



RAIMI Global Digest

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SEVEN YEARS OF ONGOING U.S. IMPERIALIST SLAUGHTER IN IRAQ

March 27th, 2010- Figures and statistics are stubborn things sometimes, especially for the impotent First Worldist “anti-war left.” A RAIM-S analysis of polling data reveals that roughly 75% of Amerikkans supported the invasion and occupation of the nation of Iraq in the Spring of 2003. By the Spring of 2007, Amerikkkan support had fallen to 25% – a total reversal in the ratio of support to opposition.



The so-called “anti-war movement” likes to brag about the millions of participants globally (with the bulk of them First Worlders) in protests against the Iraq invasion in the early part of 2003. As if they can claim credit for stopping the

imperialists dead in their tracks.

While Iraq is certainly not free of u\$ imperialist occupation, the glorious Iraqi resistance has managed to put a dent in their plans for absolute control of Iraqi national resources. The First Worldist so-called “left” cannot make this claim about themselves and their social base. The Iraqi people’s righteous resistance to u\$ imperialism, actually sending the oppressors away in body bags, is what switched Amerikkkan public opinion around. What did the fake left think it was going to do on its own? Some of these kkklowns were actually considering campaigning with Demokkkrats to reinstate the draft! This was all in a cynical attempt to “shape” Amerikkkan public opinion on

(cont. Inside)

U.S. LEADS OFFENSIVE AGAINST SOMALIA

March 26th, 2010- They’re at it again. The US is quietly leading a major military operation against the African country of Somalia.

Since last year, the US has been training and funding the ‘Transitional Federal Government’(TFG). Now, the US is planning an offensive in the country’s capital, Mogadishu, in hopes of countering the growing influence of the Islamic group, Harakat al-Shabaab Mujahideen (al-Shabaab).

In 2006, US-backed Ethiopian forces occupied the country’s capital to drive out the ruling Islamic Courts Union (ICU). The task proved too great and in 2009 Ethiopian forces withdrew. Al-Shabaab, a splinter from the ICU, has since made significant gains against the ‘internationally-recognized’ TFG. Despite the substantial backing the TFG receives from the US, al-Shabaab controls the south of the country and much of the capital.

The current offensive against Mogadishu is the first major operation to be headed by the United States Africa Command, or AFRICOM, since it was founded in 2007. However, the US has a long history of intervening in

Somalia. In 1993, members of a US Special Forces team were killed, the bodies of some dragged through capital by a crowd. Most recently, in 2006 the US bombed Mogadishu as Ethiopian forces invaded the country.

The US says operations in Somalia *(cont inside)*

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RAIM GLOBAL DIGEST

The RAIM Global Digest is the news and analysis magazine of the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist Movement (RAIM). For more info, check out www.antiimperialism.wordpress.com. Questions, comments and submissions can be sent to raim-d@hush.com

PROGRAM OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENT

We want to smash this world and build a new one. Today, the median global wage stands around \$2.50 an hour. Over 1 billion people face chronic hunger and a child dies every five seconds of starvation. This same situation is killing the planet at an unprecedented rate. Meanwhile, a global minority lives in comfort, unconcerned with their effect on the world. We aim to change this.

We understand there is a causal relationship between wealth on one hand and poverty on the other. On a global level, the First World is rich because it exploits the impoverished majority, the Third World. This global divide, called imperialism, is the principal feature of the world today.

We side with the Third World masses and support their struggles for liberation. Exploiters are not going to hand over freedom to those they exploit. Only through struggle can the oppressed free themselves. We support the right of resistance- and revolution- for oppressed peoples against their oppressors. We support unity of the Third World masses against imperialism.

We reject First Worldism: politics which panders to or assumes that First Worlders are a social base for revolution. The “masses” of the First World are a global minority: a petty-exploiter class which regularly supports the imperialist system from which it benefits. Global revolution demands a just and egalitarian distribution of the world’s resources and wealth. Thus, over the course of global revolution, First Worlders will receive less, not more.

We are John Browns, staunch First World allies of the Third World. We are few and far between and behind enemy lines; there is little direct effect we can have. We consider our circumstances and focus on areas where we can effectively contribute to the revolutionary struggle.

We openly represent revolutionary anti-imperialism and work to build public opinion for Third World liberation struggles. We interject revolutionary, anti-imperialist politics into political arenas such as speaking events and protests; contribute to publishing and distributing revolutionary literature such as the RAIM Global Digest; and conduct

group education through study collectives, practical tasks and informal discussion. We seek out and educate those who can be won over to consistent anti-imperialist politics.

We encourage direct participation and involvement, promote personal development and push people to become more valuable to the larger, global revolutionary movement. In part, RAIM is a ‘university of revolution.’ Through direct involvement with RAIM, we encourage people to become more proficient both politically and technically. Part of RAIM’s purpose is to make individuals more of an asset to the Third World majority.

We encourage Third World-oriented, revolutionary political work. Though RAIM fills a roll by providing a public presence for and entry-level work into revolutionary politics, it is not the end-all-be-all of revolutionary political work. We encourage and support revolutionary, Third World-oriented politics being applied as part of different types of projects and efforts.

Adopted by RAIM-Denver and RAIM-Seattle, November 23rd, 2009

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Iraq cont..

their own by attempting to mechanically rehash Vietnam-era social conditions.

Now, there are those within the First Worldist “left” that will give the Iraqi resistance their due credit. But did they forge an outlook and strategy that correctly flows from this truth? Hell no. Instead, we got “Drive Out the Bush Regime!” and “Impeach Bush!” And then what? Bu\$h is gone and now Amerikkka has Obomber. These First Worldist activists sure took advantage of Amerikkkan dissatisfaction, not to end imperialism, but to ultimately whitewash u\$ imperialism with a Black liberal face. All of the so-called “anti-war” movement’s political energy ended up getting dissolved into demokkratic election campaigns.

To really split hairs among the First Worldists, there are some of them who would say that they are “against imperialism” and always opposed the demokkrats. These people are the most tragic of our delusional First Worldists. We believe that these are sincere people who genuinely wish to see a world without exploitation and oppression. Unfortunately, they have not dealt with the cruel reality of the Amerikkkan mASSes and where their class interests lie. They are trying to recruit from the same people, Amerikkkans, that would just as soon kill them in a fascist coup. It pains us RAIMers to see these people beat their heads against this ideological brick wall over and over again.

If these Amerikkka loving, so-called “revolutionaries” would just have the moral courage to confront two basic facts, they would be a lot better off. They might even retool their strategies to match the reality of global class structure.

Fact #1: The fact the an Amerikkkan majority now opposes the imperialist assault on Iraq has nothing to do with any internationalist compassion on their part towards Iraqis. The Iraqi resistance was simply kicking their parasite Amerikkkan asses for four years – eventually breaking the

imperial citizenry’s desire to “stay the course.” Amerikkkans were not moved to oppose the war from the one million Iraqis murdered, the two million Iraqis displaced, or the five million orphaned Iraqi children. In fact, Amerikkkans continue to support their sister settler state of I\$rael over Palestine consistently – and reaching a high point at 63% just recently! Amerikkka, and Amerikkkans, are virtually always on the side of evil and death in the world.

Fact #2: There is a material reason why the majority Amerikkkans are always on the side of imperialism – they benefit from it. Over 90% of Amerikkkans are the world’s richest 15%. They are in this position from theft of wage labor, land, and natural resources both historically and currently. What the hell makes the First World “left” think they can make a positive difference for the people and planet, while relying on these parasite crackers as “revolutionary” material? We’ll probably never know...

Should the hopelessness of the Amerikkkan asses make us hopeless? Hardly. RAIM has something we call “strategic confidence” in the world’s oppressed and exploited majority. We put our faith for the triumph of justice not in the millions of privileged, but in the billions who are truly exploited in the Third World. As Lin Biao said, “Victory will certainly go to the people of the world!”

Here’s a real anti-war slogan for y’all, in honor of the Iraqi Resistance :

**“The Amerikkkan majority supported the war,
The Iraqi resistance will even the score!”**

Insert "Afghan," "Intifada", etc. in place of "Iraqi/Iraqi resistance" when appropriate.

[Sources available at: <http://raims.wordpress.com/2010/03/27/7-years-of-ongoing-u-imperialist-slaughter-in-iraq/>]

are part of a ‘global counter-terrorism’ effort. An ‘imperialist offensive’ is more accurate.

US offensives in Somalia or anywhere else are part of a wider range of wars and conflicts, meant to reinforce US dominance around the world, including unfettered access to cheap raw materials. Sub-Saharan Africa is thought to be the center of the “next big oil-boom” and the “last real high-potential area in the world that hasn’t been fully explored.” Much of the untapped oil resides in the center of the continent, in Uganda and the Congo, and near the Horn of Africa, in Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia. Somalia may have 10 billion barrels in oil reserves but, due to instability, these reserves have yet to be tapped. It is the US’s intentions have as much control

over this oil as possible. Overthrowing al-Shabaad’s rule and installing the TFG is all part of this plan.

Since Barakkk Obomber was elected president of the chief imperialist country, imperialist aggression has only increased. Troops remain in Iraq and have increased in Afghanistan. In the last year alone, the US has been exposed for drone bombings in Yemen and Pakistan, as well as covert operations elsewhere. Despite this, there has been no rise in anti-war, anti-militarist sentiment within the US. Anti-war marches have been at their lowest levels. For example, in the most recent ‘national march’ in Washington DC, attendance was estimated at 3,200-4,000 people (or .000013% of Amerikan citizens). Not only do Amerikkans seem to think it’s OK when

Obomber bombs people, some are even saying he should be more aggressive. Michael Bolton, former US ambassador to the UN, and several other conservatives have come out and publicly encouraged the US president to bomb Iran. Behind Obama and Amerika’s progressive veneer, we see the real debate: quietly bombing Third World people vs doing so in a big, highly-visible way. Regardless of which of these ‘policies’ Amerika chooses, it can only be a difference between the manner in which Amerika expands its wars in Africa and around the world.

[Sources available at: <http://raimd.wordpress.com/2010/03/26/us-leading-offensive-against-somalia/>]

...Somalia cont

HIT SQUAD KILLS HAMAS LEADER, CAUGHT ON TAPE

(MSH) On January 19, 2010, Mahmoud Abdel Rauf al-Mabhouh, a Hamas senior military commander leader, was assassinated in his hotel room in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. According to reports, he was drugged with a strong sedative that causes paralysis. And, while still conscious, he was suffocated with a pillow.

The Dubai police investigation has revealed that the murder was a coordinated effort that involved several individuals. This hit squad was caught on various video security tapes. These tapes show the hit team marking their target, shadowing him with disguises, and following him to his room where the hit occurred.

Who did it? Mossad is the main suspect. Mossad is Israel's intelligence agency. They are also responsible for covert and black ops, including

REACTIONARIES CLOSE JOHN BROWN PARK

March 17th, 2010- (MSH) In 1859, a handful of revolutionaries, White and Black, declared war upon the United Snakes in order to liberate the enslaved Black Nation from Amerika's murderous clutches. The leader of this small army was John Brown, a White man who stood against his own oppressor nation. John Brown's plan was to raid the federal armory at Harpers Ferry. The revolutionaries planned to take the weapons from the armory and distribute them to the slaves in the neighboring areas. The revolutionaries hoped that their forces would snowball as they freed more and more slaves. Eventually, they planned to establish a Black state in the old slave areas. However, their plans were cut short.

John Brown and his forces became bogged down when they raided the armory at Harpers Ferry. They were caught in a shootout and were soon surrounded. Eventually, the U.S. army killed or captured the members of John Brown's army. John Brown survived the battle, but was captured. Later, he was hanged for daring to turn traitor to his oppressor nation and condemn it to the depths of hell where it belongs. Fred Hampton, a Black Panther who was assassinated, many decades later, is often quoted as saying "you can kill the

paramilitary operations. More than half of the passports used by the hit squad are linked to Israelis who were born in foreign countries but have emigrated to Israel. For example, 12 British passports have been linked to the hit. However, according to the British Serious Organized Crime Agency (SOCA), none of the real owners of the passports are suspects. This is an indication that even the British are pointing the finger at the state of Israel. Many countries are upset that Israel appears to have forged their documents. Australian Foreign minister Stephen Smith stated that forging passports were not the "act of a friend."

More evidence points to Israel. The credit cards used by the hit squad trace back to companies with strong ties to Israel. One of the banks that provided some of the funds has been linked to revolutionary, but you can't kill the revolution." William Dean Howells expresses a similar sentiment in his poem, Old Brown:

"...Old Lion! tangled in the net,
Baffled and spent, and wounded sore,
Bound, thou who ne'er knew bonds before;
A captive, but a lion yet.

Death kills not. In a later time,
(O, slow, but all-accomplishing!)
Thy shouted name abroad shall ring,
Wherever right makes war sublime :

When in the perfect scheme of God,
It shall not be a crime for deeds
To quicken liberating creeds,
And men shall rise where slaves
have trod;

Then he, the fearless future Man,
Shall wash the blot and stain away,
We fix upon thy name to-day—
Thou hero of the noblest plan.

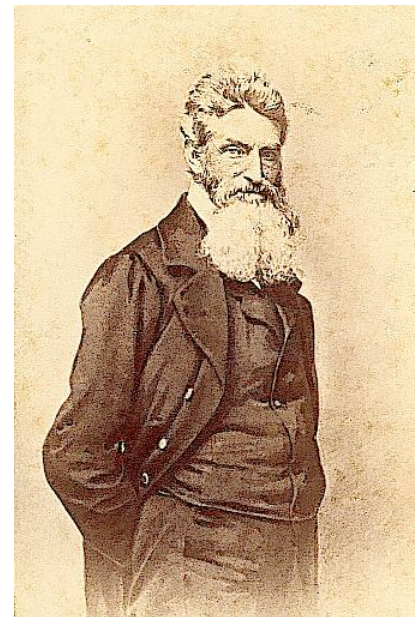
O, patience! Felon of the hour!
Over thy ghastly gallows-tree
Shall climb the vine of Liberty,
With ripened fruit and fragrant
flower."

John Brown's body was returned to upstate New York to be

Payoneer, Inc., which provides prepaid MasterCards. This company is headed by CEO Yuval Tal, a former member of Israeli special forces. Tal is known for his strong racist views. He stated in a 2006 interview, "It's a war that they cannot lose. ... The Israelis have to win this war." Payoneer, Inc. has a history of ties to Zionist activism. Payoneer, Inc. is also affiliated with Taglit-Birthright Israel. They organize trips to Israel for Jewish youth to "strengthen participants' personal Jewish identity."

Dubai's police chief Lt. Gen. Dahi Khalfan Tamim states that they are "99 percent, if not 100 percent" certain that the murder was carried out by Israel's Mossad. The emerging international consensus agrees that Israel is behind the murder. Of course, the Israeli state denies any involvement. Even so, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the buried on his farm, which was later turned into a state park.

Now, due to budget woes, the vampires in the New York state legislature are considering closing the park where John Brown was laid to rest. They intend to do this because John Brown, one of the few heroes of Amerikan history, represents opposition to the many crimes against humanity



that constitute the nightmare that was and is Amerika.

To any decent human being John Brown should be considered a hero and a true revolutionary. To close

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE OLYMPICS

March 19th, 2010- (RAIM-Seattle)

1. National Oppression (imperialism, jingoism)

We can start with the most egregious crimes of occupying and destroying Native lands, despite claims of being the "greenest games ever." We can also take a look back to Olympic kkkulture steeped in Nazi ideology, as with the torch relay's foundation in the 1936 games in Berlin. One can also note the massacre of students at the 1968 games in Mexico city. At these same games in '68, who can forget how Black athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos (of the u\$ track & field team) were vamped on after giving the Black Power salute at their award ceremony. The fact that the then IOC president Avery Brundage had Smith and Carlos expelled from the '68 games, while never objecting to the Nazi Salute given in '36 when he was also IOC president, is telling of the deep racism ingrained in the Olympics.

The imperialist countries, especially the big ones, have a great advantage in that they can participate in more events and can afford to train athletes at lavish expense. The relatively large number of medals won by athletes from the imperialist countries promotes First Worldist

ideology by portraying the First World as a "success" in a contest that was never fair. The First World also controls the selection of venues (witness the threats not to "allow" China to host the Olympics in 2008) and imposes English at every turn (even though actually the official language of the Olympics is French—another imperialist language, but arguably preferable to that of the united \$nakes).

On top of all this, the sheer jingoism generated by the Olympics is nauseating. Flags and national anthems abound. When a medal is awarded, the anthem of the country that the athlete represents is played. The effect is to foster vicarious chauvinist glory through the feats of a handful of bourgeois athletes far removed from productive labor. Observe how Klanadians got themselves whipped up in a chauvinistic frenzy, akin to their fraternal parasites just south of their fake border:

"After a spirited torch relay ignited pride in every corner of the country, the Olympic Games began and quickly galvanized the nation. Flags were everywhere. The country's national symbol hung from windows and was worn on nearly everyone's clothing. Fervent crowds cheered every victory by the host nation. But enough about the 1936 Berlin Olympics. At the opening of these Olympic Winter Games more than

two weeks ago, Vancouver organizers expressed the hope that they could show the world a truly "Canadian Games." That they succeeded in that, there is little doubt.

"For 17 days we were barraged with Canadian flags, rode buses and trains with people in sweatshirts and jerseys adorned with Canadian maple leafs, and were serenaded at venues by Canadian spectators, lustily cheering for Canadian athletes...

"... I didn't attend the '36 Olympics, but I've seen the pictures. Swastikas everywhere. No political reference is meant, just an Olympic one. What on earth were the Canadians thinking? An Olympic host is supposed to welcome the world. This one was too busy being (their word) 'patriotic.'

"Now you know us, eh?" chief organizer Furlong said.

"We thought we did two weeks ago. Now, I'm wondering if Canadians can even recognize themselves.

"Nice party. But so was 1936."

The pathetic jingoism of two squabbling imperialist brats, KKKanada and Amerikkka, case in point:

"I'm Canadian and I wore an American flag down Granville Friday night with a friend of mine just to see how the crowd would react too 2 Amercians chanting USA USA USA! SUNDAY WE STEAL CANADAS GOLD! We had police tell us too just keep walking and another cop told us we were brave. As for the crowd? We got hugs and some high fives, people YELLED O'CANADA as loud as they could and blew horns in our ears. one

Mossad assassination cont

Israeli Trade Minister, apartheid state has waged a continuous war against its neighbors since its founding. It is an imperialist outpost in the middle of the Arab and Islamic world, an outpost used by the imperialists to wage war on its Third World neighbors. It is no surprise that Israel carries out murder operations in the region. Such is par for the course. The only difference here is that the hit squad was caught on tape. Thus the incident has caused a bit of embarrassment for the Zionist entity and its Amerikan sponsors.

This assassination is an act in a long series of acts whereby Israel flagrantly disregards international law and standards, yet is not held to account. In the end, there will be no serious repercussions for Israel. Israel is a rouge state that does as it pleases on the U.S.'s dime. The racist

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his final resting place is an affront to history, the oppressed, and all revolutionaries, past, present and future.

John Brown cont

his final resting place is an affront to history, the oppressed, and all revolutionaries, past, present and future.

If the state of New York is having trouble making ends meet, then the state should release the many political prisoners it holds in its dungeons. The cost savings by releasing these heroes of the oppressed could

easily pay to keep John Brown's home and resting place open for all to mourn this fallen comrade. We won't hold our breath.

Long Live the Spirit of John Brown!

[http://monkeysmaashesheaven.wordpress.com/2010/03/17/revolutionaries-close-john-brown-park/]

sad f***er in the crowd put his cigarette butt in my friends flag.”

Also observe these cracker Klanuckkks openly display their reactionary rudeness to the Anti-Olympic Warriors, in predictable unity with the Amerikkkan cracker hockey fans against the oppressed:

“On Sunday February 28, some 200 protesters took to the streets as part of a ‘Games Over! Resistance Lives’ rally on the day of the closing ceremonies for the 2010 Winter Olympics...

“... As the Games Over! rally progressed, pro-Olympic hockey fans viewing the final game between Canada and the USA came out to heckle and shout obscenities...

“... Police say there were no arrests but there were shouting matches with hockey fans on the streets. When protesters yelled “Shame!” at one group, the fans responded by singing the Canadian national anthem...

““Shame on you Canada! Shame on our government!” said Stella August, a native woman who addressed the crowd.”

2. Gender Oppression (patriarchy, sexism)

We have previously covered the proliferation of the sex trade around the Olympics. However, it is amazing how blatantly sexist the IOC is even on an official level. Besides the simple fact that what are traditionally considered “men’s sports” are given the most coverage, women are still barred from certain sports. Forget about the downhill ski-racer Lindsey Vonn; let’s talk about Lindsay Van, the ski-jumper. Van was forced to stay behind and watch her male ski-jumping counterparts compete, because of some paternalistic bullshit about ski-jumping being too “dangerous” for females. This is from the same IOC who failed to protect Georgian male luger Nodar Kumaritashvili, who was killed during a practice run on a track that he and

other athletes had previously raised safety concerns about.

3. Class Oppression (capitalist-imperialist exploitation/parasitism, bourgeois social priority of “profit over people.”)

As with the tragic case of Nodar Kumaritashvili, the Olympics prioritize the maximization of profits over the needs of the world’s oppressed and exploited majority. The occupation of unceded Indigenous territory in the name of the corporate bottom lines of

and their loyal parasite lap dog “mAsses.”

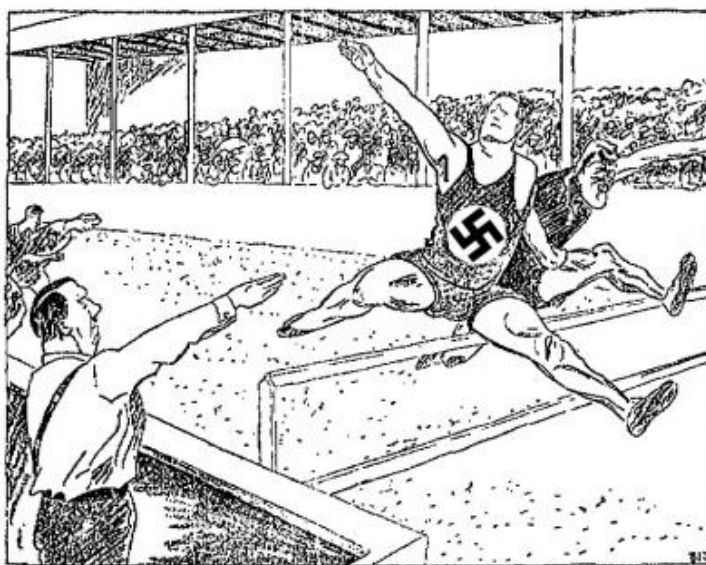
In relation to point one, many of the so-called sports in the Olympics are the province of a tiny elite. The Olympics maintain the pretense that the athletes are all “amateurs.” That’s ridiculous. Athletes are trained at great expense. Typically they don’t even attend regular schools; everything in their lives is arranged so that they can prepare for a silly contest. It’s realistic to say that they’re professionals. Where the hell can the general public practice luge or ski-jumping? Maybe in Switzerland and a few other European countries, but not in North America, where only Olympic athletes get access to the facilities. The effect is to inculcate passiveness and the bourgeois “great man” theory of history.

The sheer commercial decadence and parasitic behavior by the First World KKKonsumer Asses is also characteristic of their class oppressor status. Instead of doing exercise or playing sports, the

average idle television viewer is encouraged to watch others do it instead. This is a problem with all spectator sports generally, as well as often being a pointless distraction. People are encouraged to fiddle (or become fascinated by spectator sports) as the world burns. One cynical argument often made by apologists for systemic mēdia censorship and disinformation is that newspapers and news programs simply do not have time to report on significant events. Why? Because things like the Olympics (and celebrity lives) take up most of the coverage! All of these points demonstrate the global prioritization of the bourgeoisie over the proletariat.

[<http://raims.wordpress.com/2010/03/19/national-liberation-vs-labor-aristocracy-integration-%E2%80%93-part-2/>]

OLYMPIADE 1936



McDonalds, Coca-Cola, Petro-Canada, TransCanada, Dow, Teck Cominco, General Electric & General Motors. While the people of Haiti were still in need of global assistance one month after the earthquake, the Olympic \$pectacle proceeded to distract everyone. Even then, the snowpack in Cascadia was nil at the time, making it completely inappropriate to begin the games even from a sporting perspective. Also during this time, the Cheyenne River Sioux were cut off from heat and water from two severe winter storms, a devastating burden on their people. Was the social priority of the First World to help them, or the masses of Haitians for that matter? No, these decadent pigs spent millions of (u\$ and/or Kanadian) dollars to shave the snow off of Cascadian mountaintops to make fake ski slopes for the Olympics! “The games must go on...” say the capitalists

WYKING GARRET VS. DOMESTIC NEO-COLONIALISM IN “LIBERAL” SEATTLE

March 5th, 2010 (RAIM-Seattle)- He dared to “think globally, act locally”, so the city (and their knee-grow stooges) moved against him.

But this story didn’t begin with Wyking Garrett’s courageous act of March, 2008.

The efforts to establish an African American Heritage Museum & Cultural Center (AAHM&CC) in Seattle began in 1969, and came to the forefront in 1981 when Omari Tahir-Garrett and Isaiah Edwards led a community based coalition in opposing the construction of a police precinct in the heart of Seattle’s historically Black Central District, proposing a positive cultural institution instead.

After successfully blocking the construction of the police precinct, the community turned its attention to the recently closed Colman school as the future home of the African American Heritage Museum & Cultural Center. When the mayor began to back-pedal on his commitment to developing the museum, a dedicated few took decisive action.

On Nov. 23, 1985 the longest recorded act of civil disobedience in U.S. history began when Omari Tahir, Earl Debnam, and a small group of concerned community members occupied the abandoned Colman Elementary School, demanding that the building be developed into the first African American Heritage Museum & Cultural Center in Seattle, WA.

Unlike a typical museum which reflects back on the past accomplishments and defeats of a people, this one was to focus also on future generations of African people, providing everything from after-school homework help for the youth, to career-based education and employment opportunities for African teens and adults. It would also serve as a ‘dual power’ institution, so the African community in Seattle could no longer be under the thumb of the Democrats and their functionaries in city government.

At last, an institution that was truly reflective of the community which it serves, as opposed to a community institution in name only that existed only to line the bank accounts of a criminal clique of neo-colonial puppets (aka “black faces in high places”, “poverty pimps”, “comprador bougeoisie”).

In 1994, at the direction of African American Mayor Norm Rice, several of Mayor Rice’s Boule (Sigma Pi Phi) fraternity brothers became involved with the project including Bob Flowers who became the Chairman of the board.

In 1997, the School Board voted to sell the building to the AAHMCC for \$329,000. After being questioned by board members regarding the management of museum funds, Flowers began subverting the progress of the organization. He refused to make the down payment on the building even after the city of Seattle provided additional funds to do so. He would go on to later attempt to orchestrate the removal of founding board members.

At the time Mr. Flowers was also a board member of the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle Board of Directors, who would eventually seek a development project of their own at the Colman school.

In 2000, after prolonged negotiations with the School District, the AAHMCC presented the check for \$50,000 dollars for the down payment on Colman school.

The check was returned to the AAHMCC. Soon after, the Urban League presents a proposal for a condominium based real estate development. The City council would then take \$400,000 earmarked for the AAHMCC and give it to the Urban League for a feasibility study.

The Urban League reportedly purchased the building for \$804,000 in 2003 and has been collecting money in the name of the museum. In 2005, Carver Gayton, former FBI agent and fraternity brother of Norm Rice and Bob Flowers, was appointed Executive Director at an inflated salary of \$100,000 per year.

On March 8, 2007, the grand opening of Urban League Village/Northwest African American Museum occurred, featuring among other local dignitaries Mayor Greg Nickels, Governor Christine Gregoire, and King County Councilman Larry Gossett. A rally to return community control of the African American Heritage Museum was called by the grassroots leadership of the AAHM&CC.

Wyking Garrett, the son of museum project co-founder Omari Tahir-Garrett, took to the podium and began denouncing the event as a “scam” and a “disgrace”, highlighting the under-handed politics of neo-colonial criminality surrounding it. He was promptly arrested and charged with criminal trespass, obstruction, assaulting a police officer, and resisting arrest.

All the charges were dropped, except the resisting arrest charge, which went to trial on October 27 in Seattle Municipal Court.

The result? A hung jury, and therefore a mistrial; with four jurors voting “NOT GUILTY” and two voting “GUILTY”.

Eventually, the city was forced to drop its false resisting arrest charge against Wyking.

Sources available at : <http://raims.wordpress.com/>

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PICK-UP LINES #1

Reviews, debates and polemics

www.peopleswarpress.wordpress.com

NORTHWESTERN SHOSHONE NATION MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF BEAR RIVER MASSACRE

Feb. 19th, 2010 (RAIM-Denver)- A few weeks ago this year many Native people gathered at the burial grounds of Bear River in Idaho, near the city of Preston, to remember and honor their ancestors who were murdered by Amerikan soldiers. 147 years ago, on January 29 1863 the Amerikan military massacred hundreds of indigenous peoples in Bear River, Idaho. A great many of them were women and children. This massacre was one of the bloodiest massacres of indigenous peoples in Amerikan history, yet it is little remembered as it happened during the Civil War, and Amerika is not too concerned with examining its sordid history.

Other massacres of indigenous peoples were Wounded Knee in South Dakota in 1890, and Sand Creek here in Colorado which 150 Cheyenne and Arapaho were murdered in 1864.

The number of dead at Bear River is disputed. The commanding Army officer stated 220 to 270 dead, the tribe estimates 400 were killed, white settlers who moved into their land estimated up to 500 dead, a figure cited by the National Park Service. There was never an official count of the victims, as their bones were often left scattered in the surrounding hills.

On this fateful day the Northern Shoshone were encamped along the Bia Ogoi, or Bear River for the Warm Dance, a yearly ritual in winter to drive away the cold.

A collection of sources, including Army reports, historical tracts, and oral histories from the tribe, describe what happened. Col Patrick

Conner and 200 soldiers from the 3rd California Infantry attack at daybreak the encampment. There was rising tensions between the Natives and white settlers, with attacks and deaths on both sides leading up to the day of the massacre. The Shoshone were blamed for thefts of horses and cattle, and the deaths of three settlers, although other tribes were likely at fault.

What followed was a day of savagery on the part of the Amerikans, with soldiers smashing infants' skulls, raping dying women, and ending the lives of the wounded with bullets, clubs and axes. The federal government designated the Bear River Massacre site as a National Historic Landmark in 1990, having admitted many of the victims were women and children.

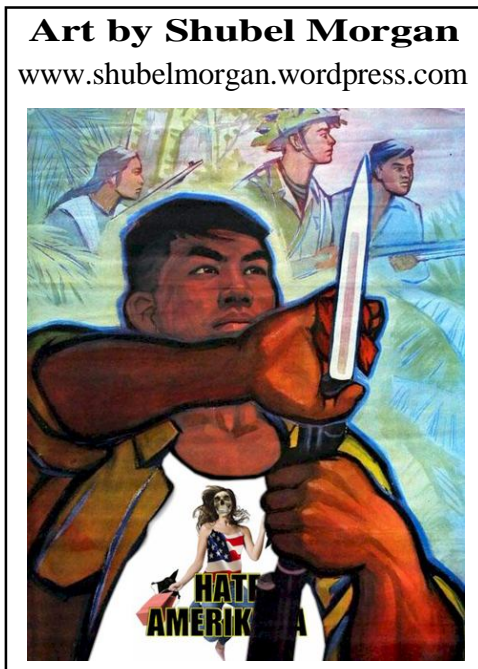
The effect of the massacre has

had long-lasting effects on the Northwestern Shoshone. The killings virtually wiped out the tribe, which today numbers around 500. Many of the survivors in the years after the massacre were taken up by the Morman church, and others dispersed into other Shoshone reservations in the area. The small number of Northwestern Shoshone prevented them from obtaining a reservation of their own.

The policy of Amerikan expansion was one of extermination and genocide of the indigenous peoples. What smallpox and other diseases did not complete, the US military attempted to finish. Many nations were wiped out of existence altogether, and those remaining were subject to brutal national oppression. Yet many indigenous nations survived and continue to fight for their existence.

That it is up to the ancestors of the surviving tribes to continue the memory of these atrocities shows how Amerika is a nation of Holocaust deniers. Its professed values of freedom and democracy are nothing but shallow doctrines to mask a nation founded by murder and genocide. History lessons are not enough to correct these injustices. The ultimate correction for this history of oppression is the return of land and resources to those it was taken from, in the United Snakes and the rest of the world.

[<http://raimd.wordpress.com/2010/02/19/1655/>]



CRACKERS ARREST "ILLEGAL" MCDONALD'S WORKERS, CITES ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL REASONS

(RAIM-Denver) In March, raids targeting migrants in Phoenix-area McDonald's restaurants concluded in the arrest of 21 people and a hunt for dozens more.

Maricopa County Sheriff, Joe Arpaio, who in the past has grabbed national headlines with his ultra-reactionary approach, led the raids. In an interview that followed, Arpaio explained some of the reason behind the arrests. He described McDonald's as an "American[sic] institution...a place that my kids and yours could always

count on for their first job ever" and deplored the company's "giving jobs away" to people "working here illegally." The raid is part of a larger effort by Phoenix officials to intimidate and repress Spanish-speaking migrants, in particular Mexicans.

An older Amerikan institution is that of national oppression. The city of Phoenix was founded a mere 150 years ago, after the settler-invasion and occupation of northern Mexico. The city sits atop a network of ancient canals, dating back to around 500 CE,

some of which are still in use today. During the 20th century, Mexicans worked in the fields of their occupied homeland, threatened with withheld wages, deportation, etc. This legacy, an 'Amerikan institution,' continues today under evolved terms and conditions.

[<http://raimd.wordpress.com/2010/03/30/crackers-arrest-illegal-mcdonalds-workers-cite-economic-and-cultural-reasons/>]

REVIEW: RAJ PATEL, THE VALUE OF NOTHING

Feb. 11th, 2010 (RAIM-Seattle)- Raj Patel spoke at Town Hall in late January, to promote his latest book *The Value of Nothing*. He begins by highlighting a quote in the book from Oscar Wilde, stating that “people today know the price of everything and the value of nothing.” He uses the quote to pinpoint the pro-capitalist consumer mentality towards the concept of value. This is precisely the mentality among First World populations today with their “mall economy.”

Within this introduction, Patel states that “I’m not a communist, but I am open-minded.” He manages to throw some positive words thrown in for socialism that drew applause from the nominally “left” groupings in the auditorium. Also thrown into the intro is Patel’s mentioning of his new status as an Amerikkkan citizen. Interestingly enough, applause came from the very same corners of the hall for both Patel’s new Amerikkkan citizenship and for “socialism.” This is so very typical of the “we love Amerikkka” politics of the fake “left” in Seattle, whether of the demokkratic or “revolutionary” flavor. Following the applause, Patel stated that his decision to become an Amerikkkan citizen was not patriotic, but tactical, so that he would simply not be deported for protesting against u\$ imperialism! RAIM loudly applauded to this rhetorical curveball response by Patel, to this visible discomfort of the Amerikkka loving “socialists” in the crowd.

As in the opening chapter of *The Value of Nothing*, Patel gives a concrete example of the real cost of a typical \$4.00 Amerikkkan fast-food McShitburger. (1) He cites a report from the Centre for Science and the Environment stating that the actual cost of that \$4 shitburger is more like \$200. Patel points out the \$200 tag might actually be on the low end, given the added hidden costs of Amerikkkan corn subsidies and of the junk-food related health care costs (heart disease, diabetes, obesity, etc.) RAIM will one-up Patel on the cost of the shitburger even further: The hidden cost of this so-called “cheap food” is concealed within the superexploitation of Third World labor by the First World as a whole. This can be seen with the median global wage standing around \$2.50 an hour, while 90% of Amerikkkans are among the world’s richest 15%. *(2,3) We would remind Patel that it’s not just exploited tomato pickers in Immokalee, Florida who are absorbing the cost of that \$4 sodium/cholesterol krapwich. All this waste and exploitation, so Amerikkkan soccer moms/dads can take their brood through the drive-thru after soccer practice, thus neutralizing any benefit for the kids gained from physical exercise. The insustainability and utter parasitism of the way Amerikkkans eat is sickening enough. Contrast it to the overall suffering in the Third World from malnutrition related diseases, and it becomes just downright infuriating.

Patel uses the burger example to point to the overall failure of the current economic paradigm of “free markets.” He conjures up the exchange between u\$ Congressman Henry Waxman and former Fed chairman Alan Greenspan, in the Amerikkkan congressional hearings following the 2008 economic meltdown. (4) In Greenspan’s testimony, he states that he found a “... flaw in the model that I perceived as the critical functioning structure that defines how the

world works... I was shocked, because I’ve been going for forty years or more [In particular, the post-Bretton Woods form of imperialism] with very considerable evidence that it had been working exceptionally well.” Raj Patel plays up this admission by Ayn Rand devotee Green\$pan to be significant admission for an imperialist in our era. In reality, there have been several such significant admissions like this from the imperialist class. One of the most significant of these admissions was made by u\$ Gen. Smedley Butler nearly a century ago: “In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism.” The exploited in the Global South, of course, don’t need any of these imperialists to admit the various flaws and evils of their system to know this fact. The Third World masses have known what the full price of imperialism has been the whole time. It is they, who are paying that price in the death and suffering from war, repression, malnutrition, preventable disease, illiteracy, and underdevelopment.

As an alternative to the bankrupt capitalist paradigm, Patel presents “the commons” as studied by u\$ economist Elinor Ostrom. He states within *The Value of Nothing*:

“There were organizations before what we call the modern state, and they’ll be organizations after it. Some of them were, and will be, more democratic than those we have right now. Those that thrive will have figured out how to make governments manage ‘free’ goods in ways that are both sustainable and equitable. Insofar as tomorrow’s governments succeed, they will owe a debt to yesterday’s politics of the public domain, to older ways of viewing and sharing the world, which were once more thoughtfully called ‘the commons’.” (5)

Whether or not “the commons”, as Patel defines it, is the best system to replace imperialism is a better question for our Maoist-Third Worldist friends of the Internationalist Jacobin Club (IJC). RAIM-S is passing its notes on the event and Patel’s book to IJC, to assist in their research project on a post-imperialist society. However, RAIM does share Raj Patel’s view of how the commons was historically undermined the world over by the advance of colonialism, capitalism, and modern imperialism. This is shown from stealing the land of and wiping out the First Nations in the “New World”, through the eviction of peasants from what was once considered “common land” in 19th century England, to the ongoing imperialist machinations in Africa. Patel demonstrates how it was necessary for the ruling classes (then and now) to uproot any “common” approach to running society, in order to make way for the functioning of private property, land rents, and wage labor instead.

Patel also makes the connection with this “commodification” process in society to the historical disenfranchisement of women, economically and politically. He shows how historically women were in many cases the administrators of common property and the defenders of the environment. Thus, the agents of modern capitalism employed the patriarchal “witch hunt” to slander, silence, enslave and/or eliminate these influential women of the commons. Similarly, RAIM sees the “intersectionality” of

three strands of oppression (class, nation, and gender) as both the root, and ultimately the fatal weakness of, imperialism itself.

It is with this that Raj Patel mentions La Via Campesina (International Peasants Movement), to which RAIM is one of the few heard giving applause in the vast hall full of “lefty” Seattleites. Via Campesina, as a movement of exploited food producers, is a key player in the “anti-globalization” struggles. The organization advances the concept of “food sovereignty” in its resistance against imperialist institutions and corporations. “Food sovereignty,” according to the peasant movement, “is the peoples’, Countries’ or State Unions’ RIGHT to define their agricultural and food policy.” (6) The demand for food sovereignty is a revolutionary, Third Worldist demand that RAIM can have unity with.

La Via Campesina was originally founded in the First World, and is active in organizing anti-capitalist resistance among the marginally exploited (as in Immokalee, Florida). Given its internationalism on the food question, they have understandably found most of its focus on the struggles of Third World. Speaking to the intersection of strands of oppression, Patel recites the slogan of Via Campesina: “Food sovereignty is about an end to all forms of violence against women.” (7) We totally agree with this slogan as a righteous expression of genuine, internationalist feminism. The point is that the violence that Third World women face daily has the effect of ensuring their exploitation by patriarchy with “domestic” labor. Phony “revolutionaries” talk about women’s rights in Iran, while they barely peep about the violence of Saudi Arabia’s patriarchy. The monarchist regime of Saudi Arabia, a staunch u\$ lackey, makes Iran look like a Western pro-sex liberal feminist haven – in any honest scholarly comparison of Islamic societies. Notice how the u\$ State Department spews the same unaccountable shit, totally in tandem with these fake “leftists” through the imperialist media! Coincidence?

From this account, Patel claims that Via Campesina is one successful model (with the Zapatistas being another) of a new “commons” with a sustainable perspective on value. We agree with this only in part. RAIM has nothing but praise for most of their “Declaration of the Rights of Peasants,” especially the following radical prescription: (8)

“[From Article XI] ... 5. Peasants (women and men) have the right to reparation for ecological debt and the historical and current dispossession of their territories.”

RAIM and its allies have always called for radical reparations on a global scale from the First World to Third World. We have unity with La Via Campesina on this and other key points in their declaration. On the subject of reparations: Within The Value of Nothing, Patel uses an estimate from Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes on the “value” of an Amerikkkan life (approx. \$7.2 million) lost in the Iraq occupation. Applying this very \$7.2 million figure to Iraqi civilians yields a total price tag of \$8.6 TRILLION, according to Patel. (9) Amerikkkans will have to pay at least that amount, and many times over for every other imperialist crime of plunder and genocide; from Afghanistan, Vietnam, and all the way back to KKKolumbus. Only then can they

avoid being deported and their leaders guillotined. We’re not holding our breath for Amerikkka to ever pay up willingly though. The Third World will eventually have to defeat the First World, and decisively, in order to extract the reparations due to them. It’s with this perspective that we ask of Raj Patel and Via Campesina, “What’s up with this?” Observe from the following from La Via Campesina’s declaration:

“[From Article XII] ... 5. Peasants (women and men) have the right to resist oppression and to resort to peaceful direct action in order to protect their rights”

What? How the hell can the international rural proletariat and peasantry really “have the right to resist oppression” when the only have the right to do so “using peaceful direct action”? Via Campesina shouldn’t tie their hands from utilizing armed resistance. The Monsanto Corporation has direct access to the war apparatus of u\$ imperialism and its lackeys in the Third World.

Let’s briefly forget about extracting reparations from Monsanto for the devastation done to the planet and food producers worldwide: How the hell is Via Campesina supposed to merely defend itself from a full on state military assault, sponsored by the Monsanto mafia? Does Raj Patel really think scumbag imperialists like Monsanto are just going to give up on forcing their genetically modified crops on the international peasantry, and voluntarily respect their food sovereignty rights? Is Boeing going to stop building weapons of mass destruction just because someone in the lame First Worldist “anti-war” movement shouted loud enough for them to hear?

The Iraqi armed resistance to Amerikkkan imperialism is what got the Blackkkwater “rent-a-pig” pigpen (now called “Xe”) into its current business troubles. RAIM’s critique of Via Campesina’s is not radical: The UN Charter itself, not exactly a revolutionary manifesto, upholds the right to use armed force in self-defense and in resistance to oppression. Other Third World resistance movements have studied Via Campesina’s vision of food sovereignty. La Via Campesina should, in turn, study Ward Churchill’s Pacifism as Pathology and Lin Biao’s pamphlet “Long Live the Victory of People’s War!” in the hope that their resistance to imperialism is strengthened. While is definitely true that “It’s right to rebel,” but it is also just as true that “In order to get rid of the gun, it is necessary to take up the gun.”

During the Q&A, Patel addressed the looming “What about Haiti?” question. Patel correctly characterizes the Bu\$h/KKKlinton joint-mission to Haiti as akin to sending “two of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse to save Haiti. He also exposes the criminal role of colonialist France and imperialist Amerikkka exploiting and oppressing Haiti, historically and currently.

Another inevitable question to Patel was “So, what can we [First Worlders] do?” To this, Patel gave recognition to the Community Alliance for Global Justice (CAGJ) in Seattle as the most effective local organization upholding food sovereignty. While educating First Worlders about food sovereignty issues “at home” (local/organic produce, lifestyle sustainability, edible landscaping, etc.) might have some minor benefit, it is still putting the cart before the horse. The better part of CAGJ’s work highlights Third

MOVIE REVIEW: SHUTTER ISLAND

March 9th, 2010 (RAIM-Denver)

[spoiler warning]

Shutter Island, the cinematic thriller by director, Martin Scorsese, adapted from a novel by Dennis Lehane, presents a choice between two narratives. Reality is skewed in the movie. Tension unfolds in an purposeful, ambiguous way, forcing the audience to choose between reality and delusion, normalcy and 'insanity.'

–Plot Summary–

The story takes place in 1954, during the Cold War. World War II veteran and US Marshall, Teddy Daniels, (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his new partner, Chuck Aule, (Mark Ruffalo) go to the Ashecliff Hospital for the criminally insane on Shutter Island to investigate the disappearance of Rachel Solando (Emily Mortimer), a patient who seems to have vanished from a locked room. Dr. John Cawley (Ben Kingsley), the head psychiatrist, explains that Rachel was institutionalized after drowning her three children. She believes, however, she is still at home and her children are still alive. Dr. Cawley refuses to share any of the patients' files and implies Rachel may be dead. The island is surrounded by steep, jagged cliffs and crashing waves, the nearby lighthouse was already searched and a heavy storm is rolling in. However, inside Rachel's room, Teddy finds a hidden note with the message "who is 67?" The meaning is unclear and Teddy begins investigating further.

That night, early in the movie, Teddy has a dream about his wife, Dolores (Michelle Williams), who died in a fire two years before. In the dream, Dolores tells Teddy that Rachel is still on the island as well as Andrew Laeddis, the man who started the fire that killed her.

The next morning, Teddy interviews patients from Rachel's group therapy sessions. While Teddy's partner is briefly away, one seemingly 'normal' patient writes him a note that says "RUN." Shortly after, Teddy tells his partner, Chuck, the real reason why he's investigating Ashecliffe. According to Teddy, Andrew Laeddis, the arsonist who killed his wife, got off for the death. A year later, Teddy says he saw a newspaper article in which Laeddis was found to have burnt down a school and sent to Ashecliff, where he vanished. Chuck asks Teddy what he intends to do once he finds Andrew Laeddis and mentions killing him. Teddy explains he's had enough of death and recalls his traumatic part in the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp, including an extra-legal mass execution of the Nazi guards. Instead, Teddy says, he wants to find out the truth. From a

colleague he heard that Ashecliff was funded by the House Un-American Activities Committee. Teddy says he met a former patient, a student named George Noyce (Jackie Earle Hawley), who killed three people after being at Ashecliff for a year. Teddy thinks the staff is conducting experiments on the human mind. He tells to his partner he's there to find proof, go back to the mainland and expose it. His partner says they should be careful and agrees something isn't right about the place. "What if they wanted you here?" Chuck asks Teddy. They agree to find the proof and get off the island.

Back at the hospital, Teddy walks into a conversation between Dr. Cawley and Dr. Naehring (Max von Sydow), the chief of staff at the hospital, about how they should prepare the violent patients of Ward C in the event the electricity goes down during the storm. Teddy notes Dr. Naehring is German, implying he was a Nazi recruited through the Office of Strategic Services. Through briefly listening to the conversation, Teddy picks up on the fact that there are 66 patients at the hospital. Remembering the note he found in Rachel Solando's room, Teddy asks the hospital administration who Rachel thought the 67th patient was. Cawley claims he doesn't know but says Rachel was found near the lighthouse. Teddy can ask her himself, Dr. Cawley says.

During the interview, Rachel has no recollection of being missing. She still thinks her life is normal. Teddy is introduced to her as a police officer who's investigating 'communist subversives passing out literature.' She claims Teddy is her husband and embraces him, but shortly after becomes upset, stating that her husband is dead and shouting, 'who the fuck are you?'

After interviewing Rachel, Teddy's dreams continue. At Dachau, a young girl who is seen throughout Teddy's visions tells him, "you should have saved me, you should have saved all of us." Teddy briefly talks to Laeddis and his partner, Chuck, before finding Rachel and helping her re-drown her children. He supposedly wakes up and has another delusion: his dead wife, Dolores, walks in the room and tells him Laeddis is still alive and on the island. She tells Teddy to find Laeddis and kill him.

Teddy wakes up and due to the storm, many of the patients have escaped. Teddy and his partner decide to go to Ward C to investigate. There Teddy gets separated from his partner but runs into George Noyce, the former patient of Ashecliff Teddy had previously interviewed. Noyce tells

Patel cont World food sovereignty efforts.

RAIM cuts to the chase with its approach to global change. We don't waste our time trying to persuade Amerikkans, one "progressive" white community at a time, to stop being global parasites and start living sustainably. Raj Patel is incorrect to characterize the perspective of the Amerikkkan mASSEs as being a case of false consciousness, or "Anton's Blindness." (10) The reactionary consumerist perspective of First Worlders is their true class consciousness as a global parasite class. We

openly state that the will of the world's exploited majority must set the terms for a truly just global economy, with a perspective on value that serves the people and preserves the planet.

Let the Third World recoup the real costs of that shitburger from these overfed gringos!

Sources available at <http://raims.wordpress.com/>

Teddy the whole thing is a game and says he's afraid of going to the lighthouse.

Teddy tries to go to the lighthouse, but high-tide prevents him. Instead, Teddy discovers a cave and to his surprise the real Rachel Solando (Patricia Clarkson). She explains she was a doctor at Ashecliff who was institutionalized after questioning shipments of psychotropic drugs and experimental surgeries. She says she was called insane: "reasonable protests are called acts of denial." According to Solando, mind control experiments are being conducted at Ashecliff to create ghost agents for the Cold War. Rachel warns Teddy the same may be happening to him, but kicks him out of the cave for fear the staff will find her when they come looking for him.

After entering the lighthouse, Teddy finds Dr. Cawley and the plot twist is revealed: Cawley says Teddy is Andrew Laeddis. Cawley tells the protagonist he has been at Ashecliff for two years, ever since killing his wife after she drowned their three children. 'Teddy Daniels,' 'Rachel Solando' and the investigation is all a delusion he's created to avoid the painful truth. Chuck appears, claiming to be Teddy's primary care physician, Dr. Sheehan, the man previously thought to be Rachel Solando's vacationing physician. Dr. Cawley displays a picture of the young girl from Teddy's dreams, and tells him it's his daughter. Cawley says they've been unsuccessful in getting him to accept reality with the treatments they've tried. Cawley says they let him play out his detective fantasy with the hopes it would bring him back to reality without 'relapsing' into believing he's Teddy again, as had previously happened. "You've been running around this place for two days. Where are the Nazi experiments?" Cawley asks. Speaking in humanitarian terms, Cawley says he hopes this therapy will be a breakthrough in psychiatry, one which will forgo the need for more drastic measures. If Teddy doesn't come to terms with the fact that he's really Andrew Laeddis, the next step will be to give him a lobotomy.

Distraught, at first the protagonist denies it but then has another vision, this time seeing Dr. Cawley's scenario play out: an alcoholic with a manic-depressant wife, he comes home to find his three children drowned and shoots his wife, Dolores. He thinks he is Andrew Laeddis and not Teddy Daniels. He believe Cawley's story.

In the last scene, the protagonist appears to have 'reset,' again thinking he's Teddy Daniels investigating disappearances at the hospital. Dr. Sheehan, who is sitting next to the protagonist, quietly shakes his head while looking at Dr. Cawley and Dr. Naehring, themselves watching anxiously. The movie ends in a moment of high drama. Before going with the staff for experimental brain surgery in the lighthouse, the protagonist looks at his 'partner' and asks, "which is worse, to live as a monster or die as a good man?"

–Analysis–

In Scorsese's *Shutter Island*, the audience is forced to choose between two narratives. Is the movie a fiction about Teddy Daniels, a US Marshall who, after investigating Cold War-era, mind control experiments on *Shutter Island*, falls into an elaborate conspiracy in which he becomes a

victims of such experiments? Or, was the story an elaborate fantasy of Andrew Laeddis, who killed his wife two years previously and created the delusion of Teddy Daniels to shield himself from the truth?

During the period in which the movie is set, the Office of Strategic Services and CIA did experiment with drugs such as LSD on US and Kanadian citizens, recruiting Nazi scientists to do so. Through MK-Ultra, the US government secretly sought to implant thoughts and memories and to control the mind, hoping to create agents for Cold War operations.

From the movie's opening scene we notice something is amiss. Daniels wakes up ill on a ferry to *Shutter Island*. He can't find his cigarettes and is given one by his new partner who he's meeting for the first time. Throughout the movie, we see Daniels smoking other people's cigarettes and taking medicine and beverages the faculty at the institution give him. He goes to *Shutter Island* specifically to investigate mind control experiments and possible connections with HUAC and Amerika's Cold War policy. Unfortunately for him, he finds what he's looking for.

Scorsese's ambiguity, i.e. that he can make the audience question what is real and make them think Daniels may be Laeddis, is a testament to the ongoing delusion of Americans today. The choice Scorsese's offers in the movie translates into real life. Is there something sinister underneath Amerika's facade; or, is Teddy Daniels- an analogy for anyone who seriously questions and challenges Amerika's dominant pretenses- abnormal in some way, unstable, delusional, paranoid, etc.? This is precisely the question one must answer while watching *Shutter Island*.

Like the scripted intrigue which ensnares Teddy, Amerika's culture is a charade which both covers up for and reflects that which it ultimately serves. In the movie, Dr. Cawley frequently couches his work in 'progressive' pretenses even though he is an active accomplice to horrible crimes. Similarly, Amerika promotes itself as 'progressive' while simultaneously acting as the greatest global purveyor of violence, both direct and structural.

Teddy, the individual dissident, is pushed to accept a dominant narrative through immense social pressure. In Amerika however, such 'programming' isn't the result of a well-coordinated conspiracy, but a function of imperialism: the bribery of empire's citizens with stolen wealth.

For anti-imperialists, Teddy Daniels final words are compelling: "Is it better to live as a monster or die as a good man?" Perhaps this should not be taken as a literal choice between selling-out or dying in a blaze of moralistic glory. For us in the First World, being a monster and being perceived as a 'good person' are in many ways synonymous: both reflect acquiescence to the system. Thus, once we know the truth, the choice becomes different. Will we succumb to the pressures of First World society and play along, i.e. living as what we know to be a monster? Or, will we continue to inquire and resist, deny the system our active complicity and refuse to be a 'good person' by Amerika's standards?

[<http://raimd.wordpress.com/2010/03/09/movie-review-shutter-island/>]