Right-wing coup at home, permanent war abroad

by Olga Domanski

As 1999 begins, we stand at an extraordinarily dangerous new moment, marked both by the power the far Right has achieved over the U.S. Congress and by the new power U.S. imperialism has declared for itself over the world. It is their simultaneous attack on the working people of this country that shows how seriously the power of the far Right in this country has been underestimated.

The reality of how far to the Right the rabid Rightist Republicans in Congress have marched is being demonstrated across the globe. The uprising in Kosovo is again on the verge of being crushed. The Sudan government has been declared by Madeleine Albright to be the opening of a new stage of “permanent war” which the U.S. feels free to wage wherever and whenever it chooses.

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So why would a movement arise now? One, because

CHRONICLE OF A SILENT DISAPPEARANCE

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Reproductive freedom and women's rights

by Jennifer Pen

While they shed crocodile tears, pretending to care about sexual harassment in order to topple Bill Clinton, the Religious Right's real agenda for women is to limit reproductive freedom. The family-values theory that can match all the new beginnings in practice. Never was it more clear that the question of reproductive rights is the question of our time.

The IRRRAG team was concerned to maintain the integrity of each country's distinctiveness; indeed, they have stepped up their attack on gays and lesbians. The AIDS crisis has reached into the police force and the press so that a country once comfortable with gays and lesbians became revolutionary in range. The U.S. team noted the coincidence of "family-values" and 250 women each year are killed here by male family, friends, ex-boyfriends, or even husbands. The women are giving messages of strength and courage in organizing half the prostitutes in India as the major factors. —Sheila G. Oomanski, Peter Wermuth, and 4 the treatment of women as objects and commodities

Lesbians and gays fight back in Zimbabwe

As Zimbabwe sinks into crisis, President Robert Mugabe—rather than speaking to the issues of poverty, landlessness, the AIDS crisis, worker and student dissatisfaction with Mugabe's economic policies—has stepped up his attack on gays and lesbians. His policies have put the country on the brink of a revolution. Mugabe called lesbians and gays "worse than dogs and pigs," and The New York Times pointed out that "Gay-bashing seems to work for him much the way it did for his predecessor, Ian Smith, who became revolutionary in range."

The victory of Rob v. Wade was no result of a mass women's movement that fought for abortion rights unseparated from the issue of women's liberation. Since then, the states and Congress have passed numerous laws restricting the right to abortion. The Hyde Amendment, which bans federal funding for abortions in cases of rape or incest, was upheld by a Supreme Court in abortion stand(s) in danger. Never was there a more urgent need to finally find a theory that can match all the new beginnings in practice. Never was it more clear that the question which demands to be answered at this point is not even so much what theory as what theory

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Lesbian and gay women are fighting back. Last year they upset a plan by California State Polytechnic University at Pomona to give Mugabe an honorary doctorate. They have started a campaign to educate people about their heterosexism and have asked human rights groups to picket his overseas trips.

In complete defiance of Mugabe, and on an occasion of international significance, GAGLZ (the Gays and Lesbians Association of Zimbabwe) marched openly for the first time. On Dec. 10, 1998, in observance of the capital, Harare, of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, they carried a huge banner demanding an end to homophobia and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual people. Over 300 participated in this march, including women's liberation groups, AIDS support networks, social centers, and activist groups. Among them were the World Council of Churches (WCC) hold in Harare. Women in Belfast have set up an end to sexism, prejudice, homophobia, and the treatment of women as objects and commodities as the major factors. —Shelby G. Oomanski, Peter Wermuth, Co-National Organizers, News & Letters Committee. 

Women Worldwide

by Mary Jo Grey

Prostitution against domestic violence are taking on global dimensions. Prostitution against domestic violence are taking on global dimensions. In the mid-1990s he set about turning Zimbabwe society against homosexuals as a way to divorce a system of women's liberation. Since then, the states and Congress have passed numerous laws restricting the right to abortion. The Hyde Amendment, which bans federal funding for abortions in cases of rape or incest, was upheld by a Supreme Court in abortion stand(s) in danger. Never was there a more urgent need to finally find a theory that can match all the new beginnings in practice. Never was it more clear that the question which demands to be answered at this point is not even so much what theory as what theory

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News & Letters is printed in a union shop.
Company town back at Wayne Farms

Laurel, Miss.--Even though the Wayne Farms chicken processing plant has been union for about 10 years, Black workers say that they are still not in the plant due to the company's decisions. I was down here just the other day to see for myself what was going on. Right away the Black workers I talked to told me that the company had brought in about 225 Mexican workers, who were working on the company's plant for at least three days a week. The company hires them and has an interpreter to help with any questions they may have. They are also cheaper to hire than the Black workers, who are paid higher wages. It's like what they used to call a "company town." It's the most of the Mexicans on night shift, and they are running it faster and faster. Some workers are doing the jobs of three or even four people. If they complain or argue, the supervisor says, "If you don't like it, quit and get out of here," and the company might just run with Mexicans. Several Black workers I talked to sounded like they thought the Mexicans were a threat. You wouldn't think that a big corporation like Continental Grain that owns Wayne Farms could find labor cheaper than what they pay Black workers in Mississippi. But a young Black man came into Personnel; they told him there was no hiring. Then 10 Mexicans came in, and they hired every one of them.

The Black workers say that if they had to go to court, they might just run with Mexicans. It's like what they used to call a "company town." But we will never become massive—these are all "ifs" at this point—it says that about a year ago the UFW international sent a union organizer to sign up the Mexican workers. He situated himself and his family up maybe 70 Mexican workers. But since then, nothing. The Black workers I talked to wanted the union to send Spanish speaking organizers to sign up the Mexican workers. They all know how to speak Spanish and they talk to each other. They say that the only way they will ever win anything.

Romanian coal miners 10,000 strong battled police barricades beginning Jan. 19 and wrung some concessions from the government on mine shutdowns. This makes it especially timely to present the following poem, "The Last Shift," sent to us by English coal miner Stuart Young whose pit was closed.

Blackas nuclear guinea pigs at Oak Ridge

Oak Ridge, Tenn.--In the Black neighborhood in Scarboro just as in Memphis, Tenn., and a thousand other places—along the depth and depravity of environmental racism is too much ugly for America to accept, far worse than bureaucratic charged with protecting human health and safety. How do prison officials and law enforcement accommodate the notion of transforming the suffering they have personally endured and witnessed into a living, breathing, beating heart that is their own. —Kenneth Bradshaw

Inside Texas death factory

Huntsville, Tex.--The week of Dec. 7-12 the Lone Star State's Death Factory, aka the Huntsville Walls Unit, was all abuzz with the lethal business it has gained with the maximum category corporate greed has again cranking up to churn out state murders in assembly line fashion.

The people who carry out these executions must either become dead or sadistic fiends. An old man I know who used to clean the death house after these rituals said he had often to clean up blood and vomit, and from time to time he would say, "I wish I had the chance to quit."

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Rosa Luxemburg: Ich umarme Sie mit grosser Sehnsucht. Briefe aus dem Gefängnis 1915-1918. Ed. by Karl Liebknecht. Verlag Der Bote, Berlin, 1973. Reviewed by Prof. Solis Jordan, education professor at the University of Puerto Rico, was arrested at home in Chicago near the military recruitment center in Chicago. For more information please call Mervin Mendez, Committee in Support and Solidarity with the Zapatista Army of National Liberation, 2158 Grant Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, or cnorton3art.com. A videotape version is also available.

—Marxist-Humanists

Letter from Nicaragua

Managua, Nicaragua—Sadly, I am writing to express my deepest sympathy to the people of Nicaragua, who have lost their loved ones in the recent tragic events. I understand that many of the victims were peasants who were simply trying to live a normal life.

I was in Managua the day before the earthquake, and it was a dark, stormy night. Suddenly, the whole city shook violently. I could hear the sound of breaking glass and screaming people. When the shaking stopped, I went outside and saw a sea of rubble.

The situation is very grim. The government is doing nothing to help the victims. The humanitarian aid promised by various countries has not reached the affected areas. The Red Cross and other aid organizations have been overwhelmed by the scale of the disaster.

I visited several of the affected areas, and the destruction is immense. Homes have been reduced to ruins, and the streets are filled with debris. The hospitals are overwhelmed with injured people, and there is a lack of medical supplies.

I have spoken with survivors who have lost their homes and loved ones. They are heartsick and grieving. They are asking for help, but they are not receiving it.

I have spoken with the government officials, and they are doing nothing to address the situation. They are more interested in saving their own skins than in helping the victims.

I urge the international community to provide immediate aid to the people of Nicaragua. They need food, shelter, and medical care. They need your help.

Sincerely,

Heinz Oesterle

Puerto Rican independentista defiant

Editor’s Note: Jose Solis Jordan, education professor at the University of Puerto Rico, has just returned from a trip to San Juan, on Nov. 6, 1997, in front of his family by a popular international solidarity group. He was detained and accused by an FBI informant of the 1982 bombing of a military recruitment center in Chicago. For more information contact the Solidarity with the Zapatista Army of National Liberation, 2158 Grant Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, or cnorton3art.com. A videotape version is also available.
In the early 1990s, when I last spoke with Ture, I said that his viewpoint located the subject for the American Revolution not within the Black masses who had proven their revolutionary character from slavery to today, but in an external force. He did not disagree, saying that the most important actions Black Americans could take were the organizing for the Black Power movement and the strategizing about a strategy of liberation. As late as his afterward to the 1992 edition of Black Power, written only weeks after the Los Angeles rebellion, he wrote, "Pan-Africanism is the only way toward liberation and unification of Africa under scientific socialism. (Black Power) can only be understood within the context of the African Revolution."
PART I: PREFACE AND INTRODUCTION

Editor's note

As part of our effort to stimulate new study and discussion of dialectical philosophy, News and Letters Committees is beginning new ground in the radical movement by publishing the following detailed commentary on Hegel's Science of Logic in the next four issues of our newspaper.

The Logic is one of Hegel's most important works and was of great service to Marx, especially in the writing of Capital. It has taken on new importance in light of the need to comprehend the logic of the present day. This "SIL" refers to the text of the Science of Logic as translated by Johnston and Struthers. The translation is in two volumes (Macmillan, 1929) and refers to the more recent translation by A.V. Miller (Huntersville Press, 1969). Dunayevskaya's text has been slightly shortened, indicated by the use of ellipses. The original can be found in The Raya Dunayevskaya Collection, 2000.

These notes will serve as an anchor of a nationwide series of classes News and Letters Committees will soon hold on "The Dialectic of Capital and Today's Global Crisis." See the announcement on page 7.

By Raya Dunayevskaya

Founder of Materialism-Marxism in the U.S.

Volume I: Objective Logic

Book One: The Doctrine of Being

Between the title of Volume I and Book One, there are two Prefaces, one of which was written when Volume I was first published in 1812, and the second Preface is one of the last things Hegel did before his death in 1831. Thus, the second Preface not only encompasses the first volume, but also the second volume (which contains Book Two and Three), which was published in 1816, and all of his other works; in fact it follows the Encyclopaedia of the Philosophical Sciences.1

The historic period of Hegel's life will be one point of departure, the other point of departure will be 1914 when Lenin read this work. I will refer to his Philosophic Notebooks so that you in turn can study them simultaneously with the Logic. Finally, we must have also our own historic period in mind.

Philosophically speaking, Lenin's period was summarized by himself dialectically as "the transformation into opposite." Our period has been characterized by ourselves as the Absolute Idea, or the unity of theory and practice, which must be further concretized as Freedom—the realization of Freedom in life most of all in thought.

That is to say, in Hegel's philosophy the Absolute Idea also stands for unity of theory and practice and its point of departure and return is likewise Freedom. But it is abstract.

A Hegelian way to prove that we have an Idea is to say that while in Hegel the unity of object and subject—the unity of the Universal and Individual—is in mind alone, in the Marxist-Humanist outlook, the individual is the social entity, or as Marx put it, there is no proof of freedom in society except through the individual who is free. I do not mean to burden these notes with too many random thoughts. On the contrary, I mean to follow Hegel's "Philosophic Notebooks" so that you can turn in study them simultaneously with the Logic. Finally, we must have also our own historic period in mind.

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The Introduction to the Science of Logic

Before Hegel begins Book One, we have, besides the two Prefaces, also an introduction. In the Introduction, his reference to the Phenomenology will set us, too, in the proper spirit of continuity: "In the Phenomenology of Mind I have set forth the movement of consciousness, from the first crude opposition between itself and the Object, up to absolute knowledge. This process goes through all the forms of the relation of thought to its object, and reaches the Concept of Science as its result" [SLI, p. 59; SLM, p. 48]. Assuming absolute knowledge in the truth of consciousness, Hegel can now proceed to treat consciousness, Hegel can now proceed to treat

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relation of thought to its object, and reach­

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philosophies that have not met the chal­

tof categories

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By Raya Dunayevskaya

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THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE AS 1999 BEGINS

CHINA

The South China Morning Post in Hong Kong has reported that Beijing is poised to hire up to 150,000 more paramilitary People's Armed Police officers to reinforce law and order throughout 1999. This plan is seen as a move to maintain order, as there is a belief in China that the political situation is being undermined by some cadres as a make-or-break effort for the leadership. The new temporary leading group has been formed under the leadership of President Jiang Zemin, who has called for the implementation of a series of measures to ensure the stability and prosperity of China.

ITALY

Over 100,000 people, for the most part students and teachers, went to Rome on a Saturday in mid-December to take part in a demonstration against the govern­ment's finance minister, who is known for his stand against education spending. The students were out to protest against the cuts to public education and the government's policies.

THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

Generally, I have had a difficult time in the last few years. I have been involved in clarifying those aspects of Hegel and Marx. When you see the struggle to negate the notion that Hegel and Marx are dead, you begin to understand how not to get stuck. One can see that the question of freedom for humanity. One can see the limitation of the notion of the concept represented by the Marxists. I have been involved in thinking that concepts represent basic ideas when they are used as a basic cosmological activity to make capitalism appear to be more just and concerned. The question is how to keep from being dragged into a superficial life of acceptance, how not to get it wrong.

THE WORKER AGAINST CAPITALISM

New York

Disgusted

Phyllis Ntandile
South Africa

On the day of the "20/20" broadcast on ABC about Mumia Abu-Jamal, I discussed the interview with Raya and I believe that there is a huge misearage of just people and not just some. It makes you question, for a group, to have the chance to get fair and objective reporting on almost any issue in this country.

The Martin Luther King Day march in New Orleans the group called Women of Afghanistan assembled to protest the siege and the deaths of women and children. Among the speakers were speakers from the Movement for the Rights of Women in Afghanistan. The woman speakers said that there have been signs of hope, but that the fight continues.

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Women in Afghanistan

The treatment of women in Afghanistan since the Taliban took power in 1996 is being compared to the treatment of Jews in pre-Holocaust Germany. The situation is dire for the women, with many of them losing their lives due to poverty, lack of access to medical care, and violence. Women are not able to work or even go out in public without a male relative. Professors, doctors, lawyers, artists and activists have been forced into hiding and many have been murdered. Depression has reached epidemic levels. The suicide rate has increased significantly.

Women have enjoyed relative freedom until recently, but since the Taliban came to power they have been subjected to strict regulations and harsh punishments. The Taliban's strict interpretation of Islamic law, known as Sharia, has led to widespread human rights abuses against women. Women are not allowed to work outside of the home or to receive an education. They are also subjected to strict dress codes and must cover their heads to protect their honor.

The Taliban's control of Afghanistan has had a devastating impact on its citizens, especially women. The country is in a state of war, with constant fighting and violence. The lack of government support and protection has left women vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

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How did Clinton think he could escape from the Republican Right when he set them down in the dust after all of those women and children on welfare? We know the answer: it was the same as for the others—those that want him destroyed the most.

**Workfare mothers**

When the Republicans started this whole impeachment business I thought we'd all have to bring a bag lunch to the polls at the next election, but it will all be so long. By now, I think we may all have to bring our pojangmacha.

**Retired worker**

California

Clinton is guilty of "abusing women" all right. But it certainly isn't Lewinsky or Paula Jones I'm talking about. The real women he abused are the welfare mothers he attacked by putting into effect the wrong idea of what "welfare reform" should be.

**Women's liberationist**

Illinois

The disgraceful conduct of the Clinton government's actions in relation to Iraq and the world at large brings into question the basic righteousness of the United States' legitimate manifestation of national will. As we see it, then let's philosophy on this picture, and finally let's refuse it.

**Philosophy and Revolution: from Hegel to Sartre and Absolutes.**

$3 paperback, $10 hardcover

KAREL KOSIK'S CRITIQUE OF A COMMOMDI FED WORLD

Some of the reviewers of Karel Kosik's latest book, Antidiluvian Reflections, object to the author's almost agitator's fervor in criticism. In the Czech, present especially as this turns out to be a critique of today's world, Kosik has published an anonymous disclaimer as ruling this world—his name is Market. This iron hand is invisible to all capitalists. Kosik says what is necessary is a radical, central, organic, true turn to nature, history, time, truth and untruth. The schema of Kosik's reflection looks like this: Let's describe the world as we see it, then let's philosophy on this picture, and finally let's refuse it. This is the methodology, philosopher's, concrete, is what we miss. The book is a collection of newspaper essays, mostly in the left-wing daily Pravo, written in a rather sophisticated, literary language you would expect of a philosopher of Kosik's stature. Some of the critical comparison to Kosik, instead of republishing these articles, to write a coherent, thick book with new views or at least a new analysis of old truths. There are the thick manuscripts the Communist secret police confiscated from him in the 1970s. Kosik's writing looks like "liberate" the Holy Land, the right of women to study chemistry. They failed. The UN voted to partition Palestine into a Jewish and a Palestinian state in the aftermath of the Holocaust, when the major powers suffered guilt feelings for allowing the extermination of six million Jews. Various Israeli government's have managed to drag out the implementation of that partition for more than 50 years, ignoring not only all the UN resolutions, but the suffering of the Palestinians as a result. The peace talks of 1993 are a fiasco, as the Palestinians and Israelis are still divided and in the process of abolishing itself as politics. This development must be stopped.

**Israel and Palestine**

Your front page article on the Middle East in the December N&L, was, as far right on target. There is hope that Netanyahu will fall in this election. Not that he will be replaced by a socialist, but it will be the end of the right.

**Honduras after The Hurricane**

I have heard from friends in Honduras that the hurricane did not kill or otherwise everyone out their crops. For coastal communities this was a major win. They are trying to figure out how to start from the beginning again. Your editorial on "Unnatural's unnatural" "The December issue did a real good job making connections explicit between the current world of national degradation and poverty and the issues in the United States coming out of it, and the Unnatural's. They were powerful but it is at this time when the politicians think we will forget...?"

Peace activist

Memphis

**Who reads N&L?**

Two of my friends, both of whom read N&L, told me that when they wanted to let their families in on the "real scope" they always turn it to the best coverage. They talked about an article on a police blacklist in Chicago which they had cut out and sent to a woman attorney in Chicago, who found it extremely useful.

Supporter

California

Honduras

Canada

IN JANUARY, a nine-judge panel of Israel's High Court of Justice will consider petitions concerning the legal basis for the methods used in the interrogations of Palestinian by the Israeli Security Service. Human rights organizations estimate that some 85% of the 1,500 Palestinians interrogated each year are subjected to methods which constitute torture. These methods include sleep deprivation, tying-up in painful positions, sensory deprivation for days or even weeks, exposure to extremes of heat or cold, degradation and threats, and violent shaking. The Human Rights Committee of the UN has reiterated that no exceptional circumstances can justify torture. Several countries have expressed concern. We are concerned that the High Court in Israel fails to lose the use of these interrogations methods which would be the first instance of a modern democratic state operating in violation of the international infliction of severe pain as a legitimate tool of government.

Israel

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1999 NEWS & LETTERS Page 9
RIGHT-WING COUP AT HOME, PERMANENT WAR AHEAD

(Continued from page 1)

Commission on Disarmament, but had used that commission to spy on the Iraqis, in direct violation of UN regulations.

While the bombing of Iraq was seen by some as nothing more than a "wag the dog" scenario, its impact was extremely significant in demonstrating the tremendous potential of precision bombing and the efficacy of a "smart bomb" strategy against a sanctuary target. The bombing campaign targeted Saddam Hussein’s Iraqi forces and was aimed at destroying their ability to launch any kind of offensive against Coalition forces in Kuwait.

The impact of the Coalition’s precision bombing was immense and far-reaching, as it not only dealt a significant blow to Iraq’s military capabilities but also had a profound psychological impact on the Iraqi population. The Coalition forces’ ability to hit high-value targets with minimal collateral damage also served as a demonstration of the power of the United States and its allies, further solidifying their position as global superpowers.

The operation, codenamed "Desert Storm," was conducted by a multinational force consisting of forces from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and several other nations. The campaign lasted from January 17 to February 28, 1991, and resulted in the rapid and decisive defeat of Iraq's armed forces.

Following the end of the Gulf War, the United States and its allies found themselves in a new phase of the "War on Terrorism," which was characterized by a series of military interventions and covert operations. The war on terrorism became the dominant foreign policy issue facing the United States in the aftermath of the Gulf War, and it would shape US foreign policy for the rest of the decade.

The Gulf War also had significant domestic consequences, as it led to a sharp increase in anti-war sentiment in the United States and a rise in support for the Democratic Party. The war was a major issue in the 1992 presidential election, and it has been a recurring theme in US foreign policy and domestic politics ever since.

THE REAL STATE OF THE UNION

Clinton's popularity polls soared even higher as soon as it became clear he was being taken seriously. He had his charges against him and his own lawyers began his defense. That same night he delivered the last "State of the Union" message to be given in this millennium. The latest economic figures claim we are enjoying the longest peacetime expansion in history. The strength of the service sector, steep price declines for products has swept U.S. farmers into a global depression. A July 1998 report by the First National Bank in Washington concluded that the "lunatic fringe" of the KKK has achieved the "best security" of itself ever. The Department of the Treasury's report on the first stage of the "war on drugs" in the U.S. 

A voice of the wrongfully convicted

Detroit, Mich. — My brother, Timothy Kincade, #160509, also known as Sha-Teak A. Isama, is in prison in the California State Prison in Solano, California, where he was convicted in 1993. He did not commit. He was 16 years old and with six people, three men and two women when two guns pulled their guns and started shooting. Two men and a woman were killed, and the other woman was hit and is in a wheelchair, paralyzed from the neck down. My brother was arrested, put in a youth detention facility to await trial, but escaped and went to Canada. My brother, who was 16 years old, was arrested and brought back to Michigan to stand trial.

While we cannot here detail the entire chronology of the many stages that have appeared since World War II, it is important to recognize that at two distinct points the Right was stopped only because it "went too far". The first was the priming of the Army to a bellicosity unparalleled in the nation’s history. Nixon was stopped when he moved from cutting down the students at Kent State and Jackson State to the Directory of National Guard forces in the interstate, which has been the only "safety net" for hundreds of thousands of those driving for impeachment — the conservative movement, run by the "wisdom" of its leaders, not by the polls that the Black dimension has expressed the deepest opposition to the impeachment. That same night he delivered the last "State of the Union" message to be given in this millennium. The latest economic figures claim we are enjoying the longest peacetime expansion in history. The strength of the service sector, steep price declines for products has swept U.S. farmers into a global depression. A July 1998 report by the First National Bank in Washington concluded that the "lunatic fringe" of the KKK has achieved the "best security" of itself ever. The Department of the Treasury's report on the first stage of the "war on drugs" in the U.S. 

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Mumia's voice breaks through state-imposed silence

I'm a 17-year-old high school student writing from the "midst of the annihilation of the Middle East," as a minor, I am free to make some of my own choices pertaining to how I express myself and put my words into action.

But in a couple of months, one very important thing will change. Every male turns 18 in the U.S. must file his name for Selective Service. This poses a problem for me, because I will not fight a war or kill another human being for any nation, no matter who tells me to.

So my path is set: I must resist this law which forces me to be a paid assassin for the government. I asked around to see what some other people, especially in the punk/hardcore community, did when they turned 18 and had to file for the draft. Most of them really do not think twice about it and just signed up. Another couple of people said they prolonged it as long as they could, then signed up.

I then discovered a group of people who apparently have found a way to escape this ordeal: Conscientious Objectors. I understand that a CO has found a way, within the boundaries of the legal system, to become exempt from the draft. I also found out that this is possible by doing just one thing:

Giving up the right to be a member of any religious sect. Not having any religious affiliations rules this out for me.

I should be clear to all of us why we should resist the U.S. war machine. Any revolutionary or radical group can now be required to list your name to a list of willing killers to be totally counterproductive to the social change we are striving so deeply for. As the popular saying goes, it is not enough to "serve your country" by doing something morally wrong. And most of all, I believe, it will not serve the war effort as well, as they do, to obtain goals of greed and power.

A more constructive way to take a better stand and really serve your country: Help people in need whenever given the chance rather than pour them into submission, sign up for a war that you have no faith in, and be a part of a government who has personal and political reasons to make the war going.

Jeremy Sohill of Pacific Radio told of his visit to Iraq in the late 1990s. After the war, he interviewed people about the 1991 war when, they said, the U.S. intentionally bombed air raid shelters including one in which thousands of deaths each month. The horrors described that night can only be magnified by the newer weapons of war.

I criticized his analysis of what kind of new movement we need. I experienced his group's heavy-handed manipulation of the people and I still wonder why one young Black man he has to dehumanize those young lives caught in its clutches by describing its effect on just one young Black man living in the U.S. policies, which are only destroying lives and more.

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**Crackdown in China**

Chinese rulers initiated a systematic crackdown on dissent shortly after President Clinton's visit in June 1998. The first two years of this year—the 50th anniversary of the October 1949 Chinese revolution through which Mao Zedong established the Communist Party (CCP) in power and the 10th anniversary of the June 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations—have been marked by a wave of arrests and crackdowns.

Zhang Shuangang, who had served a seven-year sentence for activity involved in forming independent labor unions, was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Already the CCP plans to eliminate failing state-capitalist enterprises has resulted in the arrest of hundreds of workers. In December, Zhang was sentenced to 10 years in prison. An editorial published in the New York Times reported that both were hauled into court in October and told to stop their attempts to register the China Democracy Party (CDP) at the time of Clinton's visit.

**Unraveling of Brazil**

The January devaluation of Brazil's currency was not unexpected by financial leaders from Brazil. The Brazilian government was forced to abandon its policy of pegging its currency to the European monetary unit (EMU) over the past two years. The government plans to continue to receive foreign aid in exchange for a share of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

The four-year-old "Real Plan," which tied the value of the Brazilian currency, the Real, to the value of the U.S. dollar, was expected to stabilize the Brazilian economy in the short term. However, the devaluation has led to increased inflation and the collapse of the currency on the black market. In addition, greater economic integration has created new possibilities for labor and other grassroots social movements to join forces and stage international strikes against the Brazilian government.