

MIM Notes



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The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Minimum wage for war

May 25 2007

The media got around to covering that the Democrats caved on Iraq. Readers could have heard MIM tell them what is going on on April 23 in our story "Democrats cave as usual." The imperialists wanted to keep running the war and the public did not, so in an ages-old pattern, the imperialists tightened their alliance with the labor aristocracy by boosting the minimum wage.(1) The Democrats coughed up \$100 billion for the war that will last till at least till September and in the same law the minimum wage will go up.

The blame for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan falls completely on the Democrats, because had they not passed any money in a bill, Bush would have had to withdraw from Iraq. He simply would have run out of money to run the war.

Although the original German nationalism was tied up with a dictator named Otto von Bismarck that offered social reforms to form a German identity, it was the British who first offered swag from the empire toward buying off the workers to such an extent that Engels said the workers had become "bourgeois":

"The English proletariat is actually becoming more and more bourgeois, so that the ultimate aim of this most bourgeois of all nations would appear to be the possession, alongside the bourgeoisie, of a bourgeois aristocracy and a bourgeois proletariat. In the case of a nation which exploits the entire world this is, of course, justified to some extent."

F. Engels, October 7, 1858 "Letter to Marx"

President Bush signed the law May 25. It will raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour now to \$7.25 an hour in 2009. The raise will put full-time U.S. minimum wage workers solidly within the top 10% of the world by income, whereas they had been at approximately the top 12 or 13% position.

Lately, professionals working at imperialist- and UN-supported



foundations and institutions are catching up with MIM and pay more attention to international "ventiles" in income. Ventiles are interesting because every country has a handful of rich people and at least some people in an illegal position under difficulties. But when we look at 5% of a country's people we are taking a substantial chunk.

For example, according to the imperialists' World Bank, in France now, the poorest 5% of people—regardless of holding a job or not—are in the top 28% of the world, and even that MIM would say is an underestimate. In any case, if we take Indonesia, the richest 5% of people would only be at the top 44% percentile level globally.(2) The stunning truth is that in ventile analysis, there is no overlap between the ventiles of France and Indonesia once translated to international ranking, because all of Indonesia is so low and all of France so high. Scientists would then say that the "between-country variation" is the more important part of the game than the "within country variation."

This goes to show that the poorest people of France are better off than the richest of Indonesia. This is another reason that the true "middle forces" in the world are members of the bourgeoisie of the Third World.

The various lying social-chauvinists will say that income is not access to the means of production, but actually it derives from access to the means of production. These running dogs deserve the firing squad for misleading the international proletariat on behalf of the warmongering, majority-exploiter countries. Globally, the proletariat must push aside the leaders trying to throw dust in the eyes of the exploited.

American minimum wage workers have access to the means of production better than the top 5% of Indonesia. MIM has also presented data on asset percentiles of the world, but let any stupid revisionist willing to do so come forward now and say in print that Americans are not in the top 10% or 15% of the world by assets, only income. As usual we get all kinds of stupid provincialists passing themselves off as "informed," including vastly more white nationalist PhDs than people who can look at questions objectively from a global perspective.

The fact that the minimum wage law went through as part of the Iraq funding bill only proves that even the lowest skilled workers with legal working rights in the united States have access to what Engels referred to as the pool of social capital. The minimum wage rise in the united

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HAMAS LIBERATES GAZA STRIP

June 16 2007

Hamas, the Palestinian organization that won the last election took control of the Gaza Strip, a chunk of territory bordering Egypt, through a mini-civil-war claiming approximately 116 lives the week ending June 15.(1) No one contests that the routed Fatah supporters were taking aid from the united States and Israel. On the bright side, not only was the U.S. lackey party routed, but also the vast majority of Fatah people wisely chose not to fight for their party to the end. The result could have been much worse in the one week of fighting than it was. Fatah surrender is victory for the Palestinian people.

Choosing sides

When Hamas supporters went through the buildings previously controlled by Fatah, they found riches that they claimed could have fed countless Palestinian families.(2) So it is important to note the underlying class realities facing the Palestinian refugees.

Had the battle been between Amerikan supporters of an imperialist party and a proletarian party of migrants, the Amerikans would have fought much harder than Fatah did, because the Amerikans are more thoroughly bought-off than any sizable faction of Palestinians.

So we would say there is a taint on Fatah, the organization that Yasser Arafat led, but it is not the kind of thorough seal of parasitism that we see on Amerikans.

It is the Trotskyist idealist or neo-conservative method to pick parties ideologically, and in this case to say that since neither Fatah nor Hamas is MIM-like in ideology, we should reject both. Maoism opposes such a formulation, because there are only two sides—imperialism's and that of the oppressed nation, Palestine.

Generally, within the oppressed nation, there are arguments, but we say all within the oppressed nation are on the same side until some people start going to the oppressor. Hence, in the conflict between John LaVelle and Ward Churchill it is the usual policy to speak no ill of a First Nations persyn. The matter became something different when LaVelle supporters went to the white man to get Churchill fired.

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Amerikan diplomacy: The one note song

June 18 2007

The contents of a secret UN ambassador report on the Mideast leaked into the press in June. The report revealed in stark terms that supposed diplomatic efforts are a joke, with U.S. imperialism the main source of blame in the Mideast.

Alvaro de Soto is a Peruvian diplomat. He said that the so-called "Quartet" of the United States, EU, Russia and the UN is a "side show." The Quartet is supposed to be working on Mideast peace.

The usual complaints came up—about subservience of U.S. politicians to the Jewish lobby. The one nuance of de Soto's story was that he saw I\$rael as trying to provoke Palestinian terrorism in order to justify itself.(1)

There is often a petty-bourgeois misconception about diplomacy that it is just talking. In this case, we see that no actor or institution felt powerful enough to do anything if the United States takes I\$rael's side.

In Iran, we have the same story. Bush tried to make a show of giving the CIA "non-lethal" authorization to destabilize Iran.(2) Yet when the reputation of the U.S. regime is "war, war, war," it becomes difficult for a country like Iran to take the U.S. imperialists seriously. Such talk about "non-lethal" destabilization efforts only soothes some petty-bourgeois ears inside U.S. borders and the borders of its imperialist allies. It may also create some camouflage for a Liberal minority in Iran, relative to a war image. In this case, Iran countered with opposition to the "velvet revolution" idea of the CIA and Liberals in Iran gained no

breathing room for the "non-lethal" aspect of Bush's order.

This is the difficulty of singing only one note in a song. If a country is known for wars and coups, even if it wants to, it cannot easily become known as a country of non-military diplomatic overtures.

Bush may feel that he has the authority to nuke Iran all by his lonesome. Yet the next president would be dealing with the consequences. Ironically, we would be on the look-out for a deal to jettison Cheney and maybe even Rove in exchange for support for nuking Iran, if that is what Bush wants. In other words, if Bush wants to tangle with Iran, he will need political capital. His party's candidates for president have all backed war with Iran except for Ron Paul, but how far Bush can go will depend on politics.

Even at home, Amerikans want a war against the migrant workers. A large portion of whites wants to see 12 million so-called illegal aliens deported. If Euro-Amerikans treat people who do the hard work and prop up the U.S. economy so poorly, we can only guess how they will go to war against those they never see or work with. The Bush political base of support is all for deportation. Former Bush supporter Peggy Noonan put it this way at the Wall Street Journal June 1: "This White House thinks its base is stupid and that its heart is in the wrong place." A poll shows that Bush is running against about 70% of his own party: "More than half of those surveyed said illegal immigrants hurt the country more than help it, an opinion voiced by seven in 10 Republicans and about half of Democrats." (3) This is the typical situation where the businessman is more

tolerant than the stay-at-home white nationalist wife. Bush sees the exploitation value of migrants, whereas his political base has only random fears.

The toothlessness of Amerikan diplomacy comes out at a moment like now when six Republican House members asked for a legal review of Bush's agreement with the northern Koreans to send them \$25 million as a prelude to nuclear talks.(4) The House members argued that Kim Jong-il would not abide by any agreement to nuclear disarmament; even though, it appears that Clinton's previous deal with Korea had prevented action at the same reactor in question. No sooner did the House members complain than Kim invited the UN nuclear inspectors back for the first time since 2002.

How it looks to MIM is that the united States confiscated alleged arms dealing and counterfeiting profits from northern Korea. Then the united States issued \$25 million in new money for the nuclear deal.

The levels of cynicism to the action by six House members against Korea are many. The State Department and parallel actors of five other countries spent weeks negotiating the issues. Then the agreement comes and the press reports wildly inconsistent stories about the money being wired from Macau to Italy and Russia to please the Koreans. We hear a steady drumbeat of junky wire stories about how the imperialists expect northern Koreans to shut down their nuclear reactor in exchange for the money that they falsely reported had arrived. Then suddenly months later we hear that the money never left Macau

and the Russians have to offer to facilitate matters—six weeks after the second-stage deadline of the deal passed. So the media is complicit in the foaming at the mouth that makes it hard to take Amerikans seriously.

Next we learn that Kim Jong-il has unpaid parking tickets in Sweden or the like and the House wants a legal investigation. Maybe next time the six countries meet on Korean nukes, the head dog-catchers of all the countries should attend, just to make sure Kim Jong-il does not have any unsponsored or unlicensed critters.

As it turns out, northern Korea offered the UN to have their nuclear inspectors return, just for making the effort on the \$25 million.(5) So it was not a something-for-nothing deal the way the rabid dogs were all saying. On the other hand, the fact that six House members raised the question shows that Amerikans cannot be taken seriously. After negotiating a deal, the executive branch will face political pressure from people who believe \$25 million is too much to risk for a nuclear deal with northern Korea. These same warmongers will turn around to vote for half a trillion for the military each year and go into rapture when Bush names Korea in the "axis of evil." Yet they will not risk \$25 million in a deal, even when that \$25 million is not even their \$25 million, just some frozen funds in Macau. In other words, it looks like there is little basis for support for peace with northern Korea.

For this reason, we commend Bush in his effort to find new uranium enrichment

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MIM Notes

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

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What is MIM?

The Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) is the collection of existing or emerging Maoist internationalist parties in the English-speaking imperialist countries and their English-speaking internal semi-colonies, as well as the existing or emerging Maoist Internationalist parties in Belgium, France and Quebec and the existing or emerging Spanish-speaking Maoist Internationalist parties of Aztlan, Puerto Rico and other territories of the U.S. Empire. MIM Notes is the newspaper of MIM. *Notas Rojas* is the newspaper of the Spanish-speaking parties or emerging parties of MIM. MIM upholds the revolutionary communist ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and is an internationalist organization that works from the vantage point of the Third World proletariat. MIM struggles to end the oppression of all groups over other groups: classes, genders, nations. MIM knows this is only 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 on these basic principles and accept democratic centralism, the system of majority rule, on other questions of party line.

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

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

Winning elections among labor aristocracy voters

Duke lacrosse prosecutor resigns

June 19 2007

An infamous rape case in North Carolina involved three Duke University lacrosse players and a Black erotic dancer. The prosecutor behind the case has now resigned.

MIM would advise our foreign readers that in North Carolina, racial politics determine elections on a regular basis, usually for the whites. In Durham, politics are not typical for the rest of North Carolina. In addition, Duke sports are sacrosanct, along with the sports at another North Carolina school where Michael Jordan attended college.

MIM does not know what happened in this case involving a stripper and some lacrosse players. We did no investigation. We can however comment on what the media said and also Durham voters who also did not know what happened.

On June 16, the Duke case became the lead story on CNN's web page, because the prosecutor named Mike Nifong who stuck to his guns on the case resigned. Nifong also lost his license to practice law. It appears that an ethics committee found his prosecution of the college students unwarranted in the extreme. Duke University caused the students to have to miss some school because of the case. Professors up in arms also graded down one of the accused's marks and he almost flunked out of school—before the trial that never happened. At the same time, sales of Duke lacrosse merchandise tripled.(1)

The current writer witnessed another

rape case on a college campus where 90% of initial opinion was for the accuser until the trial, but both sides were whites. Even MIM circles were divided on the case with some wanting to throw the book before trial. Then there was a radical reversal in opinion at the trial. In general, Americans do not really believe “innocent till proven guilty.” Americans opt for an individualized crime system; yet, they do not give it the Liberal patience it is supposed to have. In Florida, a recent survey showed that 47% of respondents believed Dr. Sami Al-Arian was probably or definitely guilty at the stage when the government merely charged him with a crime. 28% already considered him a “terrorist.”(2)

So, it is normal for Americans to prejudge people who are charged and then possibly flip back after trial, or, not flip back, and complain about the legal system as not convicting enough people. It's not right, because American civics teaches “innocent till proven guilty,” but in judging the racial factor, “innocent till proven guilty” seems to apply to whites charged with crimes against oppressed nationalities. MIM itself is not in favor of individual-centered approaches to crime and points to the united States as a case where Liberalism ends up hiding fascism, monarchism and racism. “Innocent till proven guilty” requires implementation, but Americans simply do not agree with it. It's another aspect of how the united States became the

world's imprisonment leader.

The Guantanamo Bay prison is another good measure for monarchism. The U.S. public is split evenly 44% to 43% whether the prisons should be allowed. 63% of Republicans are for while 57% of Democrats are against.(3)

The poll is great proof that the U.S. exploiters know they are exploiters and want war and repression of the rest of the world. Guantanamo Bay is making life hard for the State Department and CIA and so imperialists oppose it for tactical reasons, not so the labor aristocracy necessarily.

When the exploited are the majority in a country, the call to democracy or majority rule can have a progressive thrust. In the u.s. situation, in the Guantanamo Bay case or the question of migrants, the majority is more backward than the imperialists. Anyone who cannot tell the difference between MIM and “democratic socialism” should contemplate reality a little more deeply.

The left-wing of parasitism wants to make excuses for attitudes toward “innocent till proven guilty,” migrants and Guantanamo Bay as just “false consciousness.” Quite the contrary, it is vicious white nationalist consciousness, oppressor consciousness that cannot be blamed mainly on imperialist leaders. The president, Department of Defense Gates, CIA Director Hayden, former Secretary of State and Iraq War leader Colin Powell all say in the press that they want



Guantanamo Bay closed. It's been that way for months. Yet the monarchists of public opinion hold out against these leaders. Even Romney is backpedalling somewhat,(4) but the labor aristocracy won't let go of its bite. Those candidates would all back off if the labor aristocracy would follow the rhetoric of the imperialist leaders and let the candidates back off.

Those of us who live in the united States know that “innocent till proven guilty” is not the real deal here. As a result, we have Black monarchists too, people who just want Blacks treated the same way as whites. If whites would ordinarily cast suspicions on rape suspects and lynch them, then Black monarchists want to see white rape suspects lynched too.

One thing that pleases MIM about the media coverage is that it is open about seeing political motivations in Nifong's

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California chooses prisons over education

Within five years the state of California spending on prisons is projected to surpass spending on public universities. At the same time, California prisons have instituted a ban on educational material within prisons, categorically censoring all literature sent by MIM's prisoner education program.(1) This ban includes dictionaries and history books as well as MIM's own magazine and newspapers. In some prisons the ban has been interpreted to also include all letters written by MIM. These actions together make a clear statement that California intends to keep a strong pipeline of people funneling into its prisons, and once there California will do all it can to keep them un-educated and returning for more and more time behind bars.

The state will reach the spending landmark in 5 years based on California's current prison and state university budgets. California recently committed to spending \$7.4 billion (on top of the prison operating budget of over \$10 billion for fiscal year 2007-08) to build another 40,000 new prison beds by taking out bonds to finance construction. Prison spending is growing around 9% a year while spending on higher education is

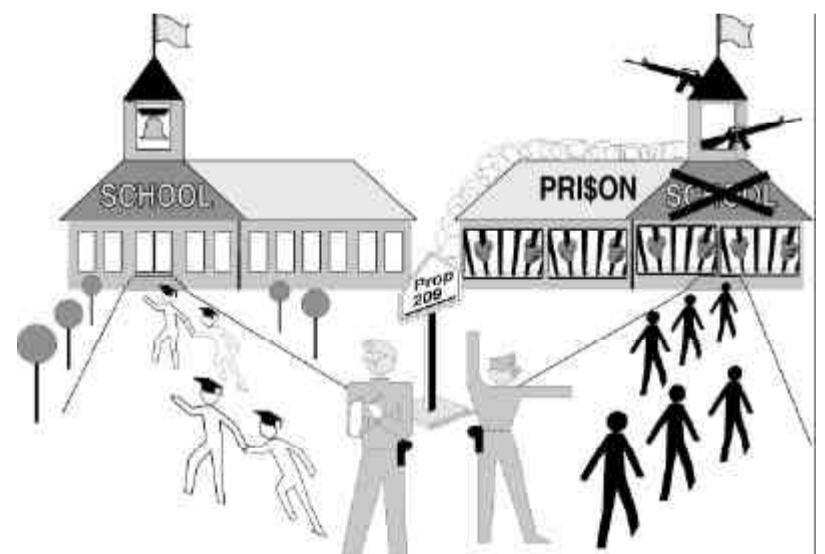
growing at 5% per year.(2)

There is a strong correlation between education and imprisonment. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (the U.S. Department of Justice's own organization) latest study on 1997 population data, 41% of State and Federal prisoners had not completed high school. This compares with 18% of the general population age 18 and older.(3) Things look even worse among prisoners age 20 to 39 showing that the trend is towards more prisoners without a high school education as younger prisoners are even less educated than older prisoners. Other more recent studies have shown this trend continues. The likelihood of ending up in prison is tremendously higher for young Black men who drop out of school before getting a high school diploma. And a college degree is further protection against imprisonment.

On the other side of education, in-prison education programs have repeatedly been shown to reduce recidivism by helping prisoners to find jobs and opportunities once they are released. Individual and meta studies repeatedly conclude the same thing: “Since 1990, the literature has shown that prisoners who

attend educational programs while they are incarcerated are less likely to return to prison following their release. Studies in several states have indicated that recidivism rates have declined where inmates have received an appropriate education. Furthermore, the right kind of educational program leads to less violence by inmates involved in the programs and a more positive prison environment.”(4)

Part of the reason California is spending



the additional \$7.4 billion is the abysmal situation in prisons in the state. In 2005 California prisons were placed in receivership by a U.S. District Court judge for medical incompetence and other aspects of the system are no better. Now the state claims it is trying to fix things by building more beds to house the already overflowing population in existing prisons.

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“Conservatism”: There’s no there there

Why I Turned Right: Leading Baby Boom Conservatives Chronicle Their Political Journeys
Mary Eberstadt, ed.
NY: Threshold Editions, 2007

The capitalist class has hired a whole swath of people to spread “conservatism.” With the qualification of being able to string together a sentence, one may find a job editing for “National Review” or typing up Sidney Hook. Then after proof of such merits one can get a job in a conservative think tank such as the Hoover. In recent times, the Amerikan conservatives try to copy the Leninist model of having intellectual leaders to point to while using what is called the “intelligentsia” to transmit or translate ideas to the population.

When it comes to conservatism, the whole game is really in the transmission as there is not much there intellectually. So Amerikan conservatism is an important lesson in propaganda. The one correct point of the conservatives is that the “masses” do not employ much rational thought in their activity. The writers of *Why I Turned Right* openly celebrate this point.

“My political convictions are a result of thinking or, to be specific, lack thereof,” (p. 25) says P.J. O’Rourke in the first chapter in the book. “I never read any work of political ideology unless by accident,” (p. 28) and “What’s so bad about being a Philistine.” (p. 40)

Mao criticized this attitude above as “Liberalism,” a basic laziness or promotion of non-struggle. Although there are more PhDs and writers working for Amerikan conservatism than ever before, the intellectual content is still thread-bare, and it always will be thread-bare, because the philosophy of struggle is not conservatism’s. In this regard, Hitlerism is a potential competitor of Marxism, but mere conservatism will never be. That is not to say that Hitler-style fascism does not benefit from the spade work of these writers.

We can be thankful for the frankness of *Why I Turned Right*. Rich Lowry says this of himself: “The one area of school where I had always reasonably excelled was English.” (p. 277) As to being a conservative, he always was and admits there was never a rational reason. He just was and then afterwards took to reading the supposed intellectuals of Amerikan conservatism: “I didn’t know anything. . . . What I knew is that I wanted to be a Reagan supporter—that was one of my subrational affinities.” (pp. 271-2) In finally copying something of the worker organization and Marxist organizational strategies, capital has hired the equivalent of labor bureaucrats to churn out books like these, new versions of which we can always count on. Again, Lowry tells us, “Nothing, I thought, could be as blissful as to write and persuade for a living.” (p. 276) Frances Stonor Saunders has already detailed how an English majors dominated section of CIA

pumped money into the publishing business in the 1950s and 1960s to swamp the world with mediocre and bland publications as a bulwark against communism. The Ford, Rockefeller and Carnegie foundations so important to grants for intellectuals are also so heavily intermingled with CIA that drawing a distinction is often pointless. Reactionary money has stepped in to fund the Hoover think tank and many others.

As to be expected there is not a single social fact in this book, not one table of figures, no connection to reality in its social generalities anywhere—but there are countless lazy political stands taken. As MIM already pointed out, the hero of these writers from the early 1960s Norman Podhoretz was simply uninformed. He did not deal with the overall factual truth that Black college graduates made less than white high school dropouts, so much for their argument about “merit” opposing affirmative action. These are simply the kind of people who take things at the lazy and most superficial level. If the system claims it is promoting people based on merit, these Panglossian conservatives simply believe it at face-value and actively come to the system’s defense when better-informed people attack.

Affirmative action was behind the active conservatism of many. The “decisive moment” for Stanley Kurz was that “I could barely believe that affirmative action would catch on.” (p. 137)

Dinesh D’Souza was also pretty open about his racist sensitivities. The only thing he reports having noticed about the anti-apartheid movement was that its leaders were “disheveled.” (p. 91) Again, there is no substance there, no struggle to understand an issue.

David Brooks was another looking at things superficially while reporting on crime and poverty in Chicago.

What has happened with the rise of this sort of right-wing of parasitism is that capital has paid people to say that it is OK not to know anything. P.J. O’Rourke led the charge: “What in short has been happening out there such that so many Americans are now comfortable with the conservative label.” (p. 2)

The right-wing of parasitism is benefiting from democracy within the majority-exploiter countries. This democracy takes conscious form in discussion of “status liberals” or “limousine liberals.” The egalitarian thrust applies as if to say politics is not something to be studied. Such a thrust where all are equal politically has to be recognized as democratic. Unfortunately the left-wing of parasitism does ape the right-wing of parasitism by insisting on democracy, when in a situation of a majority of the population being exploiters, elitism is much more necessary than usual.

While college education used to be reserved to an elite, it is now possible for some conservatives to obtain PhDs. Making Amerikkans better-educated does not make them any-less exploiters.

Instead what has happened is that there is now a well-formed intelligentsia to consume the rabid talk-show radio reactionaries and writers of this ilk. This barely educated middle-class now has the organization and means to reach into the authoritarian depths of the middle-classes; whereas, previously, the imperialists relied on highly symbolic manipulations of the less-educated petty-bourgeoisie. The right-wing of parasitism now finds that it can really talk with and mobilize a group of tens of millions of people in the labor aristocracy.

Many of the traditional right-wing of imperialism are not happy with the mobilization results—having to pay more attention to abortion, gay marriage and immigration than the original right-wing of imperialism was used to. So ironically, there is a wing of the imperialist class itself chafing at the realities of the imperialist-labor aristocracy alliance. These imperialists might have tended to unite on tax cutting and foreign policy bases in the past and now find themselves in a party catering to the labor aristocracy. John Dean is an example of a right-wing imperialist who is not happy where mobilization of the labor aristocracy has led.

So the anti-apartheid people were “disheveled” and some anti-war movement people carried around severed pigs heads in protests (p. 134) and others even had the excuse of dumping “liberalism,” because an academic authority turned out to have a Nazi past. The reasoning of conservatives is in essence ad hominem, never at the level of substance. Their combined reasons for adopting conservatism would not equal the carnage we see on TV in Iraq in a single day. David Brooks tells us, “I still think the foray into Iraq is one of the noblest endeavors the United States, or any great power, has ever undertaken.” (p. 73) So we need to step back and not take conservatism too literally. In common among all these whiny ad hominem complaints is the real underlying problem.

Public speaking advice often includes the idea of thinking of the audience as sitting in its underwear and therefore not in a dignified place to judge the public speaker. It’s a sort of ad hominem attack on the audience with the purpose of relaxing the speaker. Even more we can say that one will never get past Panglossianism without being able to see the audience for any given topic in its underwear, trying to reach orgasm with a rope around the neck and lathering armpits with mayonnaise—and still be possibly correct about a point of substance. If the speaker is for the Vietnam War and the audience is against, mayonnaise and all, then MIM is still with the audience, as is any real proletarian scientist. It is a known tactic of conservatism to throw off the struggle with irrelevant points. We would also advise that this will also divide people into

two groups—the bourgeoisie that would be too embarrassed to go on and the lumpen and real intellectuals on the other hand. The lumpen cannot be shamed anymore than the injustice system has shamed it and it knows about bullshit power tactics while the real intellectuals can rise above the muck. The search for an individual authority to follow is bourgeois politics and we are happy to have people unable to reason sifted out of our ranks. There is no way to take in the middle-classes and take up the democratic impulse in the imperialist countries without leaving the proletarian camp.

The reason that even these educated members of reaction do not stop to ask themselves about details about supporters on each side of any question is that this sort of reactionary is really in search of a pure authority, not really an answer to a question such as “Is the Vietnam War a good thing or not?” So it becomes possible to say, “I don’t like the anti-war demonstrators because some of them were carrying pigs’ heads to make a point in a demonstration.” It does not bother the reactionaries that Amerikan troops in Vietnam were scalping Vietnamese, claiming noses and leaving the evil CBS eye as a symbol in massacres. No, the fact that some anti-war people were carrying pigs’ heads justified taking up reaction. The same line of reasoning applies when Dinesh D’Souza reduces the question to one where the anti-apartheid movement dresses shabbily. So the essence of conservatism is a laziness of non-thinking where space that should be occupied by thought is instead occupied by ad hominems and similar constructions that Mao called Liberalism.

These are the same kind of people who always denounce MIM as an unreliable “source.” What matters to them is not that they can look up the data and footnotes MIM uses but that again, MIM is not religious, and not being godly, therefore we should not bother reading MIM. Again, it’s about “arguing from authority,” not really thinking for oneself.

Post-modernism and political correctness are mirror images of this sort of reaction addressing the authority of the speaker as the overriding preoccupation. The so-called conservative almost never attacks at the level of substance of a question. Rather the conservative attacks the speaker, unless of course that speaker is the trusted church authority or prince such as Cheney. Not for nothing these are also big fans of family, such as the mom and dad that shielded them from political struggles and nastiness at least long enough to make an impression at some point.

It will never occur to these people that at any given moment there are unshaved people on both sides of the anti-apartheid question. Nor will it bother them how they trivialize issues, because in the search for righteousness the authoritarian

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Bush changes global warming tune

June 12 2007

After years of denying that humyn pollution is causing any environmental problems, President Bush attempted to pacify the European countries and mainstream Amerika by offering a solution to the climate problem prior to the G8 summit last week. The G8 is a meeting of the political leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Bush was facing international pressure as the German Summit host promised to focus on environmental issues and a number of European countries were pushing for an agreement on reducing emissions. However, Bush's solution was a joke that barely amounts to the criminals' self-policing. In this case the criminals are the imperialist countries, profiting from environmentally damaging capitalist practices.

Rather than agree to any of the moderate (but at least somewhat progressive) proposals already suggested (including the 1997 Kyoto Accord, which put limits on gas emissions but was never ratified by the United States) Bush put forward his own proposal: get all the big polluting countries together to talk about setting their own goals for reducing pollution. Once Bush has the relevant countries together, he wants to "create the technologies necessary to deal with this issue." (1) While technology is certainly a tool in the hands of humyns to accomplish many things, suggesting that new technology can end environmental destruction ignores the fact that this goal is contrary to the short term profit-driven focus of capitalism.

Previously, Bush and his cronies could only keep denying the existence of global warming, or the humyn role in global warming, for so long, with such mounting scientific evidence of the destructive effects on the planet; although, it is worth noting that Bush's proposed solution

admits no humyn guilt in the destruction of planet earth and looks to technology, rather than any change in humyn interaction with the planet, to solve the problem.

In the end, the G8 summit lived up to its history of accomplishing a lot of posing and posturing among imperialist countries. At this summit, on the issue of the environment the United States agreed to "consider seriously" a plan to cut emissions globally by 50% by the year 2050. That was considered sufficient agreement to conclude discussions on the environment and praise the meeting as successful. The agreement does not commit any countries to any specific goals.

Following in the footsteps on the United States, China is talking about emissions like a jealous younger capitalist sibling, insisting that the big imperialist countries that developed before China were free to pollute all they wanted so China can't afford to be fettered by limits before it catches up. And of course when countries like China (and India, Brazil and other up and coming big polluters) take this position, the big imperialist polluters like the U.S. and Japan complain that they can't be expected to cut emissions if their competition isn't doing the same thing.

All this debate over who has to act first underscores the failure of capitalism at sustaining humynity over the long term. Whether it is bent on mutually assured destruction through war or nuclear attack, or the slower devastation of the environment until the planet becomes unlivable, capitalism is a system that can not take the long view of what is best for humynity when that conflicts with economic profits.

As MIM explained in our essay "On Capitalism and the Environment": "The root cause of environmental problems is capitalism, the private ownership of the means of production by a relative handful of people. This essence of capitalism is

one reason why capitalism creates environmental problems: while the majority of the world's people have a material interest in maintaining a healthy planet, the small capitalist ruling class is not accountable to this majority, except in the indirect sense that the ruling class seeks to co-opt the demands of the majority in order to maintain the capitalist system. A second reason why capitalism creates environmental problems is that although the world's resources are controlled by a relative handful of people, planning is not centralized under capitalism. Instead, production is anarchic; it is centered around making profits, not around meeting basic humyn needs in the short or long runs. Much of what is produced by the capitalist system is unnecessary and wasteful, and the system is not fundamentally capable of incorporating long-term human survival as a need. Finally, the capitalist system does not distribute resources equitably. Under capitalism, many people do not have adequate resources for survival. Many environmental problems stem from this root problem." (2)

At some point environmental destruction will interfere with profits, in fact it is already doing so in some parts of the world where waters are becoming un-fishable or crops won't grow. But Capitalism will not be able to make the changes necessary to reverse the effects of global warming. No corporation is going to voluntarily reduce its own emissions when its competition is not doing anything. This is a clear case of where state control is essential to save humanity. When the state is run by the same capitalists focused on profit over humyn need, we end up with a government like the Bush administration that sticks its head in the sand and insists that there is no environmental problem. This is why MIM says we need a dictatorship of the proletariat to run the state and address problems in the interests

of the people rather than profit.

We can hope that because global warming is *global* it will affect the capitalists too and they will be forced to make changes. But in reality, environmental disasters disproportionately affect the poor. When a hurricane strikes the United States, it is very rare that we see devastation as in the Third World countries because in the United States there is money for construction that resists forces of nature. The devastation in New Orleans hit a disproportionately poor and Black area and that was no accident. Similarly, earthquakes like those that kill many people in Latin America and Asia have far less devastating effects in the United States. And as global warming threatens the food supply, imperialist countries will still have the money to buy plenty of food. It is the people in Third World countries who will suffer first. At some point, we can even expect to hear the most die-hard reactionaries gloat about the effects of global warming as they gloated about the effects of AIDS on gay people and others.

We conclude with another quote from the MIM article on capitalism and the environment: "The best way forward for the environment is socialist revolution. The capitalist system of production for profit clearly needs to be replaced by the socialist system of production for humyn needs. This will eliminate the motive for overproduction, overconsumption, and socially-destructive production. Genuine socialism cannot be brought about through reform, because the capitalists will not give up their power voluntarily; they will defend their power by any and all means necessary, including military means. Genuine socialism is less detrimental to the environment, since the absence of the profit motive under socialism eliminates the need to produce many useless products, and since centralized planning eliminates the need for overproduction."

Notes:

1. The Guardian, June 8, 2007
2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mt/mt12capenv.html>

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conservative is looking for the perfect authority, not the truth.

We Maoists had these people on our side in China while Mao was alive. The reason that those of crude thinking abilities sided with Mao is that he became synonymous with power, success and order. The whole lesson of the Cultural Revolution was that Khrushchev snuck into the party while Stalin was alive and then restored capitalism when Stalin died. Yet when Lin Biao died, the authoritarian simpletons abandoned Mao in droves, because Mao's invincibility was broken, not because there was a single thing wrong with the substance of Mao's Cultural Revolution message, which in fact emphasized that people such as Lin Biao would arise in the party.

Relative to the right-wing of imperialism, post-modernism is more thorough in its ad hominem approach and

for this reason approaches a scientific method or rather gives inklings of its influences. The most intriguing contribution to the book was by Heather Macdonald. She and some others explain their attraction to Theory as youth. This is the kind of theory such as Kristeva's that MIM has some misgivings about, theoretical ruminations without any connection to data of any sort. MIM has often asked where are the wimmin with PhDs in Theory that we know have been produced in the last generation. Is their sole contribution the spread of political correctness throughout society, admittedly further than this writer would have anticipated when political correctness started?

We can use Heather Macdonald as one data point in a larger pattern MIM has discussed before, the unconscious political effect of the level of the productive forces. She spends several pages

discussing what she used to think and then only on the last page does she feel a need to discuss something else: "Our political arrangements, while far from perfect, are remarkably effective in improving our material well-being." (p. 130) Ah yes, many years in graduate school studying deconstruction and Theory and then end up taking the position of "mass man" on wealth. Perhaps Macdonald should have studied economic development and economic history if she now realizes that she's going to hinge her politics on bread-and-butter. But that's it—she finds disappointment in arduous intellectual endeavor and ends up with a simple assertion to glue her politics together. Maybe this is what is happening to all those English and Psychology PhDs writing about Theory. We know they are not making much of a political difference that we can see.

MIM has a liberating message—that

we do not need a single member of the U.S. middle-classes or even its intelligentsia. We should go for the high-brow intellectuals and the lumpen. The middle-classes of Amerika have no progressive thrust and should only be manipulated. We need not be crushed by the inability of the middle-classes to reason or unite with the rest of the humyn species. The good news about the laziness of the reactionaries is that it is possible to manipulate them many different ways without their knowing.

MIM Links:

Conservatism: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/contemp/cons/>

Mao, "Combat Liberalism": http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/classics/mao/sw2/mswv2_03.html

The so-called Left: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/wyl/general/>

Valerie Plame case: The rise of the super-citizen

June 16 2007

As far as the world is concerned, the fact that on June 14 I. Lewis “Scooter” Libby lost his legal struggle to delay imprisonment for 30 months is a good thing.(1) That is just one less imperialist from the Cheney faction to contend with, and that faction of imperialists is most set on destabilizing global military adventures.

The way MIM looks at it, we are going to have to have some international help with our imperialists—probably from other imperialists. There is only one Republican Party candidate for president who is not in favor of attacking Iran—Ron Paul. He is also the only candidate running for the Republican nomination to take the nuclear option off the table.(2)

Amerikans did not convict Libby for being a nutty imperialist. They convicted him for obstruction of justice in connection to an imperialist agent, Valerie Plame.

The CIA agent Valerie Plame is thus a mixed blessing. Many will say that since Cheney retaliated against her for her husband’s not fabricating evidence for the Iraq War, that her cause is just.

When all is said and done, however, the war is already underway and convicting Libby did not end it. The conviction of Libby did however, create procedural backing for a law repressive of the press. The “Intelligence Identities Protection Act” passed in 1982 makes it illegal to reveal an agent’s identity.

One could argue against MIM that without 007 mystique, even fewer Amerikans would interest themselves in international politics at all. One could make a similar argument that repressing art is good for it, because it raises the stakes, the excitement. Then again one could argue that, but what really happens is that the united States claims to be a “free country” leading the “free world.”

Within the united States, so far we have two bad results. One is we got the Iraq ground invasion. Two is we have reinforcement of a law attacking free speech. So we got both the war and the repression with the super-citizens at each other’s throats in criminal court. That’s the mark of an imperialist system, that no matter who won, Plame or Libby, the result was going to be no good.

In MIM’s case, secret agents are also fouling up its efforts to organize as a party. It is not possible to organize an Internet discussion forum without having these secret agents pin various death threats and other foul play on MIM.

The third bad result yet to happen could be a Bush pardon for Libby. It is unlikely that Bush would pardon Libby because of any constitutional concerns about what the “Intelligence Identities Protection Act” does to politics. From the world point of view, a pardon of Libby would simply be a vindication of the Iraq War.

To top it all off, we are not done with this string of events. Now Valerie Plame is suing the CIA to publish her book, which the CIA is partially censoring under the terms of her contract.(3) She now

argues that she has a First Amendment right to publish her book where there is no threat to national security, however that is defined. Ironically, Valerie Plame is only famous because of a law attempting to get around the First Amendment and now she asks for increased book sales in the name of the First Amendment guaranteeing free speech. The parts the CIA wants to censor are obviously the best-selling goodies.

Ordinary citizens lose their free speech and now Valerie Plame fights for the rights of super-citizens like herself, the same way we have other federal agents telling MIM that they have a right to “free speech” in connection to their spying on MIM. So what it is is that super-citizens can spy on other citizens, issue threats against citizens, complain when they are exposed and then time their own self-exposure to make the maximum 007-style publishing monies.

The struggle between Plame and Libby can have no final justice to it, because it is a contest between super-citizens. Libby had about a dozen noted super-citizen-celebrities write to the judge on his account.

Recently the House is considering a bill that protects journalists from being asked about their sources in court.(4) This might be helpful in countering some of the negative effects of the “Intelligence Identities Protection Act.” The Senate version would protect only for-profit journalists.(4) a typical back-assward capitalist view of the Constitution, where free speech goes to guys leaving pizza coupons in a college dorm, but a MIM Notes distributor will find herself under arrest for leaving newspapers, not for profit.

William F. Buckley tries to diminish Libby’s case by saying that Plame was headed for non-covert work anyway.(5) Again, even Buckley as a writer with a background in the CIA dodges the real issue.

Simultaneously in the news we have Iran detaining dual citizen U.S. academics.(6) Some elements of the mainstream media have noted that the united States brought this on itself by arresting Iranian diplomats and others in Iraq.(7) That is part of the story.

Here again there is an issue of the identity of the detainees. The united States would like to claim or at least plausibly project that Iran is holding non-spies.

The truth is that the u.s. media would not be allowed to say whether or not the detainees are spies or not, at least if the “Intelligence Identities Protection Act” trumps the First Amendment to the Constitution by some intepretation of monarchist judges. Hence, Iran cannot trust anything from the u.s. media, muzzled as it is and Iran has no choice but to decide that Amerikans are spies. From MIM’s own research on the question, the numbers are there when it comes to academics in physics, energy



Libby.

and especially international issues—that “spy” is a good guess by Iran.

So here again, the super-citizen endangers the normal citizen. Ordinary academics cannot go abroad, in some cases cannot even obtain academic visas, because of the U.S. laws and a deserved spying reputation.

These wannabe 007s of the ivory tower could sit at a desk in any of the fine buildings in Maryland or Virginia but instead they jeopardize all U.S. academics travelling abroad. Even more importantly and not discussed by anyone except MIM, other countries are also cracking down on their internal atmosphere because of U.S. spies, with their budget literally greater than the GDP of Libya. The Washington Post gives its usual litany of reasons for war on Iran, including wimmin’s liberation and then it says this:

“The recent detentions of Iranian American dual nationals are only a small part of a campaign that includes arrests, interrogations, intimidation and harassment of thousands of Iranians as well as purges of academics and new

censorship codes for the media. Hundreds of Iranians have been detained and interrogated, including a top Iranian official, according to Iranian and international human rights groups.

“The move has quashed or forced underground many independent civil society groups, silenced protests over issues including women’s rights and pay rates, quelled academic debate, and sparked society-wide fear about several aspects of daily life, the sources said.

“Few feel safe, especially after the April arrest of Hossein Mousavian, a former top nuclear negotiator and ambassador to Germany, on charges of espionage and endangering national security.

“The widespread purges and arrests are expected to have an impact on parliamentary elections next year and the presidential contest in 2009, either discouraging or preventing reformers from running against the current crop of hard-liners who dominate all branches of

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What is militarism?

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

While true pacifists condemn all violence as equally repugnant, we Maoists do not consider self-defense or the violence of oppressed nations against imperialism to be militarism. Militarism is mostly caused by imperialism at this time. Imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism—seen in countries like the United States, England and France.

Under capitalism, capitalists often profit from war or its preparations. Yet, it is the proletariat that does the dying in the wars. The proletariat wants a system in which people do not have self-interest on the side of war-profiteering or war for imperialism.

Militarism is one of the most important reasons to overthrow capitalism. It even infects oppressed nations and causes them to fight each other.

It is important not to let capitalists risk our lives in their ideas about war and peace or the environment. They have already had two world wars admitted by themselves in the last 100 years and they are conducting a third right now against the Third World.

Even a one percent annual chance of nuclear war destruction caused by capitalist aggressiveness or “greed” as the people call it should not be tolerated by the proletariat. After playing Russian Roulette (in which the bullet chamber is different each time and not related at all to the one that came up in previous spins) with 100 chambers and one bullet, the chance of survival is only 60.5% after 50 turns. In other words, a seemingly small one percent annual chance of world war means eventual doom. After 100 years or turns of Russian Roulette, the chances of survival are only 36.6%. After 200 years, survival has only a 13.4% chance.

Russian imperialism emerges from the wings?

June 16 2007

Vladimir Putin's speech June 10 at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum provided some substance to a vision of Russia as a separate imperialist power.

Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, it has been unclear how imperialist blocs would reshape. In MIM's 1997 book on imperialist class structure, we characterized Russian imperialism as "waiting in the wings."

In 2007, we again find Russia in its traditional historical position of looking both East and West. The June 10 speech is a hint to the West that Russia can go elsewhere if not treated better. There is speculation that still no one in Russia knows where Russia will end up.

Reflecting its geopolitical position, Russia is the imperialist country with the smallest portion of labor aristocracy. It is a place where there is a "split in the working class." The plurality or majority may be labor aristocracy—bought-off people from working-class roots, but the parasitism is not as widespread or deep as in the NATO imperialist countries.

In racial terms, Russia is also largely white. Along with whites of Eastern Europe, Russians constitute a minority of whites with unusual class and national properties. Russia's characteristics came to be summed up as being the "weak link" in the capitalist system. Today, economically, it is still the "weak link" economically compared with the rest of the major imperialist countries.

In his June 10 speech, Putin noted the wind blowing East, "Fifty years ago, the G7 countries accounted for 60 percent of the world's GDP, but today this situation has been reversed and 60 percent of the world's GDP is now produced outside the G7 countries." (1) At the same time, his message for Russia is Liberalization—the removal of restrictions on dividends on some foreign investments for instance.

Toward the end of his speech, Putin gave us his insights into imperialism:

"Total accumulated foreign investment

in Russia now comes to around \$150 billion, but, according to data from international economic organisations, Russian investment abroad has now reached a figure of \$138 billion, and our own data puts it at not less than \$140 billion. We want to continue to expand Russian investment abroad and we are interested in exchanging assets with international partners under mutually beneficial conditions. This is the road Russian companies are now taking. We have positive experience of such partnerships with our colleagues from Germany and other European countries. Our projects with Italian companies are the latest example in this area.

"It is my conviction that Russia could become home to financial centres and the decision-making centres of new global corporations. We passed a law this year completely freeing from taxation dividends received from strategic investment inside the country and abroad. I hope that both Russian and foreign investors will make use of this exemption we are offering. We hope to see just as favourable, understanding and liberal an attitude from our partners. In cases where problems do arise, the balance between national interests and the need for foreign investment should be found exclusively by working together in a spirit of constructive dialogue.

"The new architecture of economic relations implies a principally new approach to the work of international organisations. It has become increasingly apparent of late that the existing organisations are not always up to the measure in regulating global international relations and the global market. Organisations originally designed with only a small number of active players in mind sometimes look archaic, undemocratic and unwieldy in today's conditions. They are far from taking into consideration the balance of force that has emerged in the world today. This means that the old decision-making methods do not always work. The World Trade Organisation and



the Doha round of trade negotiations, which are proceeding with great difficulty, to put it mildly, provide a clear example in this respect.

"Today, the protectionism the WTO was set up to combat is often implemented by the developed economies that founded the organisation. It is in these economies that we see the greatest concentration of state support for business. It is not coincidence that a parallel system of regional alliances and agreements is taking shape, essentially giving the global market a new structure. And the trade liberalisation process is now taking place more and more through these new agreements. It is worth thinking about creating regional Eurasian free trade institutions in order to encourage trade and investment. These institutions could of course draw on and use the positive experience of the World Trade Organisation.

"The international financial organisations are also in need of serious restructuring and modernisation. They were established at a time when the world looked very different and are having

difficulty adapting to the new situation of stable economic growth in the majority of developing countries and growing markets. An international financial system based around just one or two currencies and a limited number of financial centres no longer reflects the global economy's strategic demands. Fluctuations in these currencies' exchange rates have a negative impact on the financial reserves of entire countries and on the development of different economic sectors around the entire world.

"There can be only one answer to this challenge and that is the emergence of several reserve currencies and several financial centres. This is why we need to start work today to create the conditions for diversifying the world financial system's assets.

"Russia will continue carrying out its policy aimed at making its national currency, the rouble, and its financial market and banking system more attractive. The issue of settling payments for goods exports from Russia in roubles will also be a question we will need to

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government, Iranian and U.S. analysts say." (8)

It's amazing how analytical the Washington Post can be without drawing the proper conclusions. What it all means is that U.S. academic spies are responsible for the loss of freedom in Iran. Had these wannabe 007s had a reputation of working in Maryland and Virginia buildings bordering Washington, DC where they belong, there would be no issue for Iran to weigh. To achieve this effect CIA and State Department recruiters should be arrested on campus, if "freedom" were really the u.s. concern numero uno in the world. Then other countries like China and Iran would know when they were talking to an academic, that that academic was not a government agent.

Muzzling the press for their benefit is not the only super-citizen side-effect. The FBI is now on the hunt for "terrorist-spies" in Boston. (8) So to benefit these academics who should be in the Pentagon or State Department, ordinary academics without an international or military component to their work face snooping by the FBI as well. It's amazing that no one asks "what gives them the right to endanger and diminish the lives of non-spy academics?"

It's no surprise that these undercover agents are now hard at work trying to dismiss Ward Churchill. It is the influence of the super-citizens of repression. Free speech is for the super-citizen selling books about how they repressed and corrected non-super-citizens. It's about having the free speech to be an FBI or CIA agent and get Ward Churchill fired

for his work criticizing the super-citizens.

Notes:

1. <http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/nevada/2007/jun/16/061610558.html>

2. http://blog.washingtonpost.com/earlywarning/2007/06/nuking_iran_the_republican_age_1.html

3. http://select.nytimes.com/gst/index.html?_r=1&F011F8E54C78CDDAF094DF0442

4. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/13/AR2007061301907.html?hpid=opinionsbox1>

5. http://www.townhall.com/Columnists/WilliamFBuckley/2007/06/08/yes_free_libby

6. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6704987.stm

7. <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2007/>

0 5 / 1 8 / MNGH6PTATE1.DTL&type=politics

8. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/15/AR2007061502333.html?hpid=topnews>

9. http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/06/12/fbi_warns_colleges_of_terror_threat/

Weblinks:

Iran: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/countries/iran>

Iraq war: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq>

US spy budget: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/milit/spies0406.html>

Ward Churchill: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/sept112001>

Russia

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look at, but this of course should apply to cases when it would be in both the suppliers' and the buyers' advantage."(1)

German negotiators interpreted the remarks as pressure on the World Trade Organization (WTO) to take in Russia this year.(2) China has already joined and Russia is the most significant imperialist not belonging yet.

Since Putin does not yet belong to the imperialists' attempt at one global imperialism, there is speculation that he will form his own imperialist bloc, this time with openness to outside investment.

Various countries trade in the dollar and Euro, because the holders of these currencies imagine they can obtain a wide variety of commodities for their currency. Discussion of the rouble means that Putin would like to see countries accept the rouble in return for their exports. Since Russia has oil and gas and the military power to prevent their being taken over by outsiders, the rouble has some characteristics of stability that investors seek.

The U.S. embargo on Palestine and now the Macau bank fiasco with northern Korea have underscored Russia's financial system difficulties. When the united States put an embargo on Hamas, Russia had to send aid physically instead of wiring money. Likewise, there were media reports that when northern Korea received its money in Russia the transaction did not go smoothly and may not have worked as of this date June 16.(3)

Russia is the better candidate for the confrontations involved with setting up a separate financial center, because China relies heavily on exports to the united States and EU. Oil and natural gas convert to hard power.

Nonetheless, China made its most splashy criticism of the united States in recent history in response to George W. Bush's dedication of a memorial to the "victims of communism."(4) The Chinese social-fascists denounced U.S. attempts to return to the "Cold War" conflict between imperialism and the genuine communist countries of the Stalin and Mao era.

The ex-communist countries do have some commonalities in interest, being the "lagging" economies playing by U.S.-dictated rules. Recently Kim Jong Il added to the mix by pointing to the U.S. missile shield for Czechoslovakia and Poland as another reason it would have to build more nuclear weapons.(5)

Putin objected to Bush's missile shield idea for Poland and Czechoslovakia, because it aims more weapons Russia's way. As a counter-proposal, Putin said that the united States could put missiles to intercept projected Iranian missiles in Azerbaijan, where the U.S. weapons would not aim at Russia.

Czech opposition to the missile shield idea climbed from 61% in February to 68% in a more recent poll.(6) Russia has said it will aim more missiles toward eastern Europe if the Bush plan goes through.

On his side, Bush also finds advantage in lumping together ex-communist

countries. For example, when chastising Russia, the West claims that it has not really reformed for "freedom," despite the fact that Putin has three times Bush's approval rating and an imprisonment rate second to Bush's.

Imperialist rivalry has serious drawbacks, because colonial trade blocs were the underlying causes of World War I and World War II. On the other hand, for the Third World, imperialist rivalry offers opportunities to improve their situation marginally by increasing competition for Third World business on terms not dictated by the old imperialists.

Notes:

1. http://www.kremlin.ru/eng/speeches/2007/06/10/1823_type84779_133685.shtml

2. "Putin calls for revolution in world economic relations," by Stephen Boykewich (AFP),

<http://www.metimes.com/storyview.php?StoryID=20070610-111240-544lr>

3. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/19257086/>

4. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,,-6707922,00.html>

5. http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=2061087&sid=SDK_CZFIYU&ref=home

6. <http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/04/24/news/gates.php>

Weblinks:

MIM FAQ page on imperialism: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/imperialism.html>

Black Book of Communism: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/blackbook>

Did you know? There are more than 200 back issues of MIM Notes available on the MIM website? Not only can you browse more than 15 years of the newspaper, you can also keep up with the very latest on MIM agitation campaigns, prisoner news, all the latest on the U\$ war, and much more. MIM's website is an indispensable tool for the revolutionary movement. Get involved! www.etext.org/Politics/MIM

What's New @ MIM's Homepage

California chooses prisons over education

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Currently California prisons house almost double the population they were originally designed for at 173,000 prisoners.(2)

They also claim this money will go towards rehabilitation. We have absolutely no reason to believe the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (CDCR) will actually do anything beyond the recent addition of the word "Rehabilitation" to their name. California already has one of the highest recidivism rates in the country, with an astronomical 70% of released prisoners ending up back inside within three years. And in recent years we have seen education programs, visitation, and even mail cut back so that prisoners are left with very little to do behind bars and a virtually impossible task of going straight from prison to the streets with no education or transitional services.

Implementing a state-wide ban of educational material from MIM is one more way to keep prisoners locked up. Prisoners who read our literature frequently tell us they learn to channel their time into productive activities rather than participating in violence behind bars. And the education helps them have a better chance at staying on the street once they are released. We get letters pleading

for reading materials like this one from Salinas Valley State Prison all the time: "I'm an inmate at Salinas Valley State Prison and am on a yard that's been on lockdown off and on for approximately 4 years. Therefore I'm unable to get to the library here. I've read every 'floater' here. I would be very grateful for any soft back books you could send. Anything you send will be read and reread by many inmates." Surely the CDCR knows there is a demand for reading materials in the prisons, but they don't even bother to fill this void with fluff novels. They prefer to spend their large budget on higher salaries for brutal guards and legal defense for their illegal activities like setting up prisoner fights for sport.

Of course, the CDCR does have reasons to ban MIM from the prisons. Educating prisoners is counter to their goal. With education comes consciousness, and while prisoners working with MIM report avoiding violent confrontations (both with their peers and with guards), they are also more likely to take up legal and administrative appeals, and to educate and organize their fellow prisoners to stand up for their legal rights. As one California prisoner wrote to us in October of last year:

"In extending my respects to all, I would also like to convey my heartfelt appreciation to everyone working at, working with and/or affiliated with Maoist Internationalist Movement for all that you do and the services you provide. Especially, in regards to prisoners. Speaking from personal experience I can say that in receiving and reading your newsletters, it's both a major source of motivation and encouragement. To say that your MIM Notes have served me well does not cover any specifics, but I can say that your notes have been a potent ingredient towards my transformation: and your free books to prisoners program has nurtured and fed me like a baby at his mother's bosom. The books you have been so generous to send have taught me to respect and value the importance of an education, an education that has taught me that with knowledge comes enormous responsibility. The responsibility that arises from not just knowing the difference between what is said to be right, or wrong, testing an deciphering, truth and lies, but knowing and acting in accordance with what is consistent and progressive in the exercise of self determination and self defense.

"Even today as I sit in the gulags in one

of the most abusive and repressive prisons in this country, being taunted and tormented by my sadistic captors, I'm not discouraged by either the dingy confines of this steel and concrete dungeon or the rough road ahead that I must travel. You see, I will persevere these trials gladly to oppose, expose and blow as many holes as I can in this political, social and economic system of exploitation and oppression."

With clear evidence that spending money on education can reduce imprisonment, and even reduce crime rates overall at a price that is cheaper than locking people up, and further evidence that education in prisons will reduce the number of prisoners, we have to talk about why California is choosing these spending priorities. Prisons serve capitalism as a tool of social control. Prisons are mainly used as a tool of national oppression within capitalist Amerika. The disproportionate numbers of oppressed nationalities in prisons tell this story very clearly. And in California, prisons are mostly used to lock up Mexicans and Blacks. In a border state, this is a convenient trick in the battle against immigration (Mexicans migrating back to their land). And in a state with a

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strong history of militant revolutionary activism among oppressed nationalities (the birthplace of the Black Panther Party was Oakland California), the legacy of a decades long war against any possibility of national liberation struggles within U.S. borders continues in an expanding prison system.(5)

Clearly the capitalists have proven themselves unable to act for the good of

people based on factual information. Any logic-driven solution working with the purported goal of decreasing imperialist-defined crime would stop funding prison expansion and instead focus on education. MIM doesn't pretend to buy into the imperialist definition of crime which locks up drug users for years but lets the biggest mass murderers (in the government) go on running the country. We can see that the only solution to this

criminal injustice system is an end to the capitalist system that requires imprisonment.

Notes:

1. See MIM's web page on censorship: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons/censor/ca/index.html>
2. San Francisco Chronicle, May 21, 2007
3. Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: Education and Correctional Populations, January 2003
4. Journal of Correctional Education, v55 n4, p297-305, December 2004. See also The

Nation, March 4, 2005: "Studies have clearly shown that participants in prison education, vocation and work programs have recidivism rates 20-60 percent lower than those of nonparticipants. Another recent major study of prisoners found that participants in education programs were 29 percent less likely to end up back in prison, and that participants earned higher wages upon release."

5. For more on prisons as a tool of social control check out MIM Theory 11, Amerikkkan Prisons on Trial.

Winning elections among labor aristocracy voters

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work. He was facing re-election and the ethics committee saw that as a factor in pursuing what it says was a false case of rape. Nifong simply waited till after re-election to drop the rape case. By serving another term, Nifong also would have greatly improved his pension. MIM would add that Bill Clinton is an example of someone who became governor after becoming a prosecutor. Bill Clinton used his fame from prosecution to become president eventually.

Too often, whites see prosecutors and cops as holy figures worthy of prolonged gaping-mouth disease while the television is on.

On the other hand, what makes MIM sad about this case is that North Carolina is now deep into a punishment phase for Nifong but only Nifong. There is talk of a criminal case against him. Where are all these fine people for justice when DNA reveals that prosecutors and cops cooked up entire murder cases, we wonder. We

never hear about prosecutors losing jobs in connection to railroaded Blacks, never mind facing criminal charges.

MIM has argued that there should be a death penalty for lying cops and prosecutors who attempt to convict someone for murder. Hopefully in the future, a silver lining to this case will be that people will have a more realistic view of Amerikan prosecutors, as people who also have motivations for evil. The furor now proves that Amerikans can be motivated to be more than just naive dupes of cops and prosecutors when they want to be, so actually the Nifong case casts a poor light on more serious situations that have not been corrected. Those saying that whites just have "false consciousness" about the injustice system proved wrong, because the North Carolina whites became suddenly MIM-like in their analysis but only on behalf of white victims of prosecutorial misconduct in one case.

Also in the news on the topic of politics

and crime—the whole "Justice Department" remains under fire for politics in the firings of eight prosecutors. Amerikans like to believe that politics is not principal in art or law. At the same time, they allow elections of prosecutors as in Durham, North Carolina and the law says the president can appoint the federal prosecutors.

Bush official under Gonzales, Mike Elston resigned June 15. Some of the fired prosecutors said Elston asked them to keep quiet about the firings.(4) Whether it is bourgeois politicization of the Ward Churchill case or prosecutor firings, the difference between bourgeois politicization and proletarian politicization is that the socialist dictatorship removes the profit motive for corrupt behavior. If a Lynne Cheney of the socialist future gets a Ward Churchill fired, she will not gain any profits from that. Likewise if a socialist official uses a court case for political gain, he will not profit from that.

Notes:

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006_Duke_University_honore_cas#Effect_on_Duke_students
2. www.flmd.uscourts.gov/al-arian/8-03-cr-00077-JSM-TBM/docs/2100513/4.pdf
3. <http://www.abcnews.go.com/Politics/story?id=3293445&page=1>
4. http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/2007-06-18-gitmo-candidates_N.htm
5. <http://www.abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory?id=3284975>

Web links:

- Liberalism: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/liberalismdef.html>
 Fascism: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/cong/fascismdef.html>
 Death penalty for lying cops: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/contemp/leftover/deathpenaltylying.htm>
 Ward Churchill: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/sept112001>

Amerikan diplomacy: The one note song

From p. 2...

business ventures in Korea. When the Koreans shut down their old reactor, maybe they can buy a new one from the Amerikans. Then after selling Kim such plants, the U.S. imperialists can claim that Korea has weapons of mass destruction and invade to get some use out of that Pentagon.

It's not that we are specifically against Republicans. While it is six House Republicans raising petty points, a deal with Bush has its advantages too, the same way that it was Nixon who opened to China under Mao.

An article as we go to press noted that "Bush goes the extra mile on North Korea deal."(6) The norms of history and meta-policy say that when the U.S. regime is in political trouble, it goes to bipartisan foreign policy as if on auto-pilot. Career bureaucrats assist in the auto-pilot mode while also putting a drag on political initiatives. So backing up to the Clinton policy is not out of line for u.s. imperialism in this situation. We see Bill Richardson from Clinton's administration go to Korea and Jimmy Carter go to Nepal. The solution in Korea is somewhat hastened by the previous deal under Clinton.

Where the uncertainty enters is the

political weakness of the leading imperialists, something we have not seen, again since Watergate. All six of the scientific polls conducted on president Bush's approval rating thus far in June showed a decline for Bush from their previously reported numbers. The most recent poll of NBC/Wall Street Journal shows 29% approving of Bush and 66% disapproving.(7) This is as MIM predicted before, that there is really no room for giving the Bush regime another hard blow. Even the reactionary Moonie cult paper the Washington Times said on June 1, "with a little more work he could leave office as the most unpopular president ever."(8)

Bush is losing further support for trying to pass an immigration bill. As we pointed out before, the average Red state citizen is happy to call Kissinger a "communist," so opening the borders is an emotional point, with capitalist internationalism too much of a radical idea.

In France, Chirac's party abandoned these sorts of voters to Le Pen. Now we have Sarkozy win them back with Nixon-like appeals against crime and so-called riots. The underlying class is the same,

the labor aristocracy. In 1968, the labor aristocracy flocked to Nixon and DeGaulle and nothing has changed.

With a war like Iraq going on and Bush being a "lame duck" president, it is normal to expect his rating would decline. Truman was lower in 1951 and left with a 23% approval rating.(8) However, Truman's Korean War was far bloodier and intense than the Iraq War. Bush started from such a low level of approval that his whole regime is in danger till elections in 2008. The solution of the imperialists to Nixon's political collapse was to bring in new blood.

There are many imperialists who will say that Cheneyism is an aberration. We see imperialism as a system, with militarist inflexibilities that create Cheneyism. The imperialists may not be spouting a direct "Master Race" concept right now, but they agree with Mussolini that war is the essence of the betterment of a people. That's why U.S. diplomacy seems like a one-note song. When the imperialists figure out how to patch up their differences and soothe the imperialist country petty-bourgeoisie, they'll be back with a full time answer how to spread

some more war. Assuming that global peace was the imperialist goal to begin with is mistake number one.

Notes:

1. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6752239.stm
2. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/6684761.stm
3. <http://www.cnn.com/2007/POLITICS/06/15/bloggers.bush/> ; <http://www.opinionjournal.com/columnists/pnoonan/?id=110010148> ; <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/03/AR2007060301446.html>
4. <http://www.abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory?id=3272207>
5. <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=2061087&sid=aXKGuSpGja&ref=home>
6. Carol Giacomo, Reuters, 17Jun2007, http://in.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2007-06-17T204659Z_01_NOOTR_RTRMDNC_0_India-303510-1.xml
7. <http://www.pollingreport.com/BushJob.htm>
8. <http://washingtontimes.com/national/20070601-010016-4484r.htm>

Prison throws out legal paperwork and MIM literature

It seems these fascist bastards are once again further intensifying their brutal repression against us. Late last Friday night our entire block was overrun by COs. Upon entering our pod we were ordered to strip down completely! Of course as everyone knows, this is strictly done to humiliate us. Anyways, after being physically searched, we were placed in pre-screening cold cells only wearing a pair of boxers and a t-shirt. We were kept in these cells for what seemed like hours, not even allowed to use the restroom or anything. Once we were returned to our cells, we noticed that all of our legal work had been confiscated and our cells totally destroyed. Family photos and letters had been thrown away or tore up and lying on the ground. Needless to say, this was done to provoke a negative reaction from us. Therefore justifying their use of force against us.

Also, every piece of "political literature" I had was thrown away. When I asked why this was they stated that MIM was no longer allowed because it was racist. And that coming from the grand fucking wizard himself! I don't know if in fact this is true or not but if you guys can and don't mind, could you please send me another theory journal so I can participate in the study group?

Back to the confiscated legal work. Apparently these bastards are lying to reduce the amount of litigation coming out of here. So what better way than stripping us of it. According to a source who wishes to remain anonymous, COs here in the SHU are to step up their harassment on us through write-ups, cell searches, strip searches and various other things. If a CO doesn't do it he will be in trouble with his/her superiors.

I myself have already been targeted by these bastards with a few senseless write ups. I guess they didn't appreciate me arguing with them over my political and legal material. This place is becoming more and more like a true Nazi fascist concentration camp. The only reason they aren't murdering us is because it's not in their financial interest to do so. Otherwise we'd all be dead.

Either way the struggle must continue. One must never give up the struggle regardless of the obstacles these bastards place in front of us.

- a California prisoner, March 2007

Fighting repression and censorship

I am one of many who stays on the E-beds [as pleasant Valley State Prison]. The E-beds are beds that are in the dayroom. What a place to do 4 years. Thank god all I have to do now is 20 more months.

I don't know how often you pick up a local newspaper but for the past 3 months all the newspapers statewide tell a story on how overcrowded our prisons are. The evening news has been telling stories also. A Federal judge in San Francisco named Thelton Henderson has taken an interest in our well being, and he is saying he will make some major changes. This system is very dysfunctional and the people who run it are very dangerous. They are professional liars. They have been killing inmates for years and continue to get away with it while others go to prison for killing human lives.

I guess you sent me a newsletter this past

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

week, well the mailroom staff here decided to keep it so I filed a complaint. Let's see what excuse they give for not letting me receive it. You should call here and ask why they aren't allowing me to have it. By working together we can win this.

For the last 2 days we have not had any water to shower, they claim a line busted and won't be fixed until Tuesday. They have enough money to call an emergency crew to fix it but why do it? We are only convicts. We don't deserve showers, right?

- a California prisoner, January 2007

Fighting censorship is part of power struggle for justice

Having received your Under Lock and Key Access Alert warning of the memorandum issued by the Director [of California prisons], directing an immediate ban on the receipt, possession or distribution of literature/publications from MIM to or by prisoners in the custody of CDCR, I am writing out of concern for this, the department's latest attempt to further alienate prisoners from the public, their supports, and silence their voice with this new (or I should say revived) endeavor at hindering the free flow of information.

Having been the subject of repression for so long now, these attempts to frustrate, hinder, bloc, etc communications are really nothing new and even with previous examples of defeating the numerous attacks and attempts at stifling this timeless and epic struggle, here we are again, confronted by principalities of injustice, inequality and immoralities. To be sure there is nothing fair about this power struggle at all, but so it is with this venture and enterprise of politics and the baseline war games. So let us brace and prepare ourselves for the worst our adversaries will offer, keeping in mind that we must stay at our best at all times combat ready, and as we proceed we must understand that power concedes nothing without demand.

The Department's attempt to censor particular publications is a recurring tactic prison officials resort to to test the water on how much the courts will allow them to get away with. State and Federal law clearly established that mail can not be censored because prison officials believe it improperly magnifies complaints, contains inflammatory remarks and/or where they may disagree with the political or philosophical content; this does not seem to stop prison officials from trying. To say that this cycle is frustrating is an understatement.

I am in the process of exhausting administrative remedies to address the Directors rules CCR III.15 3006(16) recently revised which incorporates a vague definition of what can be considered contraband, confiscated, denied, or disallowed - their shenanigans never cease to surprise me and glaring acts of hypocrisy at this stage are just infuriating.

I have not received any notification from the prison mail room regarding any denied or disallowed mail from MIM but I already have

a civil rights complain pending in the U.S. District Court on an 8th amendment claim, it wouldn't take much to amend the complaint to include this illegal censorship.

- a California prisoner, April 2007

Starvation in prison

Let me start off by letting you know I have lost 25 lbs since last March. And I assure you I'm not sick and stress is not a problem with me. I've noticed the portions in our meals are steadily getting smaller. I am constantly hungry. I am unfortunate not to be able to hit canteen so all I get is state issue and I am deteriorating. I can hardly exercise anymore because I get light headed. When I brought it to the medical staff's attention, the response of the day was, I had to have AIDS or Hep C and be under 150 lbs to receive anything. Being underfed, or maybe just enough to survive, is crazy. It's hard to "rehabilitate" myself when all I can think of is food. Note that I am just one of many losing weight in here. Some are fortunate to go to canteen but they still loose weight.

On another note, we are under command of a new commander and yard is being run pathetically. But I'm sure they will change it soon because it makes staff work too much. And you can starve us, and over charge us in canteen and take all our peoples hard earned money - 44% for restitution (and rising to 55%), but when you make them work, they will surely change it.

- a California prisoner, March 2007

Prisoners denied right to remain silent

This concentration camp I'm being held hostage at in Salinas Valley is now retaliating on prisoners for exercising their 5th amendment rights to remain silent during interrogation. As of late, every time an incident transpires on the yard, the administration here is making it mandatory that every prisoner attend an interview process, and answer questions about what happened, and sign a form promising basically to behave and continue programming.

Those of us who don't cooperate are being subjected to retaliation, loss of contact visits, canteen, packages, special purchases, yard privileges and the whole 9 yards. It's arbitrary, because the Title 15 and the penal code say the only punishment for not attending or participating in an interview process is just supposed to be documented, and that's it. But these people are going above and beyond the call of duty, isolating people, and stripping them of all their property for choosing not to comply. It's a few of us here fighting, but not nearly enough of us though.

- a California prisoner, November 2006

More brutality in California

Since October 1st I have moved 3 times, and most recently acquired a cellie. The transition has been, for lack of a better word, turbulent. What had started as an ongoing "attitude problem" with one cop, turned sour

when his sordid demeanor manifested into the actual "roughing up" of one of my fellow comrades.

Around September 25th I was moved from my housing unit as a means of administration disruption of our program. I will admit that this little ploy served its intended purpose well, ergo it thoroughly vexed me, so I was not the most complacent or compliant inmate.

On September 27 I was called to move [cells]. I complied and was doing rather splendid tempering my irritation and disgust until we entered the area where, as my luck would have it, our foul mannered coward ass, no back bone having, swine of a "correctional officer," and culprit of previous assault, decided to give a completely unnecessary yank on my cuffed arms. As a result, I started cussing at him.

Once in my cell I started to set my house up when the cops came to my door to cuff up. At first I demanded to know the reason and refused because often time the "Internal Gang Investigators" (the COINELPRO of the CDC) use such strategies as pulling people out of their cell to (attempt) to question them as well as promote distrust amongst the ranks.

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.

Eventually they said that the Sgt wanted to issue my 115 hearing and I complied. But as I began to descend the stairs at escort my shoe slipped off and I stopped to refit it. I believe the rest was planned. At this point they hike my arms up behind my back and scream "stop refusing." I began cussing at them as they manhandle me to the tundra where I was tackled, sprayed, and assaulted. At one point I am kicked in the side. While at another I feel keys being jammed into my ribcage. Only after they finish did they hit their panic button which summons officer assistance. After I was escorted back to my cell boasting a split eye/lip and broken finger where I was to sleep for three nights with no property, no mattress, just one wool blanket. I am not discouraged - it has only served to further fortify my determination.

- a California prisoner, October 2006

Behavior Management Unit used for lockdown

The classification staff here at Pelican Bay State Prison has created a unit which allows the unconstitutional housing of prisoners. The unit is titled "Behavioral Management Unit." Prisoners are taken from General Population for no rule violation, their appliances sent home, deprived of visits, shower, phone, recreation, and forced to attend classes and complete a 3 step level point system. Prisoners are also forced to double cell with another prisoner before being deemed ready for release from this unit.

Prisoners have been pepper sprayed to be forced into this unit. Hundreds of Mexicans made an all out refusal to be abused in such manner, and all were transferred to other prisoners.

The abuse of prisoners continues in building 8-A section in the worse form. As for those that challenge their placement through the appeal process, classification counselors purposely delay forwarding their requested documents needed to challenge their unconstitutional detention. As stated, the abuse and violations of constitutional rights continues to be inflicted upon myself and hundreds of others. This is not fabricated to cause officials here to be investigated. This is a real true situation of abuse on daily basis.

- a California prisoner, December 2006

Knowledge is power

Whatever I can do to contribute to the cause I am more than willing to help. Also, I would like to become an active member of the United Struggle from within, to organize in here with fellow comrades and get a study group going. We just need the books and political ideas to get us started on the right path, then we can spread and uphold our political ideas - anti-

imperialism is a must.

See, I have always been a leftist from the very start and even against the capitalist way of exploitation in Third World nations. But I never really knew anything about being a Socialist, not until recently and now I have a big desire to learn and to know the real left. With your free books for prisoners program, I can learn to organize and teach all the fellow comrades about what its really about to be a member of the political left and it's our time!

The prison complex is designed to keep us down and in a state of ignorance - there's a saying that goes: "knowledge is power" and so, ignorance must be not having power. Which really means that you are weak to oppose the established order of - which today is imperialism and so, I want to educate myself - in order to be able to teach a fellow comrade. But like I said before, let me know how I can contribute to cause or effect to ignite a fire that will keep burning and spreading.

- a California prisoner, October 2006

MIM adds: There is a tremendous hunger for study material in prison and MIM needs help to keep up the supply of books, magazines and newspapers. We need donations of political literature or postage or funds to help with mailings for our Political Books for Prisoners program.

Fighting brutality and gang validation

I am a prisoner at California State Prison, Sacramento New Folsom ASU. I'm writing in response to an article in MIM Notes #338, page 11, "On lockdown, fighting for communism at Calipatria State Prison." I see the brutal hands of authority continue to brutalize prisoners. I was there in Calipatria on August 18, 2005 when they shot and killed Richard Zamora. Not only was I there, but on Sept 7, 2005, 20 days after the shooting I suffered a broken neck as the result of a brutal assault by prison staff. When I was airlifted and admitted they (prison staff) told hospital official I was the victim of a jail house assault. My fellow brothers who were there you know who I am. I have just recently learned this as I begin my legal battle.

I since healed and I'm alive and well. I continue to push forward with my education. However my political fight rages on. I continue to be oppressed by these capitalist and California's prison system. I have recently been validated. A grossly abused tactic used to single us out and put us in the SHU Control Unit. For no less than 6 years I have been targeted for my efforts to fight back. I ask all comrades in Calipatria and throughout the California prison system to educate yourselves. Utilize the law and fight back. Together we can be heard. The oppression and the beatings must stop. Those of you oppressed through out the control

units (SHU, ASU, etc.) know that my fight continues for change. Join this fight now by organizing and collecting signatures to petition and shut down these control units and the abuse they breed. We must fight this validation process that is maliciously abused. Let's organize now and let our voice be heard.

- a California prisoner, January 2007

Prisons encourage drug use

I agree with the movement MIM struggles to obtain, through unity and organization we will succeed. I'm still unfamiliar with a lot of the information I received, but as I continue to receive the MIM newsletter I will achieve the knowledge required.

Now, I'm going through a lot at this prison. Since my incarceration I have lost my mom, dad, and a brother to death. My wife and kids no longer communicate with me. When it first occurred I started seeing psychs, doctors, whoever, to try to help because I was lost, depressed, angry. I even tried to kill myself a few years back. Eventually it led me to doing drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, whatever to keep my mind off my loss.

I have no family support and its driving me insane. Prison is supposed to be a place for rehabilitation. It's so much crooked stuff goes on in these prisons, with C/Os lying, saying we did things we didn't do, which is never a way to prove otherwise. They kick our ass constantly, overcrowded, mental program is the worst. They pick up everything possible to prosecute us and give us year after year.

Right now I'm facing 25 years to life for a piece of dope. This is my second time going to court for a piece of dope at this prison and I should know better. But drugs is the only way to deal with my depression without trying to kill myself. My last dope case in prison I took 4 years, they didn't put me in the hole, no counseling, nothing, just right back on the yard with all the drugs. I started using drugs I have never even seen before in life like heroin, meth, whatever they had, and now I'm facing life for a problem I can't control. Prison is a crazy place and messed up place.

- a California prisoner, December 2006



Join the fight against the injustice system

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Facts on US imprisonment

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

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

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

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

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

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

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

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

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.

HAMAS LIBERATES GAZA

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Likewise, among the Palestinian people, the struggle between Fatah supporters and Hamas supporters is mostly a non-antagonistic contradiction as Mao would say. The underlying class and nation situation of Palestinians is similar. When the PLO and then Mahmoud Abbas became increasingly U.S. and I\$rael-supported, matters changed, and a problem of antagonistic contradiction arose.

We do not focus first on religion or the age of leaders or other details. Mao referred to the principal contradiction, to clarify our thinking.

On the Fatah side, we have seen one argument that said even though it is Fatah taking aid from the enemy, it is Hamas that benefits I\$rael more nonetheless. The implicit message is that it is normal to be a U.S. lackey, but some lackeys are better than others. This is not MIM's approach.

Unfortunately at this time it has to be said there is a CIA front using Maoist rhetoric criticizing Hamas in concert with U.S. imperialism. It is the nature of the class struggle that the enemy corrupts the forward advance of the proletariat from within. This CIA front goes so far as to crib openly from counterinsurgency expert opposing Maoism Samuel P. Huntington, with regard to his "clash of civilizations" thesis. This same Huntington was the one who came up with the "forced draft urbanization" strategy for Vietnam, which translated to "bomb the countryside." It is a reflection on the easy-going, quarter-assed nature of the left-wing of parasitism that it can be sucked into such an approach so easily.

Sore loser

The two parties Hamas and Islamic Jihad boycotted the elections that brought Mahmoud Abbas to power as president of Palestine in January 2005.(3) When Hamas won the only head-to-head contest in post-World War II Palestinian election history in 2006, the united States started a now 15-month-old embargo. The embargo was so tight, that Russian imperialists found they could not even transmit emergency money aid to the Palestinians, because of U.S. control of the international banking system. Aid packages had to be delivered physically.

The united States calls Hamas a "terrorist" group and forbids financial contact with it upon penalty of being disconnected from the u.s. banking system.(4)

In the meantime, the I\$raelis arrested Hamas's elected officials in Palestine's parliament. It is shame on Abbas to declare an emergency government now when I\$rael has selected who should remain in Palestine's rump parliament without a quorum.

The fact that the u.s. imperialists are clamoring for a minority dictatorship over Palestine now is proof that so-called democracy is not U.S. imperialism's first guiding principle to this day. In actual fact, what guides U.S. imperialism is its Washington-created ideology regarding so-called terrorism, a vague catch-all suitable for defending U.S. imperialist interests in oil and other aspects of global domination.

The new U.S. role

With Mahmoud Abbas and his Fatah organization ousted from the Gaza Strip, the u.s. imperialists changed their tactics and announced they would suspend the embargo against Palestine in order to back an Abbas dictatorship of emergency rule. Going back decades, it was the united States clamoring for elections among Palestinians and more "transparency" and "reform"; yet, the minute the Palestinians held their elections, the u.s. imperialists moved to starve the Palestinians to death with the embargo.

The transition from supporting elections to opposing them happened so quickly that the same u.s. president is in power. In 2002, Bush said,

"The United States, along with the European Union and Arab states, will work with Palestinian leaders to create a new constitutional framework, and a working democracy for the Palestinian people. And the United States, along with others in the international community will help the Palestinians organize and monitor fair, multi-party local elections by the end of the year, with national elections to follow."(5)

Web pages still up from 2002 from the State Department show it supporting "young guard" Palestinians against "old guard" Palestinians on the subject of "reform and democratization." The "young guard" consisted of "elected



leaders," the State Department said then.(6) In 2003, before Arafat died, the Zionists' "Jerusalem Post" called for an "open, accountable government" that was "genuinely representative."(7)

Abbas withdrew from a joint government with Hamas and then announced emergency rule, thus pleasing u.s. imperialist masters who want a loyal lackey to clamp down on Hamas. Spanish and general European Union imperialists also chimed in for Abbas on June 15.(8) Although newspapers ineptly assuming that the U.S. goal is peace said that the Gaza Strip takeover by Hamas was a U.S. failure, the fissures in the Saudi-brokered government grew to the point of total division, and enabled U.S. imperialists to unite with EU imperialists behind a Fatah-only government.

Thus far it appears that Fatah will be in control in the West Bank where 2.5 million Palestinians live. 1.5 million live in the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinians are great proof of Marx's general approach. Hamas people say they are "fighting for their religion," while Fatah can claim to fight to end the U.S. embargo by giving in, but in reality Hamas supporters fight hard because they have "nothing to lose but their chains." Others in the world also have their religions and do not fight. Combative versions of religion arise where economic conditions give rise to them.

Notes:

1. "In Aftermath of Gaza Battle, Grim Realities," By TAGHREED EL-KHODARY and IAN FISHER, New York Times 16Jun07.
2. http://www.gulf-times.com/site/t_o_p_i_c_s_/display.asp?no=1540&con=1&tmpl=3&mid=7
3. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_presidential_election%2C_2005
4. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/countries/palestine/palestine050706.html>
5. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/06/20020624-3.html>
6. http://italy.usembassy.gov/viewer/article.asp?article=/file2002_07/alia/A2070204.htm
7. http://info.jpost.com/C002/Supplements/Elections2003/ld_04_2601.html
8. http://english.people.com.cn/200706/16/eng20070616_384912.html

Weblinks:

Contradictions Among the People: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/onhandling.html>

On Contradiction: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/oncontradict.html>

Uncle \$am starves Palestinians: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/countries/palestine/palestine050706.html>

"Why do you oppose democracy?": <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/opposedem.html>

Minimum wage for war

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\$tates is only for the labor aristocracy within u.s. borders, and the important point is that the only bourgeoisified so-called workers who ever have their minimum wages raised in this means belong to the imperialist countries. In ordinary oppressed nations, there are no spoils from conquest to offer. So the Iraq War has brought about another super-profit redistribution toward the Amerikan petty-

bourgeoisie referred to as "minimum wage workers."

Everywhere in the world, the petty-bourgeoisie that does best is often that with a strong alliance with the upper ranks of the capitalist class. "Business alliances" pay off, and so it is with the Iraq War. The phony Marxist organizations in denial about the true class position of Amerikans have no explanation

how they appropriate so much labor if they are not petty-bourgeoisie. Almost all the organizations calling themselves "Marxist" are not in the proletarian camp allied with MIM. They are working for the exploiters. The cheerleading for the poorest legal so-called workers in the united States only gives the imperialists a chance to boost support for the Iraq War.

Notes:

1. http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/05/24/politics/main2851044.shtml?source=mostpop_story
2. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTDECINEQ/Resources/GlobalIncomeInequality.pdf>, p. 13. Branko Milanovic, "Global Income Inequality: A Review."