

MIM Notes



July 1, 2003, N° 284

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Much Ado About Weapons of Mass Destruction

Six weeks after George Bush declared major combat in Iraq over, ambushes and search-and-destroy operations involving thousands of Amerikan troops continue—and the Amerikans have yet to find any proof that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), the ostensible reason for the ground invasion. Bourgeois media and Democratic Party publicists are now making a lot of noise about Bush's shaky (and in some cases fabricated) evidence of Iraqi WMDs—never mind that others had made these same arguments long before the war.

Before the war, these same media put Colin Powell's speech to the United Nations laying out the U.S. government's tired old excuses for invasion on page one and buried criticism of Powell's sources deep inside the paper. Apparently now that the war is a done deal it is safe to score some partisan points.

MIM does not claim to know whether Saddam Hussein had WMDs in April of this year or not. Part of our criticism of capitalism is that it creates governments that carry out military operations in secret and withhold or twist important



information to gain military advantage. Our opposition to the war in Iraq does not depend on whether Iraq had weapons of mass destruction or not, or whether Bush lied about what he knew or not.

Conservative Michael Novak, writing

in the National Review in an attempt to exonerate Bush, only makes our point.

"[T]he public has not been made aware of how small a set of objects the U.S. is now looking for. In January, Hans Blix

Continued on page 9...

THOUSANDS SAY 'NO' TO PATRIOT ACT II

LOS ANGELES, 30 May
More than 3,100 signatures opposing Patriot Act II were delivered to Senator Barbara Boxer's office as MIM, RAIL and other members of the "Stop Patriot Act II Coalition" rallied outside. Patriot Act II (a.k.a. "The Domestic Security Enhancement Act") is a proposal from Attorney General John Ashcroft which would give the executive branch of the Federal Government "sweeping new powers to increase domestic intelligence gathering" (1) and curtail rights which the bourgeois authors of the Amerikan Constitution made part of the highest law of the land, exactly so that they could not be waived by corrupt and dishonest people in government in the name of momentary "security." (2)

RAIL brought a stack of signs bearing anti-Patriot Act slogans. Protestors gobbled these up, and a few came with signs of their own. Cars honked in support as protestors waved their signs and got signatures from the downtown lunchtime crowd. The proportion of passers-by who had not heard of Patriot Act II was higher than at anti-war rallies, so a new informational pamphlet by a RAIL comrade came in handy. (3)

A reporter from a pro-Korean-reunification website attended the rally, commenting that Patriot Act II would have a chilling effect on political debate in the United States. North Korea is part of George Bush's "Axis of Evil," she pointed out, so under the loose guidelines in Patriot Act II advocates of peaceful Korean reunification could be jailed as "terrorists."

A representative from Barbara Boxer's office who had earlier made an appointment to discuss the petition failed to appear.

MIM started collecting signatures against Patriot Act II in February, just after the draft proposal was posted on the internet. Several weeks later, MIM and RAIL joined Kabataang maka Bayan-USA (Pro-People Youth), Asians for Jericho & Mumia, Comite pro-Democracia en Mexico, and BAYAN

Continued on page 7...

Matrix sequel puts the message on pause

FILM MAKES MONEY THE
OLD-FASHIONED WAY

The Matrix Re-Loaded (2003)
Andy and Larry Wachowski, dirs.

We were very worried that this sequel to the original "Matrix" would lose too much or change directions too much. As we read the critics describe all the action scenes and sex, we realized before it opened that this part II would make much money. After making the original, the directors deserved to make a lot of money and gain influence the Amerikkkan way with sex, romance and violence. The combination of dance, martial arts and special effects is once again trend-setting and we won't mention it again in this review.

Rebutting the critics

We defend the Wachowski brothers against some critics who nitpicked this and that about superheroes. In contrast with most comic strips and Hollywood directors exploiting the idea of superhero, the Wachowskis show us how Neo came to be from an ordinary humyn step-by-step. Granted, Neo arrives in the future



after humyns have learned how to do a lot of things they cannot do now, most importantly, loading computer information into the backs of their necks.

Most superheroes in the arts arise out of pure philosophical idealism and

the rationale behind Trinity's name. The enemy starts by greeting Morpheus, then Neo and finally adds Trinity. It becomes clear that without her there would not be three.

Continued on page 4...

On the web: www.etext.org/Politics/MIM

Letters

Glamorizing war

I tried following the news about the war, but to be honest, all of the “USA the benevolent” rhetoric being rammed down people’s throats is sickening. And just the fact that the news is so one-sided is indicative that the truth is not... otherwise why would they have to lie about it? I’m not sure how it’s being presented to the rest of the U.S., but all the mainstream media I’ve been seeing is that way, and I have a very strong suspicion it’s like that even for out there. I guess as always the only way people really get to see the truth is if they intentionally go out looking for it... otherwise it’s the “USA the benevolent” cookie cut-outs that gets put on the primetown news. And did I hear this right? Somebody came up with a theme song for the war? It must have been difficult but somehow they found a way to make war glamorous.

—a Pennsylvania prisoner,
5 April 2003

What good are petitions?

Internet reader: I apologize for sounding like a pessimist, but I don’t see how gathering signatures helps ANY cause. they’re going to do what they’re going to do regardless of what we want as a majority in anything. They’re not going to give up power they’ve already taken

from us, they may make it appear that they do from time to time, but they don’t.

MIM reponds: We will be delivering the online petition signatures together with those we gather on paper (3100 and counting) to federal representatives. It is getting much harder for congresspeople to ignore opposition to the USA Patriot Act & Patriot Act II now that close to 100 U.S. communities have passed resolutions condemning the unconstitutionality of the USAPA, and we are making more noise about PAII.

The USAPA passed both houses of congress within *hours* of their introduction. That’s why it is so important to voice opposition to the Patriot Act II now. MIM is also not the only organization working on this. From basic advocates of the U.S. constitution like the Bill of Rights Defense Committee to the civil libertarians in the ACLU, to the anti-war/peace activists who are working on getting city council resolutions passed to block enforcement of the USA Patriot Act, there is a broad range of people allied against this civil-liberties-stripping, privacy-invading, due-process-denying legislation.

Internet reader: I wish I could be as optimistic as you about all this. But like I said, they’re going to do what they’re going to do. If you stop their legislation here, they’ll slip it into something else. As a matter of fact, the amount of publicity and resistance that’s being generated over this legislation, makes me wonder if they’re not using it as a diversion to slip in the real nightmare while everyone’s making such a fuss over

this. The only thing those bastards in Washington understand is violence. Unfortunately, it seems that’s become the only attention getter around the world. I don’t want this legislation any more than you do, but then, there’s a massive amount of legislation that’s been put into effect in just the last few years that pretty much deny us the essential rights this bill does. And with all the corruption in the local judicial entities, your rights don’t really mean much anyway. If you ain’t got no witnesses, you ain’t got no rights. I do wish you the best of luck and hope you don’t beat your head too hard against this block wall. I’ll just keep collecting my firepower and wait ‘til they label me a terrorist.

MIM: From a long-term perspective, MIM agrees with you that violence is the only language Amerika understands. We would go farther and say that it is the only language the Amerikan people understand, not just the government. After all, the U.S. armed Saddam Hussein throughout the 1980s, essentially created Osama bin Laden by arming the mujahedeen against the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, and oversees the daily humiliation of the Palestinian people both from Washington and from its bases in Saudi Arabia. Yet the populace that sponsors this activity can’t be bothered to show concern for the Middle East until after 9/11. (e.g., see <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/sept112001/sept112001.html> and the rest of the <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/sept112001/page>)

But we disagree that these rights don’t really mean much anyway. The right to speak out and criticize our government is central to our ability to organize. This is especially true for those of us who think the current U.S. govt. is long past doing

the people of the world any good. The right not to be arrested in secret is real, and arguable in court, as is the right not to be searched or tapped without a warrant. As a practical matter, these are rights we can defend.



Editor, MC206; Production, MC12

MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement
ISSN 1540-8817

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.

People who want to receive newspapers should become sponsors and distributors. Sponsors pay for papers, distributors get them onto the streets, and officers do both distribution and financial support. Annual cost is: 12 copies (Priority Mail), \$120; 25 (Priority Mail), \$150; 50 (Priority Mail), \$280; 100, \$380; 200, \$750; 900 (Express Mail), \$3,840; 900 (8-10 days), \$2,200. To become a sponsor or distributor, send anonymous money orders payable to “MIM.” Send to MIM, attn: Camb. branch, PO Box 400559, Cambridge, MA 02140. Or write mim3@mim.org.

Most back issues of MIM Notes are available free on our web site. The web site contains thousands of documents, with ordering information for many more.

MIM grants explicit permission to copy all or part of this newspaper for any reason, as long as we are credited.

For general correspondence, contact:

MIM
P.O. Box 29670
Los Angeles, CA 90029-0670
eMail: [<mim@mim.org>](mailto:mim@mim.org)
WWW: [<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM>](http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM)

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.

Brit moves on Euro reveal fears of economic disaster

by MC5
May 22, 2003

Before the Iraq War intensified with a ground invasion by U.S. troops, England was preparing to join the Euro, the common currency of its European neighbors. Thanks in large part to war-mongering in connection to France and Iraq, now the wind of public opinion is blowing against England's joining the Euro; even though only 8% of the English believe that they will never join the Euro.(1)

Granted, the Iraq War put off major public discussions of major issues like the Euro. The expectation had been that England would discuss and vote on the issue this year or next.

The latest sign of how the rulers wish

this decision to be shrouded is that Prime Minister Tony Blair met with four or five ministers of his cabinet individually and others in groups.(1) Presumably some matters are so private, with some ministers having so much more to say that this procedure became public. The image created suggests one of hedging bets and taking information from various sources and angles, especially since most ministers are supposedly pro-Euro. If any minister said something blunt in public it could cause the financial markets to spin wildly. At this moment, the dollar is especially subject to a total collapse if someone should be rather rash.

In truth, the hubbub about the Euro is one of the more difficult and important issues facing the imperialists. For a long

time, bourgeois economists have been talking about how the dollar holds an advantage over other currencies traded, because the dollar is the universal currency, the index currency so-to-speak. Governments globally hold their foreign currency reserves in dollars and they often conduct trade among each other in dollars. This practice is one-of-a-kind in the world and causes a demand for the U.S. dollar currency which causes its price to rise against other currencies.

The first salvo to prop up the dollar after the occupation of Iraq was simple. The English equivalent of treasurer said he opposed joining the Euro. Rather than be too brash, and as is typical in the financial world, the British rulers followed up with take-backs to soften the blow.(2)

Next we heard reports aimed at English nationalism that England's unemployment rate and growth rate are better than in the part of Europe using the Euro.(3) Unless the English imperialists really believe Rumsfeld's idea about "old Europe" just not being able to do better than "tag along" with the United States, we do not expect this argument to hold water very long. In fact, some would argue by moving to convert to Euros now when England has a good situation would mean at least a temporary advantage, because it would secure whatever advantages of the current exchange rate there are to Britain. It was in reference to this whole debate, that the various leaders of the various factions said they

Continued on page 8...

Inglewood police beating: a rite of passage

by a prisoner in California

In July 2002, police officers in Inglewood, California were videotaped brutalizing a teenager. Two officers now face criminal charges for this attack. Incidents of police brutality are not isolated. Within the community of law enforcement, such outrageous conduct is a rite of passage and a fact of life. Nearly all scandals involving police misconduct end up stifled and downplayed by defense attorneys. When the lawyers take over, the big picture becomes lost in the frame-by-frame recantation of what seems like an act of unmistakable criminality.

Defense attorney John Barnett has already begun to bring doubt into the minds of the jury pool. His explanation is very simple: Inglewood Police Officer Jeremy Morris was defending himself from someone who grabbed his crotch. In other words, this is the story behind which a skilled attorney can launch a meritorious defense for an obviously guilty client.

Mr. Barnett is an expert in creating doubt in the minds of jurors. In the case of motorist Rodney King he was able to convince an all-white jury the beating of Mr. King was justified — despite the videotape. And he is ready to do so again

Is Donovan Jackson the next Rodney King?

because he understands that people simply do not want to believe the truth when a well thought out lie is much easier to digest.

Law enforcement takes violence very serious, with some cops being more prone towards violence than others. Yet, in the case of beating a suspect, they are simply not willing to hold themselves to the same legal standards they are empowered to enforce. In their minds, they are above the law.

When I see an episode of police brutality I do not need to have the incident explained to me by a defense attorney, prosecutor, police spokesperson, or some so-called expert on such matters. For those of us who grew up on the streets,

getting beat up by the cops was often one of our rites of passage into adulthood — with our bumps and bruises, cuts and injuries, being our red badges of courage. Absent a group confession by conscience-laden officers, or an unforeseen video camera, cops simply have little about which to worry in cases of abusing their arrestees.

I find it lamentable and grow weary of seeing police brutality on the news, then to have an array of persons going on record trying to justify or downplay an obviously troubling problem. I know from being somewhat expert in such matters, that if I am a skinny, mentally challenged, 16 year old kid—and handcuffed as well—I am not a threat to anyone. In such

a situation—and I have been at the receiving end of similar beatings—one cannot be in a more vulnerable position. The fact that Donovan Jackson was outnumbered and handcuffed renders what Officer Morris did to him unacceptable in any situation. This was the act of a coward.

[Of course, from MIM's perspective, even if the young man had grabbed the officer's crotch, it could be seen as a justifiable act of self-defense. Morris had already singled this young Black man out for harassment, shackled him, and thrown him on the hood of a car. Officer Morris thought his badge—and the gun at his hip—gave him the authority to pick a fight without repercussions. He and the system which gives cops the power to act as an occupying army are to blame if this young man did not respond to Morris' aggression by turning the other cheek.]

To claim the acts of Officer Morris were justified, prompted by the unprovable acts of a skinny, handcuffed minor is preposterous. Police brutality is alive and well in drug war-torn America. And until we dismantle the criminal injustice system, which enforces the imperialist system of national oppression in Amerika, police brutality will continue.

Ford boycott demonstrates failure of capitalism

May 31, 2003
San Francisco

Activists protested at a Ford Motor Company dealership kicking off a national campaign demanding that Ford live up to its pledge to make cleaner vehicles. Rainforest Action Network, Global Exchange and Bluewater Network hosted the demonstration, hanging a big banner from the roof of the Ford building and placing bodybags (inhabited by people) in front of the dealership to represent the deaths to people and the environment at the hands of the Ford corporate practices.

MIM agrees with the protestors' message that capitalist corporations like Ford must be held responsible for the global destruction they wreak. Environmental reforms which have proletarian content are possible under capitalism—witness international regulation of ozone levels.(1) However, such reforms are tenuous. Capitalists will not make changes unless they see short-term profit in them (which they will sometimes due to competitive pressure). Furthermore, because black markets thrive under capitalism where cash is unlimited and can purchase unlimited

goods, there is a strong attraction to getting around environmental regulations in capitalism.

A banal example of such a black market is the sale of high-volume flush toilets in areas where water-saving toilets are mandated. Just as with SUVs, this is a case of people with lots of cash creating a demand for a luxury good (detrimental to society at large). Where such harmful luxury goods are banned, profit-hungry capitalists risking punishment to meet that demand. Socialism attacks this problem from several directions infeasible under capitalism. It regulates production; it

regulates money supply and controls inequalities in income; and it carries out mass education campaigns without having to worry about offending some capitalist profiting from a harmful product.

According to speakers at the rally, Ford has the least fuel efficient cars of all car manufacturers and their average fuel efficiency is now worse than it was in 1980. Their current president, Bill Ford, came in posing as an environmentalist and promising to make Ford a global environmental leader, but while he lives in a solar home, his company is the worst

Continued on page 9...

Texas prison budget cuts expose priorities

by mim108@mim.org

The State of Texas, like many other states, is having a budget crunch resulting from the recession and decline in tax income. Texas is trying to make up for a \$9.9 billion budget shortfall without raising taxes.(1)

As a result, the governor has asked the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to cut 7% from their \$5.1 billion budget for the current fiscal year, and maybe 9% from next year's budget. The TDCJ is looking for more places to pack in prisoners on a smaller budget. As of February, the prison system was growing by 500 prisoners per month (5,500 incoming, 5,000 released per month), with a total of 147,565. Officially, the system was at 97.5% capacity. (1)

So what will they cut? Prisoners have already reported to MIM some effects of budget cuts. As one prisoner wrote in February, "We're lucky to get a piece of meat around here; they're cutting back on everything, such as vocational programs, GED for prisoners, food,

clothes, bath towels, soap, medical needs, family phone calls, pictures during visits, commissary privileges, recreation time, gym time, television time, and time to eat the little food they do care to serve."

A closer look at the budget and proposed cuts reveals a lot about the priorities of American injustice. One proposal is, "Eliminating college courses, vocational training and job placement programs." Obviously, that would be self-defeating IF the goal of the system was to help prisoners turn their lives around and improve the opportunities—which of course it is not. However, even that draconian cut would only save the system \$2.2 million—a tiny fraction of what they need to cut—which just shows how little the system invests in that approach in the first place.(2)

Although Texas makes extensive use of slave labor in its prison system, the system does not exist primarily to make labor profits. In fact, according to the most recent detailed budget we could find online, for fiscal year 2000, the prison

system recorded \$55.2 million in "correctional industry receipts," compared to \$2.1 billion coming from the state's general revenue fund.(3) Sales from Texas Correctional Industries to other state agencies apparently grew to \$80 million by FY 2002.(4) That is money the TDCJ makes selling prisoner labor. They also save unreported millions of dollars from prisoner labor doing the work of running the prisons and supporting the prisoners: maintaining vehicles, transporting freight, warehousing, laundry, food, and so on.

But the fact remains that most of the money to run the gulags comes from tax revenues. That's why the lieutenant governor and the head of the pardons and parole board gingerly raised the possibility of increasing the rate of paroling prisoners, while insisting that would only be done as a last resort, if it could be done "safely."(1) They would like to make up the budget by cutting education and health care for prisoners, but if they can't, they might have to shrink the system.

If the system were a money-maker, they would be trying to increase the number of prisoners, not considering a decrease. The American prison system does make money for some capitalists, politicians, and labor aristocrats. But it is primarily a means of national oppression and social control, not profit-making. As such, in addition to being one of the biggest institutions of oppression in world history, it is also one more wasteful burden generated by imperialism's short-sighted, self-interested global rule.

Notes:

1. Houston Chronicle 20 Feb 2003, p. A19.

2. Associated Press in Amarillo Globe-News 8 Feb 2003.

3. TDCJ FY 2000 Agency Budget, <http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/finance/budget/TDCJ-FY2000-Budget.pdf>

4. TDCJ FY 2002 Statistical Summary, http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/publications/executive/stat_summary_fy02/stat_summary_fy02_toc.htm

The Animatrix (2003) Various directors Warner Home Video

Review by MC206
7 June 2003

The nine animated shorts in the Animatrix explore themes from the Matrix movies and give some important backstory, including a history of how humyns enslaved the intelligent machines that later overthrew and enslaved humyns.(1) Refreshingly—and in keeping with the style of the movies—none of the shorts by various directors adopt the cutesy Disney look. Instead, styles range from impressionistic watercolors to realistic computer graphics to jarring expressionistic sketches (e.g. Peter Chung of "Aeon Flux" fame directed the final short).

Thematically, the Animatrix is closer to the first film than the second (see our reviews here (2) and here (3)). Several shorts emphasize self-sacrifice for the common good ("The Final Flight of the Osiris" and "Program"); several emphasize the choice between truth in the depressing real world or individualist stupor in the dream world of the matrix ("Kid's Story," "World Record" and "Program"); and several emphasize the organized (and justified) distrust of the cells fighting the matrix ("Detective Story" and "Program"), just as the first movie showed Trinity's crew frisking Neo for bugs at gunpoint.

Aside from some exposition left out of the movies ("The Final Flight of the Osiris" and "Kid's Story"), the Animatrix raises several new ideas, two of which we briefly discuss here. First, "The Second Renaissance" puts an interesting new twist on the old quasi-Luddite sci-fi "the machines have taken over" story. At some point after the intelligent machines began to resist exploitation by



humyns and humyns consequently carried out anti-machine pogroms, humyn governments banish the machines to a country of their own (ironically in the "birthplace of civilization" i.e. what is now Iraq). However, due to a combination of anti-machine chauvinism and good-old-fashioned capitalist competition—the machines flood the world market with hyper-cheap goods—humyn governments decide to nuke the machine nation. This leads to the war that the humyns end up losing catastrophically—in large part because they keep reaching for bigger and bigger weapons.

Second, "Matriculation" hints at the possibility of post-"Matrix" machine-humyn cooperation, although it also suggests that humyns aren't quite up to the task yet, perhaps because they still see intelligent machines as their servants or because they still harbor anti-machine prejudices.

It's tough to say whether these shorts would pack any political or philosophical punch on their own. But in the context of the other Matrix films, they stir up some provocative images and leave the viewer with something to think about.

Notes

1. You can watch four of the shorts for free at www.intothematrix.com.

2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/movies/review.php?f=long/matrix.txt>

3. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/movies/long/matrixreloaded.html>

Matrix sequel puts the message on pause

On the other hand, regarding any parallel to the Catholic trinity, at the end of the movie, we see conflict between Neo and Morpheus as Neo spills the bad news that he did not inevitably defeat the whole Matrix as Morpheus thought; although he still has 24 hours—presumably in Matrix III—to do the job.

In fact, much to our delight, "Re-Loaded" put any fantasies about "oracles" and fate in their proper place. Even the Oracle is connected to computer programs. It turns out that not all computer programs are completely compatible with each other. The only question Neo has to deal with is whether or not the Oracle is a plot against humyns by the machines or not.

In place of the question of fate, the Wachowski brothers now give us the question of causality or "why we do what we do." Unfortunately, the enemy seems to be the rational side in this movie, and Neo takes up the role of the irrational humyn in denial, as the enemy computer Architect points out.

In the past, Neo denied that the humyn was a source of heat energy used in a vast system controlled by robots. He thought his choices in the Matrix were real. However, Neo learned to surpass that attitude of his and accept the truth about the Matrix. In part III, we are hoping Neo can learn something from the enemy in Part II and advance yet further in the spiral of development. Neo's choices

In part I, Neo chose to sacrifice himself to save Morpheus for the good of his species. It turned out that he survived his altruism. In part II, he gave up the good of the species for his love Trinity. One could say he made the same choice in

Part I, because in both cases he chose the individual he knew over the abstraction. On the other hand, in Part I, he believed the abstraction false, because the Oracle told him he was not "The One." Hence, he never chose between the abstraction and Morpheus. He simply made an altruistic act toward the species by trying to save Morpheus at the cost of what he thought would be his own life. In fact, by sacrificing his own life he was choosing "the abstraction" of the greater good of the species.

The focus on sex and romance in "Re-Loaded" is definitely a downer. Neo chooses his sexual love above everything else and that seems to be merged into some vestigial Christian imagery.

We are not unhappy with how Neo looked inside Trinity as a mass of electrons to save her life. The fact that he does so in connection to love and not as an ordinary duty in combat is what distresses us. It leaves us wondering if he would not make the same effort for others caught in the Matrix. One fellow, the Keymaker shot by enemies in the Matrix before Trinity is not so fortunate: Neo leaves him for dead.

There was at least one critic who did not like the fact that "Re-Loaded" called on some Christian imagery only to make Zion into one writhing dance and sex party. In contrast, we were thankful for the juxtaposition of the short prayer, Morpheus's fairly grounded speech, and the ensuing sex and sexy dancing.

Morpheus makes a speech to the masses of Zion in which he says he has confidence in face of a massive robot attack, because humyns have been fighting the machines for a long time and

Continued on next page...

A Maoist commentary on how all instrumental music has politics

“Matrix Reloaded: The Album” (2003)

Various artists
Warner Bros.

by mim3@mim.org
June 9, 2003

Our favorite track on this album is the Rage against the Machine “Calm Like a Bomb” song. Fittingly, considering Matrix Reloaded’s vestigial Christian imagery and paeans to Zion, there is also a Christian rock track by P.O.D. titled “Sleeping Awake.” We also hear the music for the dancing and sex scenes in the movie in close proximity to the religious imagery—which we appreciate as the conscious intention of the film directors.

The Dave Matthews Band treats us to an image of people having sex while the world is ending. That sums up the Neo and Trinity love scene pretty accurately. The whole CD easily could have gone off the apocalyptic Christian deep-end, but instead it often substitutes sex where spiritual lift-off would occur in the mind of the more Bible-prone.

We should also mention Marilyn Manson’s abuse of the public in the song “This is the new shit.” It’s about the predictability of sex, parties, violence and rebels and could be seen as mocking himself, the movie and the audience.

Despite these songs with lyrics mentioned above the most important part of the album is instrumental music. When the robots attack Morpheus’s ship with a thud, the “thud” is actually music. Likewise, when the masses are dancing

after a Zion sermon, there is instrumental music.

After one sees a movie like “Matrix Reloaded,” each of the songs on an album like this one conjures up specific images. In such a context, we Maoists favor the use of instrumental music. In contrast, playing instrumental music today from composers hundreds of years ago usually ends up supporting reactionary ideas, because the context is missing or reflects the pre-occupations of the rising bourgeoisie or the petty-bourgeoisie in their day hundreds of years ago.

The problem with all instrumental music occurs when it becomes detached from its original context and distributed for money or other reasons unconnected to its original purpose. The fact that people can make money or use music to pacify various people in various different situations is not the fault of composers, but such a truth should be the assumption of all composers.

To act as if instrumental music has no politics and hence no context is to aid the money-making abilities of those trying to profit from original artistic work. It is above all the bourgeoisie that wants to use music of all people for “universal” purposes, all the better to sell the music in more places. Hence, a symphony made originally to celebrate Polish revolutionary nationalism may end up at funerals, in churches or debutante balls of the rich and famous. It will be like seeing the music of today by the “Clash” used to sell deodorant or the “Sex Pistols” to pass the time on elevators.

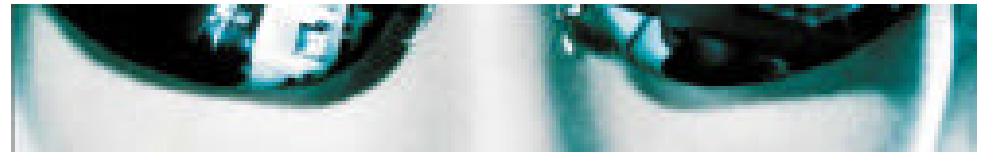
Likewise, but on a lesser scale, the king’s court in monarchist societies also has its political purposes for music sometimes beyond the original intentions of the composer. While we are in favor of remaking music to fit revolutionary purposes through “recycling,” such recycling by revolutionaries differs from that by profiteers or monarchists and other status quo or reactionary opportunists in that we recognize we have to change the music at least slightly to fit a revolutionary purpose for today.

That is to say, “original” music does not drop from the sky. It arises from music prior to it. No music is so “original” as to escape all the social context of the composer.

Even music that originally had revolutionary intentions, becomes reinterpreted and misunderstood to the point of being co-opted over time. In this case, we are going to give the “Matrix Reloaded” soundtrack a pass, because it accompanies a progressive movie (at least up to this point: the last part of the movie is not out yet).

Over time though, this sort of CD product starts a reactionary movement that detaches the symphonic music from its original context. There will be those listening to it who do not know what it is connected to. In that case, the music will serve the status quo, by pacifying its unknowing listener.

On the other hand, we can hope that



this symphonic music will not take on much of a life of its own in the cultural world apart from the movie. Whatever sickness in society that occurs where people latch on to the music without knowing what it refers to is offset by the progressive use of the music in connection to the movie. The “Matrix Reloaded” soundtrack is in fact an example of one of the best ways to sell symphonic music today. We only hope the money does not go to supporting more classical music concerts for Beethoven, Bach etc.

That raises yet another political question—the question of financial priorities and hence music production—which is separate from the content of music itself. Symphonic music expressing the moods of then new but now old or gone classes from hundreds of years ago deserves to have no market outside museum-like audiences—at least until the day when we can all upload information through cartridges in the neck like the people do in the “Matrix.” For now, most pre-rock “classical” or symphony instrumental music plays in snobby venues where the only common knowledge of the listeners is that upper classes used to listen to the same music hundreds of years prior.

During the Cultural Revolution in China (1966-1976), Chao Hua addressed the controversy surrounding politics and instrumental music: “In fact, a composer clearly has in mind what he wants to praise or oppose and what content and mood he means to convey, when he is composing the absolute music.” We can

see how this truth applies almost 30 years later in the “Matrix,” because each symphonic soundtrack goes specifically with a movie scene.

The belief that humyn moods are not political is wrong. All people feel sorrow and joy, but they do so for different concrete reasons having to do with class, nation and gender. There is no transcendent humyn mood expressed in music just as not all people at this time are from the same class, nation and gender. At this time, some music drives toward the future of communist unity better than other music. Such progressive music deserves airtime and publicity.

It is important to note as Chao Hua and Lu Hsun did that the feelings of the famine victim collecting cinders for a living and a rich old retired man growing flowers do differ for concrete reasons. At the same time, now that post-modernist subjectivism is the fad, we do not want to push that difference to the point of saying that rich men cannot know the feeling of the famine victim. We can say that the rich man’s moods are produced by his circumstances, but it is incorrect to say that each persyn has his or her own circumstances and individual mood unknowable by others. The general conditions producing moods and the moods themselves of the varying classes can be known generally. If this were not true, it would not be possible to make music for fictional worlds like the “Matrix” and have MIM give it approval.

Note: Chao Hua, Peking Review #9, 1974.

Continued from previous page...

they are still alive, not because of any belief that he has regarding prophecies. Thus while Morpheus is zealous, he proves sober-minded.

Under-discussed themes

There were a few points that critics I read did not seem to cover. One interesting point is the title of the movie, which makes some sense in light of Neo’s discussion with the Matrix architect. Computers keep re-loading altered software in order to control humyns better. Neo’s enemies get better in fighting and systems of control expand and vary.

The most important point that seems to have passed by the critics is that Neo ends the movie fighting outside the matrix. He stops robot warriors in their tracks. Trinity picks up Neo in a coma—outside the Matrix—and says she cannot explain what happened.

Perhaps we are in for some explanations of how what Neo learned in the Matrix world is now changing his corporeal self outside the brain connected to the Matrix. In a few months, in part III, we will know.

This does not have to be the only review of “Re-Loaded.” Send us your communist ideas about the “Matrix.”

--May 18, 2003

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.

LAPD nixes civil liberties, starts own 'Operation TIPS'

May 30—Tom Ridge's latest Orange Alert announcement has inspired the city of Los Angeles to beef up security locally. While California Governor Davis put state cops on 12-hour shifts, L.A. Police chief Bratton reminded residents to call in any "suspicious" behavior to the LAPD's terrorism tip line. He cited "taking pictures of a reservoir or other facility" as an example of suspicious behavior that should be reported to the police.(1) Not such a good time to be a tourist in L.A.

Police Chief Bratton is telling ordinary Angelenos to take up a practice that the U.S. Congress shot down in the form of "Operation TIPS." The Justice Department originally proposed this as a "national system for reporting suspicious and potentially terrorist-related activity" by recruiting "millions of American workers who, in the daily course of their work, are in a unique position to see potentially unusual or suspicious activity in public places." When the ACLU and some Congress members protested, the Justice Department tried to save Operation TIPS by excluding mail carriers, utility workers and others with access to people's homes from participating. But Congress explicitly banned "any and all activities" to implement Operation TIPS in the Homeland Security law it passed in 2002.(2)

Now in a two-pronged attack, many Amerikan localities are instituting Operation TIPS on their own and under

different names, while the Justice Department tries again with Patriot Act II. A citizen spy program called CAT Eyes is training regular people to spy on their neighbors and report activity to the Feds if it activates their "it-feels-wrong" button.(3) A Boston resident who went to one of that city's CAT Eyes trainings pointed out that Amerikans are too well schooled in chauvinism for their feelings to be trustworthy, asking: "what is likely to activate the it-feels-wrong button in a society that has been conditioned to regard Muslims and people of Middle Eastern appearance as potential terrorists?"(4) Amerikans have answered this question by reporting Arab- and Muslim-looking airplane passengers for suspicious activity like using the toilet too often during a flight.

In spite of the obvious threat of fanning anti-immigrant hysteria and the fact that the Congress has banned this sort of activity, Bedford County, VA and towns near Philadelphia are looking into or setting up CAT Eyes programs. Burlington County, NJ has implemented the program and Bordentown, NJ is investigating it. According to the CAT Eyes website "the NJ Regional Community Police Institute has set up training for over 30 NJ Police Departments and is having the Department of Justice Review the program."(5)

As if John Ashcroft hadn't already

demonstrated his incapacity for being in charge of anyone's civil liberties, the Justice Department has its own proposal to make community spying a reality. The draft law is called the Domestic Security Enhancement Act or "Patriot Act II" and among other things it would grant legal immunity to businesses that give tips to the government in terrorism investigations. This means the government can enlist cable companies, internet service providers and banks to violate customers' privacy and even lie about customer activities, and cannot be taken to court for it. The ACLU points out that "false information can ruin a person's reputation, lead to erroneous arrest and even to violence" and the new law would "weaken the incentive for businesses to think twice before using a false tip to law enforcement to settle a private score or indulge in invidious discrimination."(6)

For these reasons and many more, MIM is organizing to stop Patriot Act II from becoming law. Check out the Civil Liberties page of our website,(7) get yourself some more information and help us shut down this column of the march toward fascism.

Notes:

1. KPCC 20 May, 2003
2. "Proposal to enlist citizen spies was doomed from the start," The Washington Post 24 November, 2002.
3. This is what an imperialist-country

economy looks like. CAT Eyes hires trainers from National Protective Services, a business that describes itself as "a variety of personnel with verifiable backgrounds in the military and law enforcement. [The company's president] has been responsible for anti-terrorism programs both in the United States as well as in high-threat theaters of operations overseas, including managing the training of personnel, developing plans and programs, and conducting threat and vulnerability assessments. He has also been responsible for the security of U.S. military nuclear assets as well as serving as the commander of a military Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team." (<http://www.nationalprotectiveservices.com>) The Amerikan military incites "terrorism" by warring overseas to expand U.S. hegemony, and graduates of its training programs use their special knowledge to make money in the private sector fighting this "terrorism."

4. The Boston Globe May 18, 2003.

5. Lynchburg News and Advance, March 31, 2003; The Philadelphia Inquirer, 12 December, 2002; <http://www.cateyesprogram.com/>

6. <http://www.aclu.org/SafeandFree/SafeandFree.cfm?ID=11817&c=206> Click on link "For a detailed section-by-section analysis."

7. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/civlib/>

May 2003 Central Task Report

by PIRAO Chief
June 3, 2003

May saw our web traffic suffer a huge drop-off from the previous month, thanks mostly to the u\$. public's relaxation regarding the Iraq War. The report is also rather dismal-looking, because in comparison last year we had 150% growth on our web page, which was hard to build off in an impressive way.

Iraq-related traffic dropoff affects our agitation and MIM Notes the most. To the extent that people are also not picking up the MIM Notes on the street at a rally, people are also asking fewer basic questions about MIM for our FAQ department.

As the sun is up more in the united

States, we lose traffic after April in general. I'm sorry not to have implemented all our plans for countering the loss in traffic, but there is also an extent where we cannot overcome the fact that people do not like our topics during the good weather. A number of departments such as Chinese gained great ground but could not make up for the season and Iraq situation.

This month, the Black Panther page had more hits than the home page. The table counts the languages all the same way, based on number of visitors. It reveals that Chinese is now language number two, Spanish third and French fourth for our web page.

Web traffic broken down by department: April vs. May 2003

(From high to low by May figure)

Department	April users	May users	% change
Bookstore	10,764	10,169	-5.6%
Agitation	7,209	2,683	-62.8%
Art	6,355	4,669	-26.5%
MIM Notes	6,213	4,755	-23.5%
FAQ	5,674	5,120	-9.8%
Black Panther page	5,101	4,868	-4.6%
What is MIM?	5,089	4,935	-3.0%
MIM Theory	2,882	3,240	+12.4%
RAIL	2,570	1,915	-34.2%
Movies	1,995	3,010	+50.9%
Prisons agitation	1,668	1,540	-7.7%
Notas Rojas	1,318	1,450	+10.0%
French	1,103	931	-15.6%
Contemporary controversies			
/countries page	1,088	1,129	+3.8%
California	1,062	928	-12.6%
Chinese	1,204	1,977	+64.2%
Classic quotes	763	949	+24.4%
RAIL fliers			
(within RAIL page)	562	283	-49.6%
Maoist Sojourner	248	261	+5.2%
German	230	380	+65.2%
Finnish	168	167	-0.6%
Russian	135	157	+16.3%
Study packs	118	115	-2.5%
Albany	104	107	+2.8%
Philadelphia	N/A	98	
Turkish	86	77	-10.5%
New York City	81	89	-9.9%

Summary statistics comparing May 2002 and May 2003

Statistic	May, 2002	May, 2003	Change
Different computers MIM served	28,050	42,949*	+53.1%
MIM pages served per day	2,361	3,180	+34.7%
MIM data transferred/day	102.329MB	120.46MB	+15.1%
MIM Notes printed copies			
compared with pre-911=100		167	
MIM prison circulation averaged			
over two months Jan 2002=100		0	
Number of Art page users	Unknown	4,699	
Number of different MIM web page files actively chosen from	3,495	4,100	17.3%
Amazon visitors sent from web page	355	814	+129%

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

Supreme Court OKs coercive interrogation

As the Attorney General John Ashcroft schemes to remove judicial oversight over police agencies via Patriot Act II, the Supreme Court is busy giving it away. The Supreme Court ruled at the end of May that an Oxnard, California police officer did not violate the 5th amendment rights of Oliverio Martinez by interrogating him without informing him of his right to remain silent—all while Martinez was awaiting treatment for the five bullet wounds police gave him.

The Los Angeles Times, obviously ill-informed about current police interrogation tactics, still managed to draw the correct conclusion:

“While Supreme Court justice Clarence Thomas labored to justify the bullying interrogation of a farm worker whom an Oxnard police officer had just gravely wounded, Justice John Paul Stevens, dissenting, called the inquisition what it was: ‘the functional equivalent’ of torture. Thomas’ majority opinion rolls back decades of constitutional procedures and all but invites the backroom rough-em-up police tactics of old.

“Oliverio Martinez is blind and partly paralyzed from the five bullets that police pumped into his body after they stopped him in connection with an investigation

of possible drug sales in his Oxnard neighborhood. Although Martinez initially complied with orders to dismount from his bike, a scuffle resulted when the officers discovered he was carrying a knife and Martinez was shot.

“Paramedics arrived and carted away Martinez, bleeding and screaming, to a hospital. For nearly an hour, as Martinez waited for medical treatment and then as doctors treated him, the officers pressured him to confess to starting the fight.”(1)

Martinez’ case is particularly brutal, but police tactics aimed at skirting people’s right to remain silent are neither old nor exceptional. Anybody who has been arrested or has seen trashy cop shows like “NYPD Blue” and “Law and Order” knows that cops will try all sorts of dirty tricks to squeeze self-incriminating information out of arrestees before they “lawyer up.”

MIM gives the pigs credit: they’re good at what they do. That’s why we encourage people to give cops as little information as possible before and after they are arrested; don’t try and beat the professionals at their own game.

An ACLU “friend of the court” brief quoted at length from a police training video describing techniques to get

information from arrestees even after they have invoked their right to remain silent. It ends with the smug observation that in practice cops can break the rules with impunity. “‘Won’t I get sued in civil court for violating his civil rights?’ Well just ask yourself, have you ever seen hundreds—hundreds and hundreds—of published cases where court found a ... violation. Did any of those officers get sued? Zero.”(2) The Supreme Court’s ruling endorsed this practical impunity.

Some people say the police can’t fight crime if their “hands are tied” by regulations protecting those they interrogate. These people miss the point. Civil liberties like the right to remain silent protect against corrupt and dishonest people in government.

Cops and prosecutors have a careerist self-interest in arresting and convicting as many people as possible. They look great to the “tough-on-crime” yahoo majority when they pressure scared kids into confessing to a rape they did not commit. And ten years later, when the truth comes out, it’s not like the cops and prosecutors will be sent to jail for their lies and incompetence.

Under socialism a.k.a. the dictatorship

of the proletariat, high standards for public servants like police and prison guards will be maintained through stiff penalties. Thought-reform personnel will be held to especially high standards, expected to be some of the most self-sacrificing people there are in their concern for all people. Such personnel will not run camps or prisons to take perverse or sadistic pleasure with internees—or profit from them. Even abuses like stealing pens and paper (currently commonplace in Amerikan prisons) will be punished.(3)

Furthermore, the “tough-on-crime” crowd fail to notice that their approach does not reduce crime. You can thank capitalism for the persistence of the drug trade, prostitution, etc. Make something illegal and you make it more profitable; where there is profit to be made you will find those who will take the risk.

Notes:

1. Los Angeles Times, 28 May 2003.

2. supreme.lp.findlaw.com/supreme_court/briefs/01-1444/01-1444.mer.ami.aclu.pdf

3. For more discussion on prison and thought reform under the dictatorship of the proletariat, see: www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/cong/freespeech.html.

THOUSANDS SAY ‘NO’ TO PATRIOT ACT II

Continued from page 1...

Int’l.-USA in the “Stop Patriot Act II Coalition” to promote the petition and carry out civil liberties agitation from an internationalist perspective.

Notes:

1. <http://www.public-i.org/dtaweb/report.asp?ReportID=502&L1=10&L2=10&L3=0&L4=0&L5=0>. A complete draft of the Justice Department’s proposal can also be found there.

2. From our review of Gore Vidal’s “Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace” (<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/books/violence/vidal.html>): “The politically naive say, ‘if you have nothing to hide, why should you fear giving up your privacy (and other civil liberties).’ What these people do not understand is that civil liberties protect against corrupt and dishonest people in government. It is not a question of hiding something. It’s a matter of preventing government-sponsored terrorism. It is a

matter of not trusting the government and giving it unaccountable power. This was at the core of the racist, white founding fathers’ philosophy having suffered the oppression of a tyrannic government. And despite the slavery and genocide against the First Nations rampant at the time, MIM would say that that idea is still more advanced than what we hear today about the need to sacrifice freedom for safety. The founding fathers had a ‘theory’ of how to keep government under control of the people. We at MIM do not think that theory is exactly right, but we recognize and share concern for the question that drove that theory. Most of what we hear today on the subject is pure emotion driven by fascist agitators in the media and government.”

3. For an archive of stories, flyers and pamphlets against “Patriot Act II” see <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/civlib/>.

A call for MIM Notes sponsors and distributors!

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

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

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

Make anonymous money orders payable to “MIM.” Send to MIM, attn: Camb. branch, PO Box 400559, Cambridge, MA 02140. Contact MIM in regards to this campaign by writing mim3@mim.org

Distribute #	Cost per year
12 (Priority Mail)	\$120
25 (Priority Mail)	\$150
50 (Priority Mail)	\$280
100	\$380
200	\$750
900 (Express Mail!)	\$3,840
900 (8-10 days)	\$2,200

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



Indian researchers write exemplary book on Iraq

Behind the Invasion of Iraq by Research Unit for Political Economy

New York: Monthly Review Press, 2003, 144pp. pb

This is the best of the available books on the invasion of Iraq, from an overall perspective. Despite the title, the material stems from December 2002 and February 2003, just before the invasion. Readers of MIM Notes have already seen most of this material, but already at least one reviewer has expressed satisfaction in seeing many items pulled together in one book.

The authors were confident the invasion would occur and named the economic reasons for it as well as the colonial administration that did take shape after

the invasion. In other words, nothing in the book proved wrong once the invasion actually occurred.

The most important aspect of this book is that it goes back into history and interests the reader in economic subjects, but in a highly accessible manner. Readers who become interested in this material and who want heavier analysis can find it later from the same Monthly Review Press, especially in the 1960s and 1970s titles concerning China. It is by reading books like this one that the public can build up its understanding of political economy.

MIM has only very slight complaints. One is that the RUPE authors correctly dwell on the competition of the euro and the dollar. However, it is not quite correct to say that the existence of dollar

reserves, and dollar-denominated trade has created the only financial basis for the united States to fund its trade deficit. This is a misunderstanding of finance capitalism and how it works. The status of the dollar is a factor in the dollar's own price relative to other currencies, but financing of trade deficits is related to things such as the nature of investor beliefs about asset values in the united States. For example, as the RUPE authors mention, Japan has been in a long recession.

Japanese investors going into the united States do so not just because there is a bias toward the dollar internationally, but because they believe there is no other proper outlet for capital. To say that the united States is a mess does not leave

Japanese investors with a necessarily better outlet.

Two, in passing, the authors mention that the united States will use revolts by the Arab peoples as an excuse for further intervention. Happily, the RUPE authors also explain that the global masses will have a say in how the U.S. strategy for empire works out. We had only a momentary concern that the RUPE might be saying it was time not to revolt.

Something worth mentioning before we close is the authors' sharp exposure of the Indian rulers fueling hatred against Islam and lining up evermore loyally with the u.S. imperialists. This book sheds welcome light on the geopolitics of the region near India and many other regions as well.

Brit moves on Euro reveal fears of economic disaster

Continued from page 3...

would decide on "long-term" bases, not just the graphs of the year.

The unspoken truth is that Bush and Blair nearly killed the dollar with the Iraq War. Politically, the escalating Middle East wars seriously wounded the dollar as Arabs and various global investors flocked to the Euro. Economically, the war seriously wounded the dollar when it became clear that the warriors would pay for this war, not the Euro zone government budgets.

Even the Euro zone countries have some reason to fear the overly rapid rise of the Euro, again because the rulers know their class well—its inclinations to panic. One advantage that socialism and physically planned production have is that it is not subject to the mentality of a relatively small portion of the population known as speculators alternately paralyzed and jolted forward by fear and greed. While speculators may make moves that damage the economy and they may create self-fulfilling prophecies to hold back economic growth, the proletariat has no such inclinations. Of course, even the proletariat has mood changes, but in general it has the greatest interest in moving the economy forward, even and especially in the face of adversity, since the proletariat is most hurt in bad times.

The rise of the Euro causes imports to be cheaper in the Euro-using countries, so Germany's chancellor Gerard Schroeder recently said he does not expect any deflation risk in Germany,(4) as a way of saying not to worry too much. The dollar is down 29% since its high in 2000,(4) but Germany's official position is that deflation won't happen. Those who would favor moves to prop up the dollar would be saying the risk of deflation is too great in the Euro zone.

Readers may ask what all this has to do with the struggle for communism. Some have said that U.S. imperialism's parasitic position depends on the status of its currency which allows U.S. imperialism to borrow more on

international markets to finance deficit spending. Billionaire Warren Buffet said as much: "Any other country in the world that [bought imports] on that scale would have had a much greater currency depreciation already."(5) The United States is now importing 5% of its gross domestic product without matching exports and it has been doing this a long time.(5) In contrast, we believe the currency issue is only one very important manifestation of parasitism: bankers do have other ways of accomplishing much the same thing.

The Euro is much more significant in geopolitics as a symbol to keep an eye on. France and Germany are in the Euro zone and England and the United States are not. Although Spain and many eastern European countries favored the war on Iraq, political and currency speculators have to assume that the European economy is shaping up to have different interests than those of U.S. imperialism. It is not for no reason at all that England waited till just after the war to put the brake on the Euro.

At the same time, the United States has so far resigned itself to a falling currency.(6) The Japanese and other Asian currencies have arranged that the fall be against the Euro and not against their own currencies by building up U.S. dollar reserves—holding a bunch of dollars. Thus far in life, the Japanese and other export-oriented "Four Tigers" of East Asia appear to have to put their exports first and that means keeping a strong dollar. "The euro rose 27.6 percent against the dollar in the last year, while the Japanese yen rose 8.4 percent, and other Asian currencies even less."(7) Thus the major Asian currencies are not as yet a "hedge." Although Europe's economy is doing poorly, investors are betting on it because the alternatives are even worse. Some are calling it "diversifying" by holding Euros and dollars. "We are strongly tied to the dollar," Rizal Ramli, the former finance minister of Indonesia, said in an interview.

"But with the dollar's decline, it is wise for Indonesia to diversify its reserves into euros."(8)

Already the bond trading situation is equalized: "In the four years since the common currency began trading, however, 44 percent of new global bonds have been issued in euros, nearly equaling the 48 percent issued in dollars."(8) Without a major political upheaval, the U.S. dollar advantage as a manifestation of parasitism will equalize between the United States and Europe. However, since the capitalists of the various countries have long had the "right" to invest in each other's businesses and they move trillions across borders with blinding speed, the profits of European and U.S. imperialists have not been much out of step with each in the last 25 years. If any of them seriously believed the U.S. imperialists had an advantage via their currency, they would have invested in U.S. imperialism.

Notes:

1. <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/euro/story/0,9061,955669,00.html> ; <http://www.nytimes.com/financialtimes/business/FT1051390225478.html>
2. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/16/international/europe/16BRIT.html>
3. <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/euro/story/0,9061,958867,00.html>
4. <http://www.nytimes.com/financialtimes/business/FT1051390223827.html>
5. <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP-Buffett-Weak-Dollar.html>. This marks one imperialist in favor of the U.S. imperialists' giving up their special privilege in currency trading. Associated Press, May 21 2003.
6. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/20/business/20DOLL.html>
7. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/20/business/worldbusiness/20EURO.html>
8. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/18/international/europe/18EURO.html>



Much Ado About Weapons of Mass Destruction

Continued from page 1...

said that, among other things, 8,500 liters of anthrax were unaccounted for. How much space do 8,500 liters occupy? That's about 45 drums - the size of oil drums - probably spread out in several different hiding places.

"If one contemplates how much damage a single teaspoon of anthrax caused in Washington, D.C., when it was spread through the mail in October of 2001, the United States was right to be worried about the enormous damage that a suitcase full of anthrax delivered by a small cell of terrorists might wreak.

"That is why our troops in the field are not expecting to find huge warehouses or enormous storage spaces. They are looking for materials that may be hidden in somebody's basement, behind a false wall, in a space the size of a clothes' closet."(1)

According to Novak's logic, Amerikan troops might never find the WMDs if they are there. Bombing the bejeezus out of a country and then invading with 100,000 heavy-weapons troops does not seem like the best way to find a suitcase buried under some farmer's doghouse, but it's a sure way to piss more people off, maybe to the point where one of them will dig up

that suitcase.

The Amerikan leadership's police approach to stop the proliferation of WMDs does not work. What's needed instead is a serious approach to solving the problems that lead to conflict and war—chief among them competition over resources created by capitalism and the simple profitability of war under capitalism. It's an old joke: on the one hand you have the Amerikan government calling for unfettered trade and selling more weapons than any other nation (including chemical, biological, and nuclear technology), on the other you have Donald Rumsfeld wringing his hands over the possibility north Korea might sell a nuclear bomb to another country.

Amerikans need to dump their current war-mongering leadership in favor of internationalists who can really address the causes of poverty and war. Socialism and international co-operation can do more to reduce the risk of nuclear or other WMD catastrophe than any strategy proposed under capitalism.

Notes:

1. National Review, 12 June 2003.



Ford boycott demonstrates failure of capitalism

Continued from page 3...

polluting auto company.

Speakers did correctly attack Amerika's drive for oil at the expense of peoples around the world. A Global Exchange speaker criticized Amerika fighting wars to get at resources in other countries. And a flyer passed out by the organizers noted that "The U.S. has less than 5 percent of the world's population, yet we consume more than 25 percent of the planet's oil." This flyer tried to appeal to Amerikan's fears about national security by arguing that oil dependence endangers national security. MIM agrees with this, although our point differs from the parochialism usually behind that argument: stealing resources from other peoples will naturally create enemies wanting to attack back.

Organizers were also correct to point out that auto companies continue to manufacture cars that are tremendously fuel inefficient in spite of possessing technology that would allow them to build cleaner and safer cars. This again is a product of capitalism and particularly the way that capitalist competition stifles creativity and technological advances. Just as drug companies make millions of dollars by withholding needed treatments from people who can not afford their high prices, auto companies make millions of dollars by keeping secret advances that

would make cars last longer, or would require them to change their manufacturing technology to build more efficient cars. Production under capitalism is not for the people, it is for the capitalists to make a profit. And as was seen with the Firestone tire scandal a few years back, this aspect of capitalism is literally deadly.

The Bluewater Network is encouraging people to take a pledge to join the boycott. As the director of the network explained, "Until Ford does the right thing, let's all promise not to buy Ford cars and trucks." The goal of the boycott is to force Ford to both build cleaner vehicles and lobby Congress for a doubling of federal fuel mileage standards. Bill Ford lobbied congress against increasing federal fuel mileage standards last year. The Bluewater press release provides further evidence of MIM's point that capitalism benefits from squelching technological advances: "Ironically, Ford already has the technology to build affordable, clean vehicles—they recently developed a virtually zero-emission, hydrogen-powered internal combustion engine car, called a Model U, but have no plans to make it available to the public."

The Bluewater speaker went on to say "Ford has every excuse in the book not to build cleaner, safer cars." These excuses have included cost and also the

claim that it would lead to job loss. Clearly this argument is targeted at Amerikan workers since few in the U.S. care if workers in the Third World lose their jobs in Ford parts plants overseas. The RAN speaker addressed this argument saying "Jobs would be more plentiful for auto workers if we would switch technology." This statement was reiterated in the organizer's flyer: "The U.S. lost 10 percent of its manufacturing jobs in the last four years. During that same time, the U.S. lost clean-energy market share to foreign companies in Japan and Europe. Higher fuel economy will create about 47,000 new jobs in the auto industry."

Of course if cars run better and longer and people buy fewer of them then some manufacturing jobs might be lost in the long run. But activists should not be focusing on Amerikan labor aristocracy jobs regardless. Pitting the nationalist interests of Amerikan labor against that of workers in other countries (even other

imperialist countries) is not progressive. It only leads to further Amerikan chauvinism. Furthermore, under socialism jobs and livelihoods will be guaranteed—there will be plenty of worthy things for people who used to build Navigators and Hummers to do.

MIM stands firmly against environmental destruction and we are taking up the necessary battles to win control of the environment for the world's people. The only sure way to end global environmental destruction is to overthrow capitalism and replace it with a system that serves the majority of the people. Only then will the people be able to protect the environment against its greatest enemies.

Notes:

1. See our review of "Ozone Diplomacy" by RE Benedick at www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/books/enviro/benedick.html.

What questions do YOU have?

Wasn't Mao a butcher? Why do you spell it "Amerika"? Shouldn't you try non-violence first? What is internationalism? Isn't hating white people reverse racism? Why don't you leftists work together? Why don't you tone it down? What is a cardinal principle? What is your program? What is necessary to join MIM? What concrete actions can I take? How do I write articles for MIM? What is your copyright policy?

Go to <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq> and get real answers to these and other questions.

Tennessee censors MIM Theory

I received your memo regarding MIM censorship and forwarded a copy to the Shelby court jail administrator - Chief Joseph Ponte. I also filed a grievance because the MIM Theory journal you sent me titled "Diet for a Small Red Planet" was refused by mailroom staff.

The grievance coordinator conducted an investigation and claims they were unaware of my mail being rejected. They further said that they tried contacting MIM through nationwide directory assistance and was told that no such name as MIM was listed with nationwide directory. At any rate, they're requesting that "Diet for a Small Red Planet" (MIM Theory) be resubmitted. I am as well.

It appears that whomever the mailroom clerk was who rejected my mail overstepped his/her patriotic boundaries. MIM Theory obviously not only killed his mailroom clerk's curiosity about what he/she was reading, but MIM Theory also invoked the mail clerk's biased oppressive nature, which consequently caused the mail clerk to interfere with my communist/anti-imperialist/anti-capitalist/anti-american studies.

Imperialist ideology seeks to destroy that which is in conflict with its own train of thought, while at the same time laying the ground work for it's very own destruction through self-contradiction and hypocrisy.

— a Tennessee prisoner, May 2003

Solitary used to punish politically active

You have published my last letter to you, under lock & key "NYSDOCS targets ALKQN leader"... well I'm still here with the Solitary Confinement. I want MIM to be aware that if this letter is stopped I will be subjected to more time in the SHUs here in NYS. I guess my form of politics and my activities are considered a threat to the safety and security of the New York State prison system. At the present time I, along with my attorneys are making a stand against the NYS Dept. of Corrections against their unfair policies and racial profiling.

— a NY prisoner, March 2003

Organizing Points in New Jersey

Revolutionary Greetings to all the comrades at MIM,

...I've been spreading the word about the Maoist Internationalist Movement, and brothers seem interested in your communist platform. Like I've said, I'm steering my "Folk Nation" into a communist direction. And I appreciate the insight that MIM has to offer us young striving communists. I'm in the midst of exposing these "Devilish Pigs" in Bayside State Prison. I'm going to attack them here:

1) They don't have college courses for those that want to further our education inside these U.S. gulags.

2) BSP limits our reading material to 12 books. I believe prisoners should be able to obtain as much reading material as he pleases.

3) Prisoners are required to wear ID's inside

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

of BSP at all times. If you happen to groom yourself (get a shape up, braid your hair or twist your locks), they want to make prisoners get new ID's at our own expense and they cost two dollars.

4) Somehow it's state law that all prisoners get screened for TB and nine times out of ten the method for screening is injecting that poison into our bodies. Something must be done about that.

— a New Jersey Prisoner, May 2003

MIM responds: We support this comrades effort to organize for more educational opportunities and control over prisoners' healthcare. Forcing prisoners to pay for the bureaucratic expenses is just one more form of expropriating the wealth of the oppressed. MIM agrees with this comrade that there is no good reason to limit access to books and supporters on the outside can help make sure that prisoners do have access to revolutionary materials by supporting our Books for Prisoners program and helping with legal battles to oppose censorship in prisons.

Initiative and persistence pay off

I am writing to let you know the Department has resolved the lawsuit [against censorship of MIM Notes]. They released to me on April 4, 2003 the disputed MIM Notes.

I would like to say how persistence pays off to those who are willing to make sacrifices for their First Amendment rights to read MIM Notes.

— A Pennsylvania prisoner

MIM responds: This comrade initiated a lawsuit against the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections after it withheld several MIM Notes on the bogus charge they posed a "clear and present danger" to the security of the institution. At one point no MIM Notes were getting to any prisoners in his institution. He persisted in his lawsuit for over a year, with only minor support from MIM. Now not only has he received the issues which were censored, but prisoners in his institution receive MIM Notes without hassle.

This comrade's self reliance is exemplary.

Oregon repression by "minority affairs" coordinator

In the August issue of MIM Notes (#264) you printed an article called repression in Oregon. The article expressed some concerns regarding the minority affairs officer here at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution. Right on! Brothers and sisters in the revolutionary fight, freedom must continue.

We can no longer accept the blunt racial acts of this institution nor the discrimination of minority group literature, such as cultural magazines, religious materials, and catalogs

that have to do with books written by people of color. We can't put up with Institutional Imperialism and the conspiracy to deny us of cultural growth and knowledge of our own people and heritage.

This institutional bigotry must stop! We can no longer allow these imperialists to treat us as outsiders. They are using prison tactics by using the words "gang related" to deny us the same rights as others. Racism is racism.

On April 29, 2002 I filed to discrimination complaints regarding the censorship of Islamic religious material mailed to me, which mailroom staff used institutional mail rules to deny. This rule was never administered until after it was being enforced. The rule stated that catalogs, advertisements, brochures, pamphlets and materials where the primary purpose is to sell a product or service shall be prohibited. At the same time, under the same rule, allowing others to receive the same materials.

Upon asking someone for an administration review I was first denied until filing my discrimination complaint 4/29/2002. My complaint was not answered until 4/4/03. Four months after not receiving an answer from the institution, I say Mr. P. Maine over near the education department. I questioned her concerning my complaint, she told me she was busy and she didn't have time. Also that I needed to send her a communications kite.

I waited thinking I'd hear something from this woman, as to acknowledge if she was doing her duties and minorities affairs (her job is Minorities Affairs coordinator). After not hearing anything again months later, I wrote her a communications kite. This was 2/10/2002. I explained in my request for an answer that the rule stated I would receive an answer within 90 days per DOC policy.

I received a written notice only almost one year to the date of my initial complaint, 4/29/02. I believe this lady and the institution correctional staff thought that if they waited long enough I would just lay the matter aside and forget about it. Fact still remains that the institution is continually in violation of our constitutional rights here at EOIC. While this minority affairs woman, who just happens to be of white heritage, is working to receive information for the institution.

This woman isn't doing anything but providing cultural get-togethers and movies. Blacks, Latinos, Asians and other groups continue to tell me this woman is a farce. Reality has shown me that this woman can't be responsible enough to fight for our rights. We are being mistreated, abused, denied our constitutional rights as well as our human rights, and fighting legal issues are impossible due to prison delay tactics.

The truth is that Mrs. Minority Affairs overseer P. Maine is not allowing us to have a voice here in this prison and we need someone to help us as the minority group. Fact being that in 1999-2000 an officer was

able to get away with wearing a white pillowcase over his head on the Westside of the institution and intimidated Black inmates and nothing was done about it.

— an Oregon Prisoner, May 2003

Oregon pigs attack prisoner, then charge him with assault

I am fighting the Department of Corruptions against a court case for assault on a corruption officer I refused to obey a order so I was gassed and jumped on by several DOC pigs (guards) and while I was being bodily dragged away I drooled on one of their books as I was gaging for air after I got sprayed with tear gas so I received 180 days in the segregation unit (DSU) plus a \$200 fine and 28 days LOP (loss of privileges upon release from segregation) plus a court case and I am being charged with assault on a public official that carries 75 months in the state of Oregon.

I just want to let you know there is also a

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.

lot of corruption here in the prison system here in Oregon. I will send you a copy of their misconduct grid that you may print under lock and key if you wish.

I am going to continue to fight the Department of Corruptions and also the imperialists who runs the USA and trying to cause a world war as it is now. It is hard for me to support MIM with any type of donation of money or stamps because as it is now I owe the doc \$165.89 in fines and I am in the DSU unit and am not receiving any money from the outside.

— an Oregon prisoner, March 2003

Medical neglect in OR

Can you tell me what gives the state of Oregon the right to feel they can be or they are above the actual law itself? And the department of corrections also believe they are above the law, untouchable to do as they please with those they have incarcerated. They play judge, jury and executioner by misusing and abusing their authority given to them by the state to perform the duties and responsibility of each one's job while working under the color of state law.

The state of Oregon and Department of Corrections both failed in their duty to provide adequate and properly qualified staffing or employees or a safe living environment. Some medical staff have very little if any value for human life. By causing or being deliberately indifferent to the health and safety, or the well being of a person's medical needs, I myself know from four years of mental and physical abuse.

I am crippled, forced to live in pain, having all specialists or any orders ignored, delayed, refused, or plain interfered with by medical department. I have been refused correcting devices such as glasses and footwear because of my inability to pay. There are more like me in this boat that are indigent or the state works them, takes their money or whatever the case might be.

This also stops one from buying soaps, envelopes, doing legal work or what may be needed. When one tries to seek help by chain of command its interfered with, it's passed around like hand me down clothes until when someone feels like responding. Medical knows there's no other means of treatment but through them, the medical department has a TLC committee that determines your medical needs. This is very wrong as they are not qualified to make their own diagnosis or decisions, and some medical staff on committee don't see or examine you. They are not qualified to refuse specialist orders.

This committee should be court ordered out of the institution.

By doing these things to you they're wishing to intimidate you to do as they want you to. Their actions and conduct and behavior is always justified even when proven wrong.

If there's a meaning to the word justice, how about some correcting in the Oregon Department of Corrections. If there's a meaning to the word justice, who's going to step in and correct the unjustifiable treatment we receive?

— a prisoner in Oregon, May 2003

Hunger strike in CA

I've always felt prisoners are at a loss within the system but recently I've been pushed over the edge. On May 9th a certain guard threatened me with "playing with my food". Being in Administrative Segregation there's not much I can do. But I tried to hold the tray slot on the door to talk to a higher official and while holding the tray slot the same guard called 'assault' on his person. Even though I never touched the guard I've now been put on shit status. With this 'assault' charge it leads to DA referral which leads to more time and can even generate my 3rd strike.

The issues here can go on for days. Threats, brutality, racial slurs, food contamination, falsifying reports, on and on. But I've had enough! As of May 9, 2003 a hunger strike has been implemented as a first level outcry. Inmates at CA prisons must go to dramatic measures to be heard. Therefore as I said I'll continue my hunger strike until some action is in effect.

Hopefully MIM and our counterparts can help me. Can you put pressure on Lancaster State Prison from outside thru phones and letters? All this would be appreciated. Others will be joining the hunger strike and join in when my next level starts.

— a CA prisoner at Lancaster, May 2003

California TB injection protest

There was a T.B. injection protest at the bay a couple of weeks ago. Some prisoners refused to be administered the annual T.B. injection - consequently getting cell extracted (forcibly removed from cell) to be injected. T.B. shot is mandated by state law. The protest was in regards to CDC's arbitrary and capricious gang policy. Well this event as well as the likelihood of future protests (if CDC doesn't cease their arbitrary and capricious validation of prisoners and their placement

or retention in SHU) has gotten the attention of Senator Romero. One of Senator Romero's staff consultants, Rocky Jaramillo Rushing, wrote to a prisoner in the SHU saying that she plans on visiting the Bay and speaking to some prisoners who have the most flagrant validation/cases. The senator's proposed visit will likely happen June-July 2003.

— a CA prisoner, May 2003

MIM responds: We have been carrying out a campaign against the Security Housing Units (SHU) and the California gang policy along side our comrades behind the bars who are fighting any way they can. We have sent hundreds of letters and petition signatures to Senator Romero demanding the SHU be shut down. The work of MIM and RAIL, along with other organizations and individuals seems to be getting the attention of the Senator. This underscores the need to keep up the pressure. Letters of protest demanding the SHU be shut down can be sent to:

Senator Gloria Romero
State Capitol Room #5051
Sacramento, CA 95814

Prisons used for social control

I'm somewhat of a political prisoner as I was assaulted by a police officer at a U.C. Berkeley protest. The reality of the situation is I was assaulted first and I was merely protecting myself against a psychotic pig. So contrary to popular belief, the seriousness of a crime is not the most crucial element in predicting who goes to prison and who does not. In fact, the real roots of crime are associated with a constellation of suffering so hideous that, as a society, it cannot bear to look it in the face. So it hands its casualties over to a system that will keep us from its sight.

In prison you see a lot of abnormal things. In fact, if one had systematically and diabolically tried to create mental disorder, one could probably have constructed no better system than the Amerikan prison system.

Most of the brothers in here committed economically related "crimes." From this perspective, prisons may be seen as warehouses for people who have no place in the economic order of things. However, the reality of unemployment creates economic and psychological stress that frequently is manifested in so-called "criminal" behavior.

Since I've been incarcerated I've been studying our oppressor and it is my clear conclusion that white people are profoundly sick. Dr. Frances Cress-Welsing describes this

sickness in her profound text entitled "The Isis Papers, the Keys to the Colors" very clearly. The historical relationship between Afrikans and psychopathic whites has been sadomasochistic in nature. So, let us be alert, alert in the twofold sense: since the Afrikan holocaust we know what crazy white folks are capable of. And since Hiroshima we know what is at stake. My understanding of racism (white supremacy) is that it is fundamentally a commitment to maintaining, through discriminatory action or inaction, a higher ethnic status than Afrikans and other people of color.

Most Europeans (worldwide) are convinced that a capacity for civilization is an inborn racial trait limited to Caucasians. However, traditional African civilizations have more than proven on the contrary that all human beings have an overwhelming capacity for (highly advanced) civilization and that current "superiority" of the west is a historical accident and nothing more.

It's really unfortunate about what happened on September 11th, but the reality is that people around the world are sick of Amerika's shit. It is dangerous to divorce "terrorism" from politics, yet the U.S. media continue to talk about an abstract war against terrorism without mention of the issues of context that lie behind them. Terrorism is a political act, a response to Amerikan foreign policy. It is an act of war waged by people too weak to have a conventional army or one large enough to take on this racist bitch known as the united states of Amerika! (United Snakes of Amerika).

It should also be noted that many New Afrikans in here are the victims of the so-called "war on drugs". The war on drugs is a war on New Afrikan and Brown people. It is not a war! It is not a war on drugs. There are, since 1998, 7 percent more people in prison. Since 1990, that means eight of those ten years were under the watch of a Democratic Administration. This is a war being fought by both political parties against the Black community. They criminalize drug use for Black people and medicalize it for white folks. And if you go to a drug treatment center, 60 percent of the people in that center are white. If you go to a state or federal prison, 60 percent of those people in there for drug possession are New Afrikan or Brown.

— a California prisoner, April 2003

Facts on US imprisonment

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

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

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

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

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

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

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

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

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.





¿Porqué la facción terrorista estadounidense no puede ganar?

EL MIM SACA CONCLUSIONES Y CALCULA LA TRAYECTORIA TERRORISTA

[Octubre 2001]

El clímax que hoy día se presencia en la historia, aclara muy bien la política yanqui. Según las encuestas, el 92% de los yanquis están a favor de la guerra mientras que el 8% está en contra de la misma. Un solo miembro del Congreso se opone a la guerra. El entero partido Demócrata y el partido Republicano se han unido.

La unidad de los partidos Republicano y Demócrata demuestra que el sistema está a punto de quebrar. La estupidez de los republicanos y los demócratas en el poder saltará a la vista del pueblo de una vez por todas.

En EE.UU., la clase gobernante ha asumido un gran riesgo, del cual tal vez no va a poder recuperarse. Cuanto más dure la alianza entre los Demócratas y los Republicanos, la probabilidad de que el pueblo estadounidense tenga que enfrentar la incompetencia por parte de la clase gobernante en su esfuerzo por lograr la paz y la justicia, será mayor.

La clase gobernante actual va a gastar 105 mil millones de dólares no más para retirar los escombros del World Trade Center. Otras pérdidas económicas relacionadas al terrorismo alcanzan cientos de miles de millones de dólares, mientras que las pérdidas en la bolsa de valores han llegado a los 1.4 trillones de dólares. (1) El dinero que EE.UU. han perdido en el conflicto hasta el momento- sin contar los miles de millones de dólares otorgados

anualmente a Israel en forma de ayuda militar- pudo haberles alcanzado para comprar la región entera de Long Island con fin de fundar un estado de Israel. Hoy en día, gracias al creciente número de policías federales a bordo de los aviones y guardias de seguridad por todos lados, la economía está brindando mucha seguridad pero menos servicios y mercancías. Esta pérdida de vidas humanas que se desgastan guardando cosas en vez de producirlas, es resultado de la incapacidad del gobierno actual para lograr la paz y una armonía económica. Sin embargo, desde el punto de vista de nuestro gobierno actual y el presente sistema económico, estas pérdidas no afectan el lucro capitalista; de hecho, es posible sacar ganancias incluso con establecer compañías de seguridad. Es por eso que los capitalistas no se oponen a este tipo de gastos e ineficiencia. Los socialistas son los únicos capaces de cuestionar si los arreglos políticos actuales están malgastando la labor humana.

En cuanto al caso ántrax, durante las dos primeras semanas en octubre, se reportaron 2300 incidentes de ántrax. (2) El MIM denomina esto como el principio del señuelo ofensivo. El ataque de tipo señuelo ofensivo es particularmente eficaz contra rivales de alta tecnología y gigantes financieros, como es el caso del gobierno estadounidense.

Para explicar porqué es poco probable que una facción terrorista (los yanquis) derrote por completo a otra alegada facción "terrorista" (por ejemplo, Osama bin Laden patrocinado por la CIA) por vía militar, o porqué es imposible alcanzar aunque sea un cierto grado de la paz mediante una liquidación de la "mayor parte" de otras

facciones terroristas, algunos reporteros de la Internet cubriendo el caso ántrax han aclarado cómo funciona el ántrax falso sin que sean captados los responsables de su difusión. La gente compra guantes y evita dejar huellas o su DNI, o compra guantes con 1000 huellas dactilares. Lo peor es que las cartas destinadas a agencias del gobierno estadounidense pueden ser mandadas de cualquier lugar del mundo. Cuando la posibilidad de recibir un sobre con una verdadera amenaza de ántrax es 1 entre 1000, la clase dominante no se las puede arreglar. Por lo tanto, un solo ataque es acompañado por 999 ataques de tipo señuelo ofensivo.

Una falsa amenaza a la Agencia de Protección de Medio Ambiente de Connecticut ha costado 1.5 millones de dólares. (3) Aún con 2300 amenazas recibidas hasta el momento, a la clase gobernante no se le ocurre ser honesta con su pueblo y decirle que es imposible ganar esta guerra y que la única solución viable consiste en tomar pasos hacia una armonía económica y social en vez de dar la bienvenida a la expansión del dominio estadounidense. Es imposible defenderse contra un señuelo ofensivo bien planeado, pero nuestra clase gobernante no alcanza a comprender que aun teniendo las fuerzas militares más poderosas y unos servicios de inteligencia de la más alta tecnología, es imposible ganar a personas que posean armas nucleares en forma de maletines y que implementan tácticas acompañadas por ataques de tipo señuelo ofensivo. Por ahora, los casos de ántrax falso son relativamente escasos. Si los servicios gubernamentales de China y Rusia decidieran mandar a EE.UU. correo con polvo blanco o llevar a cabo amenazas más sofisticadas, ¿se podría imaginar lo sobrecargado que estaría el FBI? Por otro lado, dentro de EE.UU. parece haber cierta confusión. Ya en junio de 2000, una página web sobre materiales peligrosos aseguró que era casi imposible transmitir ántrax por vía de correo.(4) Este tipo de confusión sin duda aumenta los gastos del gobierno estadounidense, y una de las condiciones de la caída de un gobierno es su inhabilidad de conseguir más prestamos.

¿Se imaginan lo fácil que sería bloquear los mecanismos de espionaje con tan sólo establecer redes telefónicas y electrónicas capaces de originar señales falsos? ¿Cuánto tiempo tardarían "los terroristas" a los que el imperialismo estadounidense les está jugando una pala pasada, en adaptar la misma táctica? El uso de esta táctica- el señuelo defensivo - agobia hasta a los servicios de inteligencia de la más alta tecnología. Es por eso que la presente retórica en torno a la "seguridad" e "inteligencia" no puede tener éxito. Cuando los imperialistas prosiguen con sus planes de espionaje, señuelos defensivos aseguran que la mayor parte de la información obtenida sea falsa. Al contrario, el señuelo ofensivo contiene falsa información contribuyendo a que un solo ataque acompañado por 999 amenazas resulte

exitoso sin haber sido impedido.

No es ningún secreto que el estado de Florida tiene una tasa impresionantemente de desempleo porque la industria turística ha sido minada. Según unos rumores en la Internet, puede que se lleve a cabo un bombardeo de DisneyWorld para acabar con la economía de Florida. Wall Street está aún más horrorizada que el resto de la economía: "Muchos inversionistas están diciendo: 'No vemos luz al final del túnel. No han ningunas señas que indiquen el fin de la presente recesión económica'".(5)

La lista sigue. Por ahora es el ántrax, pero existe un sinnúmero de otras amenazas semejantes, cada una de las cuales será acompañada por señuelos ofensivos o defensivos.

Desde luego, EE.UU. tiene la capacidad militar para matar a todo el mundo, en cuyo caso ya no habrá señuelos ofensivos ni defensivos. Sin embargo, según comprueban los recientes casos terroristas, una economía en expansión requiere un mínimo de colaboración global. Es irónico que los gobernantes de un país dedicado al individuo, no logren comprender que el poder destructivo del individuo ha alcanzado una fase en la que la única posibilidad de sobrevivir y seguir con la expansión económica a largo plazo se plasma en la necesidad del comunismo. "Otogarle el poder al individuo"- ¿Acaso no ha sido este el lema de los fundadores yanquis? Es mejor que tomemos medidas para llegar al comunismo antes de que los individuos que han obtenido el poder acaben con todos nosotros.

El propio ex-presidente Clinton señaló que EE.UU. tenía que reducir el campo que origina terrorismo. Esto significa liquidar las raíces del terrorismo, sobre todo, el terrorismo estadounidense que compone la mayor parte del terrorismo mundial.

Instamos a todo el pueblo estadounidense y a toda la gente del mundo que se encuentra bajo peligro u oprimida por el gobierno yanqui, a que dejen de tolerar la estupidez de los Republicanos y los Demócratas que proponen "soluciones" en forma de bombardeos, "seguridad" o "inteligencia". Estos gobernantes están arriesgando las vidas de ustedes en una guerra que jamás podrá ser ganada, y ustedes no tienen que aguantarlo.

Notas:

1. www.nytimes.com, 4Oct2001. "Una semana brutal en Wall Street," http://cnfn.cnn.com/2001/09/21/markets/markets_newyork/; además, según Edward Said, (<http://www.newleftreview.net/NLR24502.shtml>) a partir de 1967, el gobierno estadounidense ya ha gastado 92 mil millones de dólares en ayuda a Israel.
2. <http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel01/mueller101601.htm>
3. http://www.marketplace.org/shows/2001/10/16_mpp.html
4. <http://www.emergency.com/hzmtpage.htm>
5. <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,36863,00.html>

¿Que es el MIM?

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

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

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

El MIM acepta como miembro a cualquier individuo que esté de acuerdo con estos tres puntos básicos, y que acepte al centralismo democrático, el método de gobierno por la mayoría en lo que se refiere a cuestiones de línea del partido. El MIM es un partido clandestino que no publica los nombres de sus miembros para evitar la represión estatal dirigida históricamente contra los movimientos revolucionarios comunistas, y anti-imperialistas. Si Ud. desea una suscripción para cualquiera de nuestros periódicos o libros teóricos, en español o en inglés, por favor mandar dinero en efectivo o un cheque al nombre de MIM a esta dirección:

MIM • P.O. Box 29670 • Los Angeles CA 90029-0670