

MIM Notes



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Iraq: Altruism worth pondering

On January 26 2005, 31 U.S. troops died in a helicopter crash in Iraq and insurgents killed another 6 Marines for the bloodiest day of the land war for the U.S. side. CNN ran an unscientific poll of 60,000 website users that MIM found very interesting: 9% of website users said they would be willing to sacrifice their lives to establish “democracy” in Iraq.

First of all, MIM is also interested in this question of the altruist minority—in this case willing to die so that the country can have cheap oil. Often times we are told that communism is unrealistic “because people are selfish.”

MIM agrees that people are selfish and that is why they are some day going to put down U.S. imperialism at the source. The world’s people are going to realize that Bu\$h has no right to risk their lives in endless wars for contractor profits and counter-productive efforts against “terror.” Selfishly, but with the best intentions for the species, the world’s oppressed and exploited are going to establish the joint dictatorship of the proletariat of the oppressed nations over u.s. imperialism and its allies, thanks above all to the efforts of rulers such as Bu\$h.

Nonetheless, the 9% is an interesting figure. It’s about what MIM thinks is possible for a communist party in most countries, (probably not the USA just yet), not a communist society. That’s the big mistake at this stage in our movement. Finding a society of 100% altruists is indeed impossible in the industrial world, but finding 9% is fairly probable. The other 91% should take notice of what it means and not assume that everybody is like they are.

Nine percent or even two percent is not nothing. Much can be done with that number of people and that is crucial to species-survival.

MIM has plans that the altruist minority serve in responsible positions in society.

The world’s people are going to realize that Bu\$h has no right to risk their lives in endless wars for contractor profits and counter-productive efforts against ‘terror.’

It’s enough people to run a government with a leadership principle that means the death penalty for those who are corrupt or inept. It means that until the world gets to a safer and more harmonious place, we can choose our leaders on the basis of who is willing to bear a heavy burden of risk for failure instead of picking our leaders based on campaign contributions and baby-kissing photo opportunities.

Secondly, the CNN poll is of interest for a general rebuttal of individualism, the ideology behind Liberalism—the “war of all against all.” Going back a million years, humyns always had a survival advantage because at least some individuals were altruists and not focused on saving their own lives or even just those of their mates and offspring. The formation of tribes and the idea of sentry duty was a step along those lines hard to imagine if the world is really “all against all.” One might speculate that gay sexual behavior survived over a million years because it is an advantage in evolutionary struggle against other species: it guaranteed that there were always some people not focussed on their own offspring. Groups without that minority had a disadvantage in putting up a united physical effort for

defense.

Finally, and relevant to the war in Iraq, 9% is important because it shows there’s a limit to the U.S. war effort globally. It means there are less than 30 million people in the united States ready to die. When we subtract out the portion that is really too young or old to fight, we get a better picture. When we consider that some of that 30 million also will not believe establishing democracy in Iraq by U.S. force is possible in the real world, the number is less than 30 million.

Right now there are 150,000 troops in Iraq, a lot less than 30 million. Many of those 30 million will be the wrong age to serve in the military and won’t have to because they’re done with their service. Others won’t have the proper physical condition or education to serve under current regulations.

Still the 9% says that a draft should not be necessary at least in theory. The land-based forces and reserves are having trouble recruiting, but u.s. imperialism does have more back-up forces possible. On the other hand, in a battle that ratchets up internationally, there is no way the u.s. imperialists can win. The more intense it gets, the worse for the imperialists.

15 years later, Soviet dissidents’ record a shambles

As 2004 drew to a close, we celebrated the 125th birthday of Stalin on

December 21, but we can also look at the 15 year record of Russian Liberalism in power. In 1989, the critics of Stalin and the Soviet

Union finally won open victory with the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

In 2000, Soviet-era dissident Alexander Solzhenitsyn deigned to meet with Russian President Putin for three hours.(1) Meanwhile, polls show that 21% of Russians consider Stalin to have been a “wise leader,”(2) while a larger portion has an overall positive view of Stalin. The Russian people are chewing on this issue somewhat as evidenced by various polls

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**THANK YOU
WARD
CHURCHILL**

**Backward lynch
mob blames the
messenger on 911**



February 5, 2005

The governor of Colorado and the craven leadership of the University of Colorado have whipped up a bureaucratic witch-hunt against a tenured professor named Ward Churchill. This has come as no surprise to MIM, because Ward Churchill had badly hurt the u.s. imperialists with his past books on government documents related to FBI repression of the American Indian Movement and the Black Panther Party.

The new furor damages further an already government-financed academic institution—the University of Colorado and all similar state schools. The witch-hunt also fits the federal government’s priorities—to blame someone else for its failures. Ward Churchill is a professor without state power who never had a chance to run the U.S. government and prevent 911. In fact, Ward Churchill and all advanced people like him suffer the frustrating risk of living in a country that allows its government to go to war after war. Unlike the vast majority who turn a blind eye and then claim shock when the war hits home, Ward Churchill knew what was going on and continued to live in a country that risked his and others’ lives.

Now happily ignorant yokels are asking for Ward Churchill to lose his tenured post at the University of Colorado—instead

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Gay rights question heats up globally

The courageous judge in Massachusetts who said gays are the same as everyone else and deserve the right to marry has triggered global repercussions that include Bu\$h's re-election but also many activities outside the united States. MIM picks up on some conversations that Amerikans may not hear much.

MIM's biggest criticism of Stalin—one that makes us doubt if he were even a communist—is that he did not lead his people correctly on the gay question. To this day, the ex-Soviet proletariat is an easy sucker for anti-gay chauvinism used by the bourgeoisie to divide the proletariat on non-principal leisure-time questions. That is why the Russian Maoist Party has had to tackle this question with aggressiveness to the point of provocation.

The proof of the true nature of the gay political question is available today in how successful professional politician Putin handled Ukraine's election for president. Yes, it was an important foreign policy question for the world, the election in Ukraine and it is in that important moment we see the role that the gay question plays in the proletariat of the ex-Soviet Union but also many other places.

In an effort to campaign against Yushenko, Putin held a press conference. He correctly derided a Texas judge which ordered that Putin not disband a Russian oil company named

Yukos that did not pay its taxes. Putin was right that it was typical Amerikan arrogance.

Putin also derided the forces involved in the so-called "Orange Revolution." So then in the midst of such important subjects and taking a cue from Bu\$h no doubt, he took a shot at the side he was opposing in Ukraine's election by asking whether a gay revolution would be next.

The Yushenko forces fired back even in English, and without the context. They said that Yanukovich was also carrying out the "Blue Revolution." (1)

Not satisfied with his gay-baiting on national television, Putin's lawyers also went to court. A critic had called Putin gay. The defense lawyer had to say it should not be considered an insult. (2)

While successful politician Putin knows how to push the buttons, we can be sure that among the proletariat the gay question screams even louder or Putin would not be pushing the buttons. A Latvian poster linked to by the unofficial "National Bolshevik" (Nazbol) website of the Russian fascists limonka.net shows a firing squad saying, "we don't care which one is the gay pedophile." (3) The same website limonka.net links to the official nazbol party website that advocates Hitler's "final solution" for the Chechens, which means eliminating them all through slaughter. (4)

At the moment, there is a lead article in a December issue of a well-read paper

of the Russian/English-speaking literati featured right above an article by the fascist Limonov. The article sports a mockery of the Black Panther Program, (5) with the same picture MIM uses, with no less than two of the ten points bashing gays in order to get at Putin, including the first point in the program. Though Putin be imperialist enemy, it is shooting ourselves in the foot to take him down with gay-baiting.

The exile.ru article reeks of an FBI connection, because the FBI also historically forged documents showing Huey Newton to be gay in order to attempt to split the BPP. Having seen that move, Huey Newton moved quickly to champion gay rights and he was right. We cannot give the enemy any crease to get through. At the very least, the exile.ru mockery of the BPP program plays 100% into FBI hands.

The comfortable people of Leningrad and Moscow can make jokes like these as if the gay question were worth dividing over. They give not much thought to the people of Russia's hinterland, susceptible to such demagoguery but needing proletarian economic leadership.

Meanwhile, Nelson Mandela admitted his last surviving son Makgatho Mandela died of AIDS at age 54. Previously, "in 1996, one of Zimbabwe's foremost and revered son of the struggle, Dr Nkomo revealed that his son Earnest Thuthani aged 41, had died of Aids." (6) In some ways, the death of a ruler's son by AIDS is more revealing than the death of a poor persyn. In cases of poverty we are sure a lack of health-care was the problem.

For rulers, the question could be something else.

It has been common African opinion that only gays get AIDS. The denial of heterosexual or blood transmission is adamant among common and even educated people. In Africa, the warping effect of anti-gay chauvinism and male supremacy on sexual questions (such as condom use and promiscuity) is causing millions to lose their lives —another reason sex education is a life-and-death question not to be left to parents or ignorant religious organizations. The Catholic Church in Mandela's South Africa chose this moment to object to condom use. (7) For that alone, a Bishop would be shot under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Decent people anywhere with any sense would refuse to bash gays solely on the basis of the influence of anti-gay chauvinism in Africa in causing so many deaths. It's another case where fear leads to ignorance of a fatal kind for the proletariat. This is no good for our anti-imperialist struggle—to have our side die off because of bourgeois scapegoating. It's no better than dying off because corporations sold us cigarettes.

The global funding for the tsunami relief reached the same level as the total global funding for all international AIDS, malaria and TB campaigns according to the UN. (8) Yet at the moment, 4.1 million Africans are dying just from AIDS, with 6500 deaths every day.

The gay question does successfully

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MIM Notes

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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.

THANK YOU WARD CHURCHILL

Continued from page 1...

of asking for the resignation of the many government officials with documented ties to Al-Qaeda including arms and finance ties. They wonder what right Churchill has to question all the risks that governments not of Ward Churchill's choosing heaped on him.

We ask Ward Churchill not to back down. He should fight this thing to the end, no matter how lop-sided and stupid the media may seem. He should not resign his post. Quite the contrary, the people who should resign are the ones who formed the committee to investigate him.

If a poll could be found revealing that a majority of the u.s. public knows anything about the wars the united States conducts around the world, including those relevant to 911, then, just maybe, an argument could start. As it stands, Ward Churchill's opponents barely deserve his reply.

The comparison of Americans to Nazis is even more apt than Ward Churchill has said, because the u.s. public knows and admits that the Nazis were engaged in a massive war. When engaged in a war and when fully dealing with that reality, a public does not demonstrate the shock so widespread in Amerika after 911. Shock is really proof of ignorance or a level of consciousness choosing to be uninformed. No one was shocked that the Nazi movement that lived by the sword died by the sword. Anyone who knew about u.s. wars around the globe should not have been shocked by retaliation. People who were not paying attention to international wars and politics before 911 like Ward Churchill have no right to judge him now. It's not possible to have it both ways. People who want to stay uninformed should not claim to know what is right and cast stones at Ward Churchill.

January 31, 2005

Mother of dead soldier loves Iraqi people

by Mousnonya

Rosa Suarez, an Aztlan national living on her ancestral homeland within the illegal borders of Amerika lost her son to human sacrifice: namely, her son was eaten by the imperialist war machine. But his death wearing the uniform of the oppressor is not in vain. Ms. Suarez has learned the vital anti-imperialist lesson. She does not hate those who killed her son. In proletarian unity she is telling all who will listen to stop the killing and end the war. Ms. Suarez recently led a delegation with humanitarian aid for Iraqi refugees to Jordan.

MIM regrets each and every unnecessary death that the imperialists stick us with. Mao taught us that some deaths are meaningful and others are meaningless. The death of Ms. Suarez's

statement from Ward Churchill

http://www.colorado.edu/EthnicStudies/press_releases/ward_churchill_013105.html

In the last few days there has been widespread and grossly inaccurate media coverage concerning my analysis of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, coverage that has resulted in defamation of my character and threats against my life. What I actually said has been lost, indeed turned into the opposite of itself, and I hope the following facts will be reported at least to the same extent that the fabrications have been.

* The piece circulating on the internet was developed into a book, *On the Justice of Roosting Chickens*. Most of the book is a detailed chronology of U.S. military interventions since 1776 and U.S. violations of international law since World War II. My point is that we cannot allow the U.S. government, acting in our name, to engage in massive violations of international law and fundamental human rights and not expect to reap the consequences.

* I am not a "defender" of the September 11 attacks, but simply pointing out that if U.S. foreign policy results in massive death and destruction abroad, we cannot feign innocence when some of that destruction is returned. I have never said that people "should" engage in armed attacks on the United States, but that such attacks are a natural and unavoidable consequence of unlawful U.S. policy. As Martin Luther King, quoting Robert F. Kennedy, said, "Those who make peaceful change impossible make violent change inevitable."

* This is not to say that I advocate violence; as a U.S. soldier in Vietnam I witnessed and participated in more violence than I ever wish to see. What I

son would ordinarily be meaningless for he was serving the imperialist cause, the forces of reaction, ignorance, hatred and death. But the courage and love of his mother who learned the bitterest of lessons, shines out as an example to us all. We extend our hands and hearts in proletarian sympathy to Ms. Suarez and all who understand that they were on the wrong side and come over to the proletarian camp. Stop the imperialist machine of death before it kills someone you love too.

Source: "US Families of Dead Raise 600,000 Dollars for Fallujah Refugees," AFP Dec 23, 2004

Note: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=1506&e=10&u=/a fp / 2 0 0 4 1 2 2 3 / t s _ a l t _ a f p / u s i r a q r e f u g e e s . 0 4 1 2 2 3 1 7 3 7 3 7

am saying is that if we want an end to violence, especially that perpetrated against civilians, we must take the responsibility for halting the slaughter perpetrated by the United States around the world. My feelings are reflected in Dr. King's April 1967 Riverside speech, where, when asked about the wave of urban rebellions in U.S. cities, he said, "I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed . . . without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today – my own government."

* In 1996 Madeleine Albright, then Ambassador to the UN and soon to be U.S. Secretary of State, did not dispute that 500,000 Iraqi children had died as a result of economic sanctions, but stated on national television that "we" had decided it was "worth the cost." I mourn the victims of the September 11 attacks, just as I mourn the deaths of those Iraqi children, the more than 3 million people killed in the war in Indochina, those who died in the U.S. invasions of Grenada, Panama and elsewhere in Central America, the victims of the transatlantic slave trade, and the indigenous peoples still subjected to genocidal policies. If we respond with callous disregard to the deaths of others, we can only expect equal callousness to American deaths.

* Finally, I have never characterized all the September 11 victims as "Nazis." What I said was that the "technocrats of empire" working in the World Trade Center were the equivalent of "little Eichmanns." Adolf Eichmann was not charged with direct killing but with ensuring the smooth running of the infrastructure that enabled the Nazi genocide. Similarly, German industrialists were legitimately targeted by the Allies.

* It is not disputed that the Pentagon was a military target, or that a CIA office was situated in the World Trade Center. Following the logic by which U.S. Defense Department spokespersons have consistently sought to justify target selection in places like Baghdad, this placement of an element of the American "command and control infrastructure" in an ostensibly civilian facility converted the Trade Center itself into a "legitimate" target. Again following U.S. military doctrine, as announced in briefing after

briefing, those who did not work for the CIA but were nonetheless killed in the attack amounted to "collateral damage." If the U.S. public is prepared to accept these "standards" when they are routinely applied to other people, they should be not be surprised when the same standards are applied to them.

* It should be emphasized that I applied the "little Eichmanns" characterization only to those described as "technicians." Thus, it was obviously not directed to the children, janitors, food service workers, firemen and random passers-by killed in the 9-1-1 attack. According to Pentagon logic, were simply part of the collateral damage. Ugly? Yes. Hurtful? Yes. And that's my point. It's no less ugly, painful or dehumanizing a description when applied to Iraqis, Palestinians, or anyone else. If we ourselves do not want to be treated in this fashion, we must refuse to allow others to be similarly devalued and dehumanized in our name.

* The bottom line of my argument is that the best and perhaps only way to prevent 9-1-1-style attacks on the U.S. is for American citizens to compel their government to comply with the rule of law. The lesson of Nuremberg is that this is not only our right, but our obligation. To the extent we shirk this responsibility, we, like the "Good Germans" of the 1930s and '40s, are complicit in its actions and have no legitimate basis for complaint when we suffer the consequences. This, of course, includes me, personally, as well as my family, no less than anyone else.

* These points are clearly stated and documented in my book, *On the Justice of Roosting Chickens*, which recently won Honorary Mention for the Gustavus Myer Human Rights Award. For best writing on human rights. Some people will, of course, disagree with my analysis, but it presents questions that must be addressed in academic and public debate if we are to find a real solution to the violence that pervades today's world. The gross distortions of what I actually said can only be viewed as an attempt to distract the public from the real issues at hand and to further stifle freedom of speech and academic debate in this country.

These are the views of Ward Churchill, not the University of Colorado.



<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/rail/impkills.html>

Basic questions and answers on scapegoating, fascism and Liberalism

1. Isn't it Liberal imperialist decadence to support gay rights?

Countless species exhibit gay behavior. It is unscientific to believe that gay sexual behavior is a specific product of imperialist decadence. Gay sexual behavior has existed in all cultures at all times.

Sexual behavior in general can exhibit imperialist decadence, by putting one's sex life ahead of the revolution or by hurting other people and by divorces that damage children's interests. It has nothing to do with gays per se.

2. Aren't you making too big an issue of gay rights just like Liberals?

MIM believes there are three strands of oppression—nation, class and gender. We do not even have a secondary strand of oppression for gay rights and we believe that the total of gender oppression is a secondary oppression.

It is the fascists and other reactionaries who are obsessed with the gay question. Like the Liberals, these reactionaries see lifestyle questions as paramount.

MIM fights back hard on the gay question to prevent division of the proletariat and as a matter of fighting against child molesting—in other words both as a class question and a gender question. Currently, many child molesters have the protection of anti-gay chauvinists who believe gays are the only ones who carry out child molesting.

Treating gays the same as everyone else is the way to end the obsession with the issue by Liberals and fascists. They should marry like everyone else, suffer divorce like everyone else and they should go to prison for child molesting just like everyone else—no difference.

3. How can you call the gay question a general gender question?

If we had a dime for every time that someone said that child molesters are all gay, we would have funded world

revolution by now. Child molesting is a general gender question, not specific to gays. Heterosexual child molesting is also evil, so the proper way to handle this question is as a general revolutionary approach to gender, not just one orientation or the other. (It may make sense to read more on how MIM defines gender.)

We also call it a gender question because gay sexual behavior is largely an issue of leisure-time and our definition of gender is connected to leisure time. We cover work under the term "class."

Child molesting is a gender question, not a gay rights question.

4. Didn't Engels write a letter opposing pederasts?

Yes, he did. He did not publish it. He did not distribute a flyer just about gays. He wrote a whole book on the gender question in general, and it is not a pretty picture that he creates about humyn sexual behavior. Marx and Engels were highly critical of both heterosexuals and gays at that time. Marx and Engels were revolutionary anti-Liberals: they did not give a hoot for particular lifestyle questions except to prove that they are all linked to class questions.

This again is something that shows the lack of logic. Marx and Engels never said anything good about heterosexual child molesters.

5. You're just saying that to pander to "pc."

It does not matter who we are pandering to. The question is who is right in this case for the international proletariat.

In the Republic of Je\$u\$land, ex-USA, in the ex-Soviet republic in many places, in Africa—these places have their own version of "politically correct" that revolves around lifestyles instead of real issues of class, nation and gender.

6. How is it fascist to oppose gays?

Gays are a minority group. Historically fascists stem from Liberalism and scapegoat minority groups—Jews, gays, Blacks and Chechens—to distract attention from the crisis of imperialism. Now we also have "social-fascists" who stem from communism where capitalism became restored.

Some Liberals may oppose fascism on the gay question, but all Liberals and fascists share in common a lack of an underlying system level approach. They share an obsession with cultural lifestyle and not the causes of humyn behavior. Fascists and Liberals simply have differing versions of "pc."

The word "scapegoat" means to wrongly blame for a problem. The scapegoating problem by fascists and other reactionaries is the reason MIM is not silent on the gay question. Hitler scapegoated communists, Jews, gays, gypsies etc. and we of the proletariat should have learned our lesson on the importance of solidarity.

7. Then Marxism is Liberal on the question.

Fascism and Liberalism share in common the belief in breaking down humyn society into tiny groups. Hitler targeted Jews and gays. Some fascists target Chechens. Countless fascists target their nearest neighbor of a tiny nation on a global scale—the ex-Yugoslavia being a prime example.

The underlying root of Liberalism is individualism. According to Liberals if there are 6.5 billion people, there are at least 6.5 billion social groups. Individualism is also anti-science, because of course it is impossible to scientifically generalize about the individual. To translate into Marxist terms, individualism is the philosophy of the small group, the smallest group.

U.S. elections break things into small separate issues—gun-ownership, gays and even surfing was key in San Diego mayoral elections. The underlying belief of Liberalism is that alliances of small groups can prevent abuse of power by any one dominator.

In contrast, Marxism started with only two groups—proletariat and bourgeoisie. The contrast could hardly be better—two versus 6.5 billion. Obviously the more small groups one talks about like the Liberals and fascists do, the closer one gets to saying there are 6.5 billion social groups of one individual each.

Eventually Marx added two more splits—oppressor versus oppressed nation and oppressor versus oppressed gender. The total of groups talked about as most important is eight. With Lenin, Stalin and Mao the principal focus has been on the four groups—1) Exploiters of oppressor nations ; 2) Exploited of oppressor nations ; 3) Exploiters of oppressed nations; 4) Exploited of oppressed nations. Moreover, those four groups often boil down to two again, because over 85% of the exploiters live in the oppressor nations.

Marxism derives its anti-Liberal strength and universalism by talking only about large groups—by lumping people together. If you find yourself talking about separate solutions for gays, separate solutions for Chechens, Jews, gun-owners etc., you have entered Liberal or fascist territory. Once we go down the road of looking at cultural lifestyles, there is almost an infinity of "groups" to account for. The fight to have gays counted the same as heterosexuals is a fight against Liberalism and fascism.

Gay rights question heats up globally

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divide proletarian ranks, which shows that the proletariat is not ready to rule. We will be able to tell if we have reached a critical mass of proletarian leaders when we can convince the proletariat somewhere to put aside this question through solidarity.

It is the duty of the communists to use the gay question to teach the difference

between science and religion and between Liberalism/fascism on the one hand and proletarian science on the other. We need a fighting unity of heterosexuals and gays/lesbians.

Notes:

1. <http://www.orangeukraine.squarespace.com/display/S>

<http://www.journal?moduleId=88592&Page=2&creatorId=15932>

2. <http://www.chechentimes.org/ru/press/?id=25069>

3. <http://dvinsk.front.ru/art.htm>

4. <http://nbp-info.ru/new/lib/nbpinfo3/05.html> http://www.nbp-info.org/library/nbp-info_3/Section_IV.htm

5. <http://www.exile.ru/2004->

December-10/

huy_v_puis_ten_point_plan_for_the_russian_people.html
6. <http://allafrica.com/stories/200501250032.html>

7. <http://www.swissinfo.org/sen/Swissinfo.html?siteSect=143&sid=5494196>

8. http://www.ipsnews.net/new_notas.asp?idnews=27187 ; see also, <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=18799>

Inter-imperialist rivalry: Are the Germans, British, I\$raelis and Au\$tralian panzies for U.\$ imperialism?

February 5, 2005

Public opinion in Germany has not exploded yet, but it may well as details of U.\$ treatment of Germans continue to leak out in the “war on terror.” In January 2005, it came out that the united States is holding at least 9000 new prisoners outside U.\$ borders since the “war on terror” began. One was Khaled al-Masri, an unemployed used car salesperson from Germany.

While Khaled al-Masri was on holiday in ex-Yugoslavia on New Year’s Eve, u.\$ authorities kidnapped him and brought him to Afghanistan for torture there. He returned to Germany in May 2004 and now the story is getting out. The German government is belatedly carrying out an investigation into how the united States picked on Khaled al-Masri for torture. U.\$ lackeys of all sorts ranging from the government to Nazis have downplayed the case, because the united States tends to persecute those with Arab-sounding names.

It has become apparent that the CIA believes it has the right to pose as anyone and kidnap anyone for torture in Afghan and Guantanamo prisons to name the ones that are public knowledge. Corrupt and treasonous government officials in eastern Europe, Germany and elsewhere are allowing the CIA to pose as whatever they want—border officials for example.

When there was a Soviet Union, Uncle Sam bent over backwards for the Western European imperialists to prevent their sliding into the Soviet camp. Now there is no Soviet Union, so the locus of bourgeois competition has changed and the world is still finding it difficult to get used to that. Instead of a relatively united West competing with the Soviet Union, we are starting to see increasingly competitive behavior among the Western imperialists.

Instead of forever saying “I can’t believe they are doing this,” we have to prepare people with Marx’s contributions on capitalism and Lenin’s contributions on imperialism. Despite victory in the Cold War, the Western imperialists still have the same old competitive system and drive to war. They have learned no lesson of peace from the world wars or Cold War. Cut-throat economic competition is built into capitalism and the corresponding politics is what we see in the global u.\$ kidnapping policy.

Historically, the kidnapping of a citizen by another country would result in a war or at least an expedition to capture the pirate kidnappers. In U.\$ history, the Congress debated at length the recruitment of u.\$ sailors by the British as an act of hostility leading up to the war of 1812—and those cases were much

more in doubt than what the united States is doing now, since the British sea merchants paid for the services of the recruited Amerikan sailors while Amerikans are torturing and imprisoning foreigners from Germany, England, Au\$tralia and many other countries. In the German case as in all the others, the German and Amerikan people are not ready yet for a war between Germany and the united States.

Also in the news and of obvious interest to Germans is that the CIA has turned down freedom of information requests regarding its ties to Nazis after World War II. Now the U.S. legislature (Congress) is having to threaten to extend the law and hearings to force the CIA into compliance with existing law on releasing of documents, especially those over 50 years old.(2) Such foot-dragging can do nothing to improve the u.\$ image in Germany or I\$rael.

Meanwhile, in January, the united States also released four British citizens from Guantanamo Bay,(3) another illegal u.\$ prison; Russian ex-prisoners announced February 4 that they are suing the u.\$ government for torture(4) and even one Australian from Guantanamo Bay went home at the end of January.

It was a member of the Au\$tralian ruling class that championed Au\$tralian nationalism against the united States: “A former senior Australian cabinet minister has come to the defense of released Guantanamo Bay inmate Mamdouh Habib, assailing the government for letting US authorities hold him and other terror suspects for years without charge on the basis of ‘doctored’ intelligence.”(5)

In the united States, the Bu\$h administration is receiving slight resistance from two sources—local governments and the judiciary. A federal judge ruled on January 31 that the U.\$ government’s Guantanamo Bay (Gitmo) tribunals are unconstitutional.(6) In this situation, the temptation of many rulers is to impose the judgements of their core of political lackeys through fascism and war by abolishing the independence of the judiciary, eliminating local government powers and carrying out wars against all other countries not going along.

At first glance, one might make the mistake of thinking the u.\$ prisons outside the united States are proof of “globalization” dominated by u.\$ imperialism. In actual fact, they are proof of MIM’s thesis on the national and class question, because nations still do matter as proved by the indignation in each country that citizens of each country face arbitrary kidnapping and torture by u.\$ imperialism.

The faultlines in international politics are along lines of parasitism and united front

strategy dictates that the Europeans will not feel a complete unity with U.\$ parasitism. Indignation about u.\$ kidnapping of Germans and Au\$tralian is likely to be much greater than U.\$ kidnapping of Third World people or even Amerikans themselves. Although both Germany and the united States are countries with huge parasitic middle-classes dominating, alliance with u.\$ Democrats leads nowhere while alliance with the German middle-classes in general does have some potential anti-u.\$ imperialist thrust on a vacillating basis. The reason for this is that the parasites of any country have no real basis for conflict with their government representatives, but the parasites of other countries certainly do have a basis of conflict with imperialist governments not of their home country. These parasites in

Europe will wonder why they should risk kidnapping by the CIA when the contracts and oil control in Iraq go to the united States for example.

Notes:

1. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/usa/story/0,12271,1390256,00.html>
2. <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Servlet?page=JPPost/JPArticle/ShowFull&cid=1107055730759>
3. <http://news.scotsman.com/international.cfm?id=111062005>
4. <http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/World/WarOnTerrorism/2005/02/04/920895-ap.html>
5. http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_asiapacific/view/130581/1/.html
6. <http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-gitmo01.html>



What is militarism?

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

While true pacifists condemn all violence as equally repugnant, we Maoists do not consider self-defense or the 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.

Patronizing portrayal of children's oppression under patriarchy

"Finding Neverland"
Directed by Marc Forster
Miramax Films, 2004

Reviewed by a contributor January 28, 2005

It would be very easy to write off "Finding Neverland" as being mindless drivel about the cultural and romantic adventures of filthy-rich bourgeois adults in an imperialist country. And shouldn't "Finding Neverland" fall in the exact same political dung heap as "The Phantom of the Opera" (2004) for example? There are not one, but two, sexy, thin white wimmin in semi-biographical "Finding Neverland": J. M. Barrie's (Johnny Depp) wife, played by Radha Mitchell, and Barrie's seemingly adulterous romantic interest, Sylvia Llewelyn Davies (Kate Winslet). Busy playwright Barrie hasn't been putting out for gender aristocrat Mary not-quite-madonna Ansell Barrie, who wants to get a divorce; they sleep in separate rooms. Sylvia, on the other hand, is a widow with four children. She likes the fact that Barrie spends time with her children, but seems to long for companionship herself. Sylvia has a bad "chest cold," but insists to her children that it's no big deal. Mary becomes jealous of Sylvia after Barrie begins to spend much time with her and her children. This seems to be a variation on the love-triangle theme, but there is more going on in "Finding Neverland" than a love story or even a story about a child's love for their parent. "Finding Neverland's" portrayal of children's perspectives is just as false as the movie's stereotypical portrayal (under the pretext of portraying the content of J. M. Barrie's imagination) of First Nations' peoples as being menacing, with war bonnets and paint.

In several different ways, "Finding Neverland" claims to be about looking at things from a child's perspective, so I will take that claim as a starting point and talk first about what is good in this movie, which is more important than other movies that touch on children's issues only incidentally. The notion that "Finding Neverland" has something to do with the viewpoint of children is interesting to MIM's line on children and their oppression under the patriarchy.(1)

Something that "Finding Neverland" does which is good is to stand the doting-grandmother theme on its head and use it to explore children's oppression under patriarchy. Dislikable Mrs. Emma du Maurier (Julie Christie) is obviously overbearing toward both Sylvia and her children for reasons partly having to do with keeping Sylvia's lifestyle "proper" and acceptable to future suitors. At one

point, the youngest of the Davies children (Luke Spill) says: "Is [Barrie] in trouble? Because I've been alone with Grandma, and I know what it's like" (my emphasis). Later, George (Nick Roud), the oldest Davies child, angrily objects to his grandmother's interventions and tries to exclude her from the family verbally.

In the real world, one of the problems relating to children's oppression under the patriarchy is that it is difficult for children to leave a caretaker who is abusive, harmful or obstructive to their participation in the revolution, and then go to another caretaker if necessary. Under the patriarchy, children are oppressed by gender oppressors regardless of who their parent is, but under the patriarchy, the separation problem expresses itself as a relative inability of children to choose their own oppressors. Connected to this is the fact much of parents' disciplining of their children is hidden and insulated from the rest of the community, which is why some of the most damaging and terroristic physical and sexual abuse happens inside the family. So-called parents' rights advocates have whined about some progressives threatening parents' rights. Well, this reviewer is here to say, shit yes communists will in the long term do whatever it takes to destroy patriarchy and all other kinds of oppression, so step out of the way. Even if some groups of exploited and oppressed people experience a temporary resurgence of the nuclear family after imperialism and its interfering effects are overthrown, there will be less and less room for disciplining children in private—and keeping abuse a family secret. The situation that "Finding Neverland" portrays faces eventual extinction. Disciplining children in the privacy of one's own home may not exist forever.

Children are oppressed under the patriarchy. One of the manifestations of this is the pervasive culture of child-hating and a presumption of gullibility, incapacity or ineptitude when it comes to culturally-defined children. In "Finding Neverland," Peter Llewelyn Davies (Freddie Highmore) is deeply affected by his father's death. Barrie is concerned that Peter is growing up too fast. Peter doesn't like to play pretend as much as his brothers, and he is incredulous when Barrie puts on a show with his pet dog and encourages the Davies to imagine that he's dancing with a circus bear. Later in the movie, Peter becomes angry after Sylvia and seemingly all the adults, Barrie included, refuse to let him know what's going on with his mother's sickness. George also objects to being treated like a "fool."

Barrie gets up in Peter's face and puts him down for not going along with the



pretending. The idea is that Peter is being difficult or uncooperative. Sylvia tells him to mind his manners. In the real world, a child like Peter would be considered a "brat" or a "snot-nosed kid." By the end of "Finding Neverland," Peter learns to deal with loved ones' deaths by using his imagination. It is as if he had been broken and made a child again, or "put in his place" mentally.

Most of the time, even in imperialist countries, uncooperative children have legitimate concerns and are not just being difficult, or whining, to get economic or social privileges. We should sympathize with Peter when he is being a "snot-nosed kid." In large part, it is patriarchy that makes children have so much affection for their parents even though they may be abusive; it is patriarchy that conditions them to be more emotionally vulnerable than they would otherwise be; and it is patriarchy there waiting to take advantage of their vulnerability when they lose a loved one, in order to reinforce itself.

To the movie's credit at a time when so much attention is being paid to children's so-called mental illnesses, "Finding Neverland" does not end up suggesting that Peter has a mental illness. In the real world, Peter would probably be diagnosed with a mental illness because of his seeming depression symptoms and unusual interpersynal behavior, but "Finding Neverland" suggests an alternative to psychiatry: mentoring and imagination. Barrie encourages Peter to develop his own writing ability and teaches him to use his imagination. However, this is sub-reformism of the weakest kind; it absolutely doesn't even try to end the system.

Some may sentimentalize adults' mentoring children, but children don't need

adults, period. This doesn't mean that no child will ever need a persyn, who happens to be an adult, for survival, just that children do not need adults as a group. Even if age segregation and age hierarchies existed for pragmatic reasons, pragmatism does not determine for communists how child-rearing practices should be revolutionized. This needs pointing out because, in some theaters in the united States, an advertisement encouraging adults to mentor children appears on the screen before the movie starts. The gives "Finding Neverland" the context of mentoring and makes Barrie look even more like a mentor to the Davies children. This reviewer does not deny that there is something to be said for some adults' mentoring children. However, most movie viewers will not understand what it means for an adult to mentor a child in an imperialist country, like the united Snakes, and encourage them to grow up to be a good citizen without adjustment problems—content. Mentoring is often done explicitly for social control (as when adults mentor children to discourage them from being delinquent), but basically, mentoring is a recipe for contentment and one that does not challenge either patriarchy or the adultist assumptions of many mentoring programs.

"Finding Neverland," like Barrie's play Peter Pan, presumes to bring adults and children together. Within the movie itself, Barrie, whose own "childishness" is a recurring theme in the movie, invites a number of orphans to attend the opening performance of his play "Peter Pan." Barrie purposefully scatters them throughout the mostly adult audience, and they seem to encourage the rest of the audience to laugh with them during the funny parts of the play. This is a feel-

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U2's "Bomb" shows no politics

"How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb"

U2

Universal, 2004

We at MIM consider lead singer of U2 Bono to be a worthy friend of the international proletariat. In his spare time he campaigns against Third World debt and has appeared in public with Senator Jesse Helms and others to the extent that it is necessary.

We call Bono a "internationalist reformist," because he is seeking forgiveness of debt, not overthrow of global capitalism. On this particular question, he will find that he has more allies among international bankers than the so-called working class of the united States and other countries where the biggest banks reside.

The bankers themselves realize that tax-funded debt relief enables them to issue new loans. Whether the taxpayers of the united States or the Third World country in question pay the bill is of no consequence to the banker, as long as the bottom line shows a profit. Because bankers feel constant pressure to make loans that turn a profit, they are more open to ideas such as Bono's than the smaller exploiters not in the banking business. The ones most open to the idea of forgiving the debt placed on Third World countries through u.s.-puppet regimes and direct brute force are the exploited Third World people themselves.

Often times people ask MIM what to do for the revolution. Before one has the skills or resources to carry out work in public opinion or financing, it may be



useful to work for a debt relief organization or even certain departments of a charity such as Oxfam. Many communists learn how to write leaflets, distribute literature and collect petitions by starting in other political campaigns, even campaigns for the bourgeois parties such as the Democrats.

Despite Bono's politics, this album has none. "Love and Peace or Else" is as close as it gets: "Lay down/ Lay down your guns/ All you daughters of Zion/ All

your Abraham sons." General love and pacifism seem to be vaguely expressed in U2.

As far as the art goes, the first song "Vertigo" reminds listeners of the early U2 that rightfully gained popularity. The rest of the album does not. People trying out U2 would be better off with 1980s albums especially since the themes and politics of the music have not changed much.

good moment for "Finding Neverland"'s own movie audience, but the theme of connecting adults with children detracts from the fact that patriarchy, and the corresponding institution of childhood, need to be destroyed.

At one point, Barrie learns that his relationship with the Davies children has come under suspicion for child-molesting. He reacts indignantly, saying that some people are just trying to squash his (or the Davies children's) moment of happiness. "You find a glimmer of happiness in this world, there's always someone who wants to destroy it." "Finding Neverland" may take the some of the heat off real-world mentors for child-molestation accusations, but the movie does nothing to contribute to the movie audience's scientific understanding of why child sexual abuse or assault happens, or how to end it. Worse, the movie excludes mentors from the category of child molesters without considering that mentors are often adults, too, and participate in the gender-oppression of children and can engage in the sexual abuse of children. (Interestingly, Barrie mentors Peter Davies, but still uses Peter by drawing

inspiration from him. Also, the kind of access Barrie has to Peter through Peter's mother may be possible only under patriarchy.) The sentiment that child molestation is perpetrated sporadically by just a tiny group of evildoers, violating "innocent" and "precious" children, supports the patriarchal institution of childhood and is detrimental to children by detracting from a scientific understanding of child abuse.

In "Finding Neverland," Barrie seems to create problems for the Davies by involving himself with their family, for example, the gossip about his relationship with Sylvia, but the idea at the end of the movie is that he was needed after all. "Finding Neverland" pretends to be concerned with the best interests and perspective of one child, Peter Davies, but leaves the oppression of children under the patriarchy virtually untouched and is patronizing toward children in general. In this way, "Finding Neverland" is an insult to the real Peter Davies when he was a child.

"Finding Neverland" never even really deals with its central theme with the Peter Davies character: a certain kind of paternalism toward children and keeping

them in ignorance. The movie's take-home message is that children's ignorance is bliss, whether that ignorance takes the form of adult-encouraged wishful imagination or withholding information. Barrie's own fictional character of Peter Pan represents an idealized, and misleading, concept of childhood—an institution by which children are harassed, humiliated, terrorized, silenced without reason, used, attacked and sometimes killed. The makers of "Finding Neverland" should have thought twice about making this movie after finding out that the real Peter Davies detested being associated with the name "Peter Pan" and committed suicide for perhaps this reason.(2) Peter Pan represents an romanticized concept of a group of people who are demeaned and hated, and damaged and exploited, in patriarchal society: children.

Notes:

1. MCB52. "The Oppression of Children Under Patriarchy." MIM Theory, no. 9 (1995): 14-17.

2. Michelle Powell. "An Awfully Big Adventure." <<http://www.amrep.org/past/peter/peter1.html>> (28 January 2005).

LATIFAH STICKS TO ROMANCE CULTURE

"The Dana Owens Album"

Queen Latifah

Universal, 2004

Queen Latifah gained a public reputation as a Black radical when Bill Clinton denounced her in his campaign for the presidency. By denouncing Black radicals, Clinton reassured oppressor whites everywhere that he could stand up to Black criticism. This album seems to show the public a different side of Queen Latifah, other than radical whipping-girl.

It would be wrong to refer to this as jazz or bluesy jazz music. There seems to be a point in being ultra-retro. This is the old-fashioned crooner's music of the 1920s to 1940s before electricity made much difference. It may come as a shock to hear someone like Queen Latifah pull it off in 2004, but she did.

It seems that Queen Latifah is trying to evoke something "classy" from the past while simultaneously casting doubt on the message of current forms of music. We can't deny that her form fits what she's trying to do—reform heterosexual relations.

Her first song is about power struggle with a lover. Other songs emphasize the old "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" theme. The demand for good treatment from men is there. At the same time, Queen Latifah provides no insight into the underlying reasons that Black men in particular may not treat their wimmin well or why it may seem that way to Black wimmin.

On the question of balance, Queen Latifah steers a firm course for romance culture. Most of the songs such as "simply beautiful" and "if I had you" express a joyous heterosexual passion. Hence, her criticisms of the men in her songs are in a context leaving no doubt that she does want relations with men or at least one man.

The problems Queen Latifah has uncovered in romantic relations are real. At the same time, the concerns of adult females about adult males in the imperialist countries and the oppressed Black nation are not a top priority for MIM. We're much more concerned about adult treatments of children and gender relations with more coercive underlying class relations.

By staying with the happy heterosexual themes, Queen Latifah missed a chance to move in to more political territory by talking about how gender ratios in the Black nation became so skewed toward females. Hopefully Queen Latifah does not start a trend of ultra-retro music. At the same time, for people who can stand this particular art form, there is no doubting that the music is less decadent than the vast majority of pop music available in the imperialist countries.

Thanks to capitalism Terri Schiavo had an eating disorder

On January 24th, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to side with Florida's government to stop the killing of Terri Schiavo, a brain-damaged patient who has had to have a feeding tube to stay alive these past ten years. The court ruling clears the way to allow her to die from her inability to swallow her own food.(1) As of now, it is back in local Florida courts for some more jousting over when doctors can remove the feeding tube.

Terri Schiavo of Florida clings to life in a vegetative state. Much ink has spilled on whether the husband should have the right to let her die without being kept alive artificially or if the parents should prevail in keeping her alive. Such a story is horror enough, but getting lost is the reason for the whole case in the first place.

We are not referring to the inevitable private property concerns under capitalism which could possibly taint the parents' view of the husband of their daughter in this case. Even if not true in this case, in other cases there could be an inheritance question in the event of Terri Schiavo's death. Hence, outsiders may question the motivations of those who do not have Terri Schiavo's best interests in mind. It's an example of how capitalism pollutes social relations and health care.

Worse than this obvious fact is the hidden cause of Terri Schiavo's vegetative state. She arrived in her condition by an eating disorder, a refusal to eat.

In Anglo-American culture, the refusal

to eat looks at first like an act of a strong-willed individual. In fact, the eating disorder phenomenon is located disproportionately among upper-middle-class people of the imperialist countries; hence it is much tied up with the social relations and culture of a given time and country. Readers should check the book *Fasting Girls* by Joan Jacobs Brumberg for a social history. A review is on our website.(2)

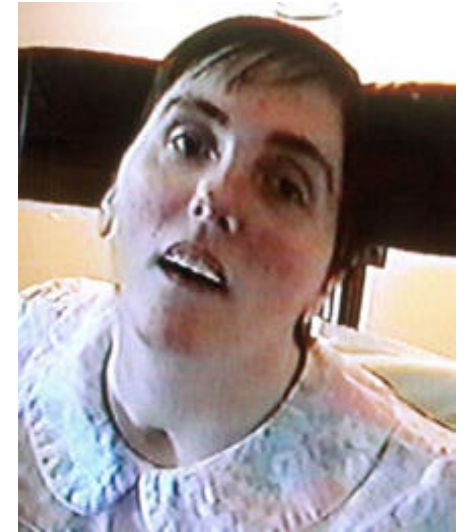
If it had not been for capitalist advertising connected to the romance culture, we cannot say for sure that Schiavo would have had an eating disorder. Hence, this whole terrible case is just another price we pay for legalized brainwashing done for money.

The forced-feeding of eating disorder patients by hospitals is another issue of patriarchy and capitalism. Unfortunately, forced drugging of hospital patients for phony mental conditions is too frequent while forced feeding in this case came too late to save Terri from her brain damage. In the long run, forced feeding is a manifestation of the capitalist patriarchy that we want to abolish. In the short run, before communism, there may be no choice but an odiously authoritarian hand for severe cases of people culturally-damaged by capitalism like Terri Schiavo. We do not recognize a right to suicide via eating disorder. Suicide-bombers, suicide missions in combat and hunger strikes for political demands are one thing, but we have no sympathy for death by eating disorder as some kind of social statement

in Amerikkka. We cannot respect and take seriously the notion that people should be "free to die" just to live on the edge of weight control. Whether people know it or not, this is not something in their self-interest.

"If Terri's feeding tube is removed she will die . . . agonizing death by dehydration and starvation that will set precedent leading to the forced death of other disabled individuals, thereby eroding the sanctity of all human life," said Dana Cody, executive director of Life Legal Defense Foundation.(3) Much as we do not like to agree with the organizers creating the political climate that contributes to murder of abortion doctors, it is true that the historical issue in this case is that it is difficult to "draw the line." In Hitler Germany, for example, Nazi executioners decided who was fit or unfit for life. It's also a class issue, because the disabled are generally from the lowest economic strata and face oppression by the able-bodied.

At MIM, we fail to see why all interests concerned cannot be reconciled in Terri Schiavo cases, because we are for socialism. The husband should be allowed to move on emotionally and socially and the parents should know that nothing in



the economic system displayed a motivation affecting their daughter's remaining health, once ruined by the romance culture.

Notes:

1. <http://www.cnn.com/2005/LAW/01/24/scotus.schiavo/>
2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/books/gender/brumberg.html>
3. <http://www.lifenews.com/bio680.html>

CIA Admits: No WMD in Iraq

by mousnonya

It won't get much press in amerikkka, but the truth is out: the CIA admits that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Seeing blatant examples of imperialist hypocrisy like this will hopefully get you thinking. MIM has this to say: International law does not outlaw possession of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons. It may even permit the defensive use of such weapons. When the imperialists go around acting like possession of weapons is a reason for war they point out their hypocrisy. The united States, i\$rael, and just about all major imperialist powers have chemical, nuclear and biological weapons. They are hypocrites when they claim a right to disarm the Third World.

Now that the lying murderers admit they lied are you going to help stop the killing?



Save a life. Resist imperialism. Work with MIM!

Source: CIA korrigiert sich in der Frage irakischer Massenvernichtungswaffen (CIA Corrects itself in the Question of Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction) Deutsche Presse Agentur Tues. 1. Februar 2005, 4:20 <http://de.news.yahoo.com/050201/3/4eadg.html>

15 years later, Soviet dissidents' record a shambles

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over the past two years. Ranging from 36% up, the Russian population finds Stalin to have had a positive role. One poll placed Stalin's positive approval at 53% of Russia.(3)

Since that percentage is higher than any percentage for any Liberal leader recently or for phony communist Zyuganov, we are not surprised that Zyuganov placed a wreath at Stalin's grave on the 125th birthday of Stalin, December 21 2004. Zyuganov is just jumping on the bandwagon while continuing to mutter Liberal bromides about Stalin. So it seems that 15 years after the creation of open free market capitalism in Russia, communism is not "dead" and in fact, the real communist leader of the Soviet Union after Lenin still stands tall despite the huge blitz of Western and bourgeois Russian propaganda.

In the long Cold War from the end of World War II to 1989, the Western media put forward a simple and ignorant message, one seemingly echoed by

dissidents within the social-fascist Soviet Union. Alexander Solzhenitsyn and Andrei Sakharov were the biggest name dissidents who sought to make the Soviet Union openly capitalist instead of state-capitalist. Their courageous but uninformed message was to copy the West economically and thereby enjoy Western freedoms, but life has not turned out to be so simple.

The economy

"It is almost universally recognized that the West shows all the world a way to successful economic development" Solzhenitsyn said at Harvard, June 8, 1978.(4) Actually, what the West did was convince Russia to adopt a system promoting even more Russian alcoholism and an early death for men and death from exposure and starvation among senior citizens. In November, the Washington Post admitted: "The average Russian male born in 2002 will live to be 58.5 years old, a slight improvement from the 1994 figure of 57.6 years and down

from 64 years in the mid-1980s. In terms of life expectancy, Russia ranks 122nd in the world, at the same level as Guyana and North Korea."(5) We can be sure that if that drop in life expectancy had happened under Stalin still living in the 1990s and 2000s, there would be hundreds of books published in the West declaiming the millions murdered by him. The difference is that Stalin doubled the life expectancy of his people and did it in a time of horrible war while Russia of today lives in relative peace and with the benefit

of the industrialization completed by Stalin.

The Russian economy has not recovered from its suicidal turn from the road of Lenin and Stalin. Khrushchev and Brezhnev brought economic stagnation while Gorbachev, Yeltsin and Putin brought outright economic regression. In 1990, the GDP per capita in Russia was \$3817 and by 2001 it was \$2669 (in 1990 dollars which means the statistic is

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adjusted for inflation).(6)

This is nothing new to MIM, because we always said that Khrushchev and Brezhnev brought about capitalism and the business cycle. However, the economic facts firmly rebut people such as Solzhenitsyn who came up with easy "theories" about abandoning alleged socialism and copying the West for economic gains.

Imprisonment rates

After four years in the West, Alexander Solzhenitsyn gave a speech at Harvard that openly recommended a turn away from the Enlightenment and a return to Christian spirituality. In the same speech he intended to level some criticism against the West, but even then it was apparent that Solzhenitsyn's grip on reality was weak.

To his credit, he noted with surprise that Western journalists conform to underlying trends in profit-making dictated by a few owners of the media, not intellectual pursuit of truth. He also said that criminality was higher in the United States than in the Soviet Union of the time.

Of criminality, Solzhenitsyn said there "is considerably more of it [in the United States—ed.] than in the pauper and lawless Soviet society. (There is a huge number of prisoners in our camps which are termed criminals, but most of them never committed any crime; they merely tried to defend themselves against a lawless state resorting to means outside of a legal framework)." This statement hid an important misconception of the Soviet dissidents, one that was contrary to the interests of most Soviet people, who now enjoy Amerikan-style murder and imprisonment rates.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn's fiction works on the Soviet gulag system loom large in Amerikan thinking about not just Russia but many other countries that Americans fear. Solzhenitsyn catered to Amerikan nationalism that believes other countries are more dangerous and backward to live in. Thanks to Solzhenitsyn, most Americans know more about other countries' prisons than their own. This sort of Amerikan nationalism may be nicer than open "Aryan race" chauvinism, but it is in some ways more blinding: people who believe they live in a "free country" readily dismiss any facts about prisoners and prison conditions.

The truth is that the imprisonment rate in Russia has doubled since the days of Soviet dissidents, and may soon triple. Yet, dissidents express their satisfaction despite all their years of talk about the evils of excessive imprisonment. This tells us something about the dissidents, namely that progress for them is praise for their pro-capitalist speeches, not greater freedom. The exploited and oppressed who continue to follow these Liberals jump from the frying pan into the fire.

Although some Liberals such as chess player Kasparov talk about communists as if it were still the 1980s or 1930s, more typical is Vladimir Bukovsky imprisoned 12 years under social-fascist Brezhnev. While the imprisonment rate has exploded in Russia, he believes Russia has progressed: "It will never go back all the way to Brezhnev's time. History doesn't repeat itself so precisely." (7)

Famous dissident and another physicist Yuri Orlov told the Associated Press in November that Putin's huge electoral victory may have paved the way for what he would

consider retrogression, but overall, "Russia today is different."(7)

Even BBC admitted that despite his criticism of Putin, Solzhenitsyn is a "firm supporter" of Putin.(8) In turn, Putin campaigned for president with poster images of Sakharov and Solzhenitsyn.

Going openly capitalist increased the imprisonment rate in Russia—the opposite of freedom. Today, the imprisonment rate of U.S. Blacks in Louisiana is vastly worse than the imprisonment rate in northern Korea—and Louisiana is not in a state of war with its neighboring states or the world's superpower, the United States.(9)

In reply, the irrational say that crime went up and that prisoners today deserve their imprisonment in Russia and the United States while they did not deserve it under Stalin and phony communist Kim in northern Korea today; although in the case of some like Khodorkovsky, the Liberal descendants of Solzhenitsyn would say they did not deserve their imprisonment even today.

So to put it in Solzhenitsyn's language, in 1978 prisoners were spiritually deserving, but the more numerous prisoners of say 1998 are not spiritually deserving. To be a prisoner of an openly Soviet system is a virtue while being a prisoner in a capitalist system is an evidence of criminality according to Solzhenitsyn. In other words, Solzhenitsyn speaks purely for the bourgeoisie, but he does it in the guise of Christianity and in a way completely compatible with Franco fascism in Spain for example. When it's good for capitalism, Solzhenitsyn criticizes imprisonment, while we communists believe the long run goal is to do away with imprisonment by eliminating its causes. We find little excuse for the poverty-related imprisonment seen in the United States.

In 1952, the year before Stalin died, the U.S. State Department published imprisonment rates that compared the Soviet Union in World War II with the United States in (relative) peacetime, and not under occupation or threat of occupation. The 1952 statistics on the United States "show that there is an average of one person out of 1,000 imprisoned. . . . If the U.S.S.R. had the same ratio of prisoners to population it would have 200,000 prisoners rather than 2 to 20 million."(10) If we read this State Department statement carefully, it is defending a 0.1% imprisonment rate against a 1% imprisonment rate. The article is talking about the same things that made Solzhenitsyn famous.

In 1952, the United States was killing millions of Koreans and Chinese in the Korean War and doing so with the justification that the Soviet Union might have 1.8 million more

Historical imprisonment rates in selected countries, per 1000 people

Year	USA	Russia	Poland	Bulgaria
1952	1	10-100?*	N/A	N/A
1980-86	4.3	2.7**	2.0	1.6
1994	5.5	5.8	N/A	1.0
2001	6.9	6.7	2.1	1.2

*According to the State Department of 1952.

**Figure for the entire USSR, not just Russia.

Sources:

United Nations Development Program, Human Development Report (Oxford University Press) (for the years 1991, 1992, 1993 and 2000).

2001 figures from British Home Office, <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hosb1203.pdf>

prisoners than it should. Yet it was in a way a fair question as to whether everyone in Soviet prison had been a Nazi collaborator or whether there needed to be some mass releases of prisoners. The Stalin government was indeed discussing this.

The authors of the 1952 State Department article on Soviet prisons should step forward to condemn the United States now. As of 2003 statistics, the United States imprisons 5 people per 1,000 instead of just 1 for a total of over 2 million prisoners if we add in jails. That means that in 50 years time since the State Department condemned the Stalin era Soviet Union, the United States has had a five-fold increase in federal and state imprisonment per capita. In fact, the United States even left the Soviet Union in the dust for imprisonment, because after World War II, the Soviet rate decreased, while the U.S. imprisonment rate increased. Only since Russia has gone openly free market capitalist and copied the United States has Russia been in the running for world's number one prison-state.

By the time Solzhenitsyn was speaking at Harvard, the United States had already passed the imprisonment rate of the Soviet Union. While the State Department of 1952 used to brag about a 10 times better imprisonment rate than under Stalin in war time, today, the U.S. imprisonment rate of Blacks is 3.4%, more than three times higher than the lower end estimate of imprisonment in the Soviet Union that the State Department was talking about. In other words, as far as Blacks are concerned, they already live with the Stalin depicted by the State Department, but now Stalin is in the White House.

In this crisis potentially worse statistically than in Stalin-era war time, Solzhenitsyn contributed to the problem by saying about the United States in 1978: "The defense of individual rights has reached such extremes as to make society as a whole defenseless." As usual, there was no statistical basis for this observation, just pure Western propaganda-prejudice.

A scientific approach needed

This brings us to Solzhenitsyn's resistance to the Enlightenment as a whole. It's hard to argue with someone who is just going to say that Jesus does not get his due. It's obvious to intelligent people that such a formulation will have opportunist use in defending capitalism. It's a fraud as far as "spirituality" goes.

In his 1978 speech, Solzhenitsyn criticized the United States for backing out of the Vietnam War in which it killed four million Vietnamese people while he simultaneously tried to claim that the Bolsheviks are guilty of mass lawlessness. To this, our readers may

wonder which side is really worse, Solzhenitsyn's or ours.

In reply, MIM says this: we are willing to measure the question. Our critics on the other side, the Soviet dissidents are unwilling and Solzhenitsyn is openly opposing the Enlightenment, so it is obvious that his side of the debate has more to hide in obscure and inaccessible screeds on Jesus, the Orthodox Church and any other mumbo-jumbo that can serve as an intellectual opiate.

The measure of a prison-state in normal times is its incarceration rate. Choosing some other criterion to discuss the prison-state may very well represent simple cultural bias as in Solzhenitsyn's preference for imprisoning people to uphold Christian values instead of socialist ones.

The fact that Amerikan prisoners are better off than Russian ones stems from the economy, and that is a separate question also worthy of study. For one, white Amerikan prisoners were better off than Russian ones before 1917 too, so it has nothing to do with communism. For two, by now, the simpleton dissident views that copying the United States's shopping malls would bring prosperity to Russia have proved false.

As far as the economy goes, none of the leaders after Stalin has done as good a job in bringing about economic development, so it is not factually true that copying the West is the road forward. Russia has done nothing but copy the West more and more since Stalin and the result has only been more and more disastrous.

The functioning of the economy and the state are the keys to understanding why the Soviet era dissidents have disappeared without a trace. Even the monopoly capitalist Associated Press article on Stalin's 125th birthday obliged itself to point out that the World War II veterans honoring Stalin in his hometown receive \$6 a month as a pension from the state—not enough for food. It's quite an irony that Stalin left the Soviet Union in a condition equal to the United States in most regards except luxury goods production, but today the great free market Russia gives its pensioners \$6 a month for saving their country from Nazi barbarism.

In the ex-Soviet Union and China, it seems to be a favorite course of becoming well-known experts on politics and economics to study neither. While this is understandable in China's case, where the state steered youth into hard sciences and put a social-fascist party chokehold on other subjects, it is no longer acceptable in Russia. Solzhenitsyn was a fiction-writer, who loved to cite a book by an algebra teacher on socialism—Shafarevich. Sakharov was a physicist. Today, one of the handful of major Liberal leaders of the next generation is a chess champion named Garry Kasparov who literally believes history started coincidentally when chess did in its modern form—500 years ago. He is working to promote a more radical crackpot theory of history than promoted by Fomenko.(11)

Easy ideas about Jesus, easy ideas about human rights that copy the West's and easy ideas even about the length of history itself—the intelligent of Russia have reacted badly to the social-fascism of the Brezhnev era. It's not enough to be intelligent. One must also put in effort on the question of economic development and the causes of crime and state formation—even if those subjects once seemed dominated by highly corrupt or boring

Percentage of U.S. males ever experiencing federal or state prison (excluding jails) and their lifetime chances of going to prison based on year born

	Ever experienced prison	Expected to go to prison
1974	2.3	3.6
1979	2.4	4.1
1986	2.8	6.0
1991	3.4	9.1
1997	4.3	10.6
2001	4.9	11.3

Source: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/piusp01.pdf>

Continued on page 12...

Contraband stamps?

Dear MIM:

Thanks for coming into my life in a time of personal trouble. Your letter showed me the way back onto the path I once was on years ago. The prison here has come out with a new rule that prisoners cannot use postage stamps as currency to pay for products or services, and the rule said that if postage stamps are placed in outgoing mail for this purpose it will be deemed contraband. This is not a security threat because some prisoners don't receive money from home but they receive stamps to purchase books, magazines, etc.

—A prisoner in Florida, December 2004

Charged for services but never saw the doctor

Dear MIM:

I have been having a problem with the medical department here. On 11-04-04 I sent an inmate sick call request to the see the doctor and was denied medical treatment. On 11-14-04 I sent an informal grievance to the chief health officer and was charged \$4.00 for sick call and I never saw the doctor. Then the grievance came back from the chief health officer saying that the review showed that I saw the nurse on 11-12-04 and "became demanding, upset and angry" and that the interview was "appropriately terminated." So how can I be charged for sick call and the sick call was terminated?

—A prisoner in Florida, December 2004

Rage in a Cage

My wrath will be felt because my anger boils within me...

With no means of expression,

it's only a matter of time before I blow...

I walk with a smile so they know not what I feel,

But the smile is so fake I can't believe they think it's real.

If only they knew my kryes would overflow their thoughts,

but I will never let down my walls cause they will play me like a sport.

As the thoughts of suicide run rapidly through my mind,

and the sun fails to shine because in darkness is where I am confined...

Hearing screams that aren't there and seeing shadows that haven't moved,

and if I close my eyes real tight I could still smell my mother's food...

Even though it's been many years,

and every night is filled with tears...

I'm no longer a little boy, I'm a man who shows no fear.

At least that's what I think,

But I'm not really sure at all...

Because I'm just a number in the system.

I don't even have a name anymore...

These are just some of the thoughts that run through the mind of one who has experienced the brutality of the united snakes of amerikkka. It's just sad that others have no knowledge of the torture that goes on in their "Land of the free!" But to them I say next time you watch your news [US propoganda] make sure you know that every Iraqi that you see being tortured, there is 2 or 3 of your own being treated the same way if not worse.

I close with a salute of "Power to all people of the world" who fight to end oppression, and all those that see through this veil of evil that is draped

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

over the face of the government that so many have to love. [Ha, Ha] What a fucking joke!

Signing off from the land of the locked and the home of the slave,

In struggle,

The Fallen Angel, May 2004

Punished for Indigenous culture

All these capitalists see us Indians as they saw the Gold Rush in 1849 when California made it illegal to be Indian to make way for the 49ers. I feel like that today, here in the Ironhouse. I'm told to cut my hair short or face discipline; we are not allowed to have our spiritual packages, only set to us from a vendor approved by the institution. They want us to buy imitation eagle feathers to pray with, (our religion is not fake), also they won't let our people, tribes, elders, and circles, send it to us blessed, prayed over, real eagle feathers.

- A Navajo California prisoner, Nov. 2004

Letter to the oppressed prisoners

Amerikas government system has stripped what freedom we once had and placed us within their dungeons under lock and key only to take more away from us, to humiliate, degrade and then provoke us as puppets in their game show so that we can act out like "animals" (as they would say) so they can put it out to the "brainwashed" society to pass more laws to better "control" the "criminals" in society or (and) behind bars.

As it stands right now, no matter how we look at it, it plays out the same every time, everywhere in this prison system that we are forced to live our lives in. The inmate population plays into the pigs plan every time. Whether you want to deny it or not, it's the truth and we "let" it happen.

Look at what has been taken from us in California. First on the list was to take something from the people most likely to do something about it — the lifers family visits. Lifers, and I am one myself, need to realize that no matter how "good" we are or even if we complete all requirements to meet the parole board all the way, we are not and will not ever be paroled. We will always be deemed as a threat and a thorn to the brainwashed society, but most of all to Amerika's government. They are using Parole as a carrot on a string in front of a mule (and it is working). Nothing happened once the lifers lost their family visits. Then went our weights. They installed cameras on the rec. yards, they reinforced the grooming standards, they are taking tobacco, they took our porn mags, and now we have to use their vendors for our quarterly packages. Our people can no longer put their hearts into getting together our packages — which many enjoyed doing. Visiting is only allowed on Saturday and Sunday. We get no night yard, day rooms are on their way out, they took the TV's from the inmates in ASU's and there is talk about taking them from us in the SHUs.

How much more are we going to "let" them take from us? What the prison population needs to realize is that we are the gears in this machine called a prison. If we shut down, so

does it. Take a minute and think how many of us it takes to keep this machine running smooth. If everyone stopped, it would also stop! True only for a minute but why should we be the ones putting forth the efforts for three cents an hour and to have things stripped from us? We should not! It may not happen overnight, but we must unite as one and look at the real picture at hand that many of us are either top blind to see or just want to ignore the fact that Amerika's prison system is having its way with us. The longer we stay divided, the longer we "let" these pigs have their way with us. It will take small steps, but is can be done. To stop the key master, we must join as one.

— a California prisoner, October 2004

Three Strikes lies and deception

MIM Introduction: This article was written prior to the defeat of Proposition 66 on the California ballot in November of 2004. We print it here because the injustice of the Three Strikes laws in California, and throughout the country, continues.

As a drug war correspondent buried alive for a nonviolent drug offense, I make my reports from deep within the bowels of the California prison system, one of the last true bastions remaining from the tough-on-crime era.

I have been locked up longer on this drug case than all my strikes cases put together, said 54 year old Manuel Madrid from San Fernando Valley, who began his three strikes life sentence in 1997. "I'm an old man. I'm going to die in here."

Justice in the Golden State

The "three strikes and you're out" sentencing laws came into being at the apex of the lock- em-up movement in the mid-90s. This statute has proven to be infallible, surviving a gauntlet of state and federal judicial challenges. Entering its second decade of existence, the regulation is being challenged once more, this time in the court of public opinion.

Ever since The Three Strikes and Child Protection Act of 2004 qualified for November's ballot - codified as Proposition 66 - it has enjoyed wide support. In August, Fields Research Corporation reported 69 percent in favor and only 19 percent against. If approved, penalties for child molesters would increase while removing nonviolent offenders from the mandatory sentencing scheme.

The numbers associated with three strikes and corrections in general are prodigious. Approximately 7,400 have been given life sentences under this controversial sentencing mandate, 57 percent of whom have committed a nonviolent third strike. Additionally, over 32,000 second strikers have been sentenced under this law, the majority of whom are nonviolent as well.

Second strikers must serve 80 percent to 85 percent of their doubled-up sentences, while three strikers have to serve at least 25 years before they are eligible for parole. This steady-stream of second and third strikers are one of the reasons why the prison population has hit an all-time-high of over

164,000.

With many state governments moving away from harsh punishments as their primary approach to crime, California refuses to acquiesce to the national smart-on-crime movement.

"Crime is down, which proves to us the law is doing what it was supposed to do. We don't want to reverse that progress," said Carol Norris, president of the California Probation, Parole and Corrections Association.

The progress about which Mrs. Norris speaks is a state that spends approximately \$30,000 a year to incarcerate an inmate and roughly \$5,000 a year per pupil on education. By investing so generously at the wrong end of the problem, the children from underfunded education are systematically absorbed into the California Department of Corrections (CDC) by \$100,000 a year prison guards who make more money than tenured CSU professors.

California spends nearly \$6 billion a year on corrections, and the CDC alone employs over 50,000 workers. The influence the 31,000 unionized prison guards exert on state

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.

government renders their power unmatched and the success of their bottom-feeder industry assured for generations.

Crime is not down, it's a chronic social problem. The Golden State's rates of recidivism lead the nation at nearly 70 percent, and has the largest state prison system in a country which accounts for on-quarter of the world's prison population. Crime is a constant in California, and shows no signs of going away.

The Myth of Discretion

One little understood aspect of three strikes is how it gives too much power to the prosecutors and limits a judge's ability to exercise discretion.

"[J]udges and prosecutors already have substantial discretion to avert application of three strikes in the furtherance of justice," wrote Sen. Chuck Poochigian (R-Fresno) in The Sacramento Bee. The Senator and I took opposing positions on Proposition 66 in the Forum section on July 25.

Poochigian refers to the California Supreme Court's decision in *People v. Superior Court (Romero)* (1996), holding that a sentencing judge has discretion to avoid excessive punishments in the interest of justice.

"My sentencing judge spent 5 minutes considering Romero and denied it," said Tommy Wallen, a 34 year old from Kern County who was struck out for receiving stolen property. "It makes me very angry because it is so misleading to the public. Very rarely is it exercised because most judges are afraid to use it."

Wallen is right. Since the case law favors the prosecution few judges are willing to exercise their limited authority under Romero over the objections of the prosecutor — especially in counties like Kern where three strikes is vigorously pursued by the District Attorney.

Further, in *People v. Carmony*, the state's highest court recently limited Romero even more when they upheld a life sentence for failing to register as a sex offender by a mere five days, a technical violation.

"The court did leave open the possibility that it still could happen," said Deputy Attny. General David Andrew Eldridge, the prevailing attorney in Carmony, when asked under what circumstances a judge would risk exercising discretion. "But it would have to be extremely rare."

Wallen and Eldridge provide two realistic views of how discretion actually works. Poochigian, on the other hand, like so many who vigorously support three strikes, repeatedly cite discretion as a substantial safeguard when it is merely a judicial rubber stamp cherished by the prosecutors.

Fear vs. Fact

Due to my serious felony convictions of robbery and two burglaries committed in my late teens and early 20s, I am serving 26 years

to life for a nonviolent drug offense. This is a victimless crime generally carrying a couple of years of mandatory treatment instead of jail per Proposition 36. However, due to three strikes, I have already served six years with at least 20 to go.

Recently, my injection into the debate has touched a nerve in my hometown of Sacramento. The Bee published a couple of rebuttals to my July 25 article.

"He minimizes a crime spree from 1984-1988 — slashing a juvenile across the chest with a knife, requiring 200 stitches," wrote Jan Scully, the District Attorney. "Most recently, a buck knife was found in his car along with 200 baggies of marijuana."

Then Marjie Lundstrom a columnist, took a similar path and claimed, in addition to slashing a juvenile in 1986, I committed yet another assault in 1988 as well. Making me look even worse, she said I possessed not one, but two knives in the commission of the current drug crime.

While a rap sheet is never a pretty picture, neither are prosecutorial journalists who spin the facts in an election year.

I never had 200 bags of marijuana, just one bag weighing five grams. The 1986 slashing, while tragic and regrettable, was reduced to a misdemeanor because the prosecutor discovered the juvenile lied about his role. A misdemeanor is not a strike, and there wasn't a second assault from 1988.

Sadly, the 200 bags of marijuana that don't exist, the misdemeanor assault that isn't a strike and the second assault that never happened have no logical correlation to the lawfully possessed buck knife in the glove box or the multi-wrench with a 2 inch blade on the seat of the car.

The fact is I entered prison a 22 year old high school dropout in 1988, and left a college-educated, published writer in 1994. I paid my debt to society in full. Upon release from prison I pursued an upwardly mobile path — taking a full-load at my hometown university while starting a construction company from scratch.

However, just like a rap sheet, relapse is not a pretty picture either. I started using again. Eventually, in 1998, I was caught with approximately 20 grams of methamphetamine, a felony, and have been buried alive ever since.

Regardless of our individual stories, fearmongers like Poochigian, Scully and Lundstrom work very hard to portray three strikers as an amalgam of Willie Hortons about to be unleashed on society if they approve Proposition 66. Too often, as I experienced first-hand, their arguments are based on flawed analysis, evidence that doesn't exist, and illogical correlations meant to sensationalize. Politics is simply a dirty game.

"I hope and pray that the public will see

the injustice of the current law and vote to make changes," states Wallen. "It is a huge misconception that the District Attorneys Association is trying to say that murders, rapists and child molesters will be freed. This change only affects nonviolent convictions." — a California prisoner, October 2004

Classification in California

They are only allowing us to have one book in our cell at a time. In order to receive another one we have to exchange it, donate it, or send it home. They just recently opened up this new administrative segregation (ad-seg) building called Z-unit and they moved a lot of us from D6, D7 and D8 to fill it. We are in a little cell with only a skylight that is located on top of the ceiling to give us a look of the outside world. We do go to the yard 3 times a week in a dog like kennel. Three hours each time. We do not see much out there. This is no place for a human to do his time. No TV, radio or any electronic devices in or outside of our cells.

At intake the CDC system puts a label on you. Northern or Southern [Mexican]. They put that down on your c-file and once you are in the system all they need is 3 points: 1030s from other people saying you belong to a gang and they can and will validate you, whether you have done something wrong or not. Once this happens they put you back in the ad-seg and give you an indeterminate SHU sentence. That means that you will never see the outside of these ad-segs or hit a mainline unless you tell on someone else. Which is how they received info/1030s to put on another person and use that against them.

However the few that are strong must stay back here and fight it. It will take years but all we have is time and people like MIM to help get us through these rough times. We do 602 (file a grievance) these. In many cases, almost all, they are denied and we must go through Sacramento to fight it. If not our last chance is to file a habeas corpus and go through the court systems. These so-called gangs are not violent. They just use the debriefing system for the weak and cowards who can not handle the hard times and will give up whatever it takes. They will even tell lies against another prisoner to get out of the hole.

— a California prisoner at High Desert State Prison, July 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 US imprisonment

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

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

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

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

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

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

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

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

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.



Saludamos desde los andes de Sudamérica la brillante perspectiva de la toma del poder

[MIM no tiene ningún conocimiento de condiciones en Bolivia y Nepal. MIM no sabe FRP—el Ministro de Relaciones Internacionales del Movimiento Maoísta Internacionalista (MIM).]

El 13 de febrero de 1996 en las montañas himalayas se plantó la bandera roja del marxismo-leninismo-maoísmo con el inicio de la Guerra Popular en Nepal, que fue iniciada y dirigida por el Partido Comunista de Nepal (Maoísta) [PCN(M)], este acontecimiento despertó la alegría de las masas oprimidas en Nepal así como de las masas oprimidas y explotadas de todo el mundo.

En dura lucha contra la autocracia feudal y por la instauración de una República Popular el PCN(M) ha desarrollado la guerra de guerrillas construyendo su Ejército Popular de Liberación (EPL), que se basa en el apoyo de las profundas masas populares, creando zonas guerrilleras, zonas liberadas y construyendo el poder político rojo. A través de sucesivas ofensivas planeadas por la dirección del Camarada Prachanda ha elevado la fase de la Guerra Popular de la Defensiva Estratégica al Equilibrio Estratégico y así se ha desarrollado la revolución en todos sus aspectos.

El EPL ha enfrentado la incursión del Ejército Real de Nepal (ERN), ejército reaccionario que sostiene a las clases feudal compradoras de Nepal y a la autocracia real que apoyada a la vez por el expansionismo indio y el imperialismo norteamericano y británico, así como otras potencias como Bélgica que han provisto de armamentos a las fuerzas genocidas reaccionarias de Nepal.

En su guerra contrarrevolucionaria el gobierno nepalés no ha escatimado esfuerzos en asesinar a poblaciones enteras, a masas desarmadas, a prisioneros que los hacía pasar por combatientes, a periodistas, intelectuales, artistas, etc. la tortura y la desaparición han sido norma y política rectora en su afán de detener los avances maoístas, pero en esto no han estado solas las fuerzas contrarrevolucionarias, han contado con el asesoramiento de militares norteamericanos y militares indios, el imperialismo ha entrenado y pertrechado de armamento a los reaccionarios nepaleses para aplastar la auténtica revolución de las masas oprimidas en Nepal y han intentado desprestigiar a los guerrilleros tildándolos de terroristas, dentro del plan fascista del imperialismo yankee de guerra contra el terrorismo, cuando sabemos todos que el principal terrorista y enemigo de los pueblos del mundo es precisamente el imperialismo.

Pero la lucha de los maoístas ha dado grandes saltos. Al constituirse las bases de apoyo y elevarse la guerra en grandes ofensivas de guerra de movimientos, el PCN(M) llegó a controlar más del 75% del territorio nacional y en ellas se construye el nuevo poder y se estructura la nueva república de nueva democracia. En este camino, la revolución en Nepal nos dio la gran sorpresa a finales del año pasado, cuando la guerra entraba en la etapa de la Ofensiva Estratégica, fase que se ha iniciado con grandes acciones asestadas a los terroristas reales (ERN) dentro del Primer Plan de la Ofensiva Estratégica, aniquilando a cientos de elementos reaccionarios destruyendo los cimientos de la vieja sociedad.

La situación actual en la que el Rey ha suprimido el gobierno y a tomado en sus manos todas las funciones gubernamentales y la tarea de enfrentar a la Guerra Popular coloca al PCN(M) en la posibilidad de dirigir a todas las masas populares de Nepal en un gran frente contra la autocracia feudal y fascista y por establecimiento de una República Popular.

La situación entonces nos demanda la enorme necesidad que tenemos los comunistas de estar a la altura de las

circunstancias, la presente situación nos pone en la perspectiva clara de la posibilidad de la toma del poder en Nepal y la posible intervención imperialista yankee de manera más directa, pues en la actualidad tiene una intervención indirecta, o utilizando a la India. Entonces el mejor apoyo que podemos dar a las masas nepaleses, a su Partido y a su Ejército, es redoblar los esfuerzos para iniciar la revolución en nuestros países y así abrir frentes de batalla al imperialismo norteamericano.

En esta fecha de celebración asumimos ese compromiso y nos aunamos a los diversos pedidos en Asia, Europa y América de celebrar este aniversario para llevar a las masas de nuestros países las noticias de la revolución en Nepal.

¡¡Viva el Partido Comunista de Nepal (Maoísta)!!

¡¡Viva el marxismo-leninismo-maoísmo!!

¡¡Muerte al imperialismo principalmente yankee!!

Saludamos desde los andes americanos la brillante perspectiva de la toma del poder

*Frente Revolucionario del Pueblo Marxista-leninista-maoísta
Bolivia, Febrero de 2005*

Stalin

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people.

In 1978, Solzhenitsyn said this: "In our Eastern countries, communism has suffered a complete ideological defeat; it is zero and less than zero. But Western intellectuals still look at it with interest and with empathy, and this is precisely what makes it so immensely difficult for the West to withstand the East." Yet, the Soviet bloc collapsed without the violence to overthrow it predicted by Solzhenitsyn and others in 1978. In 2004, it is already evident that the intellectual trends of Russia in the 1980s have not prevailed. Stalin's approval rating at 53% is one indication that communism is not "zero and less than zero."

Kicked out of the Reagan administration for being too anti-Soviet, historian Richard Pipes himself noted that Solzhenitsyn "is quite innocent of historical knowledge." (12)

Facts are stubborn things. The decline of the Russian life expectancy under free market capitalism, the doubling of the imprisonment rate, the continued hold of Stalin on the mind of the Russian people—these are manifestations of the same knot of problems connected together in the subject of political economy—not religion, chess or physics.

Solzhenitsyn did put his finger on something. The Eastern intellectual betrayed the international proletariat in the 1980s. Yet, while the West tends toward an effete post-modernism and watered down Marxology in academia, we are sure that the East will once

again give rise to the intellectual dragons Marx thought he would give birth to.

Notes:

1. http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/may/27/newsid_2495000/2495895.stm
2. http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2004-12-21-stalin_x.htm
3. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/2820061.stm> ;
A Houston Chronicle article mentioned a poll of 40% supporting Stalin 20Nov2004.
4. <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/augustine/arch/solzhenitsyn/harvard1978.html>
5. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A47000-2004Nov12.html>
6. www.eco.rug.nl/~Maddison/articles/World_development_and_Outlook_1820-2030.pdf
7. http://www.ncsj.org/AuxPages/111104_dissidents.shtml
8. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/935876.stm>
9. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/freedomorfiction.html>
10. "Forced Labor in the Soviet Union," U.S. Department of State Bulletin, Vol. 27 (1952) reprinted in Alex Inkeles & Kent Geiger, eds. Soviet Society: A Book of Readings (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1961), p. 253.
11. <https://listhost.uchicago.edu/pipermail/ane/2003-November/011004.html>
12. Reactionary views and how they divided over Solzhenitsyn: <http://www.firstthings.com/ftissues/ft0408/opinion/mahoney.htm>

¿Que es el MIM?

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

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

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

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

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