

2-8-14

Combating Bourgeoisie Ideology

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This article is in response to a article in Under, lock and key No. 36 titled, 'Resistance from within'.

This comrade is on to something that's very important and pertinent across all U-\$ prisons. The proselytizing of prisoners to conform and uphold Bourgeoisie views, in light of this, it should be noted that most prisoners come into prison with this viewpoint, including anti-social behaviors. What's more is that not only are prisoners being dehumanized but their minds are being "dumbed-down". A article in ULK No. 27 alludes to this when she says, "prisoners are not doing time, the time is doing them. Mentally, prisoners are being dumbed down. It used to be when the youth entered prison they received a book from elder prisoners and a knife from their comrades for protection from the other prisoners and the pigs. Now youth sit in front of the idiot box (TV) turned into BET and MTV!" (1)

It is true that prisoners values and principles (if they have any) see a steady erosion once in prison, at the same time Bourgeoisie values that further capitalism are already presented to us before we enter prison. One need only to look at drugs, pimping, gambling and other acts that resemble what imperialist do.

As the comrade noted, at what point do ones values hold and up to what point will that individual discard and give up his/her values? Principles and values are not abstract ideas but have a basis in material reality. "There is not growth providing room for accomplishment. Growth is something that leads

to conscious awareness... production Not production in its synthetic form or the Bourgeoisie definition of the word. But productive transition of maturing into a person, who at this higher level of "self" perceptively sensing and clearly seeing a need for care, unified prison objectives." (2)

Our values can subtly change to reflect Bourgeoisie values and likewise can reflect to promote Communist, socialist values also. Prisoners can slip dangerously into a defeatism within the compounds of prison.

Another question from a theoretical point is how does one maintain their principles in face of subterfuge, thievery, back stabbing and intrigue? If all are trying to "come up" on the next man, must one of revolutionary fortitude act passively to the acts around him? How can one be promoting Communistic values while those around him are caught up in deceitful ways and act contrary to altruistic values? Are not acting in the betterment of the community but only to fatten their coffers?

Staying in contact with him and other similar organizations can enhance one's values and combat dehumanization, that in it self will not bring these values about. One must be conscious of that which he combats and that which he strives to be whether it be behavior, values, attitudes or ideology.

Notes: (1) ULK, No 27, pg. 6

(2) ULK, No 25, pg. 13