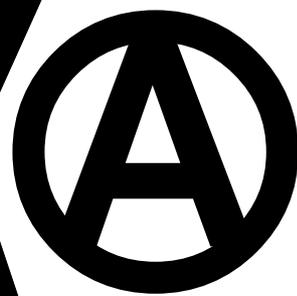


resistance

anarchist bulletin

Issue 7
Ireland
Free/Donation



BUSH 1- BIN LADEN 1

WITH THE 'war against terrorism' drawing to a close in Afghanistan, anarchists may well ask themselves where next for the forces of 'good' (i.e. the military-industrial complex that sustains capitalism, and feeds on war) in their ongoing crusade against the forces of 'evil' (i.e. anyone outside this perception of 'civilisation')? Iraq? Libya? North Korea? The list is virtually endless, and any state that has strayed beyond the U.S. orbit recently is potentially at risk.

One thing that is certain is that the media circus will be only too ready to regurgitate more of the same manufactured truths handed down to them by their paymasters in power, and only too willing to change the script when the need arises. After all, it's happened before. Bin Laden used to be a C.I.A. pawn in the cold war against 'soviet' Afghanistan in the 80's, Saddam Hussein a useful ally against the worrying Shiite regime in Iran. Now their roles have changed to suit the 'national interest' of the day, the only constant the U.S. consider worth preserving, and the media, obedient as always, will do their bit to paper over any cracks that show.

This same consistency applies to the many times and places, since the end of the last world war, that the U.S. has involved itself in the pursuit of this 'national interest' – and which never and nowhere have been labelled acts of 'terrorism'. What follows are just a few examples of terrorism which when conducted by a state, like the U.S. can be easily dismissed as such:

We could start with the dropping of 'Little Boy' on Hiroshima on August 6th 1945 which massacred 130,000 people (including a dozen or so U.S. P.O.W.'s), which eventually led to the deaths of a further 200,000 Japanese (all but 20,000 were civilians) within the next 5 years, and which gutted 25 square miles of 'civilisation' in the space of a few minutes. Or what about 'Fat Man' which levelled Nagasaki 3 days later causing something in the vicinity of 70,000 deaths (all but 120

were civilians) and a further 140,000 over the following 5 years?

Not acts of 'terrorism', of course; just a means to an end, a way to expedite the end of a world war, and to 'bring the boys back home'.

And what about the Korean war (1950 - 53), when 1/10 of the civilian population (3m people) were deliberately mur-



No War but the Class War

dered on the edict of U.S. commander McArthur who, in the desperate need to withstand communist 'aggression', for some reason, required that every 'installation, factory, city and village' in N. Korea be destroyed? Or the bloodshed in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos the following decade when 8m tonnes of bombs (4 times the allied total in WW2) were dropped on defenceless populations, including 373,000 tonnes of napalm. (In Indochina as a whole 15m tonnes of munitions - the equivalent of 600 'Little Boys' - were dropped, leading to the mass slaughter of 3m lives.)

Not terrorism, naturally; just a way to prevent the expansion of a deviant form of 'state' capitalism, over the U.S.'s 'private' variant. Well, that's all right then!

And if that's all right, what about, in October 1965, the U.S. sanctioned deaths of over 1m Indonesians during the coup that was to bring their crony Suharto to power, and which was to open up Indonesia to decades of corporate plunder, later described as the 'west's best news for years'? 10 years later, 1/3 of the population of the annexed province of East Timor (200,000 people) were also put to the

sword while the U.S. and later U.K. governments, turned the other way.

Not acts of terrorism; merely, the means to facilitate the expansion of 'sweatshop' capitalism into South-East Asia: cheap labour, over-priced exports, and a stripping away of vital natural resources to feed the capitalist behemoth.

Where next? How about South America? In Guatemala, 200,000 have been slaughtered in the last 30 years (93% by government forces – a culture of terror guided by the U.S. there and throughout Latin America to ensure, among other things, the dismantling of trade unions, grassroots 'democracy', and anything which upsets the mutual benefits to be gained by the U.S. and its local lieutenants in the region. (For Latin America, read most of Africa since the Cold war began!)

In Argentina, during the 'dirty war' (1976-1983), 30,000 'subversives' were 'disappeared', while most of the countless victims of Pinochet's thuggish regime in Chile have still yet to be accounted for.

Not 'terrorism', no, simply the foundations on which to build the great neo-liberal future planned for us all by U.S. dominated institutions like the World Bank and IMF. And these acts of 'terrorism' are continuing today.

In Iraq, the U.S. is pursuing its national interest with sanctions that, since 1991, have culminated in the deaths of over 1/2 m children - 6,700 children die monthly (approximately a WTC death toll every month) without the West moving a muscle to help. A similar story, in Sudan, where the destruction of 1/2 of the countries' pharmaceutical supplies will cause the deaths of thousands in the years to come.

What about Kosovo, and/or other places, where the media spotlight, if it bothered to shine at all, has become bored and moved on elsewhere. But the rubric remains unchanged. Terrorism is not terrorism when conducted by the state. ★

For more info about anarchism in Ireland, check out: rebelweb.cjb.net



CAPTAIN JACK WHITE

BORN JAMES ROBERT on the outskirts of Ballymena, Co. Antrim, it wasn't until during the Spanish Civil War (1936-39) when, joining the CNT-FAI, Captain Jack White first got involved with anarchism.

His parents were of Anglo-Irish land-owning stock, and it was more than likely at their request that he enlisted in the British army, seeing action in the Boer War. Later, he worked as aide-de-camp to his father, the then governor of Gibraltar (1901-1905), before returning to Ireland to get involved in the Home Rule campaign. Unlike many others of his generation, Captain Jack understood the sectarian dynamic the British government used to divide Catholics and Protestants in the north, and it was for this reason that he organized a meeting in Ballymoney to try and promote Protestant defiance to the bigotry of the Unionist Party that claimed to speak on its behalf. James Connolly invited him to Dublin soon afterwards, and converted him to socialism, but it was Captain Jack's own idea to establish a worker's militia (Irish Citizen's Army) in 1913 to protect picket lines against scabs and police.

At the time of the Easter Rising (1916) he was arrested in South Wales for attempting to bring the miners out in strike in protest against Connolly's execution. When released from Pentonville prison in London, he hooked up with Sylvia Pankhurst's anti-parliamentary communist Worker's Solidarity Federation, and like most socialists outside Russia, must have been very excited about the events of the Russian revolution (1917), though he never joined the Communist Party.

In the 1920's he was back home again, working with both the Irish Workers League and the Workers Party of Ireland, and at the start of the 1930's was a major player in the Republican Congress (1934) – an alliance of trade unionists and communists – who at a Wolfe Tone commemoration at Bodenstown, were attacked by Sean McBride's IRA. But it wasn't just the IRA that White upset. During the Easter parade in 1936, he came under personal attack from Duffy's fascist Blueshirts.

He would meet them again on opposite sides of the fence in Spain during the Spanish civil war where White had gone to join the International Brigade. It wasn't long, however, before he realised that the Connolly Column, like all the other republican brigades in Spain, were being used as fodder by the Communist Party, and not very much later he joined the CNT. He was amazed by the success

of anarchist collectivisation both in the major cities of republican Spain and in the surrounding countryside, and on his return home wrote 'The meaning of Anarchy', thus confirming his new found belief in anarchism, a belief which remained unshaken by the CNT's entry into government and its subsequent defeat at the hands of Franco.



Captain Jack

He died in 1940, after working with Liverpool anarchist Matt Kavanagh on a survey of Irish Labour history.

The legacy of Captain Jack for us today is one which Irish anarchists would do well to imitate. In short, the courage and determination to stand up to sectarian bigotry, to move beyond a 'nationalism' which offers anything but 'liberation', and to bypass the weaknesses of reformist socialism in the pursuit of a genuine desire to overhaul the system of capitalism we are all forced to endure. ★

ANARCHISM AND ISLAM

IN THE LIGHT of the current war, the anti-Islamic outbursts heard across the water in Britain requires anarchists to clarify their views.

Revolutionary anarchism is atheist. Anarchists have always rejected all authority, not least that of a mythical god. Islam, like Christianity, is all about submission, while Muslims are essentially enslaved, not to a god, but to a set of bogus revelations found in the Koran. Modern, fundamentalist Islam seeks to destroy the gains of enlightened thought while tolerating slavery and the subjugation of women (half of humanity) to the inferior roles of protectors and maintainers (Koran 4:34). In legal cases women's evidence is considered less than men's and in all social respects except for the family home, the women has inferior status.

Islam enshrines not only inequality but promotes commerce. However, those with adequate means are required to give the needy 2.5% of their capital assets per year, hardly a massive wealth redistribution. Given the Muslim view that the Koran contains the word of God, the severest punishment must be meted out either here on earth or in hell fire. There

can be no tolerance for non-believers and the variety of other belief systems. To give up Islam is to invite the death penalty.

So, Islam is an enemy of all freedom loving people. Anarchism alone recognises the need to destroy all gods and replace them with human solidarity, freedom and equality. It is certain that, if given the opportunity, Islam would introduce another form of authoritarianism here and across the globe. It, like all religions, must be resisted. ★

AT SHANNON airport 2 protestors were arrested by Irish police as part of a large demonstration against the use of the airport by U.S. jets on their way to Afghanistan. As anarchists, we must continue using direct action, carry the struggle right to the heart of where the power that controls us lies. Better that walking in circles around Dublin, no? ★



EVER THOUGHT of communicating with radicals around the world on an equal footing? Why not learn Esperanto, the International Language? For more info, email: satireland@yahoo.ie ★

Join the resistance

The **Anarchist Federation Ireland (AFI)** is an organisation of **class struggle** anarchists aiming to abolish capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. This is **Anarchist Communism**.

We see today's society as being divided into two main opposing classes: **the ruling class** which controls all the power and wealth, and **the working class** which the rulers exploit to maintain this. By racism, sexism and other forms of oppression, as well as war and environmental destruction the rulers weaken and divide us. Only the **direct action** of working class people can defeat these attacks and ultimately overthrow capitalism. As the capitalist system rules the whole world, its destruction must be complete and world wide. We reject attempts to reform it, such as working through parliament and national liberation movements, as they fail to challenge capitalism itself. Unions also work as a part of the capitalist system, so although workers struggle within them they will be unable to bring about capitalism's destruction unless they go beyond these limits.

Organisation is vital if we're to beat the bosses, so we work for a united anarchist movement and are affiliated to the International of Anarchist Federations.

The Anarchist Federation has members across Britain and Ireland fighting for the kind of world outlined above. Contact:

Anarchist Federation Ireland
PO Box 505
Belfast BT12 6BQ
Phone 07951 079719
www.afed.org.uk
e-mail: ireaf@yahoo.ie