



No end in sight to Amerika's 'war on terror'



Protesters carry hundreds of flag-draped coffins through the streets of New York (left) to symbolize the 973 American soldiers killed in Iraq (as of 29 Aug 04). If they had carried one per every Iraqi civilian killed, like the one above, the line of coffins would have been more than ten times as long. Hundreds of thousands marched against the Republican National Convention just as MIM Notes went to press. For more coverage of the RND and DNC protests, visit <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/elections/> and <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/whatsnew.html>.

BODY COUNT MOUNTS: 'DEFEATED' FIGHTERS KILL 7 SECURITY GUARDS

A car bomb exploded outside the Kabul office of an American security company on Sunday, 29 August, killing at least seven people, including two Americans. The company, Dyncorp Inc., provides security for "Afghan President" and US puppet Hamid Karzai.(1) Early reports said the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.(2) The Taliban ruled Afghanistan before the US invaded after 9/11 and installed Karzai with the UN's blessing.

This successful attack in a section of the city populated by Westerners and on the "President's" American security force no less exposes the lie that Amerika's Afghan escapade has been a smashing success for imperialism on the cheap. Secretary of Defense Don Rumsfeld's idea—apparently shared by John Kerry based on his stump speeches at the Democratic National Convention and beyond—went something like this: send in a few Special Forces, wave some cash around, dust off some pro-Western exiles, have a meeting in some quaint European city and voila: pro-American, secular democracy.

Already in 2001 MIM predicted that this strategy would fail, based on our understanding of imperialism and study of history. Only those too lazy to read a few articles about the Soviet Union's war in Afghanistan, Amerika's war in Vietnam or its support of Chiang Kai Chek in China's civil war could have thought Rumsfeld's approach would work. Now even laziness is no excuse. Every day the 5 o'clock news shows that the American puppet regime's authority doesn't go past the "President's" security cordon. Warlordism has returned to the countryside, and anti-American fighters such as the Taliban and Al Qaeda are gaining ground, despite being driven from the cities.

Still, Afghanistan appears to be the model for John Kerry's approach to foreign policy. He tells the American

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Bin Laden and the Concept of 'Theocratic Fascism'

Osama Bin Laden or his followers are not just scaring the wits out of the bourgeoisified people of the imperialist countries. He and his followers are also winning the praise of Third World peoples. At this particular point in history, it is a given that the imperialists are going to demonize someone in the Mideast. We have to ask ourselves why it is that an Arab, African or Iranian Maoist leader did not obtain this honor now given to Osama Bin Laden.

A bourgeois research organization found that the peoples of Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan and the Palestinian Authority regard Osama Bin Laden as one of three leaders they most trust to "do the right thing."(1) The people of Jordan (71%) and Indonesia (66%) also view Osama Bin Laden as more peaceful than the United States.(2) It goes to show that attacks on US interests will be supported by the Third World masses and even the foreign-policy bourgeoisie of US imperialism knows it. It's an important lesson to take a materialist approach to the masses and ask them who they trust more, their Maoist leaders or the US imperialists.



A motley crew of counterrevolutionaries, labor bureaucrats and centrists calling themselves "Marxist-Leninist" are responsible for Islamic militants' outflanking the communists in the minds of the exploited of many Third World countries. We have two choices in this matter: 1) we can believe the Islamic scriptural hocus-pocus and that it is somehow God's will; or 2) we can realize that communists in many Middle

East and Third World countries surrendered nationalist credentials in the Third World the way a Mao or even a Ho Chi Minh never allowed. The Islamic movement is becoming the preferred expression of the struggle against imperialist super-exploitation in many countries while the "Marxist-Leninists"

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MIM's summer movie breakdown

Too busy protesting the Republicrats to catch any movies this summer? Don't worry, MIM will let you know what you missed—or didn't miss.

Addicted to celluloid? Check out what MIM has to say about this year's summer blockbusters. They're not all bad. Really.

MIM reviews *The Bourne Supremacy*, *The Day After Tomorrow*, *Collateral*, and *Harry Potter*: pages 8-9.

Letters

Latino soldiers' role in the Iraq war: an historical perspective

Historically, the function of the military has been to protect and perpetuate the ideological/material interest of the ruling class. The rank and file, being predominately from the impoverished and middle class, are among the least informed in society. In the 21st century, this fact remains which explains those justifications given by the Raza as to why they are in Iraq. They have said, "To free the Iraqis from Saddam Hussein" and "to eliminate an imminent threat to the United States." I will respond to both of these quotes in turn, but first I want to make a brief historical analysis of our role in Euro conquest.

For us, this first occurred in 1519 when the Cempohuanlans made a strategic alliance with Cortez and his conquistadores. On their way to Tenochtitlan, the conquistadores continued to acquire recruits and make alliances with tribes who [opposed] the Aztec Empire. These few thousand conquistadores and a few hundred thousand allies went on to successfully defeat the Aztecs. Those tribes who allied themselves with the conquistadores retained some autonomy during the conquest and were under the belief that their material conditions would improve once free of Aztec domination. However,

once the conquest of Mexico and Central America was completed and the European forces were secured, their "allies" were reduced to commodities of the Spanish crown. Putting those "allies" in the same category as the tribes they helped to conquer.

Let's jump forward 300 years to Texas. Believing the propaganda for independence by Anglo squatters, many Mexicans did, in fact, fight along side Sam Houston, thinking that independence would equal prosperity. However, once independence was realized, they learned that Anglos neither acknowledged their contribution, nor allotted them any significant role in the new independent state. In fact, their material aspirations only resulted in Anglo consolidation of land and power.

Then there are the many lessons of North American First Nations who, in various "Euro wars," sided with the British, the French or Americans. Regardless of their alliances, once the smoke had cleared and they were no longer needed by Euro forces, they learned that Europeans were not in the habit of sharing land, wealth or power. Consequently, they all met the same fate.

In these few examples, those indigenous forces had either an independent strategic and/or material interest in fighting in "Euro wars." In 2004, what is the Raza's interest in fighting for Europeans? As a captured colony of the United States, the Raza has no independent interest in fighting for imperialism. Some can point to a "dependent interest" but even this is

illegitimate and only testifies to our incapacitated state and is a manifestation of our neo-colonial status.

Fighting to free Iraqis? When and where has imperialism "freed" anyone? This historical fact does not exist! The Raza in the United States are not even free ourselves so how are we going to free anyone else? (Indeed, we are only free to be good subjects of Euro imperialism.) Underneath all the propaganda, it amounts to Raza/people of color killing people of color for Euro interest.

Even if all that was alleged about Iraq was true, which the US Administration is not admitting was not, we must realize that imperialism not only provoked but created that threat. If we analyze the 20th century, we'll find that imperialism frequently created (and will continue to create) situations all over the world that will require our bravery, our blood and our lives in large amounts.

Let's not be fooled into believing that the war in Iraq eliminates an imminent threat. This idea is propagated to give people a false sense of security. Who or what is the most imminent threat to us (people of color)? "Imminent" implies something that will occur in the future. I'd ask you to look at the material conditions as they exist now and decide which is the most detrimental to our existence: other people of color in foreign countries or the status quo in the United States? Undisputedly, it is the status quo. It is the US oppression. It is Mexican on Mexican violence. It is our high child mortality rate. It is our sky rocketing incarceration rate. It is our suicide rate. Etc., etc. All of which are the consequence of imperialism.

I'd also challenge you to make a quantitative analysis of how many civilian "terrorists" or "rogue nations" have killed

outside of their own countries. How many millions of civilians did the US kill in Vietnam in one war alone? In Iraq, the US has already killed 10 times the amount of civilians that died in 9/11/01. So decide who is the most imminent threat to human kind and world stability.

Unfortunately, the Raza have become equivalent to the Aztec forces after they were militarily defeated. We are being used (just as the Aztecs were) to fight and die for the same people who have conquered us, taken our lands and reduced us to subsistence. Beneath the pose and illegitimate justifications, Raza in the US military are only perpetuating Euro imperialism. After 500 years, we are back to square one!

The fact that most Raza who enlist in the US military do so specifically for economic mobility, it gives potential to a collective realization of the cause and effect of the US military industrial complex via imperialism, as it directly applies to them and their native country/continent. For those of us who are politically advanced, our challenge is to develop this collective realization, to move our forces, from their current front of stabilizing Euro imperialism and domination, to our own.

— A California Prisoner, April 2004



Editor, MC206; Production, MC12

MIM Notes

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

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

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What is MIM?

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

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

- Mao Zedong, Selected Works, Vol. II, p. 208.

Anti-censorship activists force Colorado DOC reform

After more than four years since the ACLU filed suit on behalf of MIM, other publishers, and some Colorado Department of Corrections (DOC) prisoners, we reached a settlement out of court which requires the DOC to institute clear policies regulating censorship. Far from perfect, the settlement explicitly continues censorship of parts of MIM Notes and other publications named in the lawsuit. In spite of this and other limitations, the settlement was clear progress for the battle against prison censorship.

We have gained an explicit statement that “there will be no general prohibition of publications such as . . . MIM Notes . .

.” And the settlement mandates the prison follow explicit regulations when they censor mail. For example, the prison must notify the sender of any censorship and give the sender and recipient an opportunity to challenge censorship in front of a review board.

People reading this might be surprised that these policies are not standard for all prisons. But this is the myth of free speech in Amerika—it is free for those who support the imperialist system, but not for those who oppose it. In reality MIM faces censorship across Amerika, both in the prisons and on the streets.

Censorship is the strongest in the prisons where people are denied access

to even basic reading materials on the whim of the prison staff. Many prisons censor MIM Notes and other literature without notifying either the prisoner or the sender. When notification is given, it generally includes vague justification if any at all.

By this settlement the DOC is required to offer a meaningful description for the reasons of withholding publications, identify the portions that are objectionable, and remove only the objectionable portions if that is fewer than four pages. According to the ACLU, censorship of the specific issues of MIM Notes in question was one of the last point of contention in the negotiation with the DOC. They refused

to modify their position on MIM’s organizational statement.

Ultimately the settlement included delivery of MIM Notes to the prisoner named in the lawsuit, but with the pages with MIM’s organizational statement (page 2) and those written by prisoners (Under Lock and Key) removed, along with a few other pages. The settlement makes it clear that no one is agreeing that the partial censorship of these issues is correct or even consistent with the new regulations.

Once the Colorado DOC puts the new censorship regulations in place, MIM will use these new regulations to challenge the on-going censorship of MIM notes.

Oxfam shows respectable internationalist reformism

It used to be that Oxfam was just a charity organization bringing food to the Third World and maybe even wrecking the agriculture there in order to do so. We did not think much of its political or economic sense. While drawing endless attention to starvation, Oxfam does not see a non-negotiable human right to eat while MIM does. Hence, MIM is for the dictatorship of the proletariat while Oxfam believes that when push-comes-to-shove the exploited and super-exploited should negotiate away their rights to eat in “democracy.” A large portion of the world gives money to Oxfam to feel good about itself rather than actually change anything.

Now things have changed. The “fair trade” project initiated by Oxfam has turned Oxfam into a better ally of MIM than the countless “communist” organizations that do not as of yet understand international exploitation even as much as Oxfam does. As MIM has predicted in several articles on the

emergence of internationalist social-democracy, Oxfam has made internationalist reformism respectable reformism. Together we can support an end to imperialist country protectionism, the abolition of agricultural subsidies or the internationalization of them, an international minimum wage for the whole world and not just the export sectors either, international regulations on child labor, international environmental controls—at least for all countries wanting to participate in the WTO-governed trade agreements which is almost everyone.

Tackling the WTO, the Oxfam has opened a huge subject within which there are many, many large, medium and small issues. Doubtless MIM will have disagreements with Oxfam down the road on how to implement fair trade. However, broadly-speaking in the world, there are two responses to globalization. 1) One fans imperialist country economic nationalism a la Patrick Buchanan, Ross

Perot and to a lesser extent Richard Gephardt. This camp benefits from the irrational nihilism of many so-called anarchists who have no way forward. 2) The other camp accepts that the world is getting smaller and seeks reforms of the WTO and international trade agreements. MIM belongs to this camp, because the other camp speeds the planet toward an intensification of world war. Included in this camp should be the oppressed nation economic nationalists seeking to compete on terms more favorable with the rich.

For MIM, one great class struggle occurred recently in Berkeley, California where the labor aristocracy showed us internationalists that the labor aristocracy is in the saddle, not us, even in the supposedly most radical city in Amerika. Over 70% of voters would not require coffee shops to use coffee beans from “fair trade” certified sources.

It’s one of the few class struggles in Amerika in recent times that was not

strictly intra-bourgeois. There was real proletarian content to that struggle in Berkeley which we lost.

MIM wants to be clear with people that Oxfam cannot succeed, because the economic and political interests blocking it will not surrender without revolution. Any concept of “free trade” or “fair trade” is only a pipe-dream under capitalism. Nonetheless, as even most calling themselves “revolutionaries” have not figured that out yet, and because the alternative to Oxfam reformism is reactionary reformism, we encourage many people to join MIM or Oxfam. Revolutionaries should hook up with MIM and weak-kneed reformists and charity-lovers should push Oxfam’s maketradeair.com project as far as they can.

We encourage anyone launching a “fair trade” offensive to keep MIM informed. We can publicize it in our publications and website as well.

A public service announcement brought to you by MIM

Imperialism kills

Dear MIM,

Why don’t you have a spot in your paper where you print what the Americans say is the recent number of dead (‘913’), and they don’t print the ones they cart away wounded and thus die, the poor slob. Those few on tap come home with legs or arms or eyes cut out, they can’t get the right compensation for their ills. There’s so much more, but you should print the true deaths in your paper; it would wake the sleepers up for sure. You owe it to the people.

—a reader in Los Angeles, 5 August 2004

Indeed, the Amerikan military does not like to report on the number of U\$ soldiers killed and wounded in Iraq. Although it publishes press releases on individual deaths, it does not tally them (“we don’t

do body counts” is the quote from U\$ general Tommy Franks). It even tried to censor photos of flag-draped coffins returning to the United States. Information on the number and severity of non-fatal wounds is also difficult to find.

So as a public service we publish the current numbers (as of 30 Aug 2004) here.

Iraqi civilians	11,707
U\$ military fatalities	973
U\$ allies’ military fatalities	66
U\$ military wounded total	6,497
U\$ military wounded RTD	2,992

“Wounded RTD” means wounded in action, returned to duty within 72 hours. This gives some idea of the severity of the wounds suffered. More than half of the total wounded were militarily incapacitated for over three days.

U\$ military recruiters try to lure

recruits with promises of money for college and adventure in exotic places. Some even suggest Amerikan youth are less likely to die by gun violence in Iraq than in Amerikan cities—a ridiculous claim that we debunked in MIM Notes 305. The truth is being a soldier is dangerous. Unlike targets on a shooting range, people tend to shoot back, especially when they consider you a member of an

illegitimate occupying army.

Young people! Don’t make a devil’s bargain! Don’t join the U\$ military! Not only will you be part of the system of violence and oppression, but you might end up tallied in one of the figures above.

Sources:

Iraqi civilians: iraqbodycount.net; U\$ & allies’ military: <http://icasualties.org/oif/>.



The unsustainability of Amerikan aggression

Review: *Imperial Overstretch: George W. Bush & the Hubris of Empire*

by Roger Burbach and Jim Tarbell
London: Zed Books, 2004.

This is the right topic for a book, a topic dear to MIM's heart. The first 100 pages seem to rebut the Amerikan public that thinks September 11th came out of the blue. Burbach and Tarbell show the U\$ history of imperialism, including those leading Amerikan voices for empire ever since 1776.

One point we like in this book is that pretty much as soon as Negri and Hardt wrote "Empire"—which claimed there is one global capitalist empire already without conflicts among nation-states—the United States asserted its national interests and took over Afghanistan and Iraq, the latter especially without international sanction (p. 197). The only function a book like Negri's and Hardt's now can serve is capitulation to the United States.

After proving the historical existence of U\$ imperialism, Burbach and Tarbell focus on recent times under Bush. Burbach and Tarbell come to some surprising conclusions, mostly by analogy with Rome and via the works of others who have written about the decline of empires. Burbach and Tarbell tell us that with Bush in power, the fall of empire is a matter of a few years, maybe even 1 to 4 (p. 195). Something worth considering is that competent administrators such as Clinton prolong the agony of crisis while people like Bush may be speeding it up.

On the point of the collapse of U\$ empire, Burbach and Tarbell created the title of the book but provided little build-up. For an example of the kind of build-up we needed more of, we learn that in 2003 "of the thirty-three active-duty brigades only three were actually free for new duties" (p. 11), thanks to all the military activities of the U\$ empire.

In response to this overstretch, Democrats such as Hillary Clinton and John Kerry are calling for an expansion of the military while the Pentagon wants funding for new weapons systems instead. Thus far, the Republicans and Democrats have united in increasing the size of the government budget deficit by spending for both weapons and soldiers.

Readers of MIM Notes and the MIM web page have seen most of the factual material in this book already. Burbach and Tarbell add some slight social-democratic illusions as well that we would not. For example, they trot out the usual facts on how military spending produces fewer jobs than other kinds of spending. (p. 5) That's an example of something MIM does not stress, because building a social-democratic state is not our priority and because the statement implies that in exchange for enough jobs the authors will put away their concerns about imperialist war—not a good idea in this day and age. At the beginning of the century the European rulers offered their workers pensions and employment in exchange for war. On the other hand, it is an important

kind of point if one believes that capitalists do what is most rational for business overall. In fact, there is nothing that says the capitalists appreciate anything of the drawbacks of military and prison spending for the economy.

In response to communism, Burbach and Tarbell said it did not take root in the Amerikan culture, thus leaving discussion of imperialism in intellectuals' hands (p. 31). They also attack the Soviet Union's interventions in Eastern Europe while making clear that U\$ interventions have been historically unprecedented in scope and ferocity. (p. 57) By page 70, we see that the authors accepted the Brezhnevite premise that foreign aid to Soviet allies was greater than the gains from exploitation.

In MIM's opinion, Burbach and Tarbell needed to develop such points more deeply. They have misunderstood both the Soviet and U\$ crises. For the same reason that the U\$ empire does not pick the social spending that produces the most jobs, the Soviet empire's compulsion to export capital did not necessarily take any particular form suitable for any particular short-term goals that Burbach and Tarbell would accept as reasonable even for capitalism.

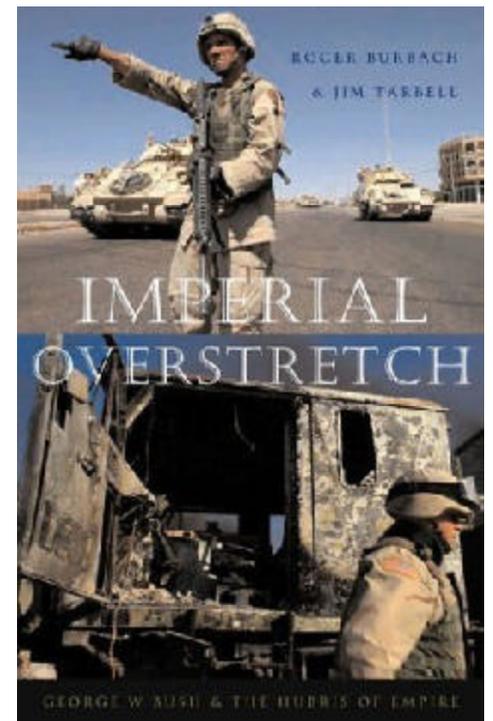
When we argue about pre-socialist systems where planning has yet to reach full acceptance, we must break from thinking that some bourgeois ultra-planner at the top can fully control bourgeois development or would seek to do so toward definite ends other than business competition narrowly construed. Such bourgeois planners will in fact not even be able to maximize the profit of the system as a whole, both because they have no theoretical system to be able to do so and because the state itself is not an even-handed representative of the bourgeois class. Some parts of the capitalist class have more influence on the state than others and those sections with more influence will use the state to make more profit. The only given is that the individual capitalist will seek to succeed in business competition. There is nothing saying that the winners of such competition will succeed in making the state undertake a course of action to maximize profits for capitalism in all its business branches as a whole.

The closest thing to an overall strategy for the imperialists is appeasement of the bond markets; yet, these bond markets are notorious for their psychological fragility. One may rightly suspect that expanding the U\$ military in order to export less oil from Iraq than before is not the kind of thing the bond market will accept not only universally but increasingly at the margin.

Even if Bush does con the public into ever greater wasteful military spending and thus pump up military-contractor profits, it's far from clear that really boosts overall profitability. The nature of the bond market is one reason that Burbach

and Tarbell are right to point out the strange situation where the United States alienates the rest of the world and then borrows from it to attack more countries. Burbach and Tarbell say the financial markets are not going to tolerate that much longer.

In this sense, we are close to the position of Burbach and Tarbell. Whether they know it or not, the U\$ imperialists have already lost the game. It is U\$ imperialism that has the most to lose in the slow down in trade and business caused by the "war on terrorism." Other countries and political actors have long ago built their strategies without depending on freer trade. The United States benefits most from easy border crossings and greater peace. This gets lost in the imperialist vision, because the imperialists see booming military, security and prison profits without grasping the overall picture.



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.

Superficial, bourgeois internationalism in 'Axis of Evil'

Review: *Inventing the Axis of Evil: The Truth About North Korea, Iran, and Syria*

Bruce Cumings, Ervand Abrahamian, Moshe Ma'oz
The New Press (2004) 213 pp.

MIM can't recommend this book, except as a quick substitute for reading the last two years of the New York Times or Foreign Affairs. It contains some factual tidbits, many showing how the United States fostered the very regimes President Bush now calls "evil." But these tidbits don't make up for the authors' rather superficial analysis and bourgeois-internationalist biases. For example, readers interested in Korea would well to skip Bruce Cumings' essay and instead read MIM Notes' coverage over the last two years; we cover the same material, but better.(1)

Readers interested in the limitations of the bourgeois internationalist opposition to Bush and his neo-conservative coterie might want to dwell on the Cumings essay, however. Cumings falls into the "mistakes were made" school of history, along with former Secretary of defense and war criminal Bob McNamara.(2) Both Cumings and McNamara do a pretty good job exposing Amerika's leading role in some of the 20th century's worst atrocities, especially the Korean and Vietnamese wars. But both blame these crimes on Amerikan leaders' mistaken ideas, not the economic system of imperialism.

Cumings thinks that if the Amerikan

government had only shown a little more patience, it could have avoided the Korean and Vietnam wars and other fiascos—and still have come out on top of the struggle against "communism." There were good, socio-historical reasons Koreans and other oppressed nations adopted radical land reform and anti-colonial programs, Cumings argues, and this made them sympathetic to communism. If, instead of waging overt and covert anti-communist wars, the Amerikans had been patient and supported their just anti-feudal and anti-colonial struggles, then these former oppressed nations would eventually have gotten over their radical phase and embraced liberal capitalism.

Aside from overestimating the allure of liberal capitalism—look at the decline in life expectancies in Russia since the collapse of the Soviet Union—Cumings overestimates the imperialists' ability to abstain from conquest. He approvingly quotes former diplomat and architect of the post-WWII "containment" doctrine George Kennan:

"I considered that if and when we had succeeded in persuading the Soviet leadership that the continuation of [their] expansionist policies... would be, in many respects, to their disadvantage, then the moment would have come for serious talks with them about the future of Europe. But when... this moment had

arrived—when we had made our point with the Marshall plan, with ... the Berlin blockade and other measures—when the lesson I wanted to see us convey to Moscow had been successfully conveyed, then it was one of the greatest disappointments of my life to discover that neither our government nor our Western European allies had any interest in entering into such discussions at all. What they and others wanted from Moscow, with respect to the future of Europe, was essentially 'unconditional surrender.' They were prepared to wait for it. And this was the beginning of forty years of Cold War."(3)

Kennan and Cumings fail to understand that the cold war was an imperialist war. On the one hand, the Amerikans (and eventually the social-imperialist Soviets) fought to preserve and expand their colonial empire; on the other, oppressed nations fought for liberation. The Amerikans couldn't do anything but "kick them while they were down." As Lenin taught us in "Imperialism," the economic pressures of monopoly capitalism drive imperialist powers to divide and re-divide the world; they cannot rest content with their little piece of the world, they have to try and take way their neighbor's piece—or die.

This is the key point that people working to eliminate war and colonial exploitation have to understand: it's the economic

system of imperialism that drives nations to war, not leaders' personalities. Measures that do not challenge this underlying system—clever diplomacy or well-meaning reforms—cannot prevent war or end exploitation. In fact, the more likely such "pragmatic" measures are to change something fundamental the less likely they will ever be adopted by the powers-that-be—unless they are under duress from more radical forces.

The Kennans, McNameras and Cumings of the past 150 years have shown us that it is impossible to reform imperialism, no matter how clever one is. If we want to keep the humyn race from blowing itself up with its latest hyperdeadly invention, we have to attack the capitalist system, and fight for socialism, which eliminates economic competition among nations and makes true cooperation possible.

Notes:

1. See e.g. MN253, MN261, MN262, MN271, MN272, MN273, MN275, MN276.

2. See <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/books/asia/mcnamara.html>.

3. Pp.45-46.

No end in sight to Amerika's 'war on terror'

Continued from page 1...

people that more Special Forces and greater UN involvement in Amerika's "war on terror" will bring peace. Given the current mess in Afghanistan Kerry and his supporters are either lying or willfully ignorant.

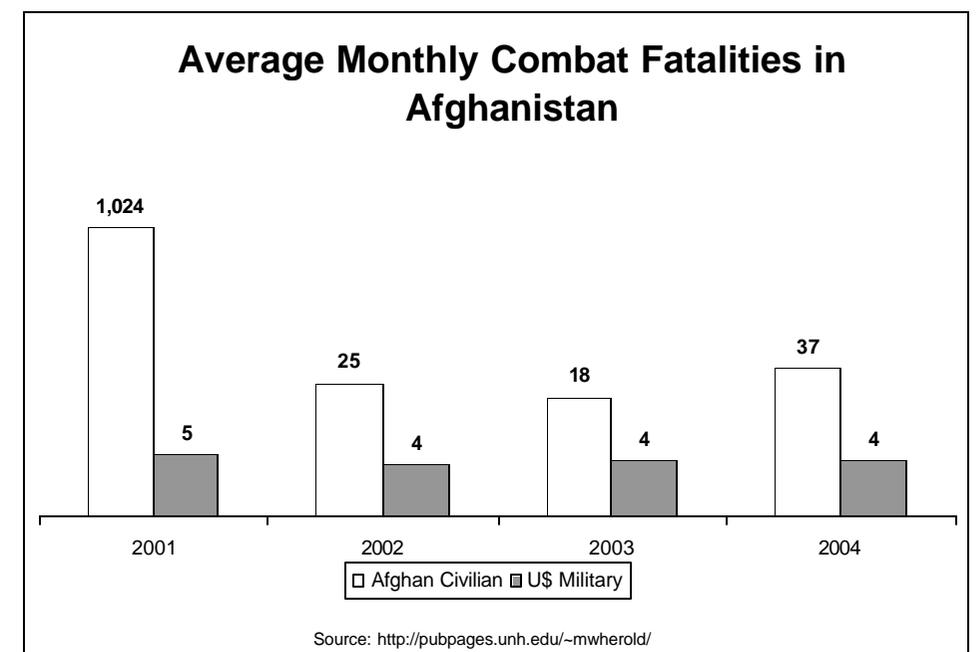
Those in the ABB ("Anybody But Bush") camp may be tactically correct: to win the votes he needs outside of the big coastal cities Kerry needs to show he can "take care of business," militarily speaking. But this is a case where sound tactics lead to ultimate failure because the overall goal was poorly chosen. The ABB crowd may well find themselves with a president who creates one, two, three Afghanistans—assuming he can find any allies, as many of the governments that backed Amerika in Afghanistan are waiting on the sidelines to see how Amerika handles the current crisis of its own making in Iraq.

In the year after Don Rumsfeld declared major combat in Afghanistan over on 31 May 2003 ("we clearly have moved ... to a period of ... stabilization and reconstruction activities") between 1,532 and 1,845 people have died from military operations.(3) 386 of these were civilians, compared to 343 from the

previous 18 months. (The initial bombing campaign killed over 2,500 civilians.) The civilian combat fatality rate more than doubled in the first eight months of 2004 relative to 2003. U\$ military fatalities are also up slightly (see chart). Far from slacking off, resistance to the Amerikan-led occupation is picking up.

Kerry and his egghead advisors ignore the basic facts. So do Bush, Cheney et al. The "war on terror" is not a war between Amerika and a few nihilist lunatics who "hate freedom." It is Amerika's futile attempt to put a lid on the struggle of the oppressed, who, having exhausted all other mean of struggle, have taken up the one method Amerikans understand: violence. The United States long ago used up the good will of the oppressed masses. The oppressed will not listen to pretty words and empty promises forever while the United States runs roughshod over their rights and Amerikan companies exploit them.

Only a serious program of reparations for superexploitation, stolen resources, and lives lost due to imperialist aggression can begin to win back that good will and pave the path to peace. But this program cannot be implemented through capitalist



elections; the companies who profit from Third World superexploitation and from arms sales can buy media coverage and elections. The system doesn't need a few tweaks—it needs a complete overhaul.

Notes:

1. Associated Press, 29 Aug 2004.

2. CNN, 29 Aug 2004.

3. Numbers taken from Professor Marc Herold's webpage <http://pubpages.unh.edu/~mwhero/d/>. He compiled them from published news reports; as such they are incomplete but the best we know of. Where no range is given we use his lower estimate of the number of deaths.

Bin Laden and the Concept of 'Theocratic Fascism'

Continued from page 1...

and "Maoists" lose the battle to represent the super-exploited by their failure to concretely expose super-exploitation and target the super-exploiting enemies.

Obvious sell-outs

The bourgeois press made it no secret that after September 11 2001, the CIA landed in Afghanistan with paper bags full of money to buy off political leaders.(3) This sort of thing has gone on throughout the Mideast and even many of the most stupid and reactionary pseudo-Marxists ranging from Trotskyists to neo-Hoxhaites have figured out that much along with the fact that NGOs (non-governmental organizations) are playing a similar role throughout the Third World.

Along these lines the Iraqi "Communist Party" volunteered to serve in George Bush's occupation regime in Iraq. It's important to understand that this goes against not just "MIM Thought," but also the universal teachings of Lenin, Stalin and Mao. This is so obvious that it is almost not worth mentioning.

Clandestine sell-outs

In addition to the obvious, in-daylight sellouts in the Middle East, there are also clandestine sell-outs. Like the Liberals in the Iraqi CP and the CP=USA that supports it, there are many in the Middle East and other places who have decided that attacking "theocratic fascism" takes higher priority than attacking US imperialist interests.

No doubt Russia and China have their cynical geo-political interests involved in enticing US imperialism into becoming the world's two-fisted liberal against Islam. Those thrilled with this idea should see their new allies. One of those denouncing "theocratic fascism" is Christopher Hitchens. The other is the practically John Birch society rag "Front Page Magazine"(4) which has called for a Congressional investigation of MIM. Hitchens is hawking his credentials as a journalist in favor of a war crimes trial for Henry Kissinger et al. regarding Vietnam while simultaneously talking up G.W. Bush. Even worse, J. Sakai is calling September 11 2001 the work of "Pan-Islamic fascism pressing home their war."(5) Since none of these Liberals ever claimed to buy into Lenin's theory of imperialism as the highest stage of capitalism dominated by finance capital, we cannot say we are surprised. They are all entitled to define fascism in whatever useless way that they want.

The real problem comes when a similar approach comes out of many "communists" with a half-assed reading of Dimitrov and Stalin, because Stalin targeted the fascist imperialists "first" during World War II. Many Third World wannabe compradors with a Liberal streak adopt Marxist-Leninist or even Maoist camouflage while claiming to target "theocratic fascism" "first." What they did not read in the definition of

fascism used by Dimitrov and Stalin is that fascism is a strategy of "finance-capital." In other words, fascism stems from imperialism, not some local tradition of Islam or the like, which is really just obtaining its strength from taking up the nationalism of the oppressed nations.

There are no imperialist countries in the Middle East except for Israel. None have reached the stage of having the banking organization that coordinates global business, so fascists in the Middle East are only there as puppets of US imperialism.

The pseudo-anti-fascist struggle by Third World Liberals is clandestine in two aspects. First, Liberals are hiding in many parts of the world inside communist parties, because full-blown consistent Western Liberalism has no chance, no electoral popularity in many Third World, Middle East and ex-Soviet bloc localities. It's the opposite in the majority-exploiter countries where liberalism is mainstream, so that the accusation usually runs the other way around—that communists might be adopting liberal camouflage in the majority-exploiter countries.

Secondly, the Third World Liberals are clandestine in hiding their line of attacking local reactionaries through alliance with the government agencies of imperialism. What these Liberals masquerading as communists have done is hijack the proletarian banner for a bourgeois-democratic pipedream. They have no idea why even for as large a country as China, Mao said, socialism is the "only way out." The clandestine Liberals hope no one notices that they are working with George W. Bush's state apparatus.

Between the open sell-outs like the Iraqi "CP" and the clandestine sell-outs who are really just two-fisted Liberals seeking like-minded support in the United States, "Marxism-Leninism" and even Mao's image have been dimmed.

Confusion-spreading sell-outs

Another road to selling the struggle short and making Osama Bin Laden look like a giant is the "tail wags the dog thesis" that Israel calls the shots in Russia and the United States—e.g. the line of the Syrian "Communist Party." In reality, this line reflects the political flabbiness of the Middle Eastern bourgeoisie. Rather than admit that the United States is the root of national oppression in the Middle East, the bourgeoisie attempts to pin everything on Israel with its handful of millions of exploiters instead of the United States with its over 200 million exploiters. The absolutely shameful thing is that this goes on among those calling themselves "Marxist-Leninist" even as US troops stand in Iraq.

Connected to this approach of downsizing the enemy to be more manageable is the line that "we are a small country. We cannot take on US imperialism. Israel is about all we can handle!" The truth is this shows a lack of global perspective, something even the

bourgeois internationalists such as Clinton and Bush Sr. have more of than most of the Arab bourgeoisie. Even nutcase Donald Rumsfeld knows that he's stretched thin globally so he has ordered a third of the troops out of Korea. For that matter, even Osama Bin Laden thinks more globally than some of our spineless "communists" and comprador bourgeoisie. Osama Bin Laden organized in several Arab and non-Arab countries. So it is not true that a small country ever has to worry about taking on all of US imperialism for starters. Iraq is showing how to take on the bulk of the US armed forces as we speak.

Politically subtle sell-outs

Should the oppressed of the Middle East decide to bolt from all the sorry excuses regarding an oppressive reality, there is one last hurdle before getting on the road to Marxist-Leninist-Maoist liberation. The centrists stand at the door.

Although there is a MIM saying that the imperialist countries owe huge reparations and have populations of hundreds of millions of exploiters, the centrists say there are 10% or 50 or 60 million enemies in the imperialist countries. They echo the CP=USA on the class structure almost precisely. The centrists assuage the flabby Arab bourgeoisie by telling them tall tales about Amerikan workers about to flip over to the Arab side any day, thereby justifying the Arab bourgeoisie's focus on the Jews.

The centrists are also there dampening the struggle for reparations, again counseling that Arabs not offend Amerikan workers too much. When it comes to Western exploiters operating in their countries, the centrists are there with a bleeding heart for Americans they call "exploited," in the oil, food transport and military contractor businesses.

The centrists of the imperialist countries combine with Third World leaders to present a social-imperialist future, one complete with aspiring social-imperialist leaders and aspiring social-imperialist compradors. Together they are arranging a new neo-colonialist deal for the future, because it is always easier to re-engineer a deal for division of surplus-value than to take down imperialism and all its attendant exploitation.

All of this must be combated without subtlety. 1) Westerners in the Middle East are exploiters. MIM calls on them to read the writing on the wall and leave. 2) A demand for reparations must go forward to bring out the global proletariat to target the real source of its problems. 3) The comrades in the West must do whatever else they can to make sure that the comrades in the Middle East do not find themselves outflanked in representing the super-exploited masses of the plundered countries. Islam vs. Maoism

In reality, Islam has no record of success relative to Maoism. That's both in terms of kicking out oppressors and speed of social progress. If we purge the

rot from our Marxist-Leninist-Maoist movement and adhere to its universal principles we will get back on course and earn the proper enmity of the imperialists.

The Iranian theocrats denounce "Great Satan," the United States all the time, but these leaders were not able to stop the Iran-Iraq war that bled oppressed and exploited people for the benefit of US imperialism. Of course, Saddam Hussein deserves much of the blame for that war serving US imperialism. On the other hand, the only principle that can unite the Arab and Iranian people against US imperialism is a secular one, and the Iranian side is more to blame in that question. The religious sects unable to build an alliance against US imperialism because of their supposed religious divisions (but in reality their subordinated class positions) only prove that they are in league with "Great Satan."

MIM is clear that fascism is the dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinistic, and most imperialist elements of finance capital. Finance capital is a crucial part of this definition; this means that it is impossible to have fascism without imperialism. The imperialists export fascism to many Third World countries via puppet governments. And imperialist countries can turn to fascism themselves. But it is important to note that there is no third choice for independent fascism in the world: they are either imperialist or imperialist-puppets. Germany, Spain, Italy and Japan had all reached the banking stage of capitalism and had a real basis for thinking they could take over colonies from the British and French.

The vast majority of the world's fascist-ruled countries have been US puppets. None would survive without US backing—whether El Salvador or apartheid South Africa. Today possible exceptions would be Russia and China. They could go fascist and claim to have reached the finance-capital stage of capitalism; although in China we would probably see some debate the point by saying that China is too dependent on the United States to be counted as independently social-fascist. Even white-ruled South Africa was a candidate for fascism but fell out.

The notion that Saddam Hussein or Osama Bin Laden could go fascist misses that they are both former US puppets. Saddam Hussein proved to have no independent imperialist basis. As far as we know about Osama Bin Laden, he also cannot operate banks globally in the manner of imperialist finance-capital. Today Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden are both independent. They may have aspired to fascism, but they are in fact not fascists, because they are neither imperialists nor their stooges. Osama Bin Laden and Saddam Hussein are simply unscientific competitors on our turf.

Khrushchev/Gorbachev appeal to the West

The battle against fascism globally has two scientific components: 1) for the leaders; 2) for the masses. The communist scientific leaders must know the root causes of economic development, as specifically stemming from the labor theory of value. Labor occurs along with poverty thanks to exploitation. The same can be said of entire countries. There is no positive record of independent fascist economic development.

The uninformed intellectuals of the Soviet bloc in the 1980s reacted badly against social-fascist Brezhnevism and actually believed Gorbachev Liberalism was going to bring economic progress. The root error was a misunderstanding of the political economy of economic development. In the ex-Soviet bloc, China and the whole developing world, we must win the battle for the intellectuals on questions of economic development. They must understand that there is no tool better than Marxism for understanding economic development. Key to that Marxist understanding is labor appropriation and its connection to the distribution of wealth in the world. Genocide and slavery started it, and super-profits sustain the great American economic miracle. It is not the case that “free markets” and “democracy” bring prosperity. It is now 2004, 15 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the notion that the ex-Soviet people were going to leap into Bloomingdale’s by taking up free-market capitalism is achieving the same skeptical embrace that intellectuals gave Brezhnevism.

Among the masses, we must be even more concrete than in the questions of surplus-value, labor appropriation and uneven economic development. Among the masses of the ex-Soviet bloc, China and the whole developing world, we must unleash their enthusiasm for proletarian internationalism by giving detailed demands for reparations their due. This must be done before revolution in order to unleash the full revolutionary potential of the exploited masses who will otherwise fall for American consumer propaganda.

The fascists excel often by copying Leninism and adding nationalism. There is no reason to let Marxism-Leninism-Maoism take a backseat to fascism or Islamic nationalism or any mystical competitor in the oppressed nations or ex-Soviet bloc. Many of these competitors will crowd into our turf of standing up for the oppressed nations, but none will have Marx’s insight into economic injustice. No matter what “spiritual” tradition they are from, they won’t be able to recognize economic injustice when they see it—not compared with Marxism.

What is more: no imperialist country fascist is going to back the demand for reparations. This will give the international communist movement a leg up over fascism. So we MIM communists say it again: we don’t want to hear about any Third World comrades letting fascists or Islamic nationalists get the upper hand in nationalist credentials!

Our Third World comrades can point to us. The fascist comrades in imperialist countries will make it evident what self-defeating projects Hitler-type fascism and Limonov-style national bolshevism are. They have no real prospects of cooperation.

In this battle for the hearts of the exploited and oppressed, we must not repeat errors that communists have already made. Lenin broke with all the parasitic European social-democracy when he formed the Third International.

When Khrushchev came to power, the socialist bloc had unprecedented power. It had only to stay united on the road of Lenin and Stalin to keep moving forward. Yet at that very moment of communism’s greatest political power, Khrushchev chose to orient himself toward the Western labor aristocracies by abandoning the Third World armed struggles. Information about this continues to seep out into the public. Khrushchev’s splittish activities very much pleased much of the Liberal rot accumulating in Western “communist” parties. According to Gromyko—no blazing Stalin supporter himself—Khrushchev gave birth to “Eurocommunism”—the watered down “communism” which a good chunk of the labor aristocracy adhered to in Western Europe.(6)

From Khrushchev to Gorbachev and the very end of the Soviet Union, each step rightward came with the justification by the Soviet Politburo that it would make the European “communist” parties more popular. Indeed, Gorbachev openly courted US public opinion so successfully that 74% of the U.S. public gave him the highest possible rating during the coup(7) that marked the turning point ending Gorbachev’s rule in 1991. (When Reagan retired his approval rating was said to be 68%. It hit a high point of 73% after an assassination attempt and during the latter stages of his senility.(7)) The truth is that abandoning Stalin and socialism was in fact popular with the Western “communist” parties and US public opinion.

It’s important not to repeat Khrushchev’s history. Had Khrushchev written off the entire Western “working” class, the worst that could have happened is that the West would have threatened the Soviet Union with nuclear annihilation—and had more backing from the Western “workers” than usual. Yet, the Soviet Union could have handed back an amazing punishment as well, a punishment that even our labor aristocracy would understand. Instead of catering to Yugoslavia and Western European public opinion, Khrushchev should have taken advantage of his military position to neutralize those while turning up the heat by staying on Stalin’s road for the Third World. Chasing after Western labor aristocracy popularity, Khrushchev broke with Mao, perhaps the single greatest crime against the international communist movement from within.

Khrushchev became known for his speech at the 20th Congress of the

Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The speech attacked Stalin and consolidated Mao’s proletarian internationalist duty to break away from the Soviet Union. Today, Gorbachev and Yeltsin are called “children of the 20th Congress;”(8) though there continue to be those calling themselves “communist” too dense, pig-headed or accustomed to bribery to admit it or understand its implications. When Gorbachev made his final moves to destroy the Soviet Union, he had the assistance of a right-hand man accused of Trotskyism during the Stalin era—Yegor Ligachev.(9) Only after it was too late did Ligachev admit he was wrong in supporting Gorbachev. Trotsky, Khrushchev and Gorbachev are connected together in history for their condemnation of Stalin and contributions to the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

It is only fitting that Ligachev was there for the demise, because it was grandpa of labor aristocracy-based revisionism Trotsky who had excoriated Stalin for not making the Soviet Union more appealing to the Western workers. From the days of Trotsky’s delaying negotiations with Germany on peace in World War I (despite Lenin’s insistence contrary) till his death, Trotsky always had an unrealistic sense of how much Western European workers could help the Soviet Revolution. Here is what he said about the treaty with the Germans: “It was necessary to give the European workers time to absorb properly the very fact of the Soviet revolution, including its policy of peace.”(10) That’s his explanation for why he delayed making peace with the Germans despite orders from Lenin. Trotsky wanted to wait for the Western workers as usual. That’s exactly the same substance of what Khrushchev and Gorbachev were to say later.

The CIA itself has noted that in the end the Soviet leaders did manage to move public opinion in the West: “Polls in Europe showed that Gorbachev’s popularity exceeded that of any Western leader of the 20th century. Time chose him Man of the Decade, and he received the Nobel Peace Prize for 1990—a token of the West’s gratitude for his helping to end the Cold War. Critical assessments in the media and the scholarly journals were rare.”(11) Bush Sr. had to answer the following question: “Q. Mr. President, despite your recent success at the NATO summit, Mr. Gorbachev seems to enjoy far greater popularity in Western Europe than you do. Why do you think that is, and what can you do about it?” Bush answered, “You know something? I don’t really care about that. I’m not interested in that. I am delighted that he enjoys popularity in Europe.”(12) Hence, it cannot be questioned that the USSR had effective tactics to change Western public opinion, but their tactics added up to a strategy of alliance with the labor aristocracy of the imperialist countries, so the entire goal of the struggle was lost. It’s a case where political line should have said that the strategy is wrong and therefore the tactics effective but still not

desirable for the international proletariat. The tactics worked; the strategy was left somewhat shrouded to those of cloudy politics, but the line was impermissible. That is evident to anyone who had hoped the Soviet Union would go down the socialist road. Khrushchev and Gorbachev did succeed in producing a big change in Western exploiter opinion and the result was state-capitalism followed by open free market capitalism.

Now what we have is this: Gorbachev won higher approval ratings from the American public than Reagan did and Osama Bin Laden has higher ratings in the Third World than any Soviet leader including Khrushchev and after. What good did that do? This whole result proves that socialism does not win with pragmatism. It’s a profound lesson, that yes, tactically it is possible to maneuver a formerly socialist state into popularity with the Western labor aristocracy; however, the game is not worth the candle.

Notes:

1. <http://www.iht.com/articles/98482.html>
2. <http://www.upi.com/view.cfm?StoryID=20030618-060033-9862r>
3. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A61461-2002Nov15?language=printer>
4. <http://www.frontpagemag.com/Articles/ReadArticle.asp?ID=2870> Hitchens is all over the Internet with the phrase “theocratic fascism,” e.g., <http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20020415&s=hitchens>
5. <http://www.kersplebedeb.com/mystuff/books/fascism/shock.html#6>. “USTINOV: It’s not a secret that the westerners never loved us. But Khrushchev gave them such arguments, such material, that we have been discredited for many years. “GROMYKO: Basically thanks to him the so-called ‘Eurocommunism’ was born.”http://wwics.si.edu/index.cfm?topic_id=140&fusionaction=librarydocument&id=616
7. <http://www.worldandischool.com/public/1991/november/school-resource19556.asp>; A discussion of Reagan’s ratings and how they became dramatically better with the labor aristocracy by bombing Libya is here: http://abcnews.go.com/sections/politics/DailyNews/poll_reagan010806.html Gorbachev’s approval ratings were higher than Reagan’s and Bush’s, even moreso than in retrospect.
8. <http://www.time.com/time/special/moy/1987.html>; http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/03_14/b3827024_mz005.htm; There are 26 Google entries mentioning Gorbachev and his like as “children of the 20th Congress” in which Khrushchev denounced Stalin.
9. Yegor Ligachev, *Inside Gorbachev’s Kremlin: The Memoirs of Yegor Ligachev* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1990), p. 10.
10. Trotsky, *My Life* <http://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/works/1930-lif/ch32.htm>
11. CIA, 1999, <http://www.cia.gov/csi/books/19335/art-1.html>
12. Bush presidential library, <http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu/research/papers/1989/89070601.html>

Training for the brain Bourne Supremacy overwhelms with action

Bourne Supremacy (2004)
Directed by Paul Greengrass
Starring Matt Damon

The action in this film far outweighs its cerebral plot. Although the CIA comes off as a combination of stupid, inept, corrupt and evil people following orders or working on the black market, I predict few people will notice.

Politically, it seems that the plot could do no wrong. “Bourne Supremacy” is about the CIA’s and FSB’s (Russia’s CIA) assassination of a politician opposed to the privatization of oil in Russia and the subsequent corruption of governments by oil tycoons established by the CIA. Of course, the facts of real life are that the CIA was involved in privatization of assets in Russia and spawning of the mafia there. The privatization was very bloody, not to mention unjust and in fact the bleeding of Russia has yet to stop. In the movie, a former CIA assassin even apologizes to the Russian daughter of two of his victims, thus rightfully raising the question as to what good ends the CIA serves with all its secrecy.

The plot line is all very contemporary, so contemporary that the lines are stolen from reality. When Iraq weapons inspector Scott Ritter tried to tell the Congress that the planned Iraq war regarding weapons of mass destruction was a sham, Senator Biden of Delaware told Ritter that he was making judgments above his pay grade, but the Boston Herald movie reviewer thought that comment was the wittiness of the

“Bourne Supremacy” script writer.(1) Leave it to the official newspaper of the Boston labor aristocracy to find a put-down by people of higher rank an entertainment high point in a movie. No wonder Trump is such a hit with his reality TV series saying “you’re fired.”

There are good reasons and bad reasons to criticize the “Bourne Supremacy,” so we will defend this movie against those who seek to sell the public on its action alone, such as one critic who said, “Unfortunately, much like its predecessor, Supremacy’s only real failing is its muddled and confusing plot about CIA cover-ups, espionage, and a Russian politician. I’m sure there’s a cohesive story somewhere in this mess (which a rewrite would have clarified), but it’s not completely necessary to figure out.”(2) Quite the contrary, there should be more films that try to show power struggle as it is; even though, the public may refuse to believe it or even engage it thanks to a naive existence.

Whenever a movie portrays a sophisticated power struggle, the public and some critics say the plot is “confusing” or even “muddled.” Such spectators don’t want to think. They want the movie to drive the spectator instead of the other way around. All the better if the chairs would raise the soft drinks and popcorn into our mouths and maybe the arm rests should rise to open our mouths to await the food to begin with.

MIM’s criticism of “Bourne Supremacy” would be different. The plot and actors are in no way to blame, but



the scripting of such intense action will have the effect of glorifying the life of a CIA assassin or covert operative. The various dim bulbs will fail to see the substance while seeking to join the CIA out of some romantic and adventurist hope for a thrill. In the end, if George Bush can use Woodward’s book Plan of Attack to boost his campaign, then “Bourne Supremacy” might as well be a recruiting tool for the CIA.

For the rest of us with set careers apart from the CIA, the film is just yet another long scene of violence seemingly justified. Instead of organizing a communist movement to do away with secrecy and oil motivations behind that secrecy, Bourne takes on the main capitalist states of the world by himself on behalf of his

sense of privacy and family. The novelty in this film is that Bourne is so aggressively violent that he has the gumption to take the battle to the enemy instead of waiting for legions of evil assassins and cops to kill him. So in this movie, Bourne happens to be completely right, but we’re sure the public will not notice. Instead, he’s just another example that copy-cat serial killers will follow.

Notes:

1. <http://theedge.bostonherald.com/movieReviews/view.bg?articleid=410>
2. <http://filmcritic.com/misc/emporium.nsf/0/0585bc901b79138825ca8008010d1?OpenDocument>

Disaster flick shows new solution to environmental problems

The Day After Tomorrow (2004)
Directed by Roland Emmerich

We have to hand it to Hollywood this time—a very good movie. They even came up with a revolutionary solution that MIM did not think of. If the joint dictatorship of the oppressed nations over imperialism (JDPON) does not come about in time to stop global warming, it’s still possible that “what goes around comes around.”

As the closing words of the movie point out, there are other ways to clean up the atmosphere. Sorry, Kanada, Iceland, England—those are the breaks. On the bright side, the Emmerich solution improves relations with Mexico. We have secretly obtained some excised script notes here that apparently did not make it into the movie. The Vice President of the United States came from a mega-corporation, called “Hailabunchon” that operates in oil and puts the squeeze on all forward thinking on energy. While in office, he steadfastly turns away all scientific advice on the causes of global

warming, because too many corporate interests are at stake.

When the president goes soft and starts giving government orders that affect the corporations’ business, Hailabunchon cronies arrange to have him die and make it look natural. Then the Vice President comes to power. Hailabunchon also pays off droves of scientists to cover up the effects of fossil-fuel dependency. Nonetheless, one heroic scientist working with some other people deemed lesser lights for making lesser money figured out that global warming was going to melt too much Antarctic ice.

Unfortunately, our discontented but not discontented enough scientist and would-be hero joined a phony communist party working for the labor aristocracy. While he was at demonstrations chanting for higher welfare payments to the top richest 10% of people in the world and trying to move his own salary from the top 5% to the top 4% and getting “30 for 40” in the United States, a proletarian party organizing people hungry for change

languished without his support. At a crucial rally of 1 million people, our would-be hero led the people off track and the JDPON had to delay coming to power, when the weather started changing.

Our would-be hero was critical of mega-corporations and the Vice-President, but he channeled that into petty-bourgeois channels instead of realizing that the capitalist corruption of truth-production, distribution and implementation processes was more important than the white-collar class’s economic demands. He knew somehow that the question of the status of scientists like himself was somehow at issue, but he never studied Marxism-Leninism-Maoism-MIM Thought. He had read a lot of books to get his earth science Ph.D. and now he was kind of tired of studying.

When the Vice-President came to power, he made mea culpa for the previous disasters, only because he had invested in Mexican hotel chains first. The process of corrupt truth production started anew, from a base in Mexico when our

earth scientist finally joined MIM. Better late than never.

As far as the movie acting and scenes go, the point was to be overwhelming to the point where one has to be a bit cerebral. There’s no hope in physical resistance. Even the people on the margin of survival do not have the scenes or acting of say a “Poseidon Adventure.” The kid was either going to drown at the payphone or not, and it was not going to be glorious. We’d blame it on the actors, but it was like that in all the scenes. The nervous tension is not quite as high in this film as some others, simply because nature is too overwhelming in this film and the director chose to do scenes and acting that do not match up with some other disaster flicks. All in all, though, given the script, we think the choices are justified. Maybe they saved a few bucks too. Off hand, I can’t think of a better disaster film, to which people could say that’s not saying much, but really—it was very good.

Collateral obscures U\$ role in Colombian cocaine

Collateral

Directed by Michael Mann (2004)

A contract killer hires a taxi for the night to drive him to his hits in Los Angeles. In the wrong place at the wrong time, the cabbie looks for opportunities to escape, but gets himself into even more trouble. The killer's employer is a drug cartel with a Mexican face.

This summer has seen a few movies defending the overall integrity and legitimacy of the law enforcement agencies of the United States in subtle ("The Bourne Supremacy", "The Manchurian Candidate") and not so subtle ways ("Spider-Man 2"). To the latter, we may add "Collateral."

The drug cartel in "Collateral" is "an offshore narco-trafficking cartel," according to the movie's website. In the movie itself, little is said about the cartel. From what we can tell, it seems to be involved with heroin produced in Southeast and Southwest Asia, and cocaine and heroin produced in Latin America. In the real world, these areas are major sources of the cocaine and heroin in the United States. Lieutenant Colonel James "Bo" Gritz and University of Wisconsin Professor Alfred McCoy have each discussed the relationship between the CIA and heroin distribution in the United States, and the CIA's involvement in cocaine distribution has been well-reported.

Leaving the theater, one would think that there was absolutely no relationship between cocaine in Los Angeles, and the U\$ government. All we see in "Collateral" is a jurisdiction conflict between the FBI and the LAPD, and the typical remarks about how the other organization is trying to take credit for catching the bad guy who is giving the morgue a lot of business. This reviewer wishes that "Collateral" would have gone with this idea further, to expose the link between homicide and capitalism. To the scriptwriter's credit, all of the homicides depicted in the movie, including the killings of the white men who mug the cabbie Max (Jamie Foxx), are clearly a consequence of private property. But the movie gives us no way out of this situation.

To justify his line of work, Vincent (Tom Cruise) makes a comment about how, some time ago, nobody noticed a corpse on the MTA (metro rail) for six hours. He also talks about how the media blows the deaths of privileged people in the United States out of proportion and forgets about Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Rwanda. He criticizes Max for not getting as upset about these things. Vincent's remarks are more cynical than anything else. Certainly, by spending his own time serving drug capitalists, Vincent is doing nothing about these massive deaths. What's wrong with "Collateral" is not that it depicts Colombian or Mexican big drug capitalists as being Vincent's employer, or that Vincent's killing of a Korean witness is almost the climax of the movie, but that the movie distorts the U\$ government's involvement in the

distribution of Colombian cocaine in Los Angeles. Not for nothing is the CIA called the "Cocaine Importing Agency"(1). At the same time, "Collateral" whips up support for the incarceration of oppressed nationalities. "California's Three Strikes law and federal sentencing guidelines for cocaine disproportionately target Blacks and Latinos. The high incarceration rates for petty so-called crimes and the courts' complicity with police who harass and arrest people from oppressed communities on trumped up charges show that the Amerikan injustice system is not about stopping crime; rather, it is about social control. Meanwhile the biggest criminals—the cops themselves and politicians and militarists like the coke-importing CIA—these criminals go unpunished."(2) "Collateral" offers no alternative to the Amerikan injustice system.

Even the atmosphere of "Collateral" is pessimistic. The movie's almost exclusive use of nighttime urban party and urban street scenes, and lonely subway cars, set in Amerikkka is typically "postmodern" in feel and politically discouraging. Max's potential intimate relationship with the Department of Justice lawyer, Annie (Jada Pinkett Smith), seems a welcome respite.

Why would Max want to seek refuge in romance culture? Economically speaking, this is not clear. Max has continuously been a taxi driver for twelve years, and as Vincent points out, Max could have made a down payment on a luxury car to start the limousine business that he often talks about. Vincent criticizes Max for not having more ambition. Max is petty-bourgeois, and on speaking terms with moneyed white people. In the hospital room scene with Max's mother, it is made painfully obvious that Max aspires to be "more" than a taxi driver. (Max had been telling his mother that he was already a limo driver.) But he also has the means to do so, in the long run if not the short.

When "Collateral" makes a point of emphasizing Max's economic situation, we have to be clear on some things here. Not only is Max not exploited (MIM has already explained in Notes and Theory how incomes at or above the U\$ legal minimum wage typically do not represent exploitation), Max is a net beneficiary of imperialism with superprofits shifting his income upward. One has only to drive a few hours south of L.A. to see taxi drivers in Tijuana who get one-fifth or less of Max's annual income(3). Tijuana cabbies do not have Max's luxury to give free rides to anyone. Jamie Foxx says that he "really drew upon from the black experience"(4) in his performance as Max, who is supposedly adverse to calling on the police. This is bullshit. Although his fear is understandable, Max does try to use the police more than a couple of times. Also, he ends up in the arms of Department of Justice prosecutor Annie, who is Black. Undercover LAPD officer Fanning appears to be friendly to Max.



The clear message is that the blue uniform is Max's friend. Finally, Vincent is depicted as being a cold-blooded killer. But this does not stop the movie from "humanizing" him, and we have to ask ourselves, to what purpose? This is more of that amorality that is typical of postmodernists and which makes it difficult to talk about who is oppressed, and who is oppressive, in the world.

As if to recognize the limitations of the postmodern approach, "Collateral" tries to provide a specific objective basis for the violence it depicts. Vincent suggests that he suffered physical abuse as a child, which, leaving aside the empirical validity of this cycle-of-crime theory, ignores the fact that most of today's crimes would be impossible in a classless society without patriarchy.

Notes:

1. "Who profits from the drug trade?," MIM Notes 55, <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/mn.php?issue=055>; "Cocaine Importing Agency," <http://www.csun.edu/CommunicationStudies/ben/news/cia/>; "CIA Hawking Heroin in Baghdad?," http://www.diggers.org/freecitynews/_disc1/00000070.htm

2. "West coast RAIL rallies opposition to imperialism," MIM Notes 161, <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/mn.php?issue=161> 4. "Angry Tijuana cabbies push past police, tell grievances to mayor," http://lists.village.virginia.edu/cgi-bin/spoons/archive_msg.pl?file=aut-op-sy.archive/aut-op-sy_1997/aut-op-sy_9708&msgnum=87&start=10749&end=10862

3. "The Thrill of It All: Tom Cruise and Jamie Foxx on making Collateral," <http://www.freetimes.com/multimedia/News&le-arch-187>

4. "By 1970, Huey Newton and Eldridge Cleaver were both putting forward something a little different than what would be found in standard Maoist circles. Influenced by Fanon, they took up Lenin and wrote off the economic demands of the middle-classes as imperialist parasitism. Then they said what was left was the lumpenproletariat. This represented the correct recognition that salary and wage-receiving people within U\$ borders are labor-aristocracy or higher, unless they are undocumented." "On the internal class structures of the internal semi-colonies," <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/contemp/internalclass3.htm>

HARRY POTTER TAKES ON (NOT SO) OBVIOUS FASCISM

"Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" (2004)

Directed by Alfonso Cuarón

While "Shrek 2" set the record for reaching \$300 million in sales by doing it in 18 days, "Harry Potter: The Prisoner of Azkaban" hit the market and also did well. As we said about the previous Harry Potter movie "The Chamber of Secrets," "The Prisoner of Azkaban" deserves a neutral to somewhat positive rating.

"Prisoner" is almost the best we can expect from bourgeois liberalism's films for children. It's pointedly anti-fascist—giving the boot to eugenics in the opening scene, where Aunt Marge talks about the parents of Harry Potter in a disparaging way as reflecting on Harry.

Many critics said this was the best of the three Potter films, probably because it has the most adult depth—by which I am totally excluding sex. Australians heard that children under 15 should not see the film. That seems a bit excessive to us. 13 should definitely be OK.

There continue to be lots of curios and special effects. As we said before in the "Chamber of Secrets" review, the fantasy element—including going back in time—is heavy. This can lead to escapism, but there is recognizable struggle that offsets the losses, so let it not be said that MIM opposes all fantasy.

The state is still unable to eradicate crime despite all the wizards running about and it errs by putting in prison Sirius Black, framed by someone who later changed himself into a rat. Bourgeois democracy is not developed yet, because Sirius Black does not have a trial before being sent off to prison. The propaganda machine goes into overdrive to demonize a totally innocent man and he nearly dies for it.

The guards in charge of Sirius Black are "Dementos" who suck the life out of people, but Sirius Black builds his fearsome reputation by getting by them all. Dementos lower the quality of life of everyone in the kingdom. They have one-track minds to pursue their quarry and they are not able to distinguish the innocent from their quarry. Their presence even damages business at bars. Thus, the script-writer is a shrewd persyn aware of the prison mentality's effect on the whole society. We would only add that in real life Dementos would have unions, and those unions would make sure that more prisons get built, guards hired and secrecy built in connection to any abuses by prison guards, most recently including two prison guards who went to Iraq and continued their profession at Abu Ghraib.

Note: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.html?storyID=53638>

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

California DOC Budget Crisis

We are currently keeping tabs on the ongoing propaganda campaign being espoused by the Department of Corruption. A fellow convict who receives the local newspaper sent around an article where the chapter president of the guards union claims the state system is only over-budget because we receive “name brand medications” and “elective surgery.” (Although the operations manual and title both securely state that no prisoner can or will receive any form of “elective surgery.”) I suppose they’re hoping that blatant lies will help keep their pockets lined with pay-raises and other incentives.

— A California Prisoner, May 2004

Fighting back behind the bars

I just wanted to say thank you for sending your newsletter to me. I let everyone read it, and a lot of them are feeling what you’re saying. I just ask that you continue to send me your newsletter because me and everyone else here is in ad-seg waiting to go to a SHU program. We will be here longer because we held our food trays, and demonstrated in here about the conditions (no yard, clippers, books to read, etc.) Don’t forget: while you’re demonstrating out there, a few of us are still doing it in here. Thank you!

— a California prisoner at HDSP, July 2004

Criminal medical neglect in California

At Corcoran State prison we don’t have a 24 hour medical service. Just last month a dialysis inmate died. It was during first watch between 10:30pm and 6:00 am. Dialysis inmates go to the hospital on the streets three times a week: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, to get their blood treated to clean out poison from their body. Dialysis inmates also get a special meal because they can’t eat what the general population eats.

The dialysis inmate asked the floor officer to go to med-line because he was feeling dizzy. The officer wasn’t familiar with dialysis (that’s common in prison) and told him to wait until tomorrow because the medical treatment assistant wouldn’t see him that late. The time was 9:45pm, 15 minutes until first watch, and the officer was tired and ready to go home. But that doesn’t give that officer the right to deny any inmate his or her medical treatment. A couple of hours later they finally sent him to the med-line but there were no doctors there to treat the dialysis inmate so he died. Had somebody with knowledge of dialysis patients he would be alive today because all he needed was blood treatment because he didn’t go to dialysis that Friday and it was Sunday.

— a California prisoner at Corcoran, June 2004

We are all “Riders of the storm!”

To my bro. KStorm! Indiana bro., my black nationals, Chicano nationals, Taino warriors, my Red brothers of the first nations. To all those in cliques who are waking up!!! We are all “Riders of the Storm.” We are “kinetic

energy.” I am proud to see many of you waking up and I encourage you to spread the word about MIM.

I was cut off for a minute from getting MIM Notes. But the pen is like a sword, I pulled it out and cha-ching! Now I’m back doing my thing, spreadin the light like a Sun of Light. Dig this, Under Lock & Key is a blessing, so I encourage you all to help MIM not only by writing, but also having your people get the paper and distribute it. Leave it in convenient spots where it will get read.

There was a time when I thought as a child. Then I began to think like a King. But after studying with MIM, I’ve begun to think of bigger things, global things: the masses and internationalism. I no longer see brothas as Crips, bloods, Eme, Netas, etc. I see them now as oppressed nationals. Some are asleep, few are awake. Many of you reading this come from one of those backgrounds or another. You are a revolutionary Sun of Light and it is your duty to learn from MIM and take it back to your peers. Some will accept it, many won’t.

On Feb. 1 Storm mentioned about the disunity, about all the things the Attica bros. died for that are now being taken away. I want to remind you all, the struggle is full of twists and turns. But it’s a trail going up the mountain. Steadily up, at times we’ll lose some ground. The object is: fall four times, get up five. Maoists are only defeated once they stop their strenuous efforts toward any goal. Failure is not an option. Revolution is a process, not a single act. You are proof that everything can be taken from a man, but one thing: the last of human freedoms, to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way ... the Maoist way!

I’m proud to see brothers growing. Take what you learn back to your peers. This is a function of our “USW program.” United Struggle from Within. Sure, many are divided and some of your own may even lash out at you, inadvertently helping the beast, when you try to educate them. They do so out of ignorance because the most violent element in society is ignorance. I speak from experience. We are all Storm.

Remember: none of us who sacrifices to help our people (even from their own ignorance) can expect to come out of the struggle unscathed. Na mean? We attempt to educate our people, and like Mao admonished make the people do self-criticism and in the process conjure up the most evil of those half-tamed demons that inhabit the human beast and seeks to wrestle with them.

But like Marx has proven to us, we don’t have nothing to lose but our chains. Me personally, I ain’t gonna fret about what them righteous bros. in Attica died for that we are now “losing.” Sure, it was positive gains, momentary gains. That is the moribund nature of imperialism. Pacify the masses for a while, give them a few treats then, when they forget, take it back and much more. No! For all I care, they could take it all. It’s all cosmetic, them li’l gains. What the Blaze in my heart yearns for is Real Change, a change where we tear the mothafucka down and erect a revolutionary system once and for all. And this change will

come when we all ARISE, Active Resistance In Social Enslavement.

A solidarity Red Salute to all my comrades in the USW (I’m proud of youStorm),
—a Federal prisoner in Kansas, 12 May 2004

Washington state censors MIM

Washington State Department of Corrections has censored incoming mail of MIM Theory on Prisons at Clallam Bay Corrections Center at Clallam Bay Washington State. All persons who are interested in protesting this mail rejection notice, the file number is 0804159 dated on August 12, 2004. Whoever is interested and still are able to read any of MIM literature might want to read Thornburgh v. Abbott, 490 U.S. 401 at page 414-19 or in the Supreme Court reports at 109 S.Ct. 1874, 1881-82 which somewhat explains “Incoming Mail” standards. Also thought about reading Prisoners Self Help Litigation manual that has cases cited to find out how the imperialist U.S. so-called reasons in their unreasonable decisions.

Send protest letters to:
Sandra Carter, Superintendent
Department of Corrections
Clallam Bay Corrections
1830 Eagle Crest Way
Clallam Bay, WA 98326

You can request the DOC Policy Directive 450.100 (mail policy) under the public disclosure request pursuant to RCW 42.17 on WAC 137-08.

Refusal of MIM Theory on Prisons, their claim is that the incoming mail violates mail rule #13 which states: “Mail that advocates that any ethnic, racial, or religious group is inferior for any reason and makes such group the object of ridicule and scorn, and may reasonably be thought to precipitate a violent confrontation between the recipient and a member(s) of the target group.”

The comments section of the mail rejection slip states “give a brief but specific description of reasons for rejection. List titles, dates, issue numbers, etc.” In this section the mailroom staff just wrote “13. MIM Theory Number 11, 1996”

Clearly the prison has no valid legal justification for this censorship. Please send protest letters to help fight this violation of freedom of speech.

—a WA prisoner, August 15, 2004

Abu Ghraib is typical

For the millions of people across the united states and throughout the world who have found the torture chambers of Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and outrage should be equally outraged that these same practices of torture are being carried out right here in the united states.

No! Abu Ghraib prison is not an isolated incident committed by a few sick minded individuals as your government and its media mouthpieces would have you believe, but is

a common practice employed by your government and its middle class reactionary forces.

Yes! There are numerous Abu Ghraib prisons across the united states that are overflowing with an extremely high number of oppressed nationals, mostly Latinos and Blacks. These torture chambers are called SHUs and other similar names, the prisons within prisons that the Department of Corrections and politicians avoid acknowledging. These SHUs are just one of the many repressive appendages built into an inherently corrupt capitalist system, that results in the social inequalities where crime develops, that the Department of Corrections and politicians would rather you not know about. And on those rare occasions that the mainstream media mouthpieces do inform you about the SHU facilities, you’re fed half truths and lies which are manipulated to further the political and financial agendas of politicians and correctional officers seeking higher

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.

salaries and reelections.

I want you to imagine, you or one of your loved ones, being left stripped naked in a cold cell for days at a time as a so-called form of disciplining or “softening up” as they do, not only in Abu Ghraib, but in SHU facilities across the united states. I want you to imagine yourself being pepper sprayed and beaten by 15 club wielding guards armed to the teeth. Imagine your loved one being forced to endure the exposure to extreme cold weather, out and inside your cell, making it nearly impossible to sleep, or the confinement to 100 degree plus temperatures in cells with no ventilation. Imagine your physical health being compromised, being fed below the u.s. government’s requirements that’s necessary to sustain a healthy body, all in order to divert money so your anatagonizers can continue collecting highly paid overtime hours.

I want you to imagine what it’s like being confined to a windowless single man cell where the lights never go off for 23 hours a day, sometimes 47 hours, with an occasional hour alone in a so-called exercise module that amounts to being placed in the bottom of a dim mine shaft. And aside from the physical deterioration that inevitably ensues, imagine the slow mental deterioration of your loved ones mind as it slowly loses its grip on reality as a result of the years of extreme isolation of all human contact and the sensory deprivation. Imagine sick minded guards setting up your loved ones to fist fight with one another as a form of gambling only to shoot them down and kill them in cold blood. Although equally atrocious and intolerable, this is not only Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, these are also the numerous SHU facilities within the belly of the beast, right here in the United States.

In Iraq, a prisoner was beaten to death by u.s. soldiers who then attempted to hide their murderous deed by sneaking the prisoner’s corpse out of the prison. This attempt by u.s. mercenary soldiers to cover up their murderous deeds is all too familiar to many of us who are confined within our own Abu Ghraib prisons here in the united states where Corcoran SHU guards shot and killed numerous prisoners in California for “entertainment” and then also attempted to cover the tracks of their murderous deeds until one of their own, as in Iraq, blew the whistle on them. And in Iraq have no illusions, just as in Corcoran, the reactionary middle class never convicts its own. And it should come as no surprise to many of us to learn that two of the seven soldiers charged with the torture of Abu Ghraib prisoners in Iraq, one of whom poses so proudly in the now world infamous photographs, first learned their tactics as correctional officers here in the united states. The photographs of the atrocities being committed against Iraqi prisoners in Abu Ghraib prison could easily

be the photographs of conditions inside a SHU facility here in the united states.

The states fascist policy of confinement of oppressed nations within u.s. borders has been employed under one guise or another for years. The Department of Corruptions knowingly uses falsified and fabricated evidence it not only manufactures itself, but also obtains from unreliable prisoners who themselves are seeking to avoid the harsh conditions of SHU confinement. This falsified evidence is uncorroborative and unchallengeable by the accused prisoners. These prisoners are dragged before kangaroo courts established by the Department of Corruptions and are falsely labeled prison gang members, associates, and security threats to the prison institution which results in lifetime confinement within these torture chambers offering no way out except parole or death. The dept of corrections and politicians would have you believe that the control units house the worst of the worst, but many of these prisoners have no history of institutional violence. Even after years of discipline free behavior and no links to prison gangs, prisoners are still denied adequate legal relief and release to general population. These Department of Correction tribunals are mirror images of the tribunals staged by the u.s. military.

The practices of Guantanamo Bay where prisoners are being held indeterminately with no due process rights, no rights to confront their accuser, or adequate access to legal relief, is nothing new to the Department of Corrections or to the thousands of prisoners who have been confined illegally to the control units across the united states.

Those of you who are outraged by the atrocities and human rights violations of Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay, should not only be equally outraged by these same atrocities and human rights violations that even the imperialist U.N. condemns that are being committed here in the united states, but need to join the struggle with the prisoners of the control units and MIM in a fight to abolish this fascist form of oppression. The Department of Corrections, politicians, u.s. government and its reactionary supporters can no longer stifle our voices and sweep us under the rug like dirt that the public shouldn’t know about. The time has come and is long over due. We will materialize our voices and make them be heard. Join the fight to shut down the control units.

—a California prisoner at Pelican Bay, July 2004



Lockdown in California

On June 1, 2004, Salinas Valley State Prison in California was locked down due to an alleged assault on a correctional officer. The prison administration always overreacts to these types of incidents in their retaliation against all prisoners and this includes retaliation against prisoners on different yards than where alleged incident took place.

In contract to this, the prison administration at Salinas Valley State Prison constantly covers up humyn rights violations at this prison. Staff members assault prisoners; which is usually covered up by placing that prisoner in administrative segregation and charging the prisoner with assault on staff. The medical care at this prison is very inadequate and has even led to prisoners’ deaths. Prisoners can be placed in holding cages for up to eight to sixteen hours as a form of staff retaliation for as little as prisoner speaking his mind back to correctional officers. (Holding cages are three feet square by six and a half feet tall cages). There are numerous other types of abusive treatments that is sanctioned by this prison administration.

This alleged incident did not take place on my yard, so I can not comment on that incident. But, I have personally observed an incident, where the correctional officer provoked a prisoner and before the prisoner did anything the c/o sprayed the prisoner with a large canister of pepper spray. There have been numerous other staff assaults on prisoners on this yard, but most of these assaults happen behind close doors with the prisoner being handcuffed. When a psychologist witnessed one of these assaults and she filed a formal complaint against those officers; that psychologist was pressured into withdrawing the complaint a week later. Later, the psychologist was transferred to another prison. The prison administration at Salinas Valley State Prison sanctions these types of abuse by covering up these incidents and refusing to investigate corruption by its staff.

Recently California’s correctional officers union has been advertising on television that nine assaults happen a day throughout California’s prison system and that California Department of Corrections needs more money to staff prisons. This advertisement is in response to Governor Schwarzenegger being the first governor in over twenty-five years that was forced to make budget cuts to CDC due to California having severe financial difficulties. So, if this prisoner is skeptical that this most recent incident is more about money, it is probably for a good reason.

— a California prisoner, June 2004

Join the fight against the injustice system

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Facts on U\$ imprisonment

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

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

To find a comparison with U.\$ 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.

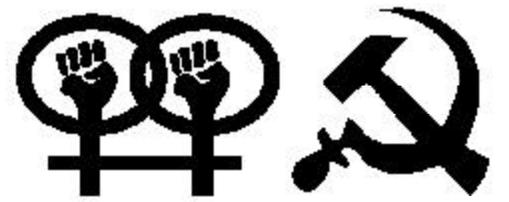
Notes: 1. Marc Mauer, “Americans Behind Bars: The International Use of Incarceration 1993,” The Prison Sentencing Project, 918 F. St. NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20004 (202) 628-0871 Reference: SRI: R8965-2, 1994

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.



La resurrección de un viejo legado revolucionario

Habla el Partido Noble Young Lords

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

El MIM aprovecha la oportunidad para publicar la entrevista con Pablo Pueblo, uno de los líderes del Partido Noble Young Lords (NYLP). Llevamos muchos años colaborado con los fundadores de esta organización y conocemos la solidez de la teoría y práctica revolucionarias detrás de su trabajo. La formación del NYLP es un paso hacia adelante para el movimiento revolucionario dentro de las fronteras estadounidenses, y una culminación de años de duro trabajo y lucha por parte de Pablo Pueblo y otros líderes. Consideramos al NYLP una organización fraterna que respalda la revolución cultural en China, que se opone al revisionismo postestalinista y que reconoce correctamente el hecho de que la mayoría de trabajadores euroamericanos constituyen una pequeña burguesía objetivamente no aliada con la revolución proletaria. En la actualidad, el MIM es un partido multinacional. Sin embargo, el MIM reconoce el hecho de que durante ciertas épocas las fuerzas vanguardistas de nacionalidades oprimidas tienen la necesidad de partidos vanguardistas compuestos por gente de sus propias naciones. El MIM reconoce su derecho a formar partidos separados como parte de la lucha de las naciones oprimidas por su autodeterminación. En nuestra opinión, la validez de movimientos compuestos por una sola nación ha sido comprobada a lo largo de la historia comunista.

Watching Bear: A muchos de nosotros nos agarraste por sorpresa. Como líder de la Organización Nacional Lumpen (National Lumpen Organization), una de las organizaciones más grandes en EE.UU., has ejercido mucha influencia. ¿Después de 20 años de tu participación te vas para fundar el NYLP/LNNA (NYLP en breve)?

Pablo Pueblo: ¿A ver, como te has enterado de estos detalles?

WB: Investigando.

PP: Mm... (una sonrisa sospechosa), no es ningún secreto. En cuanto a la influencia, todo depende de la gente que te apoye o se te oponga en un momento determinado, y ese no es el juego en el que quiero involucrarme. He tardado bastante tiempo en madurar políticamente pero cuando lo conseguí, sentí que lo que hacía falta en EE. UU. era una organización latina de vanguardia, una organización firmemente guiada por una línea política- la ÚNICA manera de representar la lucha del tercer mundo.

WB: ¿Firmemente guiada por una línea política?

PP: Sí, a lo que me refiero es que una

organización que pretende representar a un pueblo tiene que establecer una CLARA línea de identidad. ¿Hay que ACTUAR y REACCIONAR como una pandilla, un sindicato criminal, un club social, una organización social progresista, o como un partido de vanguardia? He llevado una vida de pandillero y he estado involucrado con organizaciones sociales progresistas—no me satisface ninguna de estas dos opciones. La primera opción es una rebelión sin dirección, un veneno para mi pueblo. La segunda no resulta suficiente para una autodeterminación nacional. Lo que tiene en mente el NYLP es acelerar el proceso para que otras organizaciones que pretenden representar a los oprimidos y a los países del tercer mundo, o bien aceleren su práctica revolucionaria, o bien terminen repudiados debido a su representación errónea. Nosotros tenemos una línea política: el Marxismo. Optamos por eliminar el partido original Young Lords (YLP) que operaba desde Harlem, Brooklyn, Bronx, Nueva York y Bridgeport, Connecticut. Aunque hay que felicitar a la Organización Young Lords que operó desde Chicago, IL, pues engendró la actividad política de los Young Lords. Sentimos que el desmoronamiento de los Young Lords originales fue prematuro y que hacía falta resucitar un partido más avanzado basado en líneas semejantes. Para nosotros, el adherirse a una línea política equivale a una supremacía de principios socialistas.

WB: ¿Entonces el NYLP es socialista?

PP: Sin duda.

WB: ¿Y Uds. piensan que es un proyecto realista?

PP: Sin duda alguna, millones de personas de naciones latinas están buscando un cambio revolucionario. Nosotros intentamos hacer todo lo posible para acelerar este cambio.

WB: En cuanto al desarrollo de su organización, ¿cuánto ha evolucionado el NYLP desde el tiempo de su concepción?

PP: Bueno, pongámoslo de esta manera: el nombre “Young Lords” tiene una larga historia. Al principio hubo una pandilla. Durante los años 60, los Young Lords pasaron por una madurez política y empezaron a comprender y actuar en contra del opresor a favor de los intereses de los oprimidos. En este sentido, Cha-Cha Jiménez encabezó el movimiento de Chicago. En Nueva York, el partido Young Lords entendió que el socialismo era la clave para la libertad social y económica, para poder deshacerse de la superexplotación de entidades gubernamentales y corporativas. Y a pesar de que el partido tomó un camino correcto, permitió que surgieran innecesarios puntos de ruptura que

obstaculizaron el avance de su conciencia política. Claro está, los programas de contrainsurgencia de los marranos del FBI desempeñaron un papel fundamental en su desestabilización, pero aparte de eso, faltó un análisis completo pertinente al método dialéctico. Es por eso que las cuestiones nacionalista y feminista iban resultando cada vez más difíciles de reconciliar. Uno de los errores principales fue el aplicar el nombre de proletariado obrero a la fuerza laboral estadounidense. El NYLP ha sobrepasado las teorías del YLP al reconocer que en EE. UU. no hay o casi no hay proletariado, y que una lucha contra la patriarquía se lleva a cabo mejor si se lucha contra el enemigo número uno que es el imperialismo. Sin embargo, no habríamos podido llegar a este punto sin el legado de los Young Lords. En cuanto a la estructura, nos va bien, aunque nos hacen falta elementos cruciales como líderes con mucha experiencia, fondos monetarios y recursos. Tenemos un buen liderazgo pero necesitamos más gente. Tenemos dos puestos vacantes en el Comité Central Nacional (CCN)- el de Ministra Nacional de Relaciones Femeninas y el de Ministro Nacional de Información.

WB: Al leer el Manual Compendio Político del NYLP (MCP)- retomaré este punto más adelante- noté un fuerte énfasis en la importancia de la lucha femenina.

PP: Sí, es una declaración del derecho de las mujeres a la igualdad e independencia que las libere de la opresión económica, social y militar (es decir, la patriarquía). Empezamos por cambios ortográficos para abolir el sexismo lingüístico cuando sea posible [se alude a la sustitución de la ortografía inglesa tradicional de la palabra “mujer”- “womyn” en singular o “wimmin” en plural- por “woman” y “women”, respectivamente. Se pretende cambiar la raíz “man/men” – “hombre/s” - SLALA].

WB: Hice un poco de investigación y encontré varios manifiestos, estatutos, y manuales de reglamentos en Internet que tenían cierta semejanza con el MCP. Sin embargo, hasta en los mejores documentos (específicamente el manifiesto de la Latin Kings Nation y un semejante estatuto de la costa del Este), se nota un sentido de objetivación que relega a las mujeres a una posición secundaria en sus respectivas organizaciones. Se las glorifica o “se las protege”. Esta línea de pensamiento es bastante popular entre organizaciones “lumpen” como la de Uds. Sin embargo, el NYLP tiene una visión más avanzada con respecto a las mujeres aunque no sea nueva. ¿Porqué esto no se daba antes

en la arena “lumpen” y cómo ha podido el NYLP superar esta línea de pensamiento retrógrada?

PP: Mier*@, Bear, me quedé dormido, ¿podrías repetir la pregunta?

WB: Conmigo no puedes quedarte dormido. Soy más rápido que un cuervo (sonríe).

PP: No mames, pensé que no le darías tan duro (se ríe).

WB: En pocas palabras: el NYLP representa un “feminismo revolucionario”, algo que organizaciones de tipo lumpen no representan eficientemente. Uds. provienen del mismo lugar, ¿Cómo es que Uds. aciertan en su visión al respecto, mientras que la mayoría de organizaciones lumpen no lo hacen?

PP: Verás, todos somos producto de nuestras circunstancias, lo creo de verdad. La cosa es que aunque este sea el caso, también tenemos la capacidad de superar nuestras circunstancias. Las agrupaciones lumpen reflejan su sociedad, de modo que sus leyes sociales, reglas y opiniones sobre la lucha femenina no adquieren tanta importancia como su propia percepción de la “sobrevivencia”- la mierda que un cabr*@ que proviene de barrios bajos o de la cárcel tiene que aguantar. Lo que la mayoría de gente lumpen no logra entender es que la razón por la cual siguen atrapados en el mismo círculo de opresión es que les falta un análisis socio-político y económico. La mayor parte de nuestro tiempo se nos va en HACER FRENTE a nuestras situaciones individuales, por lo cual no logramos enfocarnos en las CAUSAS de nuestra situación.

WB: Es por eso que el NYLP se adhiere a una línea política. Uds. piensan que la arena política es responsable de los puntos claves de opresión incluyendo la percepción de las mujeres.

PP: ¡Exacto! En el caso de la lucha femenina, el problema es la patriarquía. Es un problema político fundamental y una vez que está identificado, podemos buscar soluciones al problema. ¿Quién es el más responsable de la opresión de género en este momento? ¡El imperialista! Pues el blanco del NYLP son los imperialistas; a nuestro modo de ver, son la principal contradicción contra la cual hay que luchar. Tenemos que aprender un SINFÍN de cosas sobre este problema, pero sabemos que hemos empezado bien porque nuestro análisis es correcto. Le agradecemos al MIM por ayudarnos con nuestros estudios con respecto a este y otros temas.

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