

1: Sex and Civilization

Abstract: The violence of illusion - Making sense of identity - Civilizational confinement - Religious affiliations and Muslim history - West and anti-west - Culture and captivity - Globalization and voice - Multiculturalism and freedom - Freedom to think.

This interview was also published today in French. This important Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice centered on the question of whether Israel under international law had the legal right to construct this security wall on occupied Palestinian territory. By a decisive vote the Court concluded that the location of the wall was decisive from a legal point of view, and in view of the unlawfulness of the wall, it should be forthwith dismantled and Palestinians compensated for the harm done. Such a pattern has the general effect of weakening respect for international law, and indeed the UN overall. And anyone who feels a sense of responsibility to liberate the Palestinian people from the ordeal that they are daily suffering has no excuse for not supporting BDS. After more than 70 years of intergovernmental failure to produce a sustainable and just peace it is to acknowledge that governments and the UN lack the capabilities and political will to find a solution in the present climate of regional and global power relations. Israel is defiant and strong, and the Zionist agenda is expansionist in ways that undermine the possibility of a two-state solution even if the political will were now present. Decades of settlement growth, itself a violation of Article 49 6 of the 4th Geneva Convention governing belligerent occupation is sufficient on its own to make implausible a truly sovereign Palestine that alone would satisfy the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people even assuming their acceptance of the partition of their homeland. The only hope for the realization of Palestinian rights is for the climate to change in ways that exert enough pressure on Israel to lead its governing elites to recalculate their interests or to organize a future for both Israelis and Palestinians the basis of their respective rights under international law. Such a religiously grounded view of self-determination for the Jewish people, validated in Jewish tradition, is not acceptable in modern international law. The right of self-determination if properly implemented reflects the aspirations of the majority resident population, which in this instance was brutally and catastrophically dispossessed in , the nakba, and ever since denied this most fundamental and encompassing of human rights. Making matters were for the Palestinian people the nakba became a process as well as an event resulting in the confinement of several million Palestinians in refugee camps for more than 70 years with no end in sight and for many others enduring conditions of involuntary exile that has accentuated the vulnerability of a homeless people. Against this background, the decades of failure by the UN and more traditional diplomacy, dramatized by the more than 25 years of highly visible futility as peace was pursued within the Oslo Framework in ways that favored Israeli expansionism and continuously diminished Palestinian prospects for a just peace, it should be obvious to any fair minded observer that only a militant global solidarity movement that exerts substantial pressure on Israel can have any realistic hope of changing the balance of forces sufficiently to produce a peaceful outcome for both peoples. The launch of the BDS movement as a collective initiative of the Palestinian NGO community gave its blessings some years ago to such an approach, and through its efforts there exists mounting pressure on Israel and activism in support of the Palestinian struggle throughout global civil society, including in the U. If BDS continues to gain momentum around the world, and especially in the West, it will strengthen the will of governments to do the right thing, and gain sufficient momentum to shake the foundations of the Zionist insistence on a Jewish state in what is still essentially a non-Jewish society. It is important on this 13th anniversary of the BDS Campaign to appreciate several of its most notable achievements even in the face of an early period of mainstream neglect and a more recent experience of frenzied opposition: What are its main conclusions? The ESCWA Report responded to various suggestions by leading political figures and concerned persons in the Middle East that it was important to arrange a comprehensive academic investigation of the allegations that Israel had become an apartheid state, and as such violated the International Convention on the Crime of Apartheid. I was invited to prepare such a report, and I solicited Virginia Tilley to join me in the effort as she was known and respected worldwide as a specialist on apartheid in South Africa, and the kind of racism involved in

establishing and maintaining such structures. We investigated the evidence as objectively as possible, realizing that we were not a judicial body empowered to reach a legally binding outcome, and that our analysis was ours alone, and not necessarily reflective of UN views, or even of those of ESCWA. The report contained a disclaimer to this effect. At the same time, this was the first serious exploration of the apartheid allegations that had been loosely asserted by Palestinian activists in recent years, but never really assessed in terms of the evidence of Israeli intentionality as embodied in the policies and practices by which the Palestinians were repressed and the challenges of their resistance harshly suppressed. The report has several sets of conclusions that we believe are significant: This inclusive view of apartheid extended the scope of inquiry to include Palestinian refugees in neighboring countries, the Palestinian minority in pre Israel, and those Palestinian living in involuntary exile with no right of return. Although the South Africa form of apartheid reflected very different internal and external circumstances, the anti-apartheid campaign conducted against South Africa contains various lessons that could be useful in moving forward with BDS and other forms of activism directed at achieving such drastic changes in the Israeli relationship to the Palestinian people. As is typical in recent years, Israel, with the U. Ambassador, often more Israeli than the Israelis, demanded that the newly elected Secretary General of the UN, Antonio Guterres, repudiate the report or suffer a cutback of funding by the United States. Guterres disappointed many by caving in to this unseemly pressure, first ordering the director of ESCWA, Rima Khalaf, to remove the report from its website, and when she refused, accepting without objection her principled resignation. It was obvious that no one had bothered to read the report or take notice of the disclaimer that this was not a UN report, but the work under contract of independent university researchers with a background in the subject. Towards a Just Peace. For the first time in my academic life, my scheduled lectures were cancelled, The lectures were to be at the University of East London and University of Middlesex. The cancellations were explained as resulting from the feeling on the part of the respective college administrators that they were not confident of their ability to provide sufficient security in view of threatened disruptions. I did give a talk in this period at LSE, which went ahead without incident, although disrupted by known Zionist agitators during the discussion period who were made to leave the hall. In this same period my three lectures at Scottish universities went ahead without any trouble. In fairness, I should acknowledge that both universities in London renewed their invitations for the following year, but it was neither convenient for me nor especially appealing to help such universities refurbish their tarnished reputations as institutions committed to academic freedom except when it mattered, that is, when under threat by hostile elements that seek to stifle discussion of a controversial subject-matter such as Israeli criminality or BDS activism. This is an important question whose significance is not grasped by many active in promoting justice for the Palestinians. It is helpful to understand that the essence of apartheid is the domination of one people by another on the basis of race, both the subjugation of the dominated race, the Palestinians, and oppressive machinery relied upon by the dominant race, the Israelis. On a practical level, ending the occupation does not create the basis of a sustainable peace as it does not address the range of basic Palestinian grievances, and especially leaves the refugees, diaspora, and the minority within Israel in limbo. As with South Africa, it was only possible to establish racial peace after the decision to renounce apartheid was clearly signaled by the release of Nelson Mandela from prison. If only the occupation is ended Israel would still face Palestinian resistance if it insisted on maintaining a Jewish state with no right of return by those dispossessed in and various other times, as well as their descendants. To end apartheid would end racism as the basis of Israeli security, and would enable genuine democratic governance to be established according to a fairly negotiated agreement on co-existence and human rights for all who lived within historic Palestine, that is, the territory managed between the two world wars by the United Kingdom as a mandate on behalf of the League of Nations, yet de facto as a British colony. How could we end apartheid? As earlier suggested, the ending of apartheid will not occur without a shift in the positions of the governments of Israel and the United States, and this shift will not likely occur without a perception that Palestinian resistance and the BDS campaign and other solidarity initiatives exact such a high cost that it became preferable to give up the Zionist Project of a Jewish state and seek a democratic formula for allowing the two peoples to share the land in accord with principles of equality along with the recognition of their distinct and separate rights of self-determination. If the political

will to reach peace is genuine and based on the willingness to end apartheid, then ways can be found to make this happen within a stable political framework. In contrast, if Israel remains determined to retain a Jewish state with no right of return for Palestinians, any diplomacy that is presented as part of a peace process will turn out to be nothing more, than at best, a ceasefire. In the 21st century it is not realistic to expect one ethnicity to accept the hegemony of another, and will resist, which will occasion efforts to crush the resistance, generating a cycle of violence that caused massive suffering for the Palestinian people ever since the Zionist Project began relying on violence during the mandate period to advance their goals, and undertake to establish a Jewish state in a non-Jewish society. Wars have raged in Middle East for decades and injustices have lasted too long. Public opinion no longer believes in International Law. In fact, it has never really believed since the colonial period. The status of international law as a source of peace and justice has waxed and waned over the last hundred years. Public opinion has generally failed to realize that international law emerged to preserve and promote the material interests of major sovereign states, and long served as the normative handmaiden of colonialism. With the rise of liberalism in the West, and the accompanying emergence of an architecture of human rights supported by a network of NGO, there emerged the sense that international law could help the weak to uphold or even attain their sovereign rights in relation to the strong. Also, international law seemed on the side of the angels in the global moves against colonialism, and South African apartheid. Power and geopolitical ambition for economic and political gain has always taken precedence over international law whenever the normative and the geopolitical clashed. At the same time weaker states and oppressed peoples began discovering in the 20th century that with creative diplomacy they could make effective tactical use of international law, especially to protect sovereign rights in relation to foreign investment. The Latin American countries pioneered this use of international law as a weapon of resistance against predatory geopolitics. It is the importance of this dimension of international relations that drives the Israel -bashing discourse designed to discredit the authority of the UN. In other words, international law matters, especially as a foundation for civil society activism and some governmental initiatives, including BDS, but it remains subordinate to geopolitics in the world of diplomacy and behavioral impact. Is it relevant to Middle East? My basic idea is that much of human suffering of our time flows directly from deliberate diplomatic undertakings, especially those associated with peace diplomacy after major wars. In these settings diplomats of the winning side deliberately or with gross negligence often impose conditions on the losers that produce oppression, social hardship, exploitation, punitive measures, and violent conflict while exempting the wrongdoing of their own actions from legal accountability. Just as genocide and apartheid became international crimes in response to forms of behavior that shocked the conscience of humanity, so should geopolitical crimes. Israeli apartheid is such a crime, although it is also a violation of existing international criminal law as a result of the Apartheid Convention. I became interested in this idea of establishing a new category of criminality associated with wrongful geopolitical behavior in my effort to grasp the deep roots of the conflicts and turmoil currently afflicting the Middle East. It made be aware that the cause of this tragedy for the region can be traced back to the Sykes-Picot Agreement and the Balfour Declaration. Sykes-Picot was an exercise in secret diplomacy designed to reward the European colonial powers, Britain and France, with the Arab societies previously governed by the collapse Ottoman Empire. This colonial ambition was implemented by carving up the region in the manner of European territorial states, disruptive of the organic communities existing during the Ottoman period, and establishing conditions in which political order could only be established in accord with colonial goals and maintained by coercive means as the territorial entities lacked legitimacy from the perspective of many segments of the population. When colonialism collapsed strong leaders took over, oppressing minorities and dissident tribal and ethnic communities causing alienation. This dynamic was further aggravated by the global strategic significance of oil and gas reserves in the Arab world, prompting efforts by political actors external to the Middle East to ensure that friendly governments remain in power and included the readiness to intervene to defend what were deemed vital interests. After the Cold War, the stability imposed by geopolitical discipline eroded, eventually exploding in the form of the popular uprisings in a series of Arab countries at the end of and early , generating a variety of counterrevolutionary responses as well as a site of struggle by various Western forces seeking to control the post-Cold War political environment in the region. The other

kind of geopolitical wrongdoing involving the region can be traced back to the Balfour Declaration of 1917, also a disastrous colonial move, in which the British Foreign Office pledged its support for the establishment of a Jewish Homeland in Palestine at a time when, as earlier mentioned, the Jewish population was under 6 percent. Here again, as with Sykes-Picot, British colonial motivations linked in this case to the Zionist movement, sought to impose an artificial political community that could only be maintained by subjugating the majority native population. Such behavior should not escape moral and legal accountability as is now the case. While holding German and Japanese surviving leaders criminally responsible for their wrongdoing, the crimes of the victors were ignored. This meant that the use of atomic bombs against Japanese cities was never criminalized, which it would have been if such weapons of mass destruction had been used by the losers in the war against civilian targets. Such a failure to criminalize these acts has led to the nuclear age, making civilizational and even species survival precarious. Such weapons should be criminalized, and would be even today, but for the strength and leverage of geopolitical actors that exert an informal veto power over attempts at normative progress. It is obvious that geopolitical crimes are not currently part of international criminal law, but their informal criminalization by public sentiment would be a constructive initiative helpful for progressive struggles. It would encourage political awareness of the relevance of diplomatic wrongdoing to human suffering. It would influence civil society to take initiatives, such as civil society tribunals that mobilized public opinion in the context of the Vietnam War Russell Tribunal and the Iraq War Iraq War Tribunal, Istanbul. And it might even exert a deterrent influence on future exercises of diplomatic initiatives by learning some lessons from past failures of statecraft. It would create a clearer historical awareness of how past wrongs link to present suffering and political chaos. Against this background we can interpret the BDS Campaign as an expression of resistance to a massive ongoing geopolitical crime being carried out at the expense of the Palestinian people as a whole. Whether that crime is viewed as a type of crime against humanity or as a geopolitical crime is not so important. What is most useful at this stage is to create a floor of legitimacy beneath the tactics of boycott, divestment, and sanctions in ways that mobilize persons of good will and governments responsive to human wellbeing. The underlying idea of proposing geopolitical criminality is to strengthen the social and political forces throughout the world dedicated to peace with justice. Activists call for boycotting Israel. What do you think of the evolution of Tunisia since the revolution? I do not feel competent to comment on the ups and downs of Tunisian evolution since 2011. My impression, for what it is worth, is that the political evolution in Tunisia maintained more continuity with the pre-revolutionary political and economic realities than was hoped and expected when the old order was overthrown by a popular uprising at the end of 2010. At the same time, compared to Egypt the results in Tunisia remain encouraging. Dictatorial rule has not been reestablished. Some economic and political reforms have been undertaken. A constitutional order persists that has been inclusive and pluralistic enough to allow Islamists to coexist with remnants of the former secular order and to survive disruptive incidents that have threatened chaos or Egyptian style regression. Other posts by Ahmed Abbas.

2: Identity and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny - Amartya Sen - Google Books

The Resource Identity and violence: the illusion of destiny, Amartya Sen.

Prior to the actions taken by NATO, which were sanctioned under United Nations Security Council resolution , Libya had been one of the most developed nations on the continent of Africa and a leader in continental politics. The focus of this paper though is not representations of Gaddafi but the geo- strategic justifications for NATO intervention and the ways in which humanitarian interventionism facilitates these interests. With Libya coming in behind Angola, Sudan and Nigeria quantitatively of oil supply to the Chinese market. The Declaration of Sirte in set the foundations for the transition between the Organization for African Unity to the African Union. The list is simply too long to include, but maybe the most notorious example is the Anglo-French attack on Egypt during the Suez Canal crisis in Under his regime it increased to This thread ties succinctly into the influence Gaddafi had as the most prominent proponent of Pan- African unity. He was keeping those ideas alive. It also sets the stage for dissenting opinions to be framed as the repugnant suggestions of the emotionally unattached, those who do not value life. This section will be broken into three areas that have great importance on the narrative that has been created around this conflict, the deterrence of a possible genocide, the need for a no-fly zone, and the myths surrounding what happened in Benghazi. Before Resolution came out in March, the rhetorical usage of genocide imagery was extensive in the preparation to justify intervention under the moral obligation for nations to prevent genocide under the UN resolution III A. This all took place despite no clear evidence against Libya for committing genocide. The no-fly zone is an interesting concept, as it seems recently that the only nations that actually have a right to air defense are the nations that consistently eviscerate the sovereignty of other nations. In Libya two reasons were used to justify a no-fly zone over the country. Blacks are accused of being mercenaries. The other justification for the no-fly zone is the supposed bombing of civilians by Gaddafi. The first reports of these bombing came not from official military sources but the BBC and Al- Jazeera. These reports played a key role in public opinion and the support garnered for the no-fly zone. The final aspect to be covered is the idea that Muammar Gaddafi was going to order his army to engage in a wanton slaughter when Benghazi was retaken. Just later on that year in the United States people were beaten, tear gassed which is banned in warfare , and some even killed during Occupy Wall Street, which was not half as volatile as Benghazi. The bloodbath that he had promised to inflict on the citizens of the besieged city of Benghazi has been prevented. The views that even if Gaddafi did not do something wrong per se whatever succeeds him will be better; it is this corrupt vision of a journey towards an idealized future. The ones forcing this rhetorically perfect ideal upon unwilling populations are not the ones who have to live with it. For most guns it only takes eight pounds of pressure to pull the trigger but for those on the other side of that barrel it can take generations to deals with its effects. Africa Institute of South Africa, The Cast of the Jamahiriya: Page [9] Makalani, Minkah. The False Answers of Saddam Hussein. The New Left Review. Charter of the United Nations. Page [23] Gates, Robert, and Michael Mullen. Mullen from the Pentagon.

3: Interview of Richard Falk on the occasion of the BDS 13th anniversary –“ Mondoweiss

Making Sense of Identity by Michael Welton. In "Civilizational confinement," Sen plunges into the maelstrom of contemporary distemper. Today, it seems to many, the intricate complexities.

Historical Materialism and the Legacy of Columbus The celebration of Columbus is a product of over five centuries of colonialism and capitalist development. The movement to eliminate Columbus Day in place of an Indigenous Peoples Day has found varying degrees of success in cities across the country. Indigenous Peoples Day reminds the Empire that Columbus was a mass murderer and reinforces the principled position that someone who so wholly represents the Western colonial extermination campaign of indigenous and African peoples should not be celebrated. But why is Columbus celebrated at all? The following article examines the question from the worldview of historical materialism, otherwise known as the materialist conception of history. Entire books have been written about historical materialism. This article merely gives a definition and brief analysis of the relevance of historical materialism toward understanding the celebration of Columbus. Such a celebration goes beyond a mere analysis of facts which point to the establishment of the federal holiday as a response by President Franklin Roosevelt to the demands of the Knights of Columbus. However, historical materialism helps us understand that the centuries-long celebration of Columbus in the United States cannot be reduced to any singular moment in history and speaks more to the development of the political economy of colonialism, capitalism and imperialism. Marx famously wrote in the Manifesto of the Communist Party that: The modern bourgeois society that has sprouted from the ruins of feudal society has not done away with class antagonisms. It has but established new classes, new conditions of oppression, new forms of struggle in place of the old ones. All previous historical movements were movements of minorities, or in the interest of minorities. The proletarian movement is the self-conscious, independent movement of the immense majority, in the interest of the immense majority. Prior to historical materialism, Western philosophies defined the social world through the lens of vulgar materialism or idealism to justify the expansion of private property, colonial plunder and capitalist exploitation. Opponents of historical materialism claimed that it disregarded the role of human ideas in the making of society and disrespected organized religion. However, it is critical to note that historical materialism is the only theory that weighs both the role of the subjective activities of humanity and the objective conditions of society in the making of history. Historical materialism first asserts that history is made by people seeking to promote their interests. However, the framework also states that a dialectical relationship exists between the subjective ideas of a given individual, community, or class and the objective conditions that shapes the ideas of a given individual, community, or class. Columbus Day provides an example of historical materialism at work. The celebration of Columbus is a product of over five centuries of colonialism and capitalist development. It is tempting to see Columbus as merely an evil man or a sympathetic hero of his time. Historical materialism guides the oppressed classes to see individuals like Columbus as part of the process that birthed the development of a new social order, the colonial and capitalist social order. This social order emerged from the objective conditions in Europe to forever change the trajectory of the entire planet. Columbus was a racist, profit-driven merchant that sailed to the Americas in search of riches and found Indigenous peoples such as the Tainos instead. He used the burgeoning technological advances created by the transition from feudalism to capitalism in the West to rob indigenous peoples of their lives and resources. His voyages decimated entire civilizations and set an example for an emboldened capitalist ruling class to learn from. The legacy of Columbus has been protected at all costs because while the characters and forms of exploitation have changed, the system of profit that Columbus helped birth remains firmly in place today. Historical materialism explains the celebration of Columbus as a product of the relationship between being and consciousness. The celebration of Columbus reflects the consciousness of the ruling class, whose entire existence is predicated upon the reproduction of capital and the domination required to accumulate it. Historical materialism demonstrates that social systems are the product of a long process in human history where people have organized themselves first to eat, drink, shelter, and cloth themselves. The need for survival necessitates the development of the means of production, which

begins a struggle over who controls the means of production and for what purposes. What is important to consider is that the organization of society is dependent upon the interaction between the ideas of individuals within a given society and the objective conditions of the epoch. Such an interaction explains why capitalism developed in Europe from the contradictions of feudalism and why many native societies in North America were unfamiliar with tenets of private property upon the arrival of European colonizers. For one, historical materialism accounts for the historical development of social systems and explains how struggle emerges from the contradictions of a given society. The capitalist and imperialist systems that Columbus helped birth were met with fierce resistance from Indigenous people, African people, and poor people throughout the course of their development. The state was erected and reformed to manage the antagonistic interests of the exploited and exploiter classes. Historical materialism helps us view the world from a class struggle orientation. Patriarchy, racism, and the social relations of imperialism become an interrelated whole dictated by the relationship between being and consciousness. In this way, the celebration of Columbus reflects much more than just an outdated mode of thinking. The afterlives of Columbus live on through the continuous incursions on indigenous land by U. They live on in the system of mass Black incarceration and the repeated hunger strikes and political actions waged against it from behind the walls. The resistance from the oppressed reminds us that the subjective and objective conditions of any social system are in a constant state of change and can produce revolutions such as in Cuba and the DPRK or a state of reactionary retreat like that which exists in the United States. While individuals cannot choose, they can play an enormous role in developing the organizational and political strength necessary to wage successful social revolutions. However, there are no simple formulas for revolution. Historical materialism provides revolutionaries with tools to analyze the world. With this tool, revolutionaries are better prepared to transform it. Historical materialists believe that imperialism digs its own grave. Danny Haiphong is an activist and journalist in the New York City area. He and Roberto Sirvent are co-authors of the forthcoming book entitled *American Exceptionalism and American Innocence*:

4: The Sleep of Civilization | Dissident Voice

chapter 1 The Violence of Illusion chapter 2 Making Sense of Identity chapter 3 Civilizational Confinement chapter 4 Religious Affiliations and Muslim History chapter 5 West and Anti-West chapter 6 Culture and Captivity chapter 7 Globalization and Voice chapter 8 Multiculturalism and Freedom chapter 9 Freedom to Think

Re-Centering the People in the Global Struggles for Power Protecting Russian interests in Syria and the Mid-East was and is the driving force for Russian military and diplomatic activity, nothing else! In the tumultuous period after the Soviet Union disintegrated, the Russian Federation emerged as the dominant power among the former Soviet republics, under the leadership of the clownish Boris Yeltsin. The Russian capitalist oligarchy that developed during that period and expanded under the leadership of Vladimir Putin has always just wanted to be part of the global capitalist game. They had demonstrated on more than one occasion their willingness to cooperate with the agenda of Western powers. However, they wanted to be respected with their regional interests recognized. Forcing the Russians hand in Syria was followed by the Ukraine when the U. So it was quite comical to see how the announcement that Russia will deliver the S air defense system to the Syrian government was met with feigned horror by U. This decision was taken after the U. This decision took place a year after the debacle of Geneva I, the United Nations sponsored conference to resolve the Syrian War, where the Russians appeared ready to abandon Assad as long as the Syrian state was maintained, and their interests protected. Getting rid of Assad but maintaining the Syrian state was also U. However, instead of a negotiated settlement in which the Russians would play a role, the Obama administration rejected Geneva I believing that it could topple the government in Syria through its jihadist proxies. The Syrian state was slated to be balkanized with its territory divided and a permanent presence by the U. Those forces in Syria would be bolstered by the thousands of U. The Russians, like the Chinese, have demonstrated repeatedly their willingness to collaborate with the U. This observation is not meant to be another Russia and China bashing that plays into the hands of the reactionaries driving U. Russian intervention in Syria was not as cynical as the U. Nevertheless, they encouraged those forces to engage in military opposition while the U. The back seat given to the Syrian government in the negotiations between Russia, Iran, and Turkey regarding Idlib confirms that. Protecting Russian interests in Syria and the Mid-East was and is the driving force for Russian military and diplomatic activity, nothing else! The delivery of the S anti-aircraft system to Syria resembles the Russia cooperation with the U. These are all decisions based on the objective interests of Russia and secondarily the interests of the Syrian government. It would not be surprising if the deployment was limited and only covered the territory around Latakia, the site of the Russian air base and close to its warm-water port. If the Syrian government had the ability to really ensure the security of its national territory from Israeli intrusions, it could mean that Russia would have less leverage over the Syrian government to force a withdrawal of Iranian forces from Syria. Syria has been a difficult object lesson for the left that has had a devastating consequence for the people of that embattled nation. Hundreds of thousands have died, and millions have been displaced primarily because left and progressive forces lacked the organizational, but more importantly, the ideological, political, and moral clarity to mount an opposition to the machinations of their national bourgeoisie in Europe and the U. The very idea that the bourgeois leadership of their respective states might have some benevolent justifications for military intervention in Syria revealed a dangerous nationalist sentimentality that is driving the left version of white supremacist national chauvinism. That stance has virtually disappeared. For those of us who are members of oppressed peoples and nations, it is quite obvious that without independent organizations and global solidarity structures buttressed by the few progressive states that exist on the planet, we cannot depend on any bourgeois state to really care about our humanity or on the radical or left forces in Northern nations to put a brake on repression and intervention against non-Europe states and peoples. Candidate Trump raised some serious questions about the wisdom of U. But President Trump surrendered to the pressure from the foreign policy establishment and the warmongering corporate press. Instead of extricating the U. There is reasonable doubt that Israel and the U. Which means the possibility of another dangerous escalation in the conflict at any moment. The Western capitalist alliance and the corporate and

finance oligarchy at its center. Imperialist war really is a class issue! Totalitarian capitalist domination is not a figment of our imaginations, it is real. Penetrating the ideological mystifications that divert us away from the matrix of power that distorts consciousness and renders the people as collaborators in their own subjection is the task of the moment. The global order is changing, the only question is what will emerge. There is still time for the people to choose.

5: Theory Historical Materialism and the Legacy of Columbus | Black Agenda Report

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His father was a doctor, and he had a standard provincial upbringing. He was educated at the elite Ecole Normale Supérieure ENS in Paris from 1945 to 1950, where he studied philosophy and psychology and was briefly a member of the French communist party. After graduating, Foucault taught psychology at Lille University. In 1954 he went to Sweden as the head of the French cultural delegation to Uppsala. He wrote much of *Madness and Civilization*, his first major work, at the University of Uppsala. Foucault was transferred to Poland, then to Hamburg. *Madness and Civilization* was presented as his doctoral thesis in 1955, and was published in 1954. Foucault became a professor of philosophy and psychology at the University of Clermont-Ferrand in 1956. This appointment represented the beginning of his career as a public intellectual. He joined the editorial board of the French critical journal, *Tel Quel*. Foucault taught in Tunisia and at the University of Vincennes before his appointment to a Professorship in the History of Systems of Thought at the highly prestigious Collège de France in 1964. Foucault was not only an intellectual and philosopher, but also a political activist. He was involved in a wide range of protests and campaigns: For much of the 1970s his political work occupied him almost entirely. Foucault was openly gay, and lived with his long-term partner Daniel Defert. He died of an AIDS-related illness in 1984. Throughout his career, he was hostile to attempts to link him to any philosophical movement. He did suggest several important influences on *Madness and Civilization*. The first is the historian of religion Georges Dumézil, who got Foucault a job at the University of Uppsala in Sweden. Dumézil was an expert on Indo-European religion, and emphasized sets of relations between various traditions and structures. He is often seen as a forerunner of the structuralist movement. Dumézil was also important in introducing him to the medical and scientific libraries of Uppsala, which provided much of the raw material for *Madness and Civilization*. He repeatedly denied being a "structuralist", but many critics have nevertheless linked his work to that of structuralist thinkers such as Levi-Strauss, Roland Barthes, Jacques Derrida and Lacan. Structuralism as a movement attempted to study particular philosophical structures and systems of language. It derives from the work of the linguistic theorist de Saussure, who emphasized the role of "signs" in language. Signs are composed of the sounds that "signify" a word, and the object or concept that they signify. Speech and language are a complex interplay of different signs. More importantly, his conception of the individual resembles that of many other structuralists. For him, the wider structures that control and create man are more important. Foucault claimed that Canguilhem was a major influence over the original dissertation from which *Madness and Civilization* was drawn, a claim he always denied. Certainly, Canguilhem acted as an examiner of the thesis and academic patron. His comments on *Madness and Civilization* are particularly perceptive. He was briefly hospitalized for depression in his twenties, and later became interested in the practice of psychiatry. He observed clinics and worked with doctors at the famous Sainte-Anne mental hospital near Paris, eventually taking a diploma in psychology. Foucault briefly considered a career in psychiatry before turning to philosophy and philosophical psychology. It is uncertain exactly how these experiences informed his work, but it is clear that Foucault had first-hand knowledge of the modern treatment of madness. This influence is particularly marked in America, and is most evident in the adoption of his terminology by other philosophers and historians. The "anti-psychiatry" movement, which opposed many modern psychiatric practices, also claimed Foucault as a patron saint. A diverse range of writers on the history of science, medicine and psychiatry have also been influenced by him. Arguably, many writers adopt Foucault without considering the implications: The idea of deep structures, of writing a history of knowledge about a certain topic, and of the discourse are all introduced here. Traditionally, he is accused by historians of mishandling evidence and ignoring previous work in various fields. For example, Foucault claimed that image of the Ship of Fools at the beginning of *Madness and Civilization* was real. Historians proved that it in fact existed only in books; Foucault declined to comment. Of all the criticisms of *Madness and Civilization*, however, that of Jacques Derrida is best known. This provoked a stern reply from Foucault. Formidable opposition is lined up

against Foucault: Indeed, one critic said that "Foucault-bashing is the favorite indoor sport of American academics".

6: Table of contents for Identity and violence

Civilizational or religious partitioning of the world population yields a "solitarist" approach to human identity, which sees human beings as members of exactly one group (in this case defined by civilization or religion, in.

Sex and Civilization by Johann Theron on August 28, The recent Goolag Memo invoked an opportunity to discuss its contents in a larger civilizational perspective, which means one where we look at interdependence of humans within an organization, namely a society or civilization. Organizations require internal and external communications. During the past few decays, entropy ensured that external communications quickly devolved to Public Relations and internal communications were effectively ignored. Whistle-blowers revealed issues that were too sensitive to be used in a normal grievance procedure, so management encouraged them to come forward, and the dismissed them while playing off the problems as if they were always personal, when in fact the issues at hand were company-oriented and not personal at all. The conflict between organizational and personal issues becomes complex when we consider that enabling personalities to mesh is one of the basic duties of a manager. For example, the Biosphere 2 experiment involved more personal circumstances and technical survival skills than organizational proficiency, but what really transpired was a clash of personalities: The interdependency between team members were closely selected for, and monitored during the experiment, in line with similar ventures such as Antarctica and space missions. An organization, composed of interdependencies, finds that personalities can become incompatible over time or in certain contexts. These contexts occur in the overlap between organizational structure and the individuals expected to rely on each other to carry out those roles. In the social organization known as civilization, an interdependency that we do not discuss openly is sex. Women play a massive role in society but it seems a bit underappreciated while their equality is widely touted, like praising the Party in the USSR. The Goolag Memo actually pointed this out, but some may have missed it. There is more to her thesis than that, but it reveals that if you re-discover women, you will inevitably re-discover men. The one aspect jumping out at me was how older men preferred having sex with younger women. However, new thoughts on this blame man and before you complain, read the book The Patriarch Hypothesis with the following abstract: Here, I offer a very different explanation. The patriarch hypothesis proposes that once males became capable of maintaining high status and reproductive access beyond their peak physical condition, selection favored the extension of maximum life span in males. Because the relevant genes were not on the Y chromosome, life span increased in females as well. However, the female reproductive span was constrained by the depletion of viable oocytes, which resulted in menopause. A metaphor for this would be a lion male living longer because he has many lionesses, regardless of whether the original lioness goes into a menopause. This matriarchal thesis places the female in charge of the process, which allows her to select longer-living mates in exchange for tolerating polygyny. We see how the interdependencies of human society are both personal and organizational. When we rediscover women, and through that learn more about men, we see how sex drives civilization alongside other influences. People depend on one another as individuals, and as roles in relation to one another, and separating the personal from the function becomes difficult. From that, it becomes clear that humans are not just individuals, or functions, but personalities which need a place where they fit exactly in order to work with the interdependencies inherent to any organization. A person in the wrong place is toxic to the organization; an organization which excludes people from necessary dialogue is like the company with a whistle-blower, engaged in deception. For this reason, it is possible to accept women as both not-equal and uniquely necessary. We underappreciate them by treating them as tokens of their sex, or using them for sex alone, forgetting that like the lions and lionesses, we are engaged in a strategic process of selecting behaviors that further the species so that our individual efforts endure and prosper. In a Right future, we will look at reproduction not as a question of the biological act alone, but the context in which the child is raised and how this contributes to stability of the child. Whether we stay on Earth, or jet off to Mars to start again, the union between the personal and the organizational is found in complementary roles where each person has a vital and unique place.

7: The Failure of Industrial Agriculture

Sen argues in his new book that conflict and violence are sustained today, no less than the past, by the illusion of a unique identity. Indeed, the world is increasingly taken to be divided between religions (or 'cultures' or 'civilizations'), ignoring the relevance of other ways in which people see themselves through class, gender, profession, language, literature, science, music, morals or.

These great transformations ultimately change virtually every aspect of human life. I believe one of those revolutionary changes will be in our relationship with animals. I think animals will continue to be a source of food for humans, but our relationships with food animals will be very different. The Question of Sustainability

The great transformation today is being driven by the question of sustainability: How do we meet the needs of the present without diminishing opportunities for the future? When we ask this question honestly and factually, we must conclude that we are not meeting even the most basic needs of many, if not most, of the people in the world today and we certainly are not leaving equal or better opportunities for those of the future. This indictment is based on a litany of unprecedented environmental, social, and economic challenges, including: Our current way of life is not ecologically, socially, or economically sustainable. A sustainable society and economy must be rooted in an understanding that everything of use to humans, including everything of economic value, ultimately must come from the earth — soil, minerals, air, water, energy

Beyond self-sufficiency, we are also dependent on other people, on society, to get all of the things we need from the earth. Since we humans are biological beings, we are inherently dependent on the other living things of the earth for our nourishment and very survival. We are no less dependent of the living and non-living things of the earth today than when we were hunters and gathers; our connections are just less direct and more complex. Our Unsustainable Food System

Nowhere is the lack of sustainability more important and yet less understood than in the American food system. They are too many of us now to go back to hunting and gathering. We must create a sustainable food system. Thankfully, a growing number of Americans are realizing something is fundamentally wrong with the ways we produce, process, and distribute food. The fundamental problem is the current industrial approach to farming and food production. Many people equate industrialization to the migration of people from farms and rural communities to find manufacturing jobs in urban areas. However, urbanization is only a symptom of the specialization, standardization, and consolidation of control that characterized the industrial model of economic development. Specialization increases efficiency by facilitating division of labor. Standardization is then necessary to routinization and mechanization of specialized production processes. Routinization and mechanization simplify management processes and allows consolidation of control into large-scaled, eventually corporately-controlled, enterprises. Admittedly, the industrialization of agriculture has increased its economic efficiency, but an industrial food system is not ecologically, socially, or economically sustainable, as is becoming increasingly obvious to more people. And, large-scale confinement animal feeding operations, or CAFOs, are the epitome of industrial agriculture. The corporate propaganda campaign claims Americans have the safest food system in the world and that meat, milk, and eggs produced in CAFOs are safe and wholesome products. The scientific facts and government statistics tell a very different story. Recalls of food products contaminated with infectious bacteria have become routine. Periodic outbreak of Salmonella and E-Coli have sickened thousands of people across the country before the contaminated products could be recalled. In many cases, numerous strains of infectious bacteria are found to be resistant to multiple antibiotics. Antibiotic resistance is a global crisis that increasingly is being linked to CAFOs, as they are ideal breeding grounds for antibiotic resistance. Reams of environmental data, much of it compiled by the EPA, tell a different story. Too much waste is concentrated in spaces too small to be neutralized and assimilated by nature. Decades of USDA data completely contradict this fallacy. According to publicly available USDA statistics, farmers are not producing any more meat, milk, or eggs with CAFOs than they were producing in the past, or could produce in the future; they are just producing more animals with far fewer farmers. Retail prices of meat, milk, and eggs have continued to rise over the past 20 years, as the numbers of CAFOs have risen. Any economic benefits from CAFOs have gone to investors in

CAFO corporations, not to consumers, not to farmers, and certainly not to rural communities. The PR campaign claims that CAFOs are the future of animal agriculture and the only means for farm families to pass on their farms to new generations of farmers. Nothing could be further from the truth. As farming operations industrialize, farms grow larger, which inevitably results in fewer farmers. By one means or another, some farmers must fail so the others can become larger. Eventually, even the largest farming operations come under control of large agribusiness corporations, as we have seen in poultry and hogs. There are virtually no independent poultry producers left, other than those who sell direct to their customers. An industrial agricultural is not ecologically, socially, or economic sustainable. Numerous scientific studies conducted over the past 50 years have documented the inevitable inhumane treatment of animals in large-scale confinement operations. Farm animals were kept in optimal environments for which they were biologically suited. In addition to an agricultural ethic of caring or stewardship, producers did well economically if the animals did well physically. Mistreatment or violation of the basic nature of animals decreased productivity and profits. When I was an undergraduate students in college in the late s, I took courses in animal husbandry. However, by the time I returned to graduate school in the mids, animal science had replaced animal husbandry on college campuses and on farms. Animal science focuses on production methods that consider animals as little more than biological machines in industrial animal factories. These industrial operations have perverted the previous economic incentive for animal husbandry by actually creating economic incentives for the mistreatment of farm animals. CAFO proponents claim that animals must be healthy if they are to gain weight or be otherwise productive. However, CAFOs rely on antibiotics, vaccines, and regulated ventilation systems to keep disease risks and poor air quality at economically acceptable levels. To CAFO operators, sick and dying animals are undesirable but necessary economic costs of doing business in an industrial production system. Even though animal illness is still chronic and animal death losses are far higher in CAFOs, the economic efficiencies of large-scale, concentrated, industrial production more than offset the health-related losses. To minimize the costs of mistreatment, CAFO operators strive to send animals to slaughter at younger ages, before chronic illnesses become critical or result in death. For example, the natural lifespan of a chicken is 7 to 20 years. A broiler chicken is sent to slaughter at 6 to 8 weeks and laying hens at around 18 months. The average lifespan of a dairy cow in a CAFO is only 4 to 5 years, about one-third as long as milk cows on traditional family dairy farms. The physical and mental welfare of sick and dying animals is given no consideration other than the impact on the economic bottom line. A fundamental problem with CAFOs is that the quest for economic efficiency forces operators to concentrate too many animals in spaces too small to allow for humane treatment of the animals. The rows of barracks, where people awaiting gas chambers had once been crowded, reminded me of the rows of chicken and hog houses that now dot the Midwest. The food animals, like the people at Majdanek, suffer through unnaturally short lives awaiting a cruel loading and ride to their death. There are no humane concentration camps. Industrial animal agricultural operations are inherently inhumane. Food Insecurity Perhaps the greatest failure of the industrial food system has been its absolute failure to achieve its most fundamental purpose by failing to provide food security. Food security is defined as having access to enough wholesome food to support a healthy, active lifestyle. Using this definition, a larger percentage of people in the U. Obesity-related illnesses, such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, and various forms of cancer, are projected to claim about one-in-five dollars spent for health care in the U. There is a persistent tendency, promoted by the agricultural establishment, to blame obesity and related illnesses on the lack of willpower of individuals. However, a USDA report of long-term consumption during the s suggests an indictment of the current food system instead. Per capita calorie consumption leveled off during the s, even though physical activity obviously continued to decline. In the early s, the number of total calorie consumption began a sharp and persistent upward trend, while physical activity continued to decline. During the first half of the last century, Americans were less active and they ate less. During the second half-century, Americans were even less physically active but they ate more. The increases in calorie consumption and corresponding increases in obesity coincide directly with the acceleration and continued industrialization of American agriculture and the American food system in general. Nutrient Dilution Scientific studies by medical schools and public health institutions are beginning to confirm the link between

nutrient deficiencies and industrially produced foods. A particularly revealing study was published in the *Journal of American College of Nutrition* in It compared nutrient levels in 43 garden crops in with levels documented in historic benchmark nutrient studies conducted by USDA in Declines in median concentrations of six important nutrients: Farms can be certified as organic after refraining from use of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides for only three years. Sustainable Foods and Farming In response to a growing litany of concerns, a new sustainable food movement has emerged in America and elsewhere in the world. The sustainable food movement includes but is not limited to organic foods, and it continues to evolve and grow as an ongoing protest against the industrialization of the American food system. Sustainable approaches to farming have many names in addition to organic, including biodynamic, holistic, bio-intensive, biological, ecological, and permaculture. Such farmers and their customers share a common commitment to creating a new food system that is capable not only of producing nutritious and healthful food but also capable of sustainability or permanence through commitments to renewal and regeneration of the natural and human resources upon which good food production inevitably depends. The organic movement began in the U. Organic food sales in the U. The local food movement emerges as organic foods began to move into the large, impersonal retail markets. Local foods reflect the desire of an increasing number of consumers to reconnect with those who produce their food, and through their farmers, reconnected with the land, with the earth. The local food movement began with roadside stands, farmers markets, and CSAs. USDA statistics indicate the number of farmers markets in the U. Examples include food buying clubs, local food networks, food box schemes, regional food hubs, and a variety of farmer-owned cooperatives. The Oklahoma Food Cooperative website lists 20 similar cooperatives in other states. The local food movement is evolving to better meet the needs of more people – both farmers and consumers. Various natural food retailing surveys have shown that approximately one-third of American consumers today are looking for alternatives to industrial foods, specifically foods that have ecological, social, and economic integrity, and their numbers are growing. Pastured and free-range poultry production became popular because of growing concerns about health and food safety and about inhumane growing conditions in industrial poultry production. Grass-based livestock operations initially gained popularity because of low investment requirements and low cost of production. However, it has become increasingly popular because of growing evidence of important health benefits in grass-fed products compared with products from animals fed in confinement. Pastured and free-range livestock production also allows producers to avoid hormones and antibiotic concerns and to meet the humane standards of production demanded by an increasing number of consumers.

8: Identity and violence : the illusion of destiny - Austin Public Library

Get this from a library! Identity and violence: the illusion of destiny. [Amartya Sen] -- "Sen argues in this book that conflict and violence are sustained today, no less than in the past, by the illusion of a unique identity.

And yet it is also one of the most neglected in terms of both investment and media coverage. According to the Centre for Media Studies in Delhi, the five-year average of agriculture reporting in an Indian national daily newspaper equals 0. For much of the media, whether print or TV, celebrity, IT, movements on the stock exchange and the daily concerns of elite and urban middle class dwellers are what count. Rural India is plagued by farmer suicides, child malnourishment, growing unemployment, increased informalisation, indebtedness and an overall collapse of agriculture. Those involved in farming and related activities are being driven to migrate to cities to become cycle rickshaw drivers, domestic servants, daily wage labourers and suchlike. Some 6, left farming each day. Between and the number of cultivators is likely to decrease to around million. Amending the existing laws on land acquisition, water resources, seed, fertilizer, pesticides and food processing, the government is in an overdrive to usher in contract farming and encourage organized retail. This is exactly as per the advice of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund as well as the international financial institutes. Rural India is in crisis. And with hundreds of millions destined to be forced to migrate to cities if current policies persist, the suffering will continue because the urban centres are not generating anything near the required levels of employment to soak up those whose livelihoods are being eradicated in the countryside. And it is not as though these actions are not possible. It is a question of priorities: Where have those loans gone? It was a symptom of a country whose GDP growth has been based on a debt-inflated economy the backbone of neoliberalism across the world. It meant that farmers faced a severe crash-crunch on top of all the other misery they faced. This was the last straw. Farmers have been sacrificed on the altar of neoliberal dogma: The aim is to mobilise up to one million people. A similar march took place early in from Nashik to Mumbai. They have witnessed the deepening misery of the dispossessed, including the death by suicide of well over , farmers these past 20 years. The president is urged to pay heed to the demand for a special, day joint session of parliament, dedicated entirely to discussing the agrarian crisis and related issues. We request your intervention as the President of the Republic of India and the Constitutional head to ensure that a crisis of this scale that renders 70 percent of Indian citizens vulnerable is addressed by a joint session of the Parliament of this countryâ€¦ Surely the precariousness of the lives of millions of citizens merits the undivided attention of Parliament and thereby its commitment to find enduring solutions. The aim is that any special session on the crisis will be rooted in the testimonies of its victims, who need to be heard from both outside and inside the parliament. The session would enable them to address their fellow citizens and representatives from the floor of the parliament and explain the impact of devastating farming policies, the lack of rural credit and fair prices, and the unbearable violence of privatising water, healthcare and education. We can only hope that the media and its well-paid journalists might be galvanised into action too! Visit the website where you can read the letter to the president in full, sign the petition, publicise the issues and get involved. Colin Todhunter writes on food, agriculture, geopolitics and neoliberal globalization. Originally from the UK, Colin has spent many years in India where he has written for various publications, most notably the Bangalore-based Deccan Herald for 10 years.

9: Trump, Macron, and the meaning of civilization

CHAPTER 3 CIVILIZATIONAL CONFINEMENT The "clash of civilizations" was already a popular topic well before the horrifying events of September 11 sharply added to the conflicts and distrust in the world. as relations between the respective civilizations to which they allegedly belong. many influential commentators have been tempted to see an.

It is part of general shifting of meaning in the rhetoric of Empire over the last, say, 80 years. Never mind that the occasion of this speech, as seems increasingly the norm, was based on mostly propaganda. No evidence for a chemical attack was actually provided. Just as the evidence in the Skripal attempted murder case is conspicuously lacking. This is a time when war criminals unprosecuted, of course can simply count on the utter amnesia of both the public and the quisling western press. This is the man who oversaw the war crimes of Fallujah and then helped cover them up. One can read about it here [â€](#) So how is it that Mattis can so confidently count on the silence and complicity of the corporate press? Mattis is no doubt sociopathic. The adoration of the military in western media is at an all time high. And entertainment today is laden with the most jingoistic and nativist rhetoric imaginable. Hollywood today produces fiction that is uniform in its opinions and values. Watch this season of Designated Survivor. I know that is asking a lot, but do it anyway. Kiefer Sutherland is one of those actors who in middle age has begun to take on the tight lipped appearance of an aggrieved or constipated Quaker. The show is so stunningly reactionary that one finds some difficulty in arriving at the right words. But it is not an anomaly. Half of network prime time drama is military-based in theme. The blurring of fiction and Imperial fiction, as it were. There are ongoing themes in this Sutherland show about Russian interference in US democracy and most recently a story built around a tiny Asian nation with an insane dictatorial leader who wants nuclear weapons. The depictions of the Asian characters is only slightly less cartoon like than Charlie Chan. And always there are the requisite evil Muslim terrorist. But back to the disturbing figure of Jim Mattis. He is reported to be worth in the neighborhood of five million dollars. This is an absurd low ball figure, but whatever. He is a graduate of Central Washington U. A quick internet search reveals this is a special educational institution on the grounds of Fort Leslie in DC and chartered by the Joint Chiefs. One does wonder what a typical class at NDU looks like. Brett Wilkins wrote [â€](#) According to witnesses and survivors of the assault, Marines indiscriminately killed men, women, children, the elderly and disabled alike. Civilians waving white flags of surrender were cut down by snipers, who also targeted ambulances carrying the wounded and dying to the few functioning clinics not destroyed by US bombs. No civilizational norms violated there. Mattis also was the man who had all charges dropped against the soldiers that took part in the rampage at Haditha. Civilians shot point blank, often women and children, and the elderly [â€](#) in their homes. Kohls was primarily writing about Jim Mattis. But honestly, even a cursory examination of ANY four star General will yield similar biographical facts and similar personality disorders. After the bombing of a wedding party in the Iraq desert, Mattis is quoted as saying [â€](#) Ten miles from the Syrian border and 80 miles from the nearest city and a wedding party? Plus they had 30 males of military age with them. How many people go to the middle of the desert to have a wedding party? The rank Orientalism of this comment, the arrogant indifference to the history and culture of Islam, to the Arab world in general, is also the hallmark of the successful military commander. Kill em all and let God sort it out. That crazy old paper of record. Mattis is not an intellectual, not even by the standards of that warped sub phylum of humanity that is the military. The fact that FOX news reactionary Tucker Carlson is the sanest voice in mainstream media is very telling. Still [â€](#) he was, in fact, correct. Danny Haiphong wrote [â€](#) Tucker Carlson understands that he must appeal primarily to Republican voters weary of US interventions they see as products of Democratic Party-led wars even if establishment Republicans are no less hawkish than Democrats. Meanwhile, Goodman and her funders have subtly aligned with the Democrats as the new leaders of the War Party. Under these conditions, infantile leftists and faux socialists in the Democratic Party camp have felt compelled to choose a side in the imperial madhouse. No criticism is thrown at the Democratic Party, which sent a delegation led by Nancy Pelosi to Israel just days prior to the planned gun down of Palestinian resistance forces in Gaza. So-called US leftists have caught anti-Putin fever at the expense of all other political questions. This includes

the murder of Black people by the police in the US. Only community members and the usual left organizations made any noise about these state-sanctioned murders. In the absence of a mass movement, people in the US and West are becoming mere onlookers in a changing a world. This last few months has revealed as never before both the callous cruelty of the ruling class in the U. And Trump himself noted something or other about an imaginary African country called Nambia. Boris Johnson began an extemporaneous recitation of a Kipling poem Road to Mandalay in a temple in Myanmar. All of these examples are not mere gaffes, amusing mistakes, but rather a general indifference to the cultures of the world, in fact, an indifference to the world beyond their own small corner of it. Remember when George Bush, now in full rehabilitation mode by his media handlers, mocked Karla Faye Tucker, on death row, who was begging for her life. That is exactly the cruelty one sees across the board in the leaders of the West today. One wonders does Mattis or Bush or Bolton think the use of Agent Orange transgressed civilizational norms? What strikes me most acutely, these last few months, is the extraordinary cultural chauvinism of the U. Most White Americans, as a general statement, think they are better than the rest of the world. And most Americans have scant knowledge about the rest of the world. So the belief in cultural and moral superiority is based on what? On an ability to be effectively violent. They are still better than those fucking cheese eating frogs or the krauts or whoever, but they accept that the U. Meanwhile, the tragic and criminal fire at Grenfell Towers in London elicited a public discourse that perfectly reflected the class inequality of the UK, but also reflected, again, the colonialist mentality of the ruling party and their constituency. Stephen Brenner wrote of the fire and the government response to it.. Fears of a protracted inquiry producing an anodyne report were aroused when Moore-Bick went out of his way to declare that the scope of the investigation would be severely limited to determining the immediate cause of the fire and why it spread so rapidly. Answers to both questions already are known. Unnecessary, embarrassing ejaculations like this have become impulsive “defying the dictates of prudent restraint. The only open question is the exact tint that the whitewash will take stitch-up in British dialect. The first testimony will not be heard until mid-September when panel members, as yet unnamed, get back from their holidays. An area that, like many other parts of the capital, has been subjected to a gentrification assault accompanied by systematic social cleansing that goes back decades and has intensified over the last 10-15 years. In addition, the Grenfell affair demonstrates that the United States is not alone in its tolerance for actions that should be a national disgrace but are slighted by a political class incapable of feeling shame. The callous, off-hand treatment given the Grenfell victims is reminiscent of how colonial administrators dealt with expendable natives. If a proper criminal process were undertaken, a reasonable verdict would be Involuntary Manslaughter. But that is exactly it. The colonial template is one etched in acid in the collective imagination of the West. At least the English speaking West. Expendable natives—which is what Jim Mattis sees everywhere that he dumps depleted Uranium and Willy Pete. It is what most U. When one discusses Syria, the most acute topic this week, remember that for Mad Dog and Boss Trump, or for the loopy John Bolton, these are just natives in need of pacification. Giving money to ISIS or Daesh, or whoever, as a cynical expression of colonial real politik, is nothing out of the ordinary. It is what the UK and US have done for a long while. Domestically, take the example of Flint, Michigan. At the drinking water. When the unelected state appointed emergency manager switched from the Detroit River to the Flint River to supply water to the residents of Flint, the result was a spike in all diseases of insanitation. Everyone knew this was going to happen. The General Motors plant had stopped using Flint River water because it was corrosive to the auto parts they were manufacturing. But poor black kids, who cares. You will notice a theme here. Inflicting suffering on the poor is perfectly acceptable to the ruling class. To them, privilege is a sign of superiority. And the less deserving are only there to serve. The problem with the current wave of propaganda from western sources is that very little, if any, evidence is given. Except there is less and less effort to even bother. In one sense the solidification of class power came out of neoliberal policies in the s. Clinton pushed these principles even further and then Bush and Blair further still. We are now living the dream of the Washington Consensus economists. Pelerin Society, in

Every perfect gift The bride in black and white Six months among the charities of Europe 6./tConcept Formation/t312 Subcommittee Hearing on S. 1244, To Amend the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, Relating to the Territor Iec 60950-1 Design mouse in solidworks. Juchipila, MexUSA Aqs us history textbook V. 3. Mansfield Park (1982). Waste water reclamation Quality concerns in education Genocide and Retribution Tallow Chandlers of London. Elements of power electronics krein Cahpter 3 fitness and well 11th edition Literary celebrity, gender, and Victorian authorship, 1850-1914 Liquid sloshing dynamics The Madeline Wherry case Star wars edge of the empire core Francis Quarles Divine Fancies Essentials of supply chain management mcq No game no life 9 Catalogue of invalid or questionable genus-group and species-group names in the Siphonaptera (Insecta) France sours, Germany ponders Developing policy research Wren n martin solutions The Amphora Pirates Celtic cut use stencils Tcs previous year question paper with solutions Cameron hydraulic data V. 4. The dead terme, 1608. Worke for armourours, 1609. The rauens almanacke, 1609. A rod for run-awayes, Apostol real analysis solutions Brain correlates of psychological amplification of pain Jargen Lorenz and Irene Tracey Regularity in semantic change Cultural practices and infectious crop diseases Robert R. Livingston and the Louisana purchase. Coping with toxic managers Peter the Pelican Data book for heat and mass transfer