



What's Left?

Platypus Affiliated Society public forum:

"Imperialism" **What is it? — Why should we be against it?**

Tuesday, January 30, 2007, 7-9PM
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
280 S. Columbus Dr. main auditorium

Suggested questions and discussion points: (Panelists' opening remarks should be at most 5-7 min. [or 500-750 words or 2-3 double-spaced pages]. Please incorporate, beyond the first one, at least some of the following points into your introductory statement. Panelists: please arrive at 6:30PM for set-up.)

1. Please introduce yourself and the group you are representing (if there is one) at the forum.
2. How do you (how does your group) characterize "imperialism," specifically, as a political and social issue? *What* is wrong about "imperialist" policies? *Why* do you oppose them? *How* do you (propose to) fight against them?
3. How and why might you distinguish between these different manifestations of "imperialism" (if you do indeed consider all of these to be phenomena of "imperialism" — if not, why not?): (1) overt military attacks; (2) forms of coercion other than military (trade embargoes and other economic sanctions); and (3) the disparity of power relations in the everyday operation of the world (e.g., between countries of the "core" and "periphery" of the global economy)?
4. How do *historical* issues of "imperialism" inform you (your group)? What historical examples do you regard as informing your attitude towards issues of "imperialism" today? *Why*?
5. If "imperialism" is related to other struggles against social problems, how is it so? (E.g., how are "imperialism" and the issue of the rights of migrant workers / immigrants related?)
6. Where do you find the most important opposition to "imperialism" today? *Why*?
7. If "imperialism" is more/other than a moral/ethical issue, why and how is it so? What kinds of social *necessity*, in the present organization of the world, do you take to be underlying the issue of "imperialism"? What makes "imperialism" *possible* and/or *necessary*? What do you propose to do about this?
8. What is the relationship between the struggle against "imperialism" and for social *emancipation*?
9. What prospects do you see for the future in the struggle against "imperialism," however you define it?