

A Deeper Look into Blackshirts and Reds

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Blackshirts and Reds was a very informative read that gives you a better knowledge of a lot of different topics, the main one being fascism. Michael Parenti gives you the perspective of fascism and how it plays a huge role in capitalism and when it comes to corporate power, and it belittles democracy and how certain revolutions are empowered against forces of privilege. Another topic that is discussed of course is capitalism and the downfall of it both elements. He also speaks about Marxism and dealing with the reality of politics the different issues that went on within the government and certain decisions that had to be made for us to have the government that we have today. In chapter one he talks a lot about his perspective on how there isn't a close relationship between communist and fascist regimes. When it comes to fascism in his eyes it is a fundamentally capitalist ideology and movement that pretty much is there to protect the profits and interest of the bourgeois. One of the quotes that stood out in this chapter was "Fascism historically has been used to secure the interests of large capitalist Entrance against the demands of popular democracy." "Then and now fascism has made or rational mass appeals in order to secure the rational ends of class." He also talked a lot about capitalism and how revolutions are mass empowerment against forces of exploitative privilege. He talks about the circumstances of how communism was destroyed and the impact of the "free market" victory on Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. With Marxism, he said that class analysis was very important in understanding political realities and dealing with an ongoing conversation between Ecology and global corporatism. He also quoted "all our government support for business and severe repression of anti-business pro-labor forces" when it comes to fascism. With fascist regimes, they come in common with this as well. The Third Reich actively sought to protect workers from exploitation by managers. The Rights Ministry of Labor released a list of offenses which is the exploitation of workers. Paying wages below state-mandated minimums and failing

to compensate workers for overtime-reducing hours are just a few examples of what this was. When it comes to the Italian fascist system the socialization law that expanded workers and production and state life was introduced through law and sought to distribute wealth more equitably. Different managers and businesses didn't agree with the Nazi rule. There was strong evidence of anti-capitalism and other Marxist points to specific accounts of fascist suppression of Labor. Parenti pointed out the situation in Italy in which large landowners and industrialists thought to maintain profit levels by cutting wages and raising prices. He mentioned that there was also a huge amount of violence and intermediation directed at labor organizations and socialist groups which included the killing of workers, arresting workers, and attacks on different buildings. This type of violence has done most times is to relax Marxists and rather than to defend profits a lot of examples throughout this chapter ignore the overall trend during this time. Parenti Spoke about left anti-communism and how for over 100 years the United States propagated anti-communism among the populace until it became more like a religious orthodoxy than a political analysis. The anti-communist ideological framework would transform any data about existing communist societies into hostile evidence. The Soviets pretty much refused to negotiate this, and they were belligerent if they appeared to make amends. This was more so a skillful ploy to put the United States off guard. There was a good majority of the US left that had exhibited a Soviet bashing and red fading that pretty much matches most things on the right and its amenity and creativity. He spoke about Chomsky's imagery and how it was indebted to the same US corporate political culture that was criticized by him on other issues that were discussed throughout this chapter and throughout the book. He thought that the revolution was betrayed by communist thugs who rarely hunger for power rather than wanting power to end hunger. He disguised swinging labels and how the people who refused to join the Soviet bashing were

branded by anti-communists as Soviet apologists and Stalinists. He also said that the real sin was that unlike many of the left, they refused to uncritically swallow U.S. media propaganda about communist societies, and they instead maintained aside from publicized deficiencies and injustices and how there were positive features about existing communist systems. Inequality was a huge factor in our society during this time and even now and it was very prevalent with anti-communists and the Soviets and different discriminations that they dealt with amongst each other. When it comes to Marxism it is interpreted as a science and a bundle of reductionist unscientific claims to others, but his ideology came from it not being a science in the positive sense formulating hypotheses and testing for predictability and more accurate than a social science that shows how to be conceptualized systematically. He also stated that Marxism has an explanatory power that is superior to mainstream social science and it tells with class and power and political economy the major work of the Marxist major was capital which was a study not of existing socialism which didn't exist during this time but of capitalism which was subject that remains relevant to most lives. Marxism is still more prevalent now than in the 19th century and the forces of capitalism's motion and development are operating with greater scope than the first time it was studied. Marx spoke about wealth and how it becomes more concentrated, and poverty becomes more widespread in the plight of working people who are desperate. The prediction was later found out that it was wrong, and he wrote during a time of raw industrialism which was an error of robber barons in a 14-hour workday. There was an overall struggle to work in class to improve life conditions from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century and as of today mainstream spokespersons portray the United States as a prosperous middle-class society there has also been a downgrade of the workforce where the regular appointment is being replaced by contracted labor or temporary help which also is the result of lower wages with few

to no benefits. When it comes to the question of the author taking an activist stance and then wanting to fix the social problems that they covered throughout the book. Parenti takes on a more activist stance. He is very vocal about the different issues that were prevalent during this time and what led them to the society that we have now. He is very blunt and honest with the different issues that needed to be fixed whether it had to be with inequality in the workforce and even with things like discrimination amongst races and different countries that weren't American. With the approach that he took, you can tell that he was not supportive of the different routes that our government took with certain issues especially when it comes to discrimination amongst races and different working classes throughout our country. The main thing that was offered as far as a solution is simply giving tips and tricks with what needs to be done for our society to be better as a country and more united. Pointing out the flaws that are prevalent that lead to this is a main solution because you can be honest and upfront with what the issues may be and call them out for what they are and later figure out what solutions need to be done for things to change. Inequality is something that our society deals with even now. With regards to the working class the share of the national income during the Reagan and Bush Clinton era went to those who worked for a living shrinking to over 12% less than 1% of the population and who owned almost 50% of the nation. There was a gap it still has a gap between America's rich and poor and it is greater than it has been in more than half a century and is getting even bigger. Between 1977 and 1989 the top 1% saw their earnings grow by over 100% while the three lowest averages went from a 3 to a 10% drop in real income. In conclusion, Parenti is someone who doesn't sugarcoat the reality of the different things that we deal with in this country. Inequality is something that is still very relevant in our society even during the time he is writing this book and up until now, there are times when in our day-to-day lives' things are constantly sugarcoated with the reality of

what things are. When it comes to people who are in power within the government or even people who are active in the government, they don't own up to the reality of the issues that we have been dealing with for over the past century. Things have of course gotten better over time with discrimination and inequality but there are still issues that need to be dealt with for it to be even better than what it is now. With Parenti, he spoke a lot about foreign policy and the revolutionary government how it plays a role in social movements, and how they are sustaining to the campaign in support of a social goal or change in the society that we are in. Throughout the book, he really is vocal about wanting change throughout the government and the certain things that could be fixed for us to be a more successful government with how we go about things. He also spoke about pure socialism vs. siege socialism and how the upheavals in Eastern Europe didn't constitute a defeat for socialism because socialism never existed in these countries. He said that in communist countries there was less economic inequality than in capitalism. There are perks enjoyed by party and government elites and they are modest by corporate CEO standards in the West. The one difference with other countries is Soviet leaders and how they live not in lavishly appointed mansions like the White House, but in relatively large apartments and their housing project near the Kremlin which is a lot different than what we deal with here in America. The overall point behind all this is to say that The United States is a very independent, money-hungry, country that looks to wean off any opportunity to get money as well as sticking to certain beliefs that shouldn't be prevalent even today. Those beliefs include different classes being treated better because of the money they make, or even discrimination in the workforce with who gets treated better or who is recognized. We have of course grown as a country with a lot of different things but there is always room for improvement, especially with inequality with race and even with different workforces.

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