh face, and a clean-shaven one at that. He speaks well and dresses in western garb. He may even genuinely want peace."(p. 13)

MIM responds: This is the same sort of racist claptrap that I\$rael uses to justify keeping its own "security" at the expense of the Palestinian people. In truth, the pro-I\$rael lobby doesn't want a just peace any more than the I\$raeli government does.

California plans to build SHU in every prison

Dear MIM Notes,

Respects extended to you and all those in struggle. I write in appreciation of receiving MIM Notes Dec/Jan issues together. Yes, to a surprise I received them with not a problem from this place. I've shared the MIM Notes you sent with other comrades and they've enjoyed it, and say they will be writing to you as well.

Currently I'm in an Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU). Within the past year or so they have opened up new buildings of ASU in Corcoran which I've personally went through. Here in SVSP they're about to open up one of those new ASU buildings here. And they're going to start housing SHU inmates in those buildings. Rumor has it that each prison will now house their own SHU, ASU and General Population inmates.

— a prisoner in California, April 2003

MIM responds: We have also heard this rumor about the CDC building Security Housing Units (SHU) in every prison. MIM is waging a campaign to abolish all SHU units in California as brutal torture chambers used to punish prisoners who advocate for their legal rights. Prisoners are sent to these isolation cells for years at a time, and many of them go crazy and become physically ill from the sensory deprivation and inadequate facilities and recreation. To get involved in this campaign contact us or visit our web site at <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons/campaigns/ca/ca.html>.

California SHU visitation 'rights' revoked

Effective March 20, 2003:

* No more prisoner "right" to personal or attorney visits

* All non-contact visits for prisoners in administrative segregation (AD-SEG) and security housing unit (SHU) shall be limited to one hour (see new title 15 CCR section 3170.1(f))

* There will be no visiting for prospective visitors who have suffered: a felony conviction within three years, two felony convictions within six years, three felony convictions within ten years. (see new title 15 CCR section 3172.1(b) (2))

* Prospective visitors shall be subjected to contraband detection devices (see title 15 CCR section 3173.2 (c))

Visits are now considered a "privilege" and not a "right", even attorney visits!

— a prisoner in California SHU, March 2003

California prisoners study group grows

I send salutation and greetings to you in the great desire that your efforts may accomplish your noble goals. First and

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

foremost I would like to express my desire to participate in your group study (MT11). I am more than able to receive and meet the four requirements for this course. I plan to share these studies with all that I can reach. I am sending \$10 to donate and to help cover any cost in this study and possibly help someone who may not be able to afford it at this time. I believe this study is greatly needed in California's Enslavement system. Over the last few years in California prisoners have forgotten that the struggle that prisoners went through in the 60s and 70s to obtain the few rights that we prisoners have in this state. Now California and the courts are systematically taking every right that was fought for. I firmly believe that education is the only way to empower prisoners so that we may achieve any realistic goals.

— a prisoner in California, April 2003

MIM responds: United Struggle from Within (USW), the MIM-led prisoner organization, is leading a MIM Theory 11 correspondence study group in California prisons. We asked all participants to send \$3 to help cover the cost of the group and appreciate some comrades sending more money to help those who have nothing to send. By running study groups like this one we educate and organize prisoners in the fight against imperialism in general and the criminal injustice system in particular. To organize a study group in your state contact MIM.

Study group material censored in California

Dear MIM,

Revolutionary greetings. Thought I would inform you of the developments after round 1 in the fight against CCI for the illegal censorship of your invitation to join the USW study group. Captain Stradley is a real devil. The procedure: I receive an invitation to join. I then contact him, and the education department for approval. I do not need their approval to receive an invitation to join; only to participate. He understands this fully. As you can see from his response on this request I sent for an interview, he is starting to shovel a lot of shit! This administration is like that from top to bottom, as wrong as two left shoes. But make excuses that don't fit with the facts.

— a prisoner at CCI Tehachapi, April 2003

MIM adds: the request for an interview was returned to this prisoner stating "according to the letter sent to us by [MIM], they sent you information about a correspondence course, which was apparently returned to them as 'unacceptable at CCI.' The attached

letter with my signature is to explain to MIM the process you must follow to be approved for the course. You may contact the SAI via this type of request and obtain the necessary form for approval to participate in the course." Of course if the prison will not allow us to send in a letter to invite this prisoner to participate in a course, he can't get permission to participate.

More recently the prison at Tehachapi censored a letter sent to another prisoner who had joined the study group which contained study questions for him to answer. It included a note stating that this material required approval of the education coordinator. The prisons do not provide any education programs themselves and then make it impossible for prisoners to participate in the few programs available to them like study groups offered by MIM. To protest this censorship send letters to Warden Art Calderon, California Correctional Institution, PO Box 1906, Tehachapi, CA 93581.

Fighting censorship in California prisons

I have taken this matter [a mail problem] to the director's level in Sacramento, California in a 602 inmate appeal process. Informal, formal, first, second and third levels. The outcome ended in denial. This mail issue is filed and pending in court under civil rights act 42 U.S.C 1983. My complaint so far is mail tampering (especially legal mail), refusal to give access to legal and regular mailing supplies, and censoring certain mail.

If there are any more complaints in the mail area, please file and help this struggle on this part. This is a very important thing so people on the outside and inside let's work to win our mail rights inside prison.

— a prison in California, April 2003

MIM responds: We need our comrades behind bars in California to take up this censorship battle. As our organizing has expanded in California prisons so has the censorship. Books and magazines we send in to prisoners in Tehachapi are being censored, and letters as well as other literature are being censored at CSATF in Corcoran. We have also experienced sporadic censorship at other prisons in the state. MIM does not have the resources to fight this censorship alone. We need prisoners to appeal the censorship, and pursue it to the courts if necessary. We will always notify you if we learn our mail to you has been censored, and we can send you our resource guide to fighting censorship, but we need your help to win this battle.

Censorship victory in Alabama

The Southern Poverty Law Center has gotten it approved for prisoners to receive MIM Theory. So please forward me MT8 and 14. Your protest letters also had something to do with the lifting of the ban on MIM Theory and the justice Department investigating my case and other acts of brutality at Limestone. They visited the day after I returned. But I don't expect too much from them. But it helps document the brutality here. I'm also awaiting trial on 3 charges of 2nd degree assault against DOC officials. The same charges from the incident I mentioned a while back. They are trying to cover their asses by charging me instead of losing employment. Nothing I didn't expect though.

— a prisoner in Alabama, April 2003

MIM adds: This prisoner was sent MIM Theory in July 2002 and it was censored and the prison told him that no

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.

mail from MIM would be allowed in. He took up the fight, got the support of the SPLC and pursued it until victory. We need more comrades like this to help secure prisoner's rights to receive literature.

Resistance from within Management Control Units

I extend greetings of solidarity and strength to those who remain intransigent in view of the ongoing onslaught of oppression. Brothers and sisters, due to the fact that MIM does not publish the names of comrades, all my communications will be addressed to you as Matulla. I will also be submitting future articles on a variety of issues, and petition you all to become or remain active with MIM as we strive for a revolutionary vanguard to defeat imperialism and this repressive prison industrial complex.

I have been reading of your struggles against our oppressors, even as you are interned deep within the belly of the beast, i.e. MCU, SHU, etc. This isolation and its barbaric nature are common to you and I. However our seclusion must solidify our opposition to repression, and must not cause you to become dispirited. We must continue to resist and withstand the force and effect of their deceptive practices.

I have been subjected to every form of terrorism and brutality that the state can throw at me. I've been beaten and tortured, starved and whipped. They've tried to break me, and desired to see me crawl. Instead I decided on resistance by any means possible. Don't get me wrong, I am no hero, and sure as hell would like to have been someplace else, but like many of you, I understand why it is so important to defy our captors, even while we fight to survive, literally in hell. It is also important that you have the support of those on the outside, which is the primary reason I've been effective.

In spite of my circumstances, my resolve is steadfast, because I fully understand why I'm being subjected to the draconian degrees of selective political persecution that I have been forced to endure over the past 4 1/2 years. I am innocent of all the repressive administrators' false allegations. Because I am militant, I am being subjected to selective political persecution by the state for merely entertaining such militant

thoughts.

I'm aware of many of the conditions you speak of at your facilities, if not all. Many prisoners, here as throughout the united States, are placed in these [isolation] units without having broken any prison rules. Prisoners who have been identified as being politically subversive, or incorrigible (political), and possess or display leadership qualities or potentials are assigned to the prison's repressive "MCU" and/or "SHU" unit(s).

Many of these placements are based solely on uncorroborated administrative or confidential informant reports that are never provided to the prisoner before or after the classification hearings so they can prepare some type of defense against the confidential informants uncorroborated allegations, or seek some kind of redress after the fact, via the court system (which often sides with the repressive prison administrators).

Some prisoners (political and apolitical) are placed in the MCU, SMU or SHU before they are convicted or right after they are sentenced on the charges they are arrested for. In general, these units will base its decisions to intern a prisoner in these units upon its evaluation of the following factors: records of past imprisonment, disciplinary records, prison records on work assignments, adjustment to prison programs, records on past housing assignments, attitude toward authority, psychological makeup, and involvement in political, social and criminal activities while in prison. In many instances prisoners are isolated due to their involvement or alleged involvement with street organization.

We must also begin to take an in depth look at the goals of these units and how they achieve these goals. Politicized social prisoners, political prisoners, some radicalized religious prisoners, prison lawyers, apolitical prisoner leaders or potential leaders are isolated from the general population with the goal of reshaping their beliefs or to psychologically break us.

During my years in the MCU, SHU and SMU units I've seen prisoners renounce their political, religious and "gang" affiliations in order to win their release from these repressive units. It has long been my position that convictions are not a matter of convenience, because if an individual is serious about his or her convictions, no matter the consequences, he or she will remain true to them. I have

seen prisoners suffer emotional breakdowns because they could no longer cope with the constant lockdown. They sometimes start taking the mind-controlling psychotropic drugs administered by the psychiatrist, to escape the realities of this never ending insanity.

Brothers and sisters, being in captivity is a terrible adversity. Many prisoners are affected in different ways. I've witnessed many become complacent in an institutionalized way, capitulate, or they become more rebellious and speak of vengeance. Other prisoners start identifying with their oppressors, the guards, and start seeing them as being humane instead of sadistic. They develop hostile tendencies towards other prisoners who recognize and expose the true sadistic nature of the guard. It all depends on the individual prisoner and his internal composition over a protracted period of time.

My petition to you is that you withstand the direct frontal assaults being unleashed against us. We must all continue to struggle, even while interned in the belly of this most relentless beast.

I too am subjected to the same deprivations as you, which are designed to make us kow-tow. Restricted contact visits, restricted law library access, "no" work and education privileges, restricted religious access, as well as having my correspondences and reading materials carefully scrutinized (more so than the prisoners in general population.) In addition, we are carefully searched every time we leave the control unit (going and coming) in the presence of two armed security guards carrying black night sticks that they call "nigger beaters." We are subjected to restrictive outside recreation and 24 and 23 3/4 hour days locked down in these cages year-round.

In reading your missives to MIM, many of you have been given the same options as I to obtain release from these repressive units. They have advised me that I need to improve my social profile and abandon my oppositional stance prior to release consideration from the MCU. Renouncing my politics will never happen. I've never contemplated the thought of being apolitical again in my life because I have suffered so, and to pay homage to the late George L. Jackson, I want to say there is no turning back from awareness because it is our obligatory duty to act once we become aware of what is, as well as what must be done

and not just spoken about.

MIM has been active when it comes to about the history and reality of control units, i.e. SHU, MCU, SMU etc., especially in the state of California. We must do our part as prisoners, to organize and form a collective behind the walls to assist them. If this means resisting physically we must resist. If we must die, let it not be like hogs, hunted and penned in an inglorious spot.

Other prisoner support organizations, and most advocates, lose interest after a while because combating the existence of SHUs and control units necessitates a protracted commitment and most people are not willing to make such a commitment. In addition, prisoners around the country who have experienced the fascist repression of these units and prison existence do not stay the course upon release. Many ex-prisoners don't help those who helped them and stayed the course with them when they were locked down deep in the repressive confines of some state or federal SHU and/or control unit. Once released they failed to act upon the promises they previously made about advocating the propaganda of serious struggle in the community at large.

I encourage all of you to remain strong and uncompromising. We must work relentlessly to replace the bourgeois injustice system with proletarian justice.

— Matulla, a prisoner in Alabama, April 2003

What is internationalism?

From the MIM "Frequently Asked Questions" page, <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq>.

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 plaything 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 what internationalism means, and that is the duty of the internationalist, of the revolutionary worker, of the genuine Socialist."

V. I. Lenin, "What Is Internationalism?" *The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky* (Peking: Foreign Language Press, 1965), p. 80.

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)

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.

