Nothing new in the ‘War on Terror’

Amerikan government spying, torturing, and killing

Conscription update

HAVE THE IRAQI PEOPLE ALREADY WON?

MIM has come under criticism for predicting there would be a draft about now in the United States if certain conditions did not arise. Our critics are generally right that it is not a good idea to make predictions in politics.

In 2004 we said, “MIM has predicted that there will be a draft after the election unless there is a huge military victory by the Iraqis or other Middle East fighters before that or a desperately radical anti-draft struggle in the upcoming months.” (1) For sure there has been no radical anti-draft movement that has arisen. Iraqi insurgents have not dropped a nuke on the U.S. troops either, but whether or not there has been a victory by insurgents is more up in the air than one might think, despite MIM’s critics.

One thing that MIM did not predict is that both Democrats and Republicans hold no power in the House, Senate or White House. At the same time, Bush is in trouble with multiple scandals and the underlying Iraq anxieties. Without a major propaganda coup, neither Bush nor anyone else has the political capital to push through a draft right now. It would take a major incident to change that.

Yet, according to House representative John Murtha, the Iraqi people have already won and rumor has it that he reflects the opinion of many generals who might also mock Islam and Muhammad in some circumstances and from a revolutionary perspective, but we would not print these cartoons, because they are clearly linked to the struggle of oppressed nation people of the Middle East, especially the Palestinians.

Politically, the timing of the struggle was just as the European Union was considering continuation of funding to the incoming Hamas government in Palestine. The amount of money each year is nothing that Saudi Arabia could not make up easily if it so wanted. On the other hand, there is no doubt that the Muhammad cartoons have had the effect of making relations between Hamas and the European Union more difficult generally. Already the European Union has intervened on behalf of Denmark as a business matter to say that a boycott of Denmark is a boycott of Europe.

Response to Muhammad cartoons shows international proletariat’s potential

By International Minister

Posted on mimnotes.info

February 9, 2006

Fiery protests by oppressed-nation peoples broke out in London, Paris, Syria, Palestine, Indonesia, Somalia, and much of the rest of the world, when cartoons mocking the Muslim prophet Muhammad appeared in Western newspapers after originally appearing in Danish newspapers. One cartoon showed Muhammad as having a bomb in his turban, while another cartoon showed Heaven with a shortage of virgins for ascending suicide bombers. By now, countless Western organizations, including the racists of the British National Party, have printed the cartoons. MIM protests. You will only stay on our mailing list if you write to us regularly. Please confirm receipt of the paper and notify us of any censorship.

Go to 2...

Prisoners: You will only stay on our mailing list if you write to us regularly. Please confirm receipt of the paper and notify us of any censorship.

Go to 4...

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

February 5, 2006

In recent months, as the Amerikan public has become aware that President Bush ordered the National Security Agency (NSA) to wiretap phone calls without a warrant, many critics have said the practice is illegal. In theory, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) bans the government from wiretapping without the permission of a special court: the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. While it is certainly useful to point out that the President of the United States violated his own laws, even the legal wiretapping in Amerika is a problem to MIM. The requirement to get permission of a special court for wiretapping is a court that is run by the Amerikan government, should not provide people with any comfort that the government is respecting freedom of speech (as limited as it is in a society where groups of people have power over other groups) or protection against unreasonable searches and seizures: rights supposedly protected by the Constitution.

Amerika has a long history of spying on people who oppose the government — brazenly violating their own laws in the process — most aggressively radicals who effectively oppose the military and everyday violence and horror of imperialism. This is not new, and it is not exclusive to Bu$h.

After the attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, Congress gave Bush sweeping authorization to go use military force, spy, imprison, and “use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks” (Authorization for the Use of Military Force, passed by Congress on September 18, 2001). Because of this and other reasons, there is little reason to believe that Congress or any other part of the government is more much more interested than the Bu$h government in protecting the rights of Amerikans, much less the freedoms and lives of Third World peoples.

After passing the Authorization for the
HAVE THE IRAQI PEOPLE ALREADY WON?

From 1...

brief him:

“I said over a year ago, and now the military and the Administration agrees, Iraq can not be won “militarily.” I insist two years ago, the key to progress in Iraq is to Iraqitize, Internationalize and Energize. I believe the same today. But I have concluded that the presence of U.S. troops in Iraq is impeding this progress.

“Our troops have become the primary target of the insurgency. They are united against U.S. forces and we have become a catalyst for violence. U.S. troops are the common enemy of the Sunnis, Saddamists and foreign jihadists. I believe with a U.S. troop redeployment, the Iraqi security forces will be incentivized to take control. A poll recently conducted showed that over 80% of Iraqis are strongly opposed to the presence of coalition troops, and about 45% of the Iraqi population believe attacks against American troops are justified.”

Behind the major House speech by Murtha are people who look at numbers and see that despite increasing numbers, equipment and money the “bang for the buck” goes down in Iraq; in other words, the war effort is losing. So the number of casualties from year to year stays the same, but the equipment and money to accomplish that has increased.

One thing we can say for sure, the Iraqi people did defeat BuSh’s original plan, which was to build up huge contractor business support for the war and sustain it on that basis with money from oil revenues. House rep Murtha pointed out “Only $9 billion of the $18 billion appropriated for construction has been spent. Unemployment remains at about 60 percent and clean water is scarce. Only $500 million of the $2.2 billion appropriated for water projects has been spent. And most importantly, insurgent attacks have increased from about 150 per week to over 700 in the last year.”

This is an inherent flaw of capitalism, that the more making the big profits have the most money to bribe politicians with. Exxon-Mobil just set an historical record for profits and that corporation has clout, while the alternative energy industry is an idea without much profit with which to influence Congress. It becomes a vicious cycle, where to make money one must have government influence but to have government influence, one must make money. Only socialism is the answer to that problem in general. In this case, the insurgents in Iraq have closed down the vicious cycle by making it very difficult to make profit in Iraq—with their obviously controversial tactics of killing civilian contractors, who MIM sees as exploiters and oppressors, contrary to the left-wing of the white nationalist movement in America.

Another quote from Murtha tries to give the overall direction of the numbers: “But the war continues to intensify. Deaths and injuries are growing, with over 2,079 confirmed American deaths. Over 15,500 have been seriously injured and it is estimated that over 50,000 will suffer from battle fatigue. There have been reports of at least 30,000 Iraqi civilian deaths.”

Murtha went on to say that the military is “broken, worn out.” If Murtha is right, then MIM was not wrong in its prediction. The Iraqi people just won sooner than people might have expected. The brass knows which way the wind blows, even if the public and politicians have not adjusted yet. We’re not saying that the United States has won the struggle against the Iraq War by any stretch of the imagination, but nor should we be saying the Iraqi people haven’t won. We’re in the phase now where we can force our politicians into accepting the obvious sooner than they would if allowed to pull some political stunts on behalf of patriotic military recruiting.

Notes:
One thing we got right for sure was that Uncle Sam’s going to the UN for troops for Iraq was just a smokescreen that did not end up accomplishing anything except to prepare U.S. public opinion with “we tried.”

“Nobody admires our armed forces more than I do, and I’m so proud of the service of our military men and women. I’ve worked hard during my 32 years in Congress to make sure that our military has the equipment, training, medical care and other support it needs to accomplish its mission, and to save and protect the lives of service members and their families.

“The military had no problem recruiting...”

What is Mimnotes.info?
http://mimnotes.info
Mimnotes.info publishes news articles and culture (media, movie, music, video game and other) reviews from the standpoint of the world’s exploited and oppressed under imperialism, capitalism, and patriarchy. Inspired by the Maoist Internationalist Movement, mimnotes.info ("MIM notes dot info") opposes all group oppression, including the oppression of gays and lesbians, wimmyn, and youth. The imperialist-patriarchy is full of horrors and misery for the world’s oppressed majority. Mimnotes.info aims to build public opinion for revolutionary change. Nothing short of revolution can end this messed-up system.

Knowing the world and conditions inside the belly of the beast is key. Equip yourself with mimnotes.info and write for mimnotes.info.

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 the existing or emerging Spanish-speaking Maoist internationalist parties of Aztlan, Puerto Rico and other territories of the U.$. Empire. MIM Notes is the newspaper of MIM. Notas Rojas is the newspaper of the Spanish-speaking parties or existing 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 possible by building public opinion to seize power through armed struggle. Revolution is a reality for North America as the military becomes over-extended in the government’s attempts to maintain world hegemony. MIM differs from other communist parties on three main questions: (1) MIM holds that after the proletariat seizes power in socialist revolution, the potential exists for 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 to 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.

Activists, community drown out fascist anti-immigrant demonstration in San Diego with protest and dance

February 4, 2006
Volunteers with the Gilchrist’s Minuteman Project gathered Saturday morning at an informal day labor site in San Diego County. In the past, the Minuteman Project said it would focus on going after employers of undocumented migrants and leave intimidating and terrorizing migrants to the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps, which it had worked with closely. This was after the Minuteman Project’s much-publicized border vigilantism event in Arizona in April. Today’s event at the high-traffic intersection in Vista, attended by mainstream media, illustrates that the Minuteman Project and its spin-off are known as the Minutemen are once again willing to directly tap into widespread anti-immigrant sentiment in the U.S. population to whip up support for the deeply reactionary fascist movement to intensify the repression of migrants. Today’s local fascist movement, the Minutemen Project, comes after similar actions last month, coordinated by other groups, against Latin American and indigenous day laborers and migrants in several States.

Despite recent survey interpretations — such as one contained in an article in the February/March issue of the Tu Ciudad Los Angeles magazine suggesting that there is an intense divide among Latinos over immigration, the vast majority of the Minutemen supporters in Vista out on the street mobilizing people locally to support the increased repression of migrants. First World chauvinism does lead to some oppressed-nation people in the United States supporting immigration restrictions for individual economic reasons, and this was evident with a handful of people of color among the Minutemen supporters. But in general, the fascist movement targeting migrant proletarian workers has a Euro-American character. Ideologically, the fascist anti-immigrant movement is largely motivated by Euro-Americans’ fears that migrants, regardless of documentation or legal status, pose a political, economic, cultural and demographic/racial threat to the dominant Euro-American oppressor nation. As some signs held by Minutemen supporters illustrated — implying that Americans have an entitlement to contractor jobs with higher pay — Euro-American worker hostility toward migrants is also an important aspect of the fascist movement.

Many activists and community members showed up as early as 7 AM to protest the Minutemen and support the disrupted day laborers. Although activists were present, they refrained from displaying their political affiliations in signs and so on, in contrast to some other protests in California against the Minutemen where sectarian recruiting efforts have been counterproductive.

Some chants by opponents of the Minutemen were problematic, saying that the United States and California were “our country” and “our state.” These played into the idea that citizenship for migrants is a solution to all of the anti-immigrant movements seen in history. While some level of citizenship for undocumented people, already inside U.S. borders, is a winnable and desirable reform within the framework of the political and economic system that exists today, the whole notion of citizenship in the American context often ironically legitimizes the imperialist border and the economic and political interests of the imperialist Euro-American settler nation.

Euro-Americans in particular should think of themselves as citizens only when acknowledging their privilege, made possible by exploiting Third World workers and oppressing the world’s winnies. The rhetoric of citizenship is useful only in limited circumstances, for example, when talking about the exclusion of oppressed-nation people from First World society, or pointing out how anti-immigrant advocates are ignorant for calling all day laborers “illegals” when in fact many of them are documented (although, this should not be done in a way that suggests that the rights of undocumented migrants do not deserve to be supported).

A man dressed up in an Uncle Sam costume put forward the position over a megaphone that attacking immigrants was un-American and un-American. Literature found nearby and signed by “an Uncle Sam” contain some correct points about the economic changes underlying the fascist movement, but panders to Americans by trying to convince them that they benefited economically from migrants. In general, the opposition to the Minutemen had a liberal tone opposing mainly racism and violence and not putting as much emphasis on the fundamental illegitimacy of America as a deeply racist and white supremacist society and an imperialist state. This was not surprising in a protest against fascists, simultaneously a demonstration in support of the civil rights of documented and undocumented day laborers and migrants, but there was little open condemnation of the repressive and terroristic Migra agents, and other forms of government-sanctioned repression, even after the recent killings of migrants near the border by Amerikan law enforcement.

On the other hand, protesters sometimes called out the Minutemen as neo-Nazis and neo-KKK elements, and one van drove around the block with words painted on it saying that the Minutemen were like Adolf Hitler. Although most of the Minutemen are not actually card-carrying or sieg-heiling neo-Nazis, it is important and necessary to expose the true nature of the fascists and virulent white nationalists making up the Minutemen and their supporters. The tendency represented by the Minutemen and their supporters among huge segments of the Euro-American nation are not something that will simply go away when the anti-immigrant vigilantes and advocates stop using blatantly racist language and develop feelings of racial harmony.

Also, a local politician, the terms when he comes after similar actions last month, coordinated by other groups, against Latin American and indigenous day laborers and migrants in several States. The current wave of anti-immigrant reaction has manifested in the political system and efforts to create laws that fall short of rounding up and deporting undocumented people at gunpoint. Congress is still considering legislation, already passed by the House of Representatives, that would make the unauthorized presence in the United States a felony and even criminalize family members who help undocumented migrants in any way after they have crossed the border. Such draconian repression could come into being through the normal democratic system and with the backing of the majority of Americans. Killings of migrants by the Border Patrol just in the past couple of months are just some obvious examples of the ruthless repression that is already part of the status quo.

Minutemen supporters in Vista waved American flags, as did some opponents of the Minutemen trying to appeal to Amerikan patriotic sentiments. One poster put forward the position over a megaphone that attacking immigrants was un-American and un-American. Literature found nearby and signed by “an Uncle Sam” contained some correct points about the economic changes underlying the fascist movement, but panders to Americans by trying to convince them that they benefited economically from migrants. In general, the opposition to the Minutemen had a liberal tone opposing mainly racism and violence and not putting as much emphasis on the fundamental illegitimacy of America as a deeply racist and white supremacist society and an imperialist state. This was not surprising in a protest against fascists, simultaneously a demonstration in support of the civil rights of documented and undocumented day laborers and migrants, but there was little open condemnation of the repressive and terroristic Migra agents, and other forms of government-sanctioned repression, even after the recent killings of migrants near the border by Amerikan law enforcement.

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American government spying, torturing, and killing

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The Patriot Act formalized what was in fact a long history of domestic spying in Amerika. The Church Committee, in 1976, revealed monitoring by the NSA, FBI and CIA during the 1970s. This surveillance was used to attack revolutionary groups such as the Black Panther Party and the American Indian Movement. Since that time, spying, within U.S. borders, particularly of political activists, has not stopped. Under the Freedom of Information Act, Americans can request a copy of their FBI file, and many have done so. However, the government keeps close tabs on their activities in spite of the fact that all of their activities are completely legal, but in some way oppose imperialism or even just some particular policies of the U.S. government.

So-called war on terrorism just another excuse

The War on Terror has been a convenient excuse for the American government to invade countries, torture prisoners, and hold suspected terrorists as detainees indefinitely, and now the government is trying to justify wiretapping phones without court permission. Some political activists in Amerika argue that America is far descending into fascism. Some of these activists recently talking about fascism have the perception that face an enemy of the United States and the threat to white Amerikans and ignore the fascist repression that the United States is already carrying out against oppression-nation people in the Third World on a daily basis. But for those who have studied some history and put current events in historical context, the War on terror looks a lot like the War on Drugs during the 1980s, with attacks on Third World nations as well as attempts to subvert the Constitution domestically — the War on Terror is just another excuse for imperialist militarism.

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Other Muslim responses to the cartoons included burning down the Danish embassy in Syria. (3) Danish businesses are also suffering under comprehensive Middle East boycotts of their goods. (4)

The intense media coverage of the Islamic responses accomplished one thing from MIM's point of view. Anyone who saw all the pictures of demonstrators and actions taken should think that we have just seen the international proletarian in action. The international proletarian is nothing like the tepid people of England who elected Blair or the fiery reactionaries who elected BuSh. That is true even where there is no local Maoist party to lead the way.

The demonstrations for Muhammad are questionable in so many regards. For example, they caused the arrest of Islamic journalists who aired the cartoons. (5) Yet, Jordan is trying to be good Western lackey capitalist country. It is not usually at the front of any Islamic struggle with the West. With Jordan, we get neither the geopolitical posture against imperialism that Iran or Libya would pretend to take, nor the freedom of speech usually promised as part of the love-Amerika political package.

It’s hard not to be disgusted with the Islamic stampede that killed a Somalian persyn. (6) That’s one less fighter against the imperialists. This demonstrates a difference between Western and Islamic. The Islamic movement’s great protests were not when the United States bombed or killed someone, but when Westerners broke a taboo against depicting Muhammad. The unity of Islam is only in the abstract, the image of the prophet himself for example. In contrast, Marxism is a set of tools that helps us to build unity in the concrete of here and now.

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Some of these things we heard Islamic people say during their demonstrations were not the greatest. Nonetheless, witnessing all that is just like what Mao said when he saw peasant rebellion with his own eyes the first time. The first impression of many comrades was that it was “terrible,” because of the inarticulate and unsystematic way that the peasant masses went about things. It was Mao who put his finger on it and said “it’s fine.”

In the Western bourgeois coverage, we saw Islamic people of the Third World line up flags from Denmark, Norway, France, the United States, and Israel, on the ground to trample as they walked into a building. Others burned the flags individually. So, despite whatever else the international proletariat might say or do, the international proletariat is a fighting class, and it even has a sense of its enemies to a great political extent at a level that even the bourgeoisie does not.

The current popularity of Islam stems from its being seen as Third-World and not a dominant religion of the imperialist countries. Many Islamic leaders have had the sense to ride the national question, what we Maoists call the principal contradiction between the imperialists and the oppressed nations. So, Islam fills in where Communists have been unable to advance the class interests of the proletariat.

The deftness of the blows the oppressed-nations proletarian lands and the strategy it employs are in question wherever a broad Islam dominates. The current popularity of Islam stems from its being seen as Third-World and not a dominant religion of the imperialist countries. Many Islamic leaders have had the sense to ride the national question, what we Maoists call the principal contradiction between the imperialists and the oppressed nations. So, Islam fills in where Communists have been unable to advance the class interests of the proletariat.

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Notes

3. “The other day the president of Iran made a statement about the Holocaust and the world whole condemned him,” he said. ‘Here you have a statement offending 1.3bn people around the world. We don’t see condemnation?’
4. “Another set for rules for the West and another set for everyone else,” he added. ‘Where do we draw the line on your freedom of speech and hurting my feelings and principles and irritating the hell out of me?’
5. “Use of Military Force, Congress passed the Patriot Act which was an even stronger attack on civil liberties, giving the government sweeping powers to snoop on phone conversations and e-mail messages. Using the Patriot Act, the FBI has obtained the reading lists and private information of library users and bookstore customers. The Patriot Act was co-authored by John Kerry, a prominent Democrat, a fact that should make clear that Bush and the Republicans are not the problem. From 1.”
Coverage of anti-immigrant demo shows need for independent media

February 5, 2006

As usual, the mainstream media has painted a favorable and erroneous picture of fascist activists mobilizing people to support more crackdowns on undocumented migrants and further immigration restrictions.(1) A North County Times article, for example, suggests that the Minutemen and their supporters yesterday in Vista, California, were mainly concerned with the exploitation of undocumented migrant workers by employers, and upholding the law. In reality, a substantial number of Minutemen and anti-immigrant protesters openly and opposed migration in general, documented and undocumented, for nationalist reasons ranging from national security — as if day laborers were a threat — to preserving jobs and higher pay for U.S. workers, to stopping what they saw as the flow of tax money to public and social services for recent immigrants. This was evident in the signs they held, as well as in interviews with Minutemen supporters posted by someone on the San Diego Indymedia open newswire. (2) Minutemen supporters frequently attacked migrants themselves and described them as thieves stealing jobs and government services. One went so far as to call Mexican migrants cowards for not staying in Mexico and overthrowing Vicente Fox, who actually is a lackey of U.S. imperialists. They sought to discourage the majority of Euro-Americans from the conditions in the Third World and deny their complicity.

When Minutemen supporters argued that undocumented migrants took jobs or were a drain on taxes, the arguments often could have just as easily been applied to U.S. workers. For example, property taxes are used to pay for the schooling of documented migrants’ children, too. The focus on undocumented migrants as lawbreakers just obscures an opposition to migration in general regardless of documentation or legal status. Anti-immigrant activists don’t support legality or even American laws in some abstract sense. They support particular laws for particular reasons, reasons that are often rooted in reactionary nationalism and either Euro-American or U.S. chauvinism. Many anti-immigrant advocates explicitly connect their opposition to “illegal immigration” to nationalist concerns about migration as a whole, not just the part that appears as Third World workers. The majority of U.S. workers benefit from this exploitation. The whole U.S. working class is bourgeoisified. From the perspective of the world economy, the kinds of jobs Americans have represent a privileged position, and the wages of Americans mostly come from the exploitation of Third World workers. It is not Third World workers who are stealing jobs. On the contrary, the jobs and wages are constantly being stolen from Third World workers.

Third World workers who migrate to the United States continue to be oppressed and often continue to be exploited economically, unlike most U.S. workers, but this is not something that can be ended by repressing more migrants. Indeed, the border is an important factor in maintaining wage differences, for instance, between the United States, and Latin American and other countries. And the whole U.S. economy is based on the exploitation of the Third World workers. The majority of Americans are exploiters, not just corporations and contractors who employ undocumented migrants.

Neither can abuses of day laborers be stopped by increasing immigration regulations, which tend to put migrant workers in a more vulnerable position. And ending the repression of migrants would do more to end the abuse of undocumented workers than going after employers, which has been ineffectual. Anti-immigrant vigilantes’ recent criticism of employers for abusing day laborers is really about attacking Third World labor to increase the exploitation of Third World workers inside and outside the United States.

The shift of undocumented migrant workers in the United States to sectors other than agriculture, a change that is currently being discussed in the mainstream media, is largely a result of the imperialist migration and frequently distracts from the complex social differences (generational and citizenship-based) among Latinos that give rise to Latinos supporting immigration restrictions.

The same San Diego Union-Tribune article also features quotes from a youth Minutemen supporter, but neglects to mention the numerous youth among the anti-Minutemen protesters. Furthermore, the article states: “Those who came to watch the protest said they respected the various viewpoints, but noted that neither side was truly able to listen. The article totally neglects to mention the anti-racist aspect of the anti-Minutemen protest and the calls in support of documented and undocumented migrants’ civil rights.

One interesting thing in mainstream media coverage of anti-Minutemen protests is how they report on the colorful flags flown by anti-Minutemen protesters. In the San Diego Union-Tribune article on the Internet, there are multiple photos of Minutemen supporters holding American flags, and in contrast to the North County Times article, the Union-Tribune article on the Internet highlights many anti-Minutemen protesters with American flags whatsoever, only saying that protesters “waved 5-by-10-foot Mexican flags.” This is inaccurate. There was only one Mexican flag that large at the protest, and video footage obtained clearly showed that the Minutemen protesters carried American flags. Obviously, mimnotes.info disagrees with the suggestion of “Uncle Sam” that anti-Minutemen protesters should have waved more American flags, but we do not mind pointing out that the media, in presenting墨西哥工人的抗议, for racist purposes, reports things like who waved what flags.(1) Mimnotes.info was probably the first news outlet on the Internet to state that some anti-Minutemen protesters held American flags, but the context of this was a criticism of the limitations of liberalism and pandering to American patriotism.

The fascist-leaning mainstream media, futilely looking for common ground between calls for the humane treatment of migrants and proposals to carry out vicious repression of migrants, would like to portray the more vocal critics of the fascist anti-immigrant movement as an extremist, racial monolith, even if many of these critics’ demands aren’t radical. The mainstream media accepts the notion that there is an immigrant “problem” that needs to be solved. “Illegal immigration” as a news headline and for repressing immigration and frequently distracts attention from the imperialist migration and border policies, and imperialist...
Peru: The Remnants of a Betrayed Revolution

By Luis Arce Borja
January 28, 2006

MIM is unable to confirm that Luis Arce Borja is the author of this document. It was 2002 that his neighbor the revisionist Workers Party of Belgium last reported on him in the news. Various reactionary Peruvian papers have reported on him more recently. We hope Luis Arce Borja is well. --MIM

A guerrilla action, and similarly a whole process of armed struggle, does not by itself constitute a liberating political process in the sense of revolutionary change of society and the state.

The revolutionary content of a political or military action is determined by its strategic objective, whose essence is determined by a combination of ideological, political and organizational factors.

From May 1980 until almost the middles of the '90s the Maoist guerrilla was without any doubt a hope for the Peruvian people and their future revolution. The poor without any doubt a hope for the '90s the Maoist guerrilla was of the factors.

ideological, political and organizational determined by a combination of strategic objective, whose essence is or military action is determined by its points of reference spring from fidelity to the anti-immigrant movement to adopt their allegiance to the imperialist state. This is despite others’ pointing out that the American flag is an extremely oppressive symbol.

American flags have been waved at anti-Minutemen protests for a long time. But racial democracy in America is a myth, and the American flag has never stood for the interests of the oppressed. To the extent that it has been a symbol of equality for some oppressed people, it has only meant assimilation or been a broken promise. Since its inception, Euro-Amerika has been a settler nation oppressing nations inside and outside its artificial borders; some segments of the Euro-American nation have allied with subgroups of the oppressed for tactical purposes only. The oppressed must struggle against fascism on their own terms, repudiating imperialist patriotism and resisting the various forms of imperialist nationalism and chauvinism that time and time again have ultimately contributed to the rise of fascist anti-immigrant movements.

Notes:

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 itself and not by the “defenders” of the state. Revolution is the highest stage of militarism—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 is only 36.6%. After 200 years, survival has only a 13.4% chance.
itself. “Marxist-Leninist-Maoist, principally Maoist” is to insert itself in Peru’s political system. Artemio, who now presents himself as the head of the Hualalla Regional Committee of the PCP, has not stopped publicly repeating that his armed struggle’s objective is to achieve a “political solution and all-sided negotiation” to the problems derived from the civil war, which in other words means to serve the government of Toledo like they served Fujimori’s government before. The political demands of this personality are not different from those of the peace letters group. Artemio has taken the magazine Caretas (August 2005) “we began the armed actions with the objective of demanding a negotiated political solution of the government and the state. Today we are carrying out the actions with this same purpose, demanding a political solution of the whole society.” Artemio’s political activity is not new. A smaller group exists that the Peruvian press calls “prosegur” (in relation to their decision to keep on the road of armed actions). This group, according to official information, is led by comrade “Alpilio,” and its area of operations is in the central province of Huánuco where they presently are deployed. The political position of the prosegur group differs from that of the “peace letters” group and that of “Artemio.” They reject collaboration with the state and declare themselves against capitulation and betrayal, but strangely they continue to call themselves as “forces of the Party and the revolution.” They blindly deny that Abimael Guzmán is the author of the “peace letters” and the treason committed against the revolution. They have no known programmatic document or current analysis of Peruvian reality. They borrow the words of the communists and the Maoist slogans, which is a textual reproduction of what Gonzalo spoke and wrote before 1992, and demonstrates that this group, perhaps sincere in its political activity, has not even come close to understanding the true problem in the Peruvian revolution.

The guerrilla actions, those of “Artemio” as well as those of the “prosegur” group, (without bearing or leadership), rather than serve as a stimulus for the people’s struggle, serve to confound the possibility of regrouping the forces that from bad conditions return to the true revolutionary struggle under the leadership of a solid political organization. The masses of people, betrayed by the Maoist leaders in 1993, with good reason distrust these guerrillas, and see in these actions not the possibility of liberation, but rather a trick of the secret services to continue militarily controlling the state in the guise of the senderization of society. By chance or by direct relation, the truth is that the supposed “guerrilla offenses” serve the reaction more than the revolution. For those actions to be anything but betrayal of the tradition of “Artemio” of past months, the Fujimorismo has renewed in grand form its old electoral campaigns expressed in Lima street paintings that say “Fujimori yes, terrorism no.” But it is not only Fujimorismo that is looking to gain from this situation of fictitious people’s war. The military forces that for ten years of Fujimorismo were involved in brutal crimes and spectacular gaff have not had to wait to win dividends from this situation. With this purpose, a congressman (Luis Iberico) just proposed in parliament “a selective amnesty” for 638 army officials legally accused of crimes and human rights violations. This amnesty, according to parliament, is aimed at “strengthening the morale of the Armed Forces so they can confront terrorism without fear.” In the same vein, the Fujimorista daily La Razón (Lima), has become the most enthusiastic medium for publishing on the front page any murmur of a guerrilla bullet. Including, in order to give credibility to supposed propaganda about the high number of leaders who have denounced this organization, the newspaper published “declarations” of nonexistent and phantasmal organizations that publish a marginal web page in Sweden. The ideological basis of the betrayal. The defeat of the people’s war did not have its main causes in the superiority of the armed forces, but in the political ideological weakness of its top leaders. When the Central Committee of the PCP, including Chairman Gonzalo, passed over to the side of the enemies of the revolution, the Maoist guerrilla was carrying out about 400 military actions per month and maintaining a steady state in check, which included soldiers, police, paramilitaries and civil defense groups, rondas and other tools of the army, included over 500 thousand active members. In that stage of intense social struggle, the people’s committees (open and clandestine) spring up and form across the country the support bases of the revolution. The armed process was the epicenter of the class struggle and determined the political life of the country. This problem has its roots in the deep ideological problems whose elements should not be sought outside the party, but rather within it, and particularly in the Gonzalo thought that has served for war and for treason. The police repression factor could be an important ingredient, but not determinant in the form of behavior of the leaders of this party. The historical and present management of the party organization are two of the road to follow to arrive at the origin of the problem. In no part of the world can a revolutionary party be conceived of that is operated by only one person and even less from prison as has been the case with the PCP. In revolutionary war parties have a structure that as a whole makes them invincible against reaction. Each militant, each cadre and each leader form an ensemble of leadership. No revolutionary party, even more so a Marxist party, can be defeated by at least total and unconditional subjection to the leader of that party, as has been the experience of the PCP. The militants, together with respecting the most distinguished cadre and leaders, express their revolutionary fidelity to the programme, political line and to each one of the organic instances of leadership. This excludes personal management and any type of great leader adoration characteristic of the political organizations of the bourgeoisie. Any political group in Peru that intends to take the victorious years of people’s war (1980-1993) as a point of departure is obliged to be honest with the facts and explain with political coherence the causes and ideological-political factors involved in the conduct of Gonzalo and the Central Committee. It has to explain, beginning with ideology, what has been the phenomenon by which top leaders become cowards, turncoats, informers and poor devils. An example of this problem is “Feliciano.” The highest responsible who renounces not only his old convictions but publicly begs the authorities to collaborate in the pacification of the country. In every social phenomenon there is cause and effect, and the most abominable problems don’t solve themselves out of nothing. They are connected to class consciousness, the vision of socialism, political formation in general, experience, also material factors. The interest of this reflection can be presented in diverse aspects, but to deal with it substantially one must rigorously and persistently separate Gonzalo factors from the other. The whole course that Gonzalo and the PCP ran from 1964 to 1993 must be scrutinized with a magnifying glass. Nothing can be left unanalyzed and it is preferable to submit to criticism the whole ideological, political and organizational sector that preceded the “peace letters” of 1993. To take things as if nothing had happened in the heart of the Communist Party nor in the armed process is a distortion of reality. It is a form of complicity in covering up betrayal and Marxist deviation. It is a style of distorting reality. It is a form of distortion of the whole course that Gonzalo and the Central Committee. It has to explain, beginning with ideology, what has been the phenomenon by which top leaders become cowards, turncoats, informers and poor devils. 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Brokeback

From page 12...

gay identity in “Brokeback” collides with settlerism at the American frontier. Jack lives in North Texas in the movie, but the border, and crossing it, is alluded to repeatedly. Also, much of the movie is set in Wyoming, which connotes the Western frontier. “Brokeback” can be seen as an attempt to carve out a place for Euro-American gays in the cowboy Western romance genre.

Portraying the American frontier was apparently an intention behind the movie. Annie Proulx, author of the fictional short story on which the “Brokeback” movie is based, herself said in a December interview: “‘Brokeback Mountain’ was/ is one of a number of stories examining rural Western social situations. I was trained as an historian (French Annales school), and most of my writing is focused on rural North American hinterlands. The story was not ‘inspired,’ but the result of years of subliminal observation and thought, eventually brought to the point of writing.”

Although the earliest scenes in “Brokeback” are set in the 1960s — the movie depicts a recent past that will be familiar to many rural Americans today — “Brokeback” may even evoke in American moviegoers feelings of nostalgia and have to be treated as fiction. Through “Brokeback,” urban American moviegoers can go back to their country roots even. “Brokeback” is in sharp contrast to movies depicting gay people as urban dwellers and shows how even rural America is not devoid of same-sex relations and can have an immediate political consequence today with increased interest in traveling to Wyoming after the release of “Brokeback.”

On the plus side, non-whites aren’t completely absent in “Brokeback.” We see Mexicans working as ranch hands, and Jack gets the high social and jobs tending to a herd of sheep. Jack later gets into the farm machinery business. “Brokeback” challenges the wrong notion that the oppressor Euro-American nation has a proletarian working class. And at one point, Jack goes to Ciudad Juárez in Mexico to have sex with a Mexican male prostitute (played by cinematographer Rodrigo Prieto); although, the movie doesn’t go into that part of Jack’s life in any detail.

Peru

From last page...

Comintern-like thinking that we have to be involved in the concrete details of other struggles. 2) It gives the enemy a chance to probe our defenses and procedures. Then leaders must work overtime to compensate. At least in this case, we have an article now to try to set us straight.

As Luis Arce Borja pointed out, there are real Maoists in Peru spreading great agitation and theory as they carry out armed struggle. MIM has tried to develop ideologically along the lines of Luis Arce Borja’s article’s contents, most are plausible. We do not undertake a concrete investigation throughout Peru as would be necessary. For all we know, there are real Maoists in Peru spreading great agitation and theory as they carry out armed struggle. Politics, not what we don’t know about, is what we are fighting. What extent the media and self-interested political leaders misrepresent events. If we have omitted the activities of real Maoists in Peru in our reporting, we apologize and again, we mean no harm. We are not claiming to lead a Comintern reaching into Peru and excluding legitimizing Maoist comrades.

In the article above, Luis Arce Borja concludes that Gonzalo was in fact behind the peace letters. From MIM’s point of view, 250 journalists could claim to see Gonzalo in court, but most would not know what he looked like originally. Luis Arce Borja, on the other hand, does know what Gonzalo in court, but most would not view, 250 journalists could claim to see Gonzalo in fact behind the peace letters.

Thought guided the most successful revolutionary movement in Latin American history, prior to the arrest of Gonzalo. The CIA has won a great battle.

Nonetheless, MIM maintains that Gonzalo the man and Marxism-Leninism-Maoism-Gonzalo Thought now belong to the past. What extent the media and self-interested political leaders misrepresent events. If we have omitted the activities of real Maoists in Peru in our reporting, we apologize and again, we mean no harm. We are not claiming to lead a Comintern reaching into Peru and excluding legitimizing Maoist comrades.

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When all the masses are in prison, we should lead the party from inside the prison struggle. MIM has assessed that the white labor aristocracy betrayed the principal charge for the degeneration of Huey Newton, who was unparalled in his 1966 to 1970 activity. It’s not that the labor aristocracy betrayed Newton. We cannot raise to a question of principle how the reaction frees Fujimorista military officers by pointing to People’s War. We cannot raise to a question of principle how the reaction frees Fujimorista military officers by pointing to People’s War. We cannot raise to a question of principle how the reaction frees Fujimorista military officers by pointing to People’s War. We cannot raise to a question of principle how the reaction frees Fujimorista military officers by pointing to People’s War. We cannot raise to a question of principle how the reaction frees Fujimorista military officers by pointing to People’s War. We cannot raise to a question of principle how the reaction frees Fujimorista military officers by pointing to People’s War. We cannot raise to a question of principle how the reaction frees Fujimorista military officers by pointing to People’s War.

The rest of this review is available at www.mimnotes.info. For more Maoist Movie Reviews, go to www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/movies
Nepal’s absolute monarch plays election card and loses

By International Minister, February 8, 2006

The self-labeled god-king of Nepal, King Gyanendra, held sham local elections February 8. All accounts showed there was a negligible turnout for the election that attempted, but failed, to legitimize the king.(1) In October 2002, Gyanendra dismissed Nepal’s fake parliament. In 22 out of 54 cities, he could not find anyone willing to run in the local elections on February 8, according to BBC.(2)

Other municipalities that had king-approved candidates only.

No political party took part in Nepal’s February 8 elections. An analogous situation would be if the Queen of England with the backing of the British army dismissed Parliament and then held elections without the Labour Party, the Conservatives, the Liberal-Democrats, the British National Party, and three smaller parties.

According to BBC, Maoists killed two of the king’s lackeys running in these fake elections, and 600 candidates withdrew. One imperialist candidate referred to his profession as a business.

God-king Gyanendra has isolated himself with the help of Maoist tactics in Nepal. His move to dismiss parliament as corrupt hurt him with bourgeois Liberals. Then he dismissed his various parliamentary parties from his government and took complete control himself.

The straw that broke the camel’s back for this election’s legitimacy was the Maoist cease-fire that the imperialist press, such as BBC, reports held for four months. With the country engaged in a civil war, the increased fighting in the king’s territory, the whole world was agast that the self-labeled god-king chose to botch the peace negotiations.

At the end of the three month cease-fire, the political parties begged Gyanendra to respond. He did not. Instead, he went abroad. Then the Maoists extended the cease-fire one more month according to imperialist media. Even then the god-king did not respond. He clearly riches to see how far he can lead Nepal himself.

Contrary to the usual bourgeois Third World attitude toward elections, the king’s people said that no international observers to the elections are necessary.(2) For that matter the European Union condemned the election as a “backstab for democracy,” according to a bourgeois British paper.(3) Pointing out that there have been no elections in Nepal since 1999, the British imperialist media even described the Nepal situation as one of an “army-backed coup.”

The maneuvering

The key maneuver which has united election monitors, the European imperialists, and the Maoist parties is the Maoist’s move against the god-king in Nepal was the cease-fire by the Maoists. Through protracted People’s War, the Maoists put the people in position(5) such that the Bush administration included them in a short list of organizations deemed officially “terrorist” in the world — Marxism-Leninism-Maoism has at least the vague support of Nepal’s majority of people, and even though the imperialists themselves report that the Maoists are the government of many parts of Nepal. When the theocrat Gyanendra blew the peace negotiations, the public and even imperialist mouthpieces saw through him completely.

Now, there is no one except his true-religious believers. Now, there is no one who will defend the king against the Maoists, not even the opposition parties of the old parliament. Rather, the old parliamentary cretins are busy proving to the people that they, too, will organize against this “autocratic” Gyanendra. We saw a similar situation in the Russian Revolution, when the Liberals had to gain themselves some movement credentials against the tsar.

The geopolitical situation

Behind the current conflict between theocrat Gyanendra and Nepal’s people is some geopolitical reality. The two largest parliamentary parties of old Nepal are cronies of India and China outside Nepal. The Maoists have taken over the takeover the formerly Maoist demand for a republic, so as not to be tarred as pro-monarchist by the people of Nepal. Yet, without the support of pro-India (Congress Party) or pro-China parties (Communist Party (United Marxist-Leninist), abbrev. “UML”), the open situation of Gyanendra must be dire since he has only a die-hard band of religious fanatics on his side.

The situation is in fact so weak that we must still believe that some imperialists must be helping Gyanendra secretly without being willing to take the blame for his policies. On the surface, for now, even Bush-mouthpiece and government-funded “Voice of America” reported that more than half the election posts had no candidate in the election.(6) In fact, VOA said, “Nepal’s mainstream political parties have formed a loose alliance with the insurgents to push for the return of civil liberties and the holding of Constituent Assembly elections.”

Without India’s backing, it would seem that Gyanendra probably won’t have the backing of England or the United States either. Gyanendra’s is either totally irrational or has substantial and secret imperialist backing.

Prior to his coup, Nepal’s government alternated between pro-China and pro-India parties. Neither accomplished land reform despite the clamor of the public. However, we should not imagine that it is easy for the Anglo imperialists to convince India and China that they will have more influence in the future in Nepal when they had developed good ties with governing parties prior to the coup.

In the planning for a post-Gyanendra world, there is much concern about intervention by the Anglo imperialists, India, and China. Even in the case of the Maoist intervention by U.S.-British imperialists would be a great honor for Nepal’s people, a chance to stretch the imperialists thinner than they are now thanks to fighters in Iraq and Afghanistan. Perhaps all-out Chinese intervention with troops is the least likely. In the event that the Chinese do send troops to Nepal, they risk a permanent confusion of the situation with Tibet. Anti-theocratic and peace-loving forces of the United States must be helping Gyanendra secretly fanatics on his side.

So, peace negotiations also carry risk for Maoist revolutionaries. There is a question of how to steer through the pitfalls for the Maoist revolution.

Notes


Huh.
Massachusetts prisoners resisted Texas transfer

You have a web page that hasn’t been updated since 1999. The page in question is about the transfer of Massachusetts State Inmates to the Dallas County Jail. I was one of the prisoners that had a rifle pointed at my head while being moved; my feet almost never touching the ground from my housing unit to the visiting area because I was carried by two tact team members by the armpits. At the visiting area I was asked if the emergency contact information in my file was valid, as all other prisoners. We were loaded onto a prison van which we almost tipped over by rocking... We should have... We would have received a major beating for our actions, but would have been spared what was yet to come.

We found out very quickly that the intelligence level of the Dallas County Correctional Officers was less than normal, so we took advantage of that fact... The Van got fresh air for three years... I will give an accurate recount, if you want, of the transfer, housing conditions and how they (the co’s) pitted inmate against inmate to remove anger originally vented at them.

So what has been done about this... Weld doesn’t currently live in the US, and where is Ceullu? Both deserve worse than they are receiving. - A former Massachusetts prisoner, August 2005

Cell extraction leads to cruel and unusual punishment

As I am writing this protest these pigs have done too much. I have been locked in the “dungeon” or the “hole” aka ad-seg for 2005 years, with a brief exception during Boris Yeltsin’s declaration of a state of emergency. 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 while Reagan was talking about the “evil empire” he was declaring 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 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.

Facts on U$ imprisonment

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


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 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 book and magazine program. This helps the pigs. More 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. Here are 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 up prisoners in solitary or small group confinement for 22 or more hours a day with no congregation 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 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?
Brokeback illustrates need for a queer Aztlan approach to gay oppression in United States

“Brokeback Mountain”
Directed by Ang Lee
Focus Features, 2005
www.brokebackmountain.com/

Review by HC116
February 6, 2006

This is the first part of a longer review of Brokeback Mountain. To read the full review go to: www.mimnotes.info.

Regardless of how people have seen the movie as being either political or not, the modern “gay” cowboy Western romance “Brokeback Mountain” has been undeniable politically its impact. It is just true that gay and lesbian people can use for therapeutic or cathartic purposes (although, such therapy would still have a political aspect). “Brokeback Mountain,” which has grossed over $60 million at the box office in the United States as of February 5th (http://www.boxofficemojo.com/movies/?id=brokebackmountain.htm), has generated discussion of the state of homophobia in the United States, and comments on issues such as gay marriage equality. Responses to the movie have ranged from the homophobic and factually incorrect to the insightful and propping up the subjugation of the peoples of the Americas and oppressed nations throughout the world. In this respect, white gay identity differs little from heteropatriarchal identities and ideologies that operate in tandem with Euro-American settler imperialist ideologies, though white gay identity may diverge in significant ways from the prevailing patriarchal practices and ideologies in society.

Law professor Kenji Yoshino suggests in an Advocate article that “Brokeback” is the implicit notion that before the white man came to Amerika there was no tolerance of what we now call gay sex, or for that matter gender-bending even though transgenderism as distinct from being gay is completely marginalized in “Brokeback.” This contrasts with historical evidence showing that certain pre-Columbian indigenous nations in the Americas tolerated gay men and lesbians and even valued them in various ways and in particular roles, and some of this evidence is specific to nations located in Aztlan. Some contemporary First Nations in the Americas, including the land comprising Aztlan, still accept gay people (albeit within an overall patriarchal framework). It is pertinent to acknowledge these things because part of “Brokeback Mountain” is set in the rural American towns in the 1960s–80s is a prominent theme. The desire and then inability or reluctance to come out is a sign of the gendered oppression of gays, who due to their sexuality are subject to violence, rape (often by people taking advantage of gay people’s isolation and vulnerability, caused by homophobia and social structures), abuse, suicide, their exclusion from many places, spaces, and institutions, and restrictions in what they can do in their leisure time. These things confronting oppressed gay people represent power differences even if First World gays are privileged compared with Third World people. Lesbians and gay men of color are more often the targets of homophobia. However, the typical coming-out experience in Euro-Amerika and developing a distinct gay cultural identity — involving dating in public and particular patterns of commodity consumption and leisure-time activity — do not constitute the events that lead a gay person to be gay or a sexual identity or even a necessary one. And the cultural identity associated with coming out in the First World implies a white ethnicity despite on the surface appearing to be cross-cultural. The stifled universal gay identity “Brokeback” depicts is in actuality not universal but a white identity, that is, a move propping up the subjugation of the peoples of the Americas and oppressed nations throughout the world. In this respect, white gay identity differs little from heteropatriarchal identities and ideologies that operate in tandem with Euro-American settler imperialist ideologies, though white gay identity may diverge in significant ways from the prevailing patriarchal practices and ideologies in society.

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At a time when progressive ideas about gay rights are seen as spreading from big cities to rural towns, it is perhaps curious that the expansion of the American frontier has historically meant the intrusion of a ruthlessly violent homophobia into the Western territories. With its organized homophobes in the Americas were not today’s Christian conservatives attacking out and proud gay people for bigoted and demographics-related reasons, but Spanish colonizers punishing open homosexual behavior as a way of keeping indigenous peoples within the European culture.

Some of the relationships did develop into romance, Williams shows, and assuming that the cowboys would have himself. In this situation, cowboys patterned by default would be simplistic, but rural-themed “Brokeback Mountain” for most moviegoers will affirm a universal gay identity in a way that ignores the complicated history of homosexuality and homophobia in the Americas. The effect of Euro-American nation, and this oppression can be achieved only via the arrival, and within the confines, of European culture.

In addition to presenting a distorted view of history, “Brokeback” also does not show how same-sex relationships as a part of the global history of the Americas exist even under conditions of extreme exclusion in society, including in Third World cities that have not been Westernized. Consequently, the movie reinforces the idea that gay oppression can be ended only by passing through some painful stages in an imperialist society. “Brokeback,” implying that Amerika has made much progress in gay rights since the ’60s, is part of the discourse essentially saying that gay rights can be won only in the imperialist society of the First World, and only through the political and economic framework of that society.

Not only does “Brokeback Mountain” evoke a false memory of the history of gay people in the land occupied by the Euro-American nation and contribute to the tendency to see First World people as leading the way towards the struggle, it deals another blow to the oppressed by pitting gay people in the Euro-American nation against gay Mexicans and gay indigenous people. Although Ennis Del Mar (Heath Ledger) has more reservations than Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal) about living together, both long to do so. Jack proposes fancifully that they live on a ranch together in Texas and run a business. Jack talks offhandedly about settling down in Aztlan. The movie doesn’t explore the implications of this for Latinos, Mexicans, and indigenous nations. The Euro-American nation — the whole notion of Euro-Americans happily living ever after in the Americas is oppressive in the context of any place in the United States — but the

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