

In the lead-up to the tenth anniversary of the big 'anti-war' marches I wrote an article and submitted it to TNS. Here is the rejection slip.

North Star
<thenorthstar.info@gmail.com>

Feb
16

to
me

Hi Patrick,

I apologize for not getting back to you sooner. Now that we have an ed. board of three instead of a one-man dictatorship, it takes a little longer for things to happen.

We're going to pass on your submission because it tries to cover too much ground and does not give the subjects in question enough depth, namely:

- the rise and fall of the post-9/11 anti-war movements
- the situation in Mali
- the Arab Spring in general or specific countries
- the campaign of Kshama Sawant
- the role of existing socialist groups in the West

I can only imagine what the comment thread underneath such a far-reaching article would look like given its multiple focus points. You are welcome to post it as a comment (I'm not sure on what article because it touches on so much stuff).

I'm sorry I can't be of more help.

- Binh

Disingenuous as this rejection slip is, I did post it in an appropriate place where it remained till just the other day when one of the new editors cleansed it from the record! That's right folks the new owners or at any rate 1 or more of them is so offended by

what this cruise missile marxists has to say that even material that was being hidden in comments threads by Binh has been cleansed. Thats the way Neverland works

I posted it as comment on Reflections on The Anti-war Movement by Communist Corresponding Society March 19, 2013 30 comments [now only 18]

My article was far too controversial apparently started with.

I just witnessed a scene on the TV of a proud young black African woman who was delighted that the French soldiers had liberated her in Tombouctou. It had apparently become an intolerably oppressive city for her since the blatant Taliban / Al Qaeda style Islamists had arrived with their guns. This women and many more in the crowd were very unhappy before the arrival of those French forces of liberation. The women of Mali were being driven backwards and it goes without saying that any communist, anarchist or gay person in that city was living in abject terror of being discovered and dealt with; because Al Qaeda deals with the ungodly with a bullet.

So naturally in the west we have had crowds carrying purple, red, black, green, and rainbow flags out in celebration of the French led liberation. We have had 'Sawant socialists' out explaining to the masses that all political power grows out of the barrel of a gun and as the enemies of all progress are armed and advancing so the peoples who resist them have to unite with anyone who will fight Al Qaeda, and the people will have to also train their own soldiers and fight to defeat them in what will be a protracted war. Naturally socialists will be out explaining how the peoples under attack will have to develop an army and advance and ensure that Al Qaeda are not able to establish or maintain any base anywhere in the world. They are bound to explain that it will be a protracted war not because anyone wants it to be protracted but because the forces of such extreme reaction are very powerful and revolutionary armies are only just being formed to fight for the most basic of all freedoms. The right to hold an opinion set up a political party and contest free and fair elections just like they do in Iraq.

Anyone with a short memory ought to be reminded that the new and intolerable oppression had been imposed on the people of that African city as the direct result of a recent military advance by Islamist forces the like of which Kasama types like Mike Ely supports in Afghanistan. That may seem unbelievable but it is perfectly true. (see his clear promotion and my reaction with - AWTW: Maoists on the military situation in Afghanistan).

These political forces in Mali are quite different to the sort of MB Islamist who is now the

President of Egypt. These Islamists on the rampage in Mali are the sort that beat and even shoot women that won't cover themselves 'properly' and naturally feminists around the world (flying their purple flags) ought to be in the forefront of any such crowd that was clearly enthusiastic about the liberation and yet they are not.

These Taliban style blatant enemies of women are spread right across the region all the way to Pakistan where recently a little girl was shot in the head to try and stop her tremendous campaign for education for girls. Yet the 'loud and proud' western women identifying as feminists, are very quiet and instead of loud and proud solidarity with the women of Mali and the forces that are assisting their struggle - yet another embarrassing liberation effort gets added to the very long list of revolutionary 'events' that western sect socialists, outright greens and feminists (as the triple flag set that have been promoted at TNS identify) have sat-out.

As far as I know all the usual suspects from the mind numbingly green Naomi Klein, through to anti-war journalist Amy Goodman; to sect socialist Kshama Sawant all the way through to Australia's Eva Cox, or Germaine Greer have all turned up to the various peace marches this century that have steadily diminished into a parade of political zombies and have sat on their hands over the last few weeks. Neverland condemns the French liberation as imperialist neo-colonialist meddling. Libya, Syria, Mali, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and it goes on alongside brother Mike Ely. The flags of Red, Green and Purple as well as Black and rainbow have remained furled while the red, white and blue of France is at war with this black woman's direct and deadly oppressors.

A 'hands off Mali' chant can now be added to all the others when the 'old gang' gets together on 15 February for the ten year reunion of what was, as it turned out, the pinnacle event of 'the mother of all' FAILED hands off movements, 'Hands off Saddam Hussein Mk II'.

Naturally it was never framed in those words but that was one consequential 'objective content' of whatever it subjectively was for those involved.

The MkI version of 'Hands off Saddam' was obviously very different for Aaron Arons than for people who genuinely chanted 'No to Saddam. No to intervention.' alongside him. If the MkII movement had been successful - and there was no chance of that - then we can be confident that there would sooner or later still have been a body count of huge scale. So there was never a moral high ground from where anti-war activists could look down on 'pro-war' activists and demand accountability for the 'war crime' of launching the illegal war against a lawful tyranny.

Anyone who tries to deny the transformation of Iraq will be rejected by the masses as would anyone who tried to pretend that one could be of the left and not seek that transformation and more. There is no avoiding the reality of the change in the country of Iraq. Revolutionary transformation is what was done and the struggle goes on but now from the 'front foot'. The lawful tyranny was overthrown by a revolutionary war that altered the way a massive country at the strategic heart of the ME functioned. What has been achieved in Iraq clearly enables a political struggle to unfold to further these modest, very limited achievements. A Sawant type can these days stand for election in Iraq whereas before Saddam's regime was destroyed root and branch, any attempt by such a person would have simply seen them meet with death at the hands of the tyranny.

'Sawant' type election activities are (for reasons less than any attempt to win) currently advocated at TNS for western countries like the U.S. and Australia so naturally ecumenical unity efforts are sought to create something that can emulate the efforts of say 'anti austerity' centre leftists like those of Syriza in Greek elections. Nothing unusual about any of this; after all revolutionary Maoists actually fighting a civil war advocated elections for Nepal and then took part in them and became the largest party and right now head the government. Elections and participating in them are also advocated for the 'Arab spring' countries now open to those free and fair elections. Revolutionary violence only arose during the struggle to achieve precisely those electoral opportunities in for example Libya and Syria and as a direct response to and result of the reactionary violence started as 'resistance' to the holding of those elections and despite all the excuses from the Assad forces nothing more.

Indeed the revolutionary victory in the Syrian revolution, after however many tens of thousands more deaths, will be marked by just that series of election events as has been marked by them actually taking place in Iraq. Actual support for that revolutionary process with the broadest possible united front to fight for it in Libya, Syria, Mali and so on, divides people from the ongoing Neverland anti-war pseudoleft of the SWP; ISO; S Alt; Kasama; etc.. The division that broke open in the context of the revolutionary struggle for Libyan democracy is deepening. Neverland sect dwellers are defined not by their irrelevant differences but by the fact that they are now and have been all along linked in their various failed - reactionary from the start - Stop the War Coalition's etc..

We now know how hard the Syrian revolutionaries have it in making democratic revolution against the Assad tyranny. We know there is still no 'Syrian Body Count' to tick along side by side the continuing Iraq Body Count. There is however a Syrian body

count and we are all acutely aware of its growth. We see now with Syria the ongoing counter-revolutionary stance of the SWP types and all the other micro groups that have been involved with them. We see it in Mali.

In the spirit of abandoning a so-called anti-war 'moral high ground', or sharing it with those who spoke out as left supporters of intervention we can all agree that if the essentially unarmed Iraqis had attempted what the Libyans were attempting at huge expense until aided by a NATO intervention, and what the Syrians are coping with at the running cost of over 1,000 lives (no doubt mainly the revolutionary side) per week, a catastrophe would have unfolded.

The subjectively left 21st Century anti-war movement was framed from days after 9/11 in the only way it could be without instantly shaming itself out of existence as any sort of progressive movement. It didn't really work as the years rolled on and collapsed in the debacle that is the pseudoleft's response to the revolutionary transformation of Libya and Syria. The anti-war movement's political line, 6 months after Afghanistan when Iraq was becoming the focus, was not framed as hands off Saddam's territorial possessions and his army of repression. It was of course vital to get the tyrant and his possessions and his army right out of the discussion as early as possible. In fact right from the start by declaring 'No to Saddam' in order to declare the real point of the chant 'No to an attack on Saddam and his fascist army'. That chant could not be made so it had to be misleadingly put forward as opposition to an attack on Iraq. If it was an attack on Iraq then it could not be an anti-fascist war bringing obvious liberation to the Iraqi peoples' in its wake.

A revolutionary transformation of any society, to be 'real' - we were told by the dogmatists - had to be from the bottom up. The Iraqi people just had to deal with their entire revolution. THEY had to overthrow Saddam despite his regime being immune to internal transformation without casualties beyond count over years beyond guesstimate. What about the people of Mali?

Dogmatic drivel was served up from all the usual suspects on the foundational assumption that whatever was planned for Iraq by the U.S. ruling elite led by GWB, it was not a revolutionary transformation but some form of business as usual. Whatever it was it was an 'imperialist' goal of some sort and that was inevitably interpreted as a grab for oil one way or another. All such assertions brazenly flew in the face of the WW2 experience for Germans, Italians and Japanese. The WW2 model was run-away from as if there were no leftists that even had valid united front history to draw on.

Clearly U.S. policy as applied to Iraq has had more in common with U.S. policy towards the fascist powers of WW2 than it did with post WW2 realist meddling to install or prop up puppets across the ME. Neverland faced with the bankruptcy of pre-war explanations now claims the war failed! The only way they can get away with such nonsense is to pretend that self declared Marxists didn't tell them how this war would unfold from before it began when others would not debate the issues.

We are days away from the ten year anniversary of the biggest of all the Zombie led events - when the eyes of the sect members lit up as the masses really turned out in huge numbers. But failure is the first, middle, and last names of this whole genre of 'politics'! This obvious 2013 implosion, predictable and entirely appropriate, was predetermined from the initial policy errors from 2001. Marching off in the wrong direction led by StWC resulted in the honest anti-war masses waking up and either turning around, or drifting off as the years of struggle rolled on. The masses grasp what it means for a political trend to hold a stupid position as the 'Sawant' sects do on piracy; Mali; Libya; Syria; Kuwait; and so on. The masses would not continue to support formations and activities that demonstrably have had zero effect on the course of the war in Iraq - having not altered by as much as one day the departure of the COW troops. If it could be argued that there has been some affect from all the effort it would only be negative.

There were bombs set off only the other day in Kirkuk, and it makes no sense to support French efforts to deal with the sort that set them off in Mali and not support the Iraqi government in their efforts to deal with this ongoing region wide conflict in Iraq. The Afghanistan war is ongoing and will be for many more years and it just isn't a good idea to pull all western troops out of the country at the end of 2014. Yet that's what Obama is up to. In one way or another Afghanistan will remain a central feature of any international struggle for any kind of progress and fight for modernity and especially for the liberation of women. Obama won't get away with just abandoning the peoples' of Afghanistan.

However, the war is undoubtedly not on a sound strategic footing and the revolutionary left must contribute our perspective on how to get it correctly strategically oriented realistically with what human material forces are currently in existence. We are not about 'the future' we are about making revolution now. United front politics that have been applied to Libya can't be ignored when the 'front' of this one war becomes Afghanistan. The key question is to recognize that progressives are involved in one war spread right across the region and beyond that has multiple fronts and national complexities but that has always required fighting or arming people on one side against

the other.

Progressive interests have never been served with any anti-war coalition of any kind from the very first day that the SWP sect help set up the disgraceful StWC. IMV it is self evident that a revolutionary left that has developed a fighting response to tyranny in Libya or Mali can't allow that enemy a haven in the wilds of Afghanistan or the border regions of Pakistan. The united front politics that saw people cheer the French and NATO warfare earlier must spread to every front -with every appropriate distinction and differentiation but with the understanding that they are all parts of this 21st Century war of liberation.

Progressive war must develop so the Neverland anti-war movement that has rightly imploded must be exposed for what it is. Sawant socialists can only remain 'anti war' - to the extent that they do remain engaged in these activities - to the extent that they harm the interests of all the world's progressives. They are reactionary counter revolutionaries to the extent that they continue the discredited activities they have engaged in since 9/11.

Libya, Syria and now Mali have cried-out for military support to assist the necessarily messy revolutionary fight and refugees from Neverland have naturally been hesitant to wholeheartedly back efforts of bourgeois governments to jump in 'boots and all' in support of a bourgeois democratic revolution. That's understandable but must be overcome precisely because this is ongoing.

We are not talking in the manner of an academic about some wars of the recent past. The casualties in Syria demand that people grapple with what stopping this mass slaughter really requires. We all know that whatever policies (actions or failure to take actions) is implemented by NATO a civil war with outside interference is underway ready or not right now.

Humanity is in a big war now and the only way to end the war is to win it, otherwise the enemy will go over to the offensive. As we see the reality is that Obama has been the blockage to the required intervention in Syria and McCain has shown up to have been the far better war leader. Sawant type socialists more often than not worked hard to get Tweedledee elected and demonise Tweedledum. They continue to do this. Obama is not meaningfully left of McCain.

The important first step for people waking up to Sawant sorts was dramatically breaking with the Neverland leaderships - rather than the usual drifting away. That is the key

difference that has led to the open debate approach that people are rediscovering. People have not just lost confidence in an old leadership and drifted away in the business as usual model that Neverland operates in but they have changed sides and joined with people that will debate.

The ME region is now alive with ascendant revolutionary and waning counterrevolutionary struggles. From the Atlantic coast of Western Sahara right through to Burma revolution is flaring up or smouldering along 'about' to flare up. Never mind 'a single spark can start a prairie fire', it has. From Algeria one week to Tunisia today through Libya, Egypt into Palestine, stability, the holy grail of realist policies still beloved by backward elements like Obama, has been smashed.

Revolution is underway right through blood soaked Syria and the sooner the U.S. air attacks start on Assad's forces the sooner the forces of reaction will be reduced to IED's and suicide bombers with vests, cars and trucks killing hundreds now and then as they currently manage in Iraq, rather than killing hundreds every day as the air and artillery power achieves NOW!

There were bombs in Kirkuk the other day as real and as reprehensible as any bomb on the London or Madrid trains requiring police actions but where is Tariq Ali or any Sawant socialist? Who is talking about the legitimate Iraqi governments difficulties (no matter the flawed individuals) in dealing with these issues? Where is the matter of fact support for the Iraqi government?

Western leftists ought to know there is a seething population in Iran that hates it's illegitimate government and ought to know full well that their revolution will get going when the local event, probably directly inspired by the coming achievement of a vote in Syria but certainly indirectly sparked by the mother of all 21stC ME elections in Iraq, breaks the spell of mass terror and turns into the mass revolutionary rage that at whatever cost over whatever time produces no less than a bourgeois democracy and probably, for quite some years but who can tell with international capitalism in such a state, no more than that.

Western reds ought to know that the murderous thugs that run Iran won't go when they are asked to by their people who take to the streets to demand that their elections actually mean something legitimate. Iranian thugs won't be replaced via elections where Sawant candidates can present as an alternative. We are not in a world where Putin or the Chinese are interested in delivering even low level bourgeois democracy to their people. Allende is not the model that we ought to look to. Are not the armed candidates

of the Nepalese elections a more realistic model than the unarmed winners of the Chilean elections?

After the Chilean armed forces murdered Allende and instituted their reign of terror against the people of Chile they formed a government that ran the country for many years. Their political power having dramatically come from the barrel of a gun. Ought not the Mao led government of China have been the very first to recognize that political power? Mao signalled to the peoples' of the world in such recognition that the so-called peaceful road to socialism was a road to the peoples slaughter.

Events in Nepal have unfolded quite differently, but that transformation from a remnant feudalism is not much relevant for any advanced industrialized country where reds have never had any viable program for going beyond the capitalism that we have always had to win ongoing concessions from anyway. We are living through the armed overthrow of tyranny after tyranny across the world - with no program at all for what we in the west must do to move beyond our paltry levels of bourgeois democracy even when they are in the capitalist economic doldrums of Greece or Spain.

There is no plan of either of the potential ruling elites of U.S. imperialism for an imperialist war of conquest against Iran. If for no other reason than because it is not possible for them to win such a war, just as it was not possible in the case of Iraq as was argued 10yrs ago. Yet that is what the sects are out and about promoting and have been for the best part of the decade!

The coming war on Iran is bullshit.

The masses in Iran appear to have a hard row to hoe but they will rebel and the outcome can be more like Egypt but we ought to plan on it being more like Syria. The faster Syria is assisted (and the ditherer is in no hurry) is the best way to help the people of Iran in avoiding the Syrian route to freedom.

Meanwhile U.S. and other troops are fighting in Afghanistan and drone attacks are made on Pakistan and also over in Yemen. Do revolutionary leftists oppose such attacks? Whatever these attacks are all about it is not about installing puppets.

The attack on the Iraqi tyranny would - in the 21st Century (and I say in 2013 it's rather obviously so) result in a modest yet clear liberation of all the peoples (in all their classes) that the tyrant held in bondage. The root and branch destruction of the Saddam Baathist state enabled a space to open for the achievement of nothing more remarkable

than a low level bourgeois democracy. A system that from such a traumatized and conservative society (perhaps 100yrs behind advanced western liberal democracies) could and would permit western leftist style Iraqis the freedom to hold meetings, set up political parties, distribute their political thoughts in news-papers, in short compete in elections and campaign for further rights like a regular eco-socialist Iraqi Sawant might want to. (and while making about as much sense).

Several schools of political thinking argued that the tyrant Saddam Hussein was blocking the revolutionary transformation of not just his territorial possessions but the entire region of the Middle East. Revolutionary Marxist-Leninist thinkers did not abandon their thinking when their independent analysis led them to roughly the same conclusion as neo-liberal thinkers. That shared or agreed understanding had to be denied, or obscured, or avoided in any purported investigation of the problem by the anti-war left. But the question of what had to happen to kick start the revolutionary transformation of the Middle East had to be addressed wherever the facts took us.

That transformation was both obviously required in the view of any leftist internationalists and was just as obviously resisted by the U.S. foreign policy establishment. Both a revolutionary Marxist and a Neo-liberal school had rejected the failed realist policies that had led to the blow back attacks of 9/11 and both advocated a new set of policy directions.

Following conventional realist policies (as declared by Ms Rice so clearly in Cairo years after the process was underway) had failed cross class U.S. national interests and now the U.S. administration was taking a new path! This change of direction was missed almost entirely in the initial stages, precisely because it was not trumpeted and this has led to the constant wrong footing and splitting at every otherwise predictable major event over the last ten years.

The British SWP gathered within 10 days of the 9/11 attacks, not to investigate what was the way to fight but to set up the infamous Stop the war Coalition. These people there and then declared that the war could even be stopped before it got going! That was, as Hitchens pointed out the following April in his debate with Tariq Ali, to declare that the war had not started on 9/11 but rather would only start with the coming counterattack. This was for Neverland dwellers like Tariq Ali not war it was a mere police matter!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LepJfRwCEb8>

This recorded debate is well worth listening to to grasp the depth of what was and is wrong with the apologists for the so-called Iraqi 'resistance'.

And this <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZH9QqBEofPw> from Democracy Now Dec 4th 2003 before the real civil war had got going in Iraq.

Who won that war? Could it have been entirely avoided? No Baathist air power was used during that civil war and not 1 Baathist tank either! That's not what we have been seeing every day for almost the last 2years in Syria. 60,000 dead and counting with absolutely no end in sight!

Is there any wonder at all why Tariq Ali did not support NATO acting as the artillery of the democratic revolution in Libya against the Gaddafi tyranny? Also why he will not support the fight in Mali and does not call for the ditherer to act sooner rather than later in Syria? He is not just starting to get confused and losing a sense of direction. This is the foolishness of April 2002 after Afghanistan and before Iraq and then more foolishness in December 2003.

We have been witness to a decade of reactionary drivel when a revolutionary war has been fought and is being placed on a sound strategic footing.

Intervention in Mali has just begun! Neverland dwellers know where they stand. What are the views of people that debate issues openly and honestly at TNS? How are we developing a view rather than producing an endless magazine style, flip- through and move-on blog?

The crucial thing for any western revolutionary leftists over the last few years has been to encourage western government's to militarily intervene in Syria. Have people worked out yet (after it happened in Mali and they didn't bat an eyelid) that they are in favour of intervention in Syria, and won't bat an eyelid when it finally happens there either?

If people actually get that reality, can we direct our efforts in this discussion to produce a broad left pro-intervention out and about 'loud and proud' statement or article for the MSM. Can we work for a unified public stance in support of that intervention? Can a western revolutionary left worldview begin to lead rather than follow events in the ME and North Africa, and of course suitably outrage the pseudoleft in the process?

end

AHH censorship where would the pseudo's be without it!

Trouble is they are in the same place with it. That place is left alone in the sad echo chambers they create. Forced to totally discredit themselves with disappearances!

In the case of TNS the new owners took control of something they never believed in and promptly lost all credibility and thus destroyed it. The numbers already tell that tale.

But going so far as to cleanse former comments is little more than declaring publicly that you were never a believer in the project called The North Star.

The elephant in the room remains the analysis.

The Australian communists have now been disappeared from TNS as they were from Kasama. Kasama 'fell to bits' without 'ease of mind and liveliness' and rather more dramatically so has TNS.

But I hold Binh responsible because if people spoke up in public just like the Asstralian contingent always did they wouldn't have been able to be conned in their private discussions. The ISO type political training that Binh had been subject to for years had to be completely rejected if TNS was to break through and sustain itself past an inner core of treacherous phonies. Ben Campbell can go swimming in the water again. The bad Australian sharks are all gone way!