Amerika rattles sabre

MINUTEMEN'S SUICIDE MISSION AGAINST MIGRANTS

USA Today calculates tax base necessary

At a time when heartland Euro-American George Bush voters are fuming against migrants crossing U.S. borders, USA Today has brought forward an important part of the big picture. The “Baby Boom” generation has started retiring. Huge Social Security and Medicare bills are coming due. Who is going to pay these bills is the answer is not the migrants killed crossing the desert, not the migrants who die at sea, but the migrants the United States deports. The IRS, not the migrants the United States deports. The fact is the most rational bourgeois thing to do is to compete for workers and business people to move to the United States, become citizens, boost property values, expand the tax base and pay the tax bills.

USA Today put it this way without mentioning the migrant issue: “Taxpayers owe more than a half-million dollars per household for financial promises made by government, mostly to cover the cost of retirement benefits for baby boomers, a USA TODAY analysis shows. Federal, state and local governments are contributing just over half a billion dollars ($527,152,323) to candidates and parties involved in the 2006 race for Congress seats. Other sources of campaign contributions include environmentalists and unions, which have contributed considerably less than $200 million.”

Politically aware people and even many average Americans have the notion that special interests provide the campaign contributions to our two major bourgeois political parties. This perception is accurate. What most people do not know is that there is a huge, hulking and clumsy machine of political power that is carrying a civilian civilization instead of a warhead. But unnamed “South Korean officials” said “South Korea would be left with no option but to join sanctions on Pyonyang” should the north launch—at least according to an English-language “news” service with ties to south Korean spy agencies.

The clear message the American government wants to send—which American media have uncritically passed on without exception—is that north Korea has been continually provoked by the United States. As recently as 2002 the American government named north Korea as a “rogue state” and a target for preemptive war, simultaneously leaking plans to develop a new class of nuclear weapons, aimed in part at north Korean nuclear facilities. Less than a generation ago the United States by its own account bombed every north Korean city and town to the ground after it intervened in a Korean civil war and

Environmentalist ineptitude

Green’ rakes in the green, but can’t do much with it

“Money talks” unless an American environmentalist is spending it. Such is the unavoidable conclusion of looking at the money spent in politics of recent years. As of April 24, 2006, business has contributed just over half a billion dollars ($527,152,323) to candidates and parties involved in the 2006 race for Congress seats. Other sources of campaign contributions include environmentalists and unions, which have contributed considerably less than $200 million.(1)

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Round two to the career CIA bureaucrats

**KAPPES RETURNS TO CIA**

As MIM reported on May 7th on its web page, there is a heady intra-CIA struggle that has gone on under the Bu$h administration that is coloring much of the fake politics going on in the United States. The first victory of the career bureaucrats was the Pentagon’s arranging a symbolic victory for Ray McGovern in front of network news. The second victory is the outright return of a CIA official as deputy director—the number two position in the hierarchy. It goes to show the old saying in intelligence and mafia circles: there is no such thing as ex-CIA.

Stephen Kappes resigned from the CIA when Bu$h point-man Goss took over and exacerbated intra-intelligence infighting. Now Kappes is going to be number two at the CIA—a promotion. MIM said this on May 7th:

“Staging of the heckling incident would have one purpose—to salvage the reputation of career officers and agencies at the expense of officials that everyone knows are gone or about to leave in 2008 at the latest. Rumsfeld’s replies to McGovern stressed how Colin Powell spent weeks at CIA. The point is that Powell is gone from the administration. Soon Rumsfeld will be too. Then CIA can spend weeks at CIA. The point is that McGovern stressed how Colin Powell knows are gone or about to leave in 2008 on May 7th article presented the realistic struggle that has gone on under the Bu$h regime—abolished or gone by attrition, but MIM’s May 7th article presented the realistic truth. MIM’s critics on this score are avoiding the truth for a reason. There will be more rounds of intra-intelligence infighting. It’s important not to take U.S. politics on international questions too seriously as much of it revolves around security and intelligence factionalism. Those inside U.S. borders may be used to the facts, but readers globally should beware.

Notes:
2. http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1200772,00.html

Bush naming Porter Goss to head the CIA.

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MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement

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Pseudo-feminist attacks ‘Arabic countries’ over sexy clothing

June 7, 2006

A syndicated feature appearing in newspapers all over the U.S. has taken on the topic of sexual assaults and wimmin wearing sexy clothing. In last Sunday’s “Woman to Woman,” “left-leaning” Diane Glass argued that Islam, not sexy clothing, caused sexual assaults, and “right-leaning” Shaunti Feldhahn emphasized that wimmin should make good clothing choices in light of research that wimmin should feel free to wear less sexy or revealing clothing as a peaceful u.s. policy if not for Israel. No more subscribing to a “provocative” style, but this week’s “Woman to Woman” is more like a tag team against Iran and migrants. Nobody explicitly mentions Iran in this column, only “Arabic countries” and Muslim migrants in certain European countries, but in one newspaper, the column appeared on a page opposite an editorial supporting economic sanctions against Iran instead of war. Various reactionaries at this point are stirring up chauvinism against Iran without openly calling for war. People are drawing connections between the column and Iran, and the column itself is reactionary.

“Woman to Woman” claims to be an ongoing debate among female-biology adults in the United States who do not understand or support any ideas. Instead, they suggest changing how they respond to oppression. Men should be treated with the same clothing. But then Glass says that wimmin wearing sexy clothing. We’d suggest reading about U.$. imperialist unity or we are talking about the tail wagging the dog.

Obviously Petras does not understand his own argument. First of all, Petras’s numbers are just wrong. Petras is number one in receiving aid, but it is not getting three times more u.s. aid than the Third World combined. Egypt alone received $50 billion since 1979. Petras points to $100 billion received by Israel in the last 40 years. By Petras’s reasoning we would like to think that Egypt has the second highest lobby in the united States, an absurdity. The size of aid to Egypt proves that the United States is doing exactly what Chomsky said—trying to obtain influence in the Middle East, especially the Egyptian military.

Besides, in the Third World there are no other settler states, except South Africa, which also used to receive aid. Israel is not a settler state, it is a puppet state, with a lot of U.$ imperialist support. The column itself is reactionary. The debate over so-called provocative clothing is old. What is different about the debate in “Woman to Woman” is the fusion of pseudo-feminism and anti-Middle Eastern and anti-Muslim chauvinism. Diane Glass suggests that oppressed-nation people from South Africa to Paris are uniquely prone to being raped. She argues that rape has nothing to do with clothing. But then Glass says “many devout Muslim men think a woman without a headscarf is asking to be raped.” This is what passes for “left-leaning”—something out of an article that left behind chauvinism and declared the “colonization” of Europe by migrants. Glass implies hijab is a scheme by men to blame rape on wimmin. There is hardly any difference between what Glass says and oppressor-nation nationalists talking about migrants raping white wimmin and calling on their boyfriends and husbands to save them.

Glass mentions a report by Dagbladet on migrants and sexual assaults. (The same Norwegian newspaper later published anti-Muslim cartoons.) Others commenting on the same report openly say that it is with women attacking Norwegian wimmin, not Muslim men attacking Muslim wimmin. They use sexual assaults as an excuse to prop up borders and sexual oppression overall.

Glass points out there is no “natural drive for men to rape,” but united with her are Freudians who believe hijab is a sexual repression that causes rape. Glass mentions that the same clothing can be sexualized to different degrees, but Glass says not one word in opposition to the sexualization of clothing or the eroticization of differences between groups with different amounts of power, only objecting to the way Third World

Petras vs. Chomsky on the Israel lobby

Chomsky is correct this time

The usual suspect coalition of conspiracy theorists, the flabby Arab bourgeoisie, fascists and European social-democrats is again raising the question of the “Israel lobby” that supposedly dominates American foreign policy. Usually progressive James Petras has taken a shot at Chomsky on this question.[1] [2] [3]

In March of 2006, academics John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt—both firmly in the American imperialist camp—published “The Israel Lobby and US Policy.” Chomsky replied, arguing that Mearsheimer and Walt overstated the power of “the Lobby” and underestimated the “strategic-economic interests of concentrations of domestic power in the tight state-corporate linkage,” i.e. what we would call American imperialism. Petras’ rebuttal (1) consists of fourteen points. We address each of these points.

1. Petras mistakenly points out the size of U.$. aid to Israel as some kind of proof of the unequal importance of the Israel lobby, instead of U.$ imperialist interests. First of all, Petras’s numbers are just wrong. Israel is number one in receiving aid, but it is not getting three times more u.s. aid than the Third World combined. Egypt alone received $50 billion since 1979. Petras points to $100 billion received by Israel in the last 40 years. By Petras’s reasoning we would like to think that Egypt has the second highest lobby in the united States, an absurdity. The size of aid to Egypt proves that the United States is doing exactly what Chomsky said—trying to obtain influence in the Middle East, especially the Egyptian military.

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governments have added nearly $10 trillion to taxpayer liabilities in the past two years, bringing the total of government’s unfunded obligations to an unprecedented $57.8 trillion.

"That is the equivalent of a $510,678 credit card debt for every American household. Payments on this delinquent tax bill must start soon if financial promises to the elderly are to be kept."

The U.S. Government has of course collected all the statistics we need to know. Here is the situation in California:

"In 2000, less than half (46.7 percent) of the total population of California was non-Hispanic White, and almost one-third (32.4 percent) was Hispanic. In contrast, among people aged 65 and over in California, the majority (70.0 percent) were non-Hispanic White, and 13.1 percent were Hispanic."

Understand that whiteny: 70% of seniors are whiteys in California, but only a minority of working-age people are whiteys. This is because they were too stupid to build solar panels instead of a worldwide prison system for the CIA.

The United States has made some of the smallest Medicare and Social Security promises to grandma in the industrialized world out of fear of "socialism" and "big government." Instead, these crackers pose at the border in their ethnic uniforms (translation: looking like sheriffs) and they think that guarding borders actually makes people better off. The Euro-American heartland prefers the "big government" of guarding the border to hiring people to take care of granny. That is petty and stupid. Listen up crackers: the 6000 jobs Bush just promised you to guard the border are hand-outs to make you feel better. Complain enough and the country club Republicans hand out a smaller version of the swag they enjoy themselves while playing golf. Those jobs do not make anyone better off, but that’s all you’ll get from complaining to the leaders of this system.

In the year 2010, when the 39 year-olds of now start looking toward retirement, whites will still be 72% of the over 65 age group inside u.s. borders. So what MIM has just explained is that for the next generation, whites will be on the collective dole.

The best explanation for why all the super-irrational hype against creating more legal citizens is land. Amerikkkans never came to grips with their settler thirst for land and genocide against the indigenous peoples. Now even though there is no rational reason economically, Amerikkkans cling to their land and try to keep Third World people off it. This mentality combined with the retrograde mentality of prison guards, military contractors and oil companies sees the world as one where war is necessary to maintain the past. They don’t care if grandmas are made prison victims as long as they are on a suicide mission on this planet.

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Ohio offers alternative to assimilationist criticisms of English-only proposals

Bourgeois internationalism

May 31, 2006

On CNN’s “Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer” May 28, Jimmy Carter opposed the part of the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act, passed by the Senate last week, that would make English the “national language” of the United States. Carter said the United States was “kind of a melting pot for languages around the world,” the English-only provision wasn’t needed, and that it could “turn one part of America against another.” Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa also said the “national language” amendment was “unnecessary.”

We already know [English is] the language of commerce and success.” It turns out there was a better argument in Ohio, but first we will describe the usual debate within oppressor norms.

Villaraigosa, slightly differing from Carter in what he chose to emphasize, pointed out that if the Senate had voted to allocate money so people can learn English, “I can tell you that, here in Los Angeles, there are lines, thousands of people waiting to learn English in our adult schools.” Villaraigosa also suggested that the amendment could lead to Los Angeles not being able to “communicate with people for badly needed services.” Villaraigosa was responding to Wolf Blitzer’s question, “Practically speaking, what does that mean for Los Angeles, in terms of providing services, information, in Spanish?”

English-only proposals are currently motivated by two things. One is an effort to assimilate migrants already in the United States. Another is a desire to whip up support for deporting migrants and increased immigration restrictions. These motivations sometimes intersect. What is also important to understand is that some criticisms of English-only proposals are themselves assimilationist in nature. Carter and Villaraigosa’s answers illustrate this. Advocates of the “melting pot” want to deny oppressed nations within U.S. borders self-determination and want to control other oppressed nationalities, and migrants. There is another assimilationist tendency that says differences should be tolerated because in the long run migrants will learn English and assimilate; according to this view, English-only policies control premature or counterproductive. Some assimilatists oppose making English the official or exclusive language, fearing it will create division and even backfire, making English more difficult for non-English-speaking migrants to learn. Some critics of English-only proposals are quick to say that migrants already want to learn English, making English-only legislation and measures unnecessary. These critics include the kiss-ass politicians on TV trying to convince Euro-Americans that migrants are good candidates to be Amerikan citizens.

The usual critiques of English-only proposals, and they have existed for decades. Carter and Villaraigosa’s ideas were nothing new. As if to confirm what this writer said about common objections to English-only policies ( “Senate votes to make English ‘national language’ of the United States,” this issue), these ideas were raised on TV in front of the entire country within the space of a few minutes. Significantly, while opposing the English-only amendment (one of two English-only amendments that were passed by the Senate), Carter and Villaraigosa described their reasons for opposing the repression of migrants. Carter supporting “the approach that has been put forward and they’re currently being considered, the bill in the Senate as supporting, the way I understand it, by President Bush . . . very compatible with the way we’ve gone.” Villaraigosa supporting “the overall this broad immigration reform, comprehensive immigration reform,” both referring to the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006. The Act would, among many other things, continue the repression of millions of temporary and recent migrants, increase border repression, expand the triple border fence, build more detention facilities, increase electronic surveillance of migrants, and make it easier to quickly deport undocumented migrants who are caught by border patrol agents and other officers.

English-only proposals are extremely reactionary. At the same time, there are different ways to respond to them. Now is the time to be raising assimilationist ideas that go hand in hand with the anti-migrant movement. If people are compelled to persuade the bourgeoisie to oppose English-only policies in terms and language familiar to it, they should instead discuss how English-only policies may encourage unwanted protectionism. It is more useful to get the bourgeoise and political elites to stick to their internationalist pretensions than pander to the chauvinism and nationalism of the labor aristocracy, and other white nationalists bent on repressing and controlling migrants.

Last week, the Ohio House of Representatives rejected proposed legislation “to require the use of the English language by requiring expenditures on materials in non-English languages to be described in detail beforehand in a way ‘appropriate to the public body, state agency, or political subdivision.’” Critics of English-only legislation in Ohio cite division and lack of English education, but also concerns about investment.

Opponents of the bill raised the usual assimilationist objections about English-only policies creating division and not doing enough to teach people English in the first place. Columnist Mary McCarty in the / Dayton Daily News / wrote: “Government information in English-only could prove problematic: no one speaks English for important forms of business, such as filing taxes or registering cars.”

“In the meantime, for those Spanish-speaking immigrants too busy picking our fruit, cleaning our hotel rooms or mowing our lawns to find time for English classes, state government will put up a sign that says: No habla English the “national language” of the immigrants. There is already a migratory movement does not require perpetuating national struggle and discourage national liberation. There is already a wedge between diverse Ohio nationalities, and migrants are good candidates to be Amerikan protectionism. Ohio could conceivably make an exception for Japanese and the languages of the European countries that invest in Ohio, but that would make the English-only policies even more obviously discriminatory.

If protectionist anti-migrant advocates find English-only proposals inconvenient because struggles over them end up reinforcing foreign investment, they may just drop the issue. The anti-migrant movement will continue to exist. Right now, debates over English-only policies, even criticisms of these policies, mainly serve to raise assimilationist ideas while whipping up support for the overall anti-migrant movement.

Notes:
4. Jim Siegel, “Raising their voices across the U.S.; Let’s speak English in Ohio, legislator says; Bill would make it the state’s official language,” Columbus Dispatch, 11 April 2006, p. 01A
5. Jim Siegel, “House tables language bill,” Columbus Dispatch, 27 May 2006, l o u m b u s d i s p a t c h . c o n w e s t . p h p?story=dispatch/2006/05/27/20060527-A1-01.html
6. “Worried about how it might affect the state’s efforts to lure a Japanese-owned automobile plant to Ohio, the Ohio House of Representatives on Thursday passed legislation to make English the official state language.”

“Though the measure was designed mainly to encourage Latino immigrants to learn English, state officials don’t want to give Honda any reason to choose Indiana over Ohio for its new plant.”
Senate votes to make English ‘national language’ of the United States

May 22, 2006

“The policy of assimilation is absolutely excluded from the arsenal of Marxism-Leninism, as being an anti-popular and counter-revolutionary policy, a fatal policy.”


The Senate on May 18 voted overwhelmingly to make English the “national language” of the United States. “National language” was intended to be a euphemism for “official language.” Several Demokratkrs were among those who voted for the amendment, and Demokrats voted for another amendment to make English the “common and unifying language” of the United States. Both of these amendments to the Constitution, the Interpretation, and the Immigration Act of 2006 passed. Although both amendments are seen by some as mostly symbolic, the amendment declaring English as the “national language” says nobody has the right to have the U.S. Government communicate or provide services in any non-English language. This creates an opening for documents, forms, and services to be provided in English only.

Both amendments are supposed to be assimilationist. This is clear from the amendment texts and statements of purpose. Actually, the amendments are also motivated by America’s desire to hold onto resources stolen from the Third World while denying them to Third World migrants, and strengthen the climate for intensified anti-migrant repression. What is less clear is that some common objections to so-called English Only proposals, which economically subordinating undocumented and temporary migrants already in the United States. Imperialist privileges will be conferred and have a bourgeoisifying effect on migrants who do become citizens after meeting preordained or stricter English requirements for citizenship.

Many Asians and Latinos are angered by the official language / “national language” amendment. The more people try to say it is just symbolic, the more it comes off as merely an insult, racist, and reactionary. The amendments fuel a struggle that is needed. At the same time, the amendments that are oppressed-nation people with more oppressor power. If even assimilationists oppose English-only proposals, we should consider the debate more carefully. The media is describing the amendment introduced by Jim Inhofe, in particular, as “historic.” The amendment, like similar legislation passed by the Congress, creates an opening for documents, forms, and services to be provided in English only.

One argument is that English-only proposals really worked to undermine assimilation and “Americanization,” and intensified the national struggle within U.S. borders against the oppressor Euro-American nation, we might actually welcome the proposals while pointing out that the people and forces raising these proposals are reactionary. Euro-American nationalists are using this framing to shore up the representation of migrants. Both sides in all of these debates, the so-called immigration reform debate and the English Only debate, support some level of increased repression and/or assimilation. Debates over the English-only amendments should not be a smokescreen obscuring this fact. The settler Euro-American so-called working class overwhelmingly supports the anti-immigrant and anti-oppressed nation English-only movement. Even pro-imperialist multiculturalism is an opening for assimilation.

Maximalist policies arise from the same movement leaning white nationalists) is part and parcel of assimilation. English-only policies arise from the same movement to repress and control migrants and exposure the assimilationist intentions of those who support “a path to citizenship” or even “amnesty,” but not open borders.


Pseudo-feminist attacks ‘Arabic countries’ over sexy clothing

From 3... people sexualize clothing. Glass seems oblivious to the advertising and media sexualization of clothing even though she defends a womyn’s “choice” to wear “low-cut blouses.” Glass may defend wearing low-cut blouses, but not the sexualization of them, but “choosing” to wear low-cut blouses and the sexualization of womyn’s clothing both come from patriarchy. Separating these two things is just something the gender aristocracy does in aspiring to patriarchal power. Without opposing the sexualization of clothing under patriarchy, men also want to control how their own clothing is sexualized. The gender aristocracy tries to adopt oppressor power strategies.

Glass in this one commentary shares some of the same assumptions as her Freudian allies, or why else does she neglect to point out that Muslim men also lower their gaze? Glass presents no social analysis of rape. Glass pays lip service to not treating womyn as property, but she says nothing about the treatment of children as property despite children being victims of sexual assaults. Glass opposes only a part of rape and does so to whip up support for chauvinism against the Third World and support for imperialist borders that result in sex slavery.

Shaunti Feldhahn doesn’t mention Arabs or Muslims at all, choosing only to give womyn readers clothing advice. It almost makes Feldhahn look progressive compared with Glass’ chauvinist rant, but conservative Feldhahn serves only to drive liberals to Glass’ side and reinforce the “left” appearance of Glass’ reactionary ideas. In addition, Feldhahn assists Glass by drawing an artificial distinction between “cute” and “sexy” and suggesting it would be okay if womyn and girls dressed cute as long as men didn’t think of that as a sexual invitation. What Feldhahn fails to understand is that cute and powerless, and sexiness on its own, are sexy to Euro-Americans. Thus, Euro-Americans fantasize about having sex with womyn who wear the hijab and seek to displace competition by attacking Muslim men as rapists.

Notes:
Environmentalist ineptitude

‘Green’ rakes in the green, but can’t do much with it

From... 

government managed in the record year of 2004. In 1992, total contributions to presidential candidates for their campaigns were a mere $331.1 million,(3) which means environmentalists coughed up almost 10 times that amount that year. Now, the question arises, why environmentalism is not in charge of U.S. politics. Each year, the environmentalists spend huge sums of money; yet it does not add up to political power and influence. For example, the national headquarters of the Sierra Club had a budget of $84 million in 2002.(4) The Democratic and Republican Parties received a total of $1.15 billion in two years, 2001-2002 for their races for the imperialist government.(5) In other words, just the budget from Sierra Club headquarters is sufficient, that if there were 10 of the equivalent of the Sierra Club (and there are), they would have raked in $840 million in 2002, while the Democrats and Republicans would have had to split $1.15 billion between themselves for two years. In other words, 10 Sierra Clubs would have a sizable edge over the combined bourgeois parties in any given year.

The reason that environmentalism does not rule is that often the money does not go into what environmentalists consider “politics” or it does, but the movement uses it ineffectively. For example, if someone pays to put a piece of forest land into a trust, this does and does not have political impact. Yet, when all is said and done, the United States spends vast money on environmentalism, but it is the sole country holding up the Kyoto Treaty on global warming.

“The environment is not at the local level, but the lack of focused approach. The lack of environmental impact of local, but the lack of focus also results in cross-cancellation of work.” Cape Cod, Massachusetts has a proposal for a windmill farm of 130 turbines to generate 75% of the region’s electricity, but opponents said it would damage the ocean view’s natural beauty. Liberal Senator Ted Kennedy agreed. (12)

Such views have good standing in the environmentalist movement. The Sierra Club includes the following quote from John Muir on its web page: “We need to form a movement as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike.”(13)

Kennedy actually argued the windmills would hurt tourism in the Nantucket Sound.

The Cape Cod windmill farm unavoidably brings up dialectics. It has to do with how people see the world as connected together. Some argue that preserving beauty is a contribution to the environment and paramont. Others will argue dialectically that failure to put up the Cape Cod windmill farm would mean more destruction of beauty in the long run as other sources of energy and wars come to the fore. The bottom line is that one must have an accurate view of how the world works, an argument about interconnected causations. There is no escaping such arguments, but environmentalists often argue about local politics and struggle, because of their petty-bourgeois social background which causes a prejudice against politics as being either proletarian or capitalist, while the petty-bourgeoisie manages to float above politics.

On his side of the argument, Senator Kennedy is able to point out the profits of the private developer who will benefit from the windmill farm. For MIM, this again is proof that we need to eradicate capitalism, so that such decisions can be made without concern over ulterior motives. We need a scientific argument over what will do the best for the environment given humyn aspirations, not an argument over whose pockets will be lined.

Another factor in the ineffectiveness of the environmentalist movement is the individualist approach. Countless hours, weeks and people-years go into recycling. Yet the focus of recycling is to blame the individual’s consumption habits instead of the organization of production in a profit-run society.

Few people realize how much environmental time is wasted to sort out goods that end up in the dump anyway. A paper business enthusiast’s website explained the problem this way:

“It seems logical that paper made from waste paper would cost less than paper made from trees.

“The manufacturing process to make recycled paper uses less energy, water, and oil, in addition to saving trees. Why then, does recycled paper sometimes cost more than virgin paper?

“The answer has to do with economies of scale and mill design. Most modern paper mills in North America are heirs to billions of dollars of industry investment in using trees and are designed to make high quality, low cost virgin paper.”(14)

When it comes to the politics of recycling, environmentalists often do not have the dialectical know-how (seriousness about politics) to compare apples with apples and are happy to let financial assumptions stand unchallenged except in the most unconvinving way. For example, Senator Kennedy and his backers challenge the beauty of Cape Cod windmills in an absolutist way. In that sense, pseudo-environmentalists are willing to forego finances, but when it comes to looking at how virgin paper costs are computed, environmentalists are apt to leave finance capital’s assumptions unchallenged.

The typical paper business does not have to pay for the blood spilled in Iraq as a cost of manufacturing virgin paper instead of recycled paper. Yet, environmentalists already do know that producing recycled paper should use less energy. Capitalists will never assess such interconnections accurately, because they only assess the financial variables handed to them. With the Iraq War boondoggle, environmentalists should be leaping into politics and hammering the bean-counters opposing alternative energy sources.

Instead, environmentalists do not even unite against letting oil and arms contractors bribe the federal government for the war in Iraq. In actual fact, borrowing money and paying interest on a paper plant is how the capitalist sees a certain problem. Anything that disrupts the running of that plant decreases the efficient use of capital.

Yet it is Marx that taught us that capital is just accumulated (dead) labor and a social relationship. What the capitalists are concerned about in their bottom line is just the accumulated dead labor, so we have to talk about that for comparison purposes.

While the world is going to war over oil and using polluting forms of energy it also has a massive unemployment problem. That means that the actual and rational cost of using capital is zero or negative. Wasting some capital now may bear dividends in the future, in learning new environmental solutions to old economic problems. Wasting capital now for the proper goal (and not in a war and just recycling products for example) can improve the surplus-delivering capacity of future economies.

Strictly speaking, not using capital today to solve environmental problems could result in problems in the future of a full-employment world. That is true, even if that future full-employment world is capitalist again thanks to capitalist-roaders of the future following the footsteps of Deng Xiaoping and the like. An excellent example is the criticism in Germany of windmill plants, because they necessitate the building of new power lines to reach the windmills. The BBC wrote a whole article on this topic(15) and it’s a great example of how imperialism is in its decadent stages. People are dying daily in Iraq, but some Germans and British journalists have doubts that Germany needs to take some unemployed people and build some more powerlines to reach sustainable energy sources.

Right now the paper executive sees that he has to pay interest on capital to build
invaded north Korea. An estimated three million north Koreans died in the war, along with one million south Koreans, one million Chinese, and 50,000 Americans. (Before the United States landed massive reinforcements in Pusan to rescue its collapsing puppet regime total deaths from the fighting may have been less than 200,000.) The United States remains officially at war with north Korea; 20,000 U.S. troops remain on Korean soil and regularly train for war with north Korea. Until the early 1990s the United States had tactical nuclear weapons stationed in south Korea. Of course even if these have been removed the Americans still have submarine-based and intercontinental missiles aimed at north Korea.(5)

Not only would north Korea be in its rights to develop rocket technology that might, after all, have primarily civilian uses, but it would be entirely reasonable to develop technology to defend itself from a very real threat. Furthermore, far from spurning negotiations, north Korea has welcomed them. In fact, the United States has reneged on agreements it made with north Korea in 1994. North Korea agreed to shut down its graphite nuclear reactors—which the United States argued could be used to develop fuel for nuclear weapons, but which were probably primarily built to supply electricity—in return for U.S.-built light water reactors, food and oil supplies, and renewed diplomatic relations, including a formal statement of non-aggression from the United States. The U.S. has reneged on all of its commitments, yet feigned shock when north Korea restarted its reactors in December 2002 and asserted its right to develop nuclear weapons as a defensive measure—after waiting eight years in vain for the United States to take measures it promised to complete within three months of signing the 1994 agreement.(6)

“Who’s threatening whom?”

This incident concretely illustrates some reasons why the U.S. imperialists are the biggest threat to world peace.

1. How can we trust the information their spy agencies leak? Assuming the photos of the north Korean launch site are not fabricated or doctored, is there other information they are not leaking? Supposedly neutral bodies like the United Nations or the International Atomic Energy Association have been duped by such one-sided, cherry-picked data before (or perhaps were themselves complicit in attempts to spread false information). Yet, when U.S. spy agencies said the launch was a failure, their link to weapons manufacturers—make sense when U.S. defense contractors lose business and increase the likelihood of war.

2. The defense industry is a big player in American economics and politics—and other industries not entirely engaged in defense production depend on the American military to protect their markets and sources of cheap raw materials abroad (e.g. oil). It is in weapons manufacturers’ interest to provoke war in order to sell their products. They sell the U.S. military the spy planes that regularly fly over north Korea (9), and then when north Korea rightfully complains that the United States is violating its national sovereignty, they can fabricate or exaggerate the risk of violence to sell more missile components and bombs.

Hey all those who scoff at communism: you want capitalism, you gotta take the bad with the good. Don’t complain to us when the United States goes stirring up trouble where it’s not wanted—or when north Korea sells its missile technology on the open market to the highest bidder (and this after having given the United States the first chance to buy them out).

“Picking up a stone to drop it on their feet”

One advantage to U.S. intransigence vis-à-vis north Korea is that it might hasten closer economic and political ties between north and south Korea on nationalist grounds and remove Korea from the U.S. sphere of influence. MIM has reported before that opening a railway from south to north creates the opportunity for Korea to sell more goods to China, Russia and Europe instead of the United States.

Not all of the American imperialists like the current government’s policy towards north Korea. Diplomats with ties to the former Clinton administration seem more willing to negotiate with the north—even as they rattle sabers in the press. A few argue that giving the north political recognition, assurances of non-aggression, and economic aid will ensure that Korea remains in the American camp—the better to keep Russia, China and Japan in line. Indeed, former south Korean president Kim Dae Jung—the first south Korean president to travel to the north for diplomatic meetings and no fan of President Bush—has argued that U.S. troops have a place in a unified Korea “to ensure regional security” as the euphemism goes. Kim has also said that leaders in the north have told him they would not object to a U.S. military presence in Korea in the context of “engagement rather than confrontation.”(10)

Those who want a re-unified Korea to remain as a semi-colony or “junior partner” in the American sphere of influence have underestimated the divisions in the American camp and the internal forces that drive the imperialists to war. Koreans who want a peaceful, independent, reunified Korea should demand leaders who will not accept imperialist meddling as the price for reunification. It’s a long shot for reunification, cannot achieve independence except in name, and does nothing to eliminate the risk of war. If reunification as a U.S. protectract decreases immediate tension between Korea and the United States, it will increase tension between the Unites States and China—and Koreans could find themselves dragged into another war not of their own making.

Americans can do their part for peaceful Korean reunification and peace around the world by exposing U.S. warmongering propaganda, exposing America’s current and former acts of aggression against Korea and other oppressed nations, and by building sympathy for those oppressed nations that do stand up to American aggression. Ultimately the overthrow of American imperialism is the only guarantee of long-lasting global peace.

As of press time—four days after American spy agencies said the launch would occur within 48 hours—there is no evidence that north Korea has launched any long-range missiles.

Notes:
3. Chosun Ilbo, 19 Jun 06.
9. Cumings, p. 84.
significant than the Jewish one in the united States; yet, the billions flow there every year since 1979. Again, the high degree of stability of support in Congress is a sign of united imperialist interest—not a sign of the effectiveness of the Egyptian lobby that it gets so much done with so few votes in New York and Florida.

8. Regarding the neo-cons, yes they have histories with Israel as Petras says. Yet pointing to the neo-cons actually undermines Petras’s thesis. Petras unconsciously implies that it was only Bush Jr.’s election in 2000 that brought the Israel lobby to power with the neo-cons.

The neo-cons or ZionCons are more an example of U.S. influence flowing into Israel, not the other way around. Israel’s voting electorate was more to the left-wing of imperialism when Israel initially formed. People such as Likud Party’s Netanyahu are the perfect examples of American politics penetrating Israel. Such penetration was more to the left-wing than vice-versa. While Israel’s electorate is very small in the united States, ex-Americans or dual citizens are a huge proportion of Israel. In fact, once we exclude Israel and Arabs, the fact remains that to this day more Jews live in the united States than in Israel—over 6 million in the united States. According to Wikipedia, 22% of Israeli Jews are still first-generation Jews from Europe or America. Most Jews in Israel are still either second or third generation. Thus it is no exaggeration in any sense to think of American Jews as half the influence in Israel, but it would be far-fetched to think vice-versa.

9. Petras claims Chomsky needs to criticize progressive Jews for supporting the Iraq War. Here Petras is really off-base. He needs to read MIM Notes more often. In fact, Jews in the united States who supported the Iraq War LESS than American whites on average. That is what our European social-democrat influenced intellectuals do not understand.

The average American white is more gungho ultra-militarist imperialism than the average Jew in the united States. These Jews are in fact a better influence on Israel than the average American white! American whites want to go kill Arabs just like other oppressed nations. We can also prove this using Petras’s own standards regarding neo-cons. Jews did not vote for Bush! Whites on average did.(3)

People who think Christians are going to see the light do not understand American politics. Before the land invasion of Iraq only 60% of Jews thought it was a good idea—on the low side for invasion of Iraq only 60% of Jews thought they would not vote for Bush! Whites on average standards regarding neo-cons. Jews did also prove this using Petras’s own standards. Jews also support for the Iraq War. Here Petras is really off-base. In Israel, but it would be far-fetched to think vice-versa. Amnerikans or dual citizens are a huge lobby to power with the neo-cons.

10. Harvard and other major research universities are not open to any criticism of Israel even very mild ones. MIM comrades suffered multiple physical attacks by Zionists at universities in the 80s. We’re sure Chomsky did not support forcing resignation of anyone with a slightly heretical view on Israel that managed to squeegee into an academy somewhere.

11. Here Petras again voices a very disturbing trend of recent politics in the left-wing of U.S. imperialism. The CIA does not believe it is an accident that intra-intelligence squabbles are now so much a feature of the left-wing of imperialism. Petra facebook/you tube prophecy is divisive among Christians. Pat Robertson and company, the so-called real bible-thumpers unlike European Christians. Pat Robertson and company are pro-Israeli and support the Iraq War out of their hatred for Arabs and demonstrations U.S. power. The united States is not yet losing any oil business because of Israel. Quite the contrary, without the improper use of force against Arab governments, others may have moved in on the business as easily as after World War II.

Arguing that the costs outweigh the benefits in terms of oil business is social-democratic or Khruschevite nonsense on imperialism. 1) U.S. imperialism wins business through the use of force, not diplomatic votes at the UN. 2) Cost to what class is important, not overall total cost devoid of the class logic of the situation. By arming both Israel and Egypt, U.S. imperialism achieves higher profits for arms contractors.

In response to these polemics, Chomsky was so last year that he would not have imagined. While there, Chomsky also said Iran would be crazy not to be building nuclear weapons. But with the Iraqi war, Chomsky had to change his tune. Those who think the intra-intelligence squabbles with CIA versus neo-cons are so important are now demonstrating against Iran’s nuclear energy program and serving as the tail on the American dog in covert operations now underway in Iran. It’s important to understand that Chomsky’s Arab bourgeois views are partly to blame for this.

By fantasizing the importance of the Israel lobby in the united States, the revolutionaries and would-be Arab national bourgeoisie decide it can let U.S. imperialism off the hook because it can let Iran go. But Iran’s energy plans are now demonstrating against Iran’s nuclear energy program and serving as the tail on the American dog in covert operations now underway in Iran. It’s important to understand that Chomsky’s Arab bourgeois views are partly to blame for this.

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12. There is no foreign policy issue—not even Cuba—where the military institution gets its way all the time against the civilians in power in the u.$ government. In all the major powers, “considerations of state” have often taken precedence over narrow military events. Talking otherwise and only in connection to Israel is both naive and dangerous.

13. No one has done more to expose media blindness on Israel than Chomsky. Jews pull above their weight in U.S. journalism and academia.

14. Petras’s last point in his polemic against Chomsky is again intra-imperialist, not anti-imperialist: “A more comprehensive analysis of U.S. interests demonstrates that the costs of U.S. involvement are not out of proportion to the occasional benefit, whether we consider advantages to U.S. imperial goals or even more so from the vantage point of a democratic foreign policy. With regard to the costly and destructive wars against Iraq, following Israel’s lead and its lobbies, the pro-Israel policy has severely undermined U.S. military capacity to defend the empire.”

15. Chomsky is on the right track, whereas Petra’s last point in his polemic against Chomsky is again intra-imperialist, not anti-imperialist: “A more comprehensive analysis of U.S. interests demonstrates that the costs of U.S. involvement are not out of proportion to the occasional benefit, whether we consider advantages to U.S. imperial goals or even more so from the vantage point of a democratic foreign policy. With regard to the costly and destructive wars against Iraq, following Israel’s lead and its lobbies, the pro-Israel policy has severely undermined U.S. military capacity to defend the empire.”

Petras vs. Chomsky on the Israel lobby

From...
Under Lock & Key
News from Prisons & Prisoners

Support revolutionary lit for prisoners
I am an inmate at High Desert State Prison. I came across one of your news letters (#328) and I enjoyed reading the newsletter. It had some very good information that I used on a complaint on CDC. I would like to subscribe to MIM but I am an indigent inmate.

- a California prisoner, May 2006

MIM responds: This prisoner is just one of thousands who read MIM Notes but do not have any money to pay for a subscription. We rely on money from our members and supporters to pay for our Free Books to Prisoners program which provides MIM Notes and other revolutionary literature to those held in America’s prisons. Send money if you want to help this important program!

Repression breeds resistance
I’ve read your letters concerning censorship of MIM Notes at CSATF. Your letters are well written, and as usual CDC plays on safety and security, and on public fear to manipulate events, conditions, etc. Nothing but b.s. I believe that you will successfully litigate this case. A case ruling in favor of CDC in this matter will only prove once again governmental conspiracy against the masses.

As much as I hate to say this, I believe that the present prison population here wouldn’t take physical action if the MIM Notes were allowed. I’ve been in prison nearly 18 years and have seen the prison population become submissive, commonplace, compliant, etc. Many have their priorities twisted or are plain selfishly parasitic.

If prisoners revolt from within the prison system, it will not be due to any publication, it will be the result of the government’s oppressive, repressive rules, laws and practices. A person needs not to know how to read to revolt against oppression.

By no means get me wrong, MIM Notes is not only informative but it is news from the people to the people, it educates.

- a California prisoner (and jailhouse lawyer), May 2006

MIM responds: We agree that it is conditions that will inspire the masses to fight back. We are under no illusions that MIM Notes will be the vehicle for revolution or even revolt within the prisons. But it is an important tool for agitation and education. This means that we need comrades, both in the prisons and on the outside, using the newspaper to educate and organize people. With this organizing work will effectively we bring together those who oppose a common enemy in the criminal injustice system, and the larger system of imperialism. And we will also educate those who do not yet see the system for what it is.

Work with MIM,
Better late than never
I would like to start this scribe with an extension of my deepest apologies first and foremost, for not reaching out sooner and becoming active. In order to make people aware of our social and political problems and the conditions that we are subjected to live under as Third World people. I am a true and loyal representative of the everlasting struggle who also happens to be confined to the system of modern day slavery. I find myself, along with a few hundred others, in a gang unit, called STGMU and the conditions only get worse. Allow me to start off by saying that we are on a strict 23 1/2 hour lock down, 7 days a week. Only, if that is allowed to go out to a “dog cage” every 3 days to partake in some fresh air and exercise. Proper clothing for the weather is not issued and we aren’t even provided with brooms, mops or cleaning supplies for us to clean our cells. Imagine the bacteria that we are exposed to. Breathing it day in and day out is harmful to the body.

While conditions vary from prison to prison, the goal of these units is always to achieve the spiritual, psychological and physical breakdown of the prisoner. Thanks to a fellow comrade, I’ve realized that my time has been wasted long enough and now I must get politicized and organize in order to be able to relieve the misery around me. For I’ve seen it with my own eyes, education is not a priority and very seldom provided at all. Therefore, I encourage my brothers and sisters worldwide, as well as those that are in the struggle against the ITAL imperialist oppressor END to open our eyes as well as the eyes of those that are blind and lead them out of darkness and into the light, so that they can in turn be awakened to the reality that revolves around us.

Many of us do not get canteen because the financial assistance that our loved ones provide never reach its destination. The letters are being misdirected or returned to sender. And in turn we experience many hungry nights. Even when the kitchen workers are willing to give us a little extra food instead of throwing it in the trash, the pigs do not give it to us because they claim it is not part of their job requirements. And yet, they get paid up to $100,000 a year to run their own justice system within the prison, which is also not part of their job requirement. (This is the epitome of the parasitic oppressor nation that is america, getting paid 100 times the median income in the world while producing nothing for society. By eliminating imperialism we can eliminate the need for prison guards and all mercenaries of the state including prison guards and all mercenaries of the state as well as the various financial and governmental bureaucrats that are junior partners in the oppression and exploitation of the semi-colonial nations.)

The abuse must stop! ... How long are we going to allow them to use the oldest trick known to mankind, divide and conquer! We must realize that we are playing right into the hands by killing each other instead of uniting. Let our strikes indeed be against the true enemy, the imperialist oppressor.

I’m feeling the concept of the United Front that you speak about in MIM Notes. Finding unity with other organizations in action towards one common goal, while each group keeps its independence in terms of ideology and what it stands for in general.

- A NJ prisoner, December 2005

Fight the system, not each other
I’m currently being held prisoner by the police state of California, at New Folsom. I started this current term of incarceration with 3 years for being a “felon” in possession of ammo. I quickly turned that into 8 years and 8 months for defending myself from 2 separate attacks by my oppressors. As we all know there is only one for "first" and one for "second" for “them.” When they put their hands on us, it’s them “just doing their job.” On the other hand, when we defend ourselves, it’s assault.

Recently at this institution a prisoner took a “correctional office” hostage. He held her hostage for 12 hours. The situation ended after the government gave in to his demands he wanted a transfer.

I applaud his tactics. While we are now on lock down as a result of his actions, he did not harm any fellow prisoners. Others would argue that he should have started a fight with someone on the yard. But instead of targeting another person in the same boat as him, he targeted the government. All too often we take out our frustrations on each other, rather than on the causes of our frustrations.

- A California prisoner, May 2006

MIM responds: We agree that prisoners should not target each other to fight their oppressive conditions. But we also encourage prisoners to be careful in how they engage with the oppressors. It is difficult to fight winnable battles behind bars. This is a good example of how the system is set up to make choices impossible: a prisoner wanting a transfer (possibly for his safety or that of his family) can only get one by starting a fight or by taking a guard hostage. And both options could lead to a longer prison sentence as well as potential physical harm to this prisoner and others.

Keep paying and for our oppression?
Here in Washington state, there are deductions from any funds received (other than the result of state/federal litigation, a government check or tribal check). 20% is automatically deducted for costs of incarceration, 5% is deducted for crime victims compensation fund (whether ordered by the court or not), 10% is deducted for the prisoner’s savings account (if doing a job or not), 20% is deducted for any court ordered costs (fines, restitution, attorney fees for court costs and any ordered crime victim’s compensation fund) and another 20% for any money owed under the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA), as well as a certain percentage if child support is owed. I’m doing life without parole so 65% of all funds received are automatically deducted. I will be filing a federal suit (42 USC Section1983) to correct this and have the court order that our oppression?

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.

On the first of last year they banned smoking at all Washington prisons. However, we do little to nothing about it and I cannot find any legitimate reason for our lack of response. Without our helping hands, the lock down ‘tick, without them having to pay big money for outside help and causing them in most cases more work. Yeah, at first they always act like they couldn’t care less, but long-term, prisoners have a lot more control than they seem to realize, or they just fear to use it. The major reason we have that power is because prisoners ultimately control the amount of the state budget or Federal BOP [Bureau Of Prisons] budget in the cost of incarceration through our contributions of free labor.

Many prisoners (not all) seem to have forgotten what took place, not only at one state facility (Attica in NY), but the many other events that took place at several other facilities across the U.S. Well what we gained is being taken away from the prisoners of this nation at an alarming rate. And when a fire breaks spreading a way people can be called to action. Some show enormous courage and strength.

- California prisoner, May 2006
Prisoners across this nation need to man up. As for Washington State prisoners, the destiny of this state’s prison system is in your hands if you don’t like how things are, look in the mirror and at your fellow prisoners. The Washington State Penitentiary was once rated as the most violent prison in the nation and was in the top ten several times, but no more. Now I don’t want to see an increase of prisons hurting our system, but in my opinion things have gotten worse, particularly with the rampant spread of Control Units through the United States.

The struggle this comrade mentions did, in fact, occur all over, including in Washington State. In 1977 the prisoner’s in the isolation unit, named “Big Red”, in Walla Walla, Washington united in a struggle against the conditions of isolation and abuse by guards. A group of comrades, calling themselves the Walla Walla Brothers, were able to mobilize the whole prison in a 47 day work strike that won their 14 demands, effectively transforming the abusive conditions in Big Red.

Of course, the state learned from the struggles in Attica and Walla Walla and further isolated the segregation units, targeting potential leaders for isolation and encouraged gangs that promoted fighting between oppressed nations, usually along national lines. This reaction helps to explain the lack of action on behalf of prisoners that this comrade writes about. And it is through understanding this history and our current strengths and weaknesses that we can build modern day United Front work to defend the rights of prisoners.

Aside from social control, there are also local economic drives behind the expanding prison system. As crackers vie for high paying jobs in their decaying towns, the state squeezes what it can from the prison population in the form of labor and the fees this comrade describes. Washington is leading the game of making people pay for their own imprisonments. But many states have a majority of people being released, coming out of prison in debt, and of course with no job or means to pay for their own needs. The same parasitic crackers making 80,000 a year for sitting in a tower with a shotgun, overseeing US concentration camps, will vote to deny former prisoners public assistance and access to certain jobs or even to live in certain neighborhoods. This is the thanks they get, when often times it is the prisoners that are doing the work to keep the prison running and even doing productive labor for the state.

One last note to comrades like this who write to us about how no one in their state or facility are conscious or willing to stand up for their rights. MIM gets these same letters everyday. We know that the imperialists go to great lengths to create a violent, alienating atmosphere within their prisons. I just don’t understand how we can feel alone in the struggle. But we also know that there are enough people in US prisons to build a strong movement, if everyone that wrote us to complain about others stopped up to lead United Struggle from Within (USW).

Despite the many problems with organizing prisoners, it is one of perhaps a few sectors within US borders where we can speak of the “masses” as a potentially revolutionary force to be organized. Leaders need to step up first, and put in years of hard consistent work, before they can explain that the masses aren’t following.

**Excessive force**

On April 7th 2006 I was shot in the head with pepper spray at point blank range with a block gun. Rounds fired from these block guns are not supposed to be fired at you below the waist and should be skipped off the ground of wall. I was shot directly in the head and hand from about 9 feet away. As a result I had 4 stitches in my head and almost lost the middle finger of my left hand - the bone was broken and the finger was hanging by a flap of skin. I was also drenched with a canister of pepper spray. I believe all this was done to get to the law library so I can research my case. The guard who did the shooting up for excessive force was convicted of assault in the 4th degree with a firearm. I believe the case is still in appeal.

*MIM adds: Indiscriminate violence against prisoners is common in the American criminal justice system, where guards wield power as a tool of social control, and rehabilitation is nowhere on the agenda. Prisoners need to come together and fight against the system, rather than fighting each other, resisting the system that sets up groups to fight each other for survival.*

**Imagery by a California prisoner, May 2006**

Imagining a world where time stands still Where nothing you do is of your own free will Stripped of your freedom, your hopes, your pride Surrounded by strangers with no place to hide Imagine a place where you’re told what to wear A place where no one is allowed to grow hair You are told each day you’re not to talk And when and when you can and cannot walk A world where you sleep, surrounded by hate Where all you can do is just sit and wait Imagine a world where you have no choice Where you can’t even think because of the noise A world where you work but get no pay And made to feel worthless each and every day A world where days crawl like a snail Where all you have hope for is a piece of mail A world where you have to eat real quick Does this sound like a world that would make you sick?

Imagining a world surrounded by wire Able to walk from this place is my greatest desire A world like this is hard to conceive Yet here I am and cannot leave

**Prisoner’s poem**

*By a California prisoner, November 2005*

A revelation slips quietly before my eyes I’m haunted by the vivid pictures painted in my mind “Imperial Design” Leaving the indigent to commit more crimes Imperative, exposing this poem that compromises Many human lives Their imperialist bonds enslaving us

With an attempt to eradicate us and an unjust war declared justice U.S. soldiers fragging their COs AK47’s killing friend and foe At what cost will this war be won Anti-war protestor, Cindy Sheehan, grieves the death of her son As her questions go unanswered Bringing no peace of mind Every prophesy is revealed in its due time Can you see it? A revolution on the horizon So take a stand and fight for what you believe in

**Join the fight against the injustice system**

While we fight to end the criminal justice 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 and more can get involved. 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 an article 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 prisoners or cells in prisons that lock prisoners up in solitary or small group confinement for 22 or more hours a day. 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 your 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?
Green from 7...
a new plant and he loses money if the plant slows down for any environmental reason. What he does not see because it is not in his bottom line is that wars like those in Iraq can bring the species to an end, and even if they do not, they bring environmental destruction resulting from energy wars and polluting forms of technology that have a cost somewhere along the line.

The environmentalist movement wastes its resources in several ways. It does not have ideological unity and so its efforts cross-cancel. That is why communists have democratic centralism. To achieve the benefits of unity, we must struggle for windmill and solar energy. That means we must concretely agree among ourselves that they benefit the environment; otherwise, pluralism of views and the existing bourgeoisie will snuff out new alternative energy sources. Pluralism is not good for outstanding new prospects that are underdogs such as solar energy. Solar energy needs united support to make it in a world where oil and other interests already run huge businesses and dominate politics. No one is making the mega-bucks in the solar energy to bribe Congress on behalf of solar energy the way oil and arms contractors can to bring about an Iraq War.

What needs to happen for wind and solar energy is a paradigm example for proletarian struggle. Only by concretely agreeing on the goal of wind and solar energy can the proletariat unite itself and overcome the advantages of the existing energy capitalist class. The proletariat always faces the disadvantage of having to unite on a concrete goal to move in to the future, while the bourgeoisie is happy to believe that windmill farms for Cape Cod could be good or they could be bad. Cross-cancelling views always benefit the most powerful individuals, the capitalist class—crucially as it exists already and not how it would need to change to serve needs.

The environmental movement breaks into local versus national branches, while the scientific communist movement subordinates all interests to the overall interest. Kennedy’s “not in my backyard” is a backward bourgeois ideology.

Finally, the environmentalist movement in the united States is lost in a haze of individualism and incorrect assumptions about the cost of capital. We scientific followers of Marx do not introduce financial considerations against new production techniques until after we have achieved full global employment. There will have to be balance in the growth of the economy, so that new employment is not in all one area that exhausts the resources of all other areas of the economy, but sustainable energy is a bedrock principle of socialism. Closely related to that is sustainable use of raw materials. It’s silly to be talking about the inefficiencies of recycled paper against techniques of production that assume a positive cost of using capital. The desire for profit is holding back employment, when what we need is a government that understands that not using capital to solve our sustainable energy and raw materials problems means less-than-optimum results. After we achieve full employment in the world, we can go back to arguing over the costs associated with creating new capital goods for sustainable energy, raw materials and agriculture.

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 Marxists 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 60.3% 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.

Apple loses
Now we can ‘think different’
Apple Corporation has spent millions on its “think different” campaigns to sell it’s merchandise. When it came to Internet journalism, however, Apple went to court in 2005 to track down people it believes are insiders spilling Apple’s corporate secrets. (1) Apple’s bottom-line message was to think only what print-journalism monopolies say to think.

On May 26th, an Appeals Court for California finally decided that Apple was wrong. Apple tried to subpoena Internet journalists for information. A judge had agreed that Apple could sue email providers for the information on Apple fan websites. (2)

As if cutting the rug out from underneath its own business, Apple wooed print journalism by saying Internet journalism is not legitimate. A court initially agreed that Apple’s trade secrets are more important than freedom of speech—a typical Amerikkkan thing to think totally out of line with the Bill of Rights. These are the same kind of Americans born every ten seconds who think that pizzerias and American Express should have the right to hand out menus, coupons and ads, but political newspapers are “parisan” or “biased” and legally banned from colleges and other buildings where the public gathers. In actual fact, the opposite is the case: commercial speech is less protected under the law than political speech.

This should have been a slam-dunk case from the beginning. Apple has its capitalist right to fire any employees it wants. Courts also give Apple plenty of spying power over its employees. That is enough. Apple crossed the line even by bourgeois standards when Apple said it had the right to subpoena non-Apple people. It’s too bad the Electronic Frontier Foundation (3) had to spend money on the obvious in court.

Apple should have fired all its employees and it would have been sure of being rid of its leakers. Instead it took out its anger on the public—i.e. its customers. To hell with you Apple, you are way behind the curve. By the way, supposedly wayward Democrat Al Gore is on the board of Apple. (4) He should have stopped the campaign against the First Amendment.

Notes:
3. http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/links/eff.html

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