

T H E  
W R E T C H E D

"Know Your Enemies, from Your Friends."

"... Fully committing to a vision of racial justice that includes grassroots, bottom-up advocacy on behalf of 'ALL OF US' will require a major reconsideration of priorities, staffing, strategies, and message. Egos, competing agendas, career goals and inertia may get in the way. It may be that traditional civil rights organizations simply cannot, or will not change ..."

-Michelle Alexander  
(The New Jim Crow, p.260)

"... As Black people in a white-supremacist culture we have had a psychohistory of learning to utterly hide or repress our vulnerability in order to survive. When this survival strategy links with the overall cultural devaluation of vulnerability it makes sense that so many black folks have wrongly interpreted invulnerability as a sign of emotional strength. Maintaining this survival strategy when we no longer have to fear extreme violence at the hands of racist whites has damaged our emotional and intimate bonds.

"The inability to be vulnerable means that we are unable to feel. If we cannot feel we cannot truly emotionally connect with one another. We cannot know love. No wonder then that the love-lessness that abounds in our culture is even MORE INTENSE AMONG AFRICAN-AMERICANS. Real shares the crucial insight that 'men and women will not completely love one another until both recover the state of integrity in which they began their lives.' This is the work black males and females must do if we are to build positive bonds in all areas of relationships to one another, not just in romantic bonds."

-bell hooks  
(We Real Cool, p.122)

"All of Us or None!"

For their type the attitude must be ever "Pro-Black My Ass!" Forces or individuals of this collaborative and compliant nature have made their peace with the pre-existing system and are so alienated from our reality that, they identify and cast their lot with that of our foes. I'm referring to the Kamala Harris-es, Michael Steeles, Amstrong Williams, Herman Canies, Juan Williams, Eric Holders, Allen Keys, Clarence Thomases, etc. whom are supposedly of "our world," if you can even truly say that, whose preference is to align themselves with the U.S. White Supremacist Empire, in words and deeds.

This category of "Black Face, White Masks," have absolutely no real incentive to sever their complicit ties to the current socio-economic and political order of white male capitalist domination. Nor do they have any real qualms about being agents of the ruling class's super-predatory genocidal machine since in their minds, minds which are the product and prisoner of the enemies' oppressive matrix, they are merely 'assuming their duty as loyal Americans.'" This category of sell-outs are in lock-step with the status quo and dare not ever challenge it, as to do so, places their own material and financial interests at stake, let alone "their asses," i.e., based upon their individual oriented and motivated calculations the MASSES aren't worth losing their gains garnered via ... COLLUSION.

"Yeah, Part of our project is to make sure that we are in CONTROL of the LAND, Something we didn't mention earlier is that Jackson is in a serious threat of gentrification. They have a medical corridor that's coming in that has threatened to displace a lot of people in West Jackson, in OUR COMMUNITY. A way that we can combat this gettrification and safeguard OUR COMMUNITY is by BUYING UP LAND and PUTTING THAT LAND INTO COMMUNITY TRUST. A land trust will enable you to take the land and housing off of the market, to set a lease that could be 99 years, which means that the COMMUNITY can be stabilized. That's also a STRATEGIC ASPECT of what we're building. ... We have Freedom Farms Cooperative which has a plot at the Lumumba Center and other plots we're developing over the summer to be able to build out OUR PRODUCTION, so we're not just serving food for the Nubia's Place Cafe and Catering Cooperative [that we also operate[, but also PROVIDING PRODUCE locally for local grocery stores."

-Brandon King  
(Ibid., p.221)

Again, the "US" has always been that of the so-called Black Middle-Class,

as far as the civil rights movement ultimately centering upon a program and agenda towards creating the necessary conditions in which could be exploited as leverage (i.e., litigation, "pressure politics," etc.), so as to force the American white male rulers to permit them to assume positions--"integrate"--within the socio-economic and power structures rather than endeavor to "radically restructure the pre-existing order," i.e., to fundamentally dismantle the system was never on their agenda and nor a consideration since by definition their integrationist-civil rights orientation and reformist ideas operate(d) to construct strategic and tactical parameters, in which they had no interest, then and nor today, transcending.

In truth, Blacks whom adopt(ed) and practice(d) the politics of either the Democratic or Republican Parties, "Amerikanism in Black face," are effectively webbed into systems, systems which, by design, function to channel their energies towards manageable and co-optive activities, thus deterring and discouraging the potential for any serious and real organized challenge to the status quo. Another important question which must be posed is exactly what does the author of The New Jim Crow mean when she states: "... rather than CHALLENGING the BASIC STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY and DOING THE HARD WORK OF MOVEMENT BUILDING ... ?" And, "... A RADICAL RESTRUCTURING OF OUR SOCIETY," on page 260? What of, where she states on page 254,

" ... Have we unwittingly exaggerated the importance of individuals succeeding within the pre-existing structures of power, and thereby undermined King's call for a 'COMPLETE RESTRUCTURING' OF OUR SOCIETY?"

The reason I point this out, is because on the conceptual plane it allows us to precisely identify and denote just what strategies and tactics shall guide the agendas and programs of various forces in our communities aimed towards challenging the "basic structures of society" or struggling for "a radical restructuring of our society."

To be quite clear, of paramount importance is for us to resolve the question of exactly WHAT is "the basic structure of society," and in turn HOW shall we go about creating the requisite conditions (i.e., ideo-philosophical and organizational frameworks) for "a radical restructuring" of that basic structure? Can this be realistically achieved on the basis of rooting ourselves in and upholding Capitalist principles? Hell, nah! To think and believe so, is a fundamental contradiction and willful self-deception. These fundamental questions must be address-

ed and answered since naturally different and conflicting conceptual understandings of the Amerikan system inevitably produces and results in fundamentally contrasting strategies and tactics, i.e., conflicting movement thrusts and organizational programs-objectives centering upon reform and radical transformation.

I mean, is it our strategic and political aim to construct "a thriving, multi-racial, multiethnic democracy free from racial hierarchy," as as Michelle Alexander calls for, as the end-game? Of course, such a struggle merits our attention and involvement since such an endeavor can certainly serve to improve the unequal and oppressed plight of human beings, transcending parochial categories of racial-ethnic and class identification, thereby affording basic human rights to one-and-all! However, as an end-game such an agenda and program falls way short of what, for Black or Afrikan peoples or the Black World, equally constitutes fundamental and democratic human rights: THE HUMAN RIGHT TO PRACTICE SELF-DETERMINATION, INDEPEDENCE AND STATE POWER ON OUR OWN NATIONAL TERRITORIES.

Unless by "a radical restructuring of our society" necessarily connotes and involves a TOTAL OVERHAUL of the PRE-EXISTING CAPITALIST-IMPERIALIST ECONOMIC BASE AND ITS SUPERSTRUCTURE, the fact is no genuine claim can be amde as to having created "radical restructuring" in the absence of a total transformation of economic and social relations in the form of state power having been placed in the hands of the WORKING CLASS," assuming that there is truly such in the United States these days?

As well as other classes which are now subjugated and subordinated to the system of capitalist exploitation..Nor where national subjugation persist as regards so-called "African-Americans," Hawiians, Guamians, Puerto Ricans, Native Amerikans, Mexicans, etc. Indeed, we urgently require as a strategic priority a movement and as a tactical matter organizational structures employed to pursue and promote our demands and secure our interests. However, it is crucial to realize and grasp, from an ideo-philosophical standpoint, of precisely WHAT must be the actual nature of our movement and organizational structures as otherwise our time and energy shall go towards the absolute wrong purposes and direction, as to the crucial matter of what our POLITICAL GOALS are or in terms of exactly WHERE WE ARE HEADED.

Although the primary motivating factor for those whom stand our ground as to the vital matter of National Liberation, that of our human right to exercise power over our own lives and affairs, it is still worth pointing out how even integrationists (liberals, conservatives, etc.) themselves, concede that as a matter of socio-economic deprivation and program of political oppression, a great

percentage of our folks--"New Afrikans"--shall remain subjected to practices of racial inequality for the foreseeable future. This is the case, even as more forms of structural repression (i.e., "Crowing Jims") targeting our people will persist. What I'd ask us to really ponder is: Aren't these facts sufficient reason to struggle for our security via independent state power, just as ~~are~~ the Kurds and other folks struggling for the human right of self-determination and national liberation?

If India could be divided so as to extend LAND for the purpose of creating a separate political system or nation-state for those peoples now called "Pakistan," WHY isn't this a realistic political and strategic objective for Black people in the "Belly of the Beast?" At any rate, here's what the sister, Michelle Alexzander, states,

"As described in chapter 1, time and time again, POOR and WORKING-CLASS whites were persuaded to choose their RACIAL STATUS INTERESTS over their COMMON ECONOMIC INTERESTS with blacks, resulting in the emergence of NEW CASTE SYSTEMS that only marginally benefitted whites but were DEVASTATING FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS."

(Ibid., p.256)

"... In light of our nation's racial history, that seems profoundly unfair. But if your strategy for racial justice involves waiting for whites to be fair, history suggests it will be a long wait. It's not that white people are more unjust than others. Rather it seems that an aspect of human nature is the tendency to cling tightly to one's advantages and privileges and to rationalize the suffering and exclusion of others."

(Ibid., pp.257-58)

"Inevitably a NEW SYSTEM of racialized social control will emerge--one that we cannot foresee, just as the current systems of mass incarceration was not predicted by anyone thirty years ago. No task is more urgent for racial justice advocates today than ensuring that America's current racial caste is its last."

(Ibid., p.258)

## "CROWING FOR JIM"

In terms of the struggle or revolutionary process I've always taken the position that, just as a selfish kid raises hell and refuses to voluntarily share or

his/her "candy," it is extremely naive to believe that those of the wealthy ruling class of this Empire shall just voluntarily share the wealth and power in which they have a virtual monopoly of, without blood-death sacrifices. It's simply quite fanciful to think otherwise, even as history certainly validates across human struggles for just societies.

No, it wasn't "Jesus Christ" whom cause the Roman Empire to finally fall, but rather, it was warring German tribes. Slavery in the United States was abolished --except for prisons and the colonized--via a Civil War. What did the sister emphasize--"last racial caste?" Yeah, right? Don't hold your breath as the reality is, this nation is deeply dependent on and hence requires racial oppression and/or racism as its structural ~~founda~~tion since Capitalism-Imperialism simply cannot function and nor sustain itself void of White male Supremacy = deep racial inequities. Although the sister concludes that ~~that~~ the inevitability of "a new system of racialized social control," is apparently dependent upon or will be the result of the failure of various forces devising meaningful strategies and tactics, I'd have to reject the notion that it was a failure to include or consider the socio-economic interests of poor and working-class whites which accounts for masses of Black folks and other people of color being systematically targeted for incarceration.

Instead and indeed more accurately what gave and gives rise to the "new system of racialized social control," are actually the inherent dynamics of the capitalist system as uniquely designed and practiced in Amerika, in terms of being structured in a deliberate manner so as to create and maintain the conditions for our communities's exploitation and domination as a strategic requirement, just as in the case of the **Third World** nations made subjugated to super-predators and oppressive dynamics via imperialism and neo-colonial agents. Yes, "racial divisions and resentments"--Black folks did not construct the system of white supremacy which established a racialized hierarchy as it is our folks who've given and give BLOOD and DEATH to eliminate racism--are a definite factor as regards the emergence of a system of mass incarceration = GENOCIDE.

However, what actually ~~bet~~ter accounts for mass incarceration, as with all other previous forms of socio-political control--i.e., FASCISM--are the dynamics of our internal colonial relationship to the system of Amerikan imperialism, period!

"Racism is not just embedded deep in the culture of the US White society; because of the fundamental nature of settler colonialism and expansionist conquest to the political entity called the United States of America,

WHITE SUPREMACY and RACISM are the BEDROCK of the ECONOMIC, POLITICAL and SOCIAL SYSTEM in operation here. Race is a MENTAL and SOCIAL CONSTRUCT, but RACISM is a MATERIAL REALITY that UNDERGIRDS the OPERATIONS of CAPITAL and GOVERNMENT in BANKING, FARMING, HOUSING, COMMERCE, TRANSPORTATION, EDUCATION, ENTERTAINMENT, and EVERY OTHER FACET OF LIFE."

-Michael Novick

(The Roots of the Charleston Massacre,  
"Turning The Tide" Journal, Vol.28, No.3,  
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"... far more is required of those who would seriously aspire to eliminating the mechanisms of statist oppression than possessing or acquiring what Eldridge Cleaver once aptly described as 'the courage to kill' the oppressor, although it too is imperative. Success in such an endeavor ultimately depends upon the extent to which we equip ourselves to truly KNOW OUR ENEMY--that is, to APPREHEND ITS FULL DIMENSION and INNER NATURE--thereby gaining the ability to SEE CLEARLY both THE ENEMY and WHAT WE MUST DO TO DESTROY IT. Absent such clarity, it is all but inevitable that we'll either show up with knives at a gunfight, ... or expend ourselves slashing at tentacles rather than delivering a killing thrust to the heart of the beast..."

-Ward Churchill

(ReVisioning a Paradigm, ~~A~~STRUGGLEMAG,  
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To be continued...