

John Yoo: Fascist

John Yoo:

*wrote the memorandum that U.S. George Bush used to secretly authorize the National Security Agency to spy on Americans,

*wrote the memorandum that George Bush signed saying torture is not torture unless it leads to organ failure or death,

*provided the legal justification for declaring prisoners of war, “illegal combatants,” and thus exempting them from the protections of the Geneva Convention,

*argues that George Bush did not need to ask Congress before the Iraq invasion, violating the 1973 War Powers Act which says he did.

John Yoo is not best thought of as a professor nor a former government lawyer. John Yoo is a fascist. John Yoo deserves nothing but disrespect and contempt.

San Diego did not need to import a fascist and offer him the cover of respectability of a university whose purpose should be the struggle for the truth, not the unreason and violence that defines Yoo.

San Diego has plenty of home-grown fascists:

***Charles Lindbergh**, Nazi sympathizer to his death, attacked by San Diego author, Dr Seuss,

***Titan Corporation** and **SAIC** profiteering from mercenary work around the world,

***Randy “Duke,” Cunningham**, jailed not for his effort to commit genocide in Vietnam, but the hubris and greed that propelled his life,

***Teledyne** building airborne drones to surgically bomb wedding parties in Iraq.

***Military officers** ordering US troops to fight and die for what really are the enemies of their enemies, officers who now direct the war crimes in Afghanistan, Iraq, Guantanamo, and throughout the world, not for democracy and freedom, but so the rich of the USA can control the regions’ oil and geography,

***The City Council**, little more than an organized crime gang operating as a weapon of the rich, enforcing apartheid-like boundaries of race and class.

San Diego has plenty of small-time fascists too. The Nazi party operates in San Diego, recruiting youth, as does the KKK and other white supremacist groups. It is routine for racist youth to attack immigrant workers and to face nearly no legal repercussions.

More bland is the long-term, but evaporating, popular support lent to the ongoing war crimes in Iraq in the name of supporting the troops, or under the banner of nationalism, or simply hiding behind the problems of everyday life. It is a life and death question to fight fascism.

What characterizes US society today is the emergence of fascism and the very real promise of **perpetual imperialist war**. We are an organization of students, teachers, professors, and community people determined to **fight fascism**.

You are welcome to join us.

The Rouge Forum

www.rougeforum.org

WHAT IS FASCISM?

1. **Fascism is the unchecked rule of the rich**, in power--an assault on poor and working people. Parliamentary institutions are usually set aside. Elites issue direct orders, frequently through a populist leader. Wages, any social safety net, working hour laws, labor laws; all come under attack. The stick replaces the carrot. Even between capitalists of the same nation, struggle intensifies. Fascism in its early stages has been popular among people mystified by nationalism, racism, and sexism; ideas key to fascism. But, "war means work" for some, which may also explain its historical popularity. **Fascism requires and is built on the support of capitalist elites.** Henry Ford, the Dulles family, Charles Lindbergh, among many others, were early supporters of fascism.

Fascism has taken the form of state capitalism in Japan, Germany, and in more sophisticated ways, the Soviet Union in the Stalin era. But fascism has also grown in less developed countries, Romania, Bulgaria, most of Eastern Europe, Cambodia, Argentina, Guatemala, Chile; and taken significantly different forms.

2. **Fascism and capitalism are inseparable.** There has never been a form of capital that was not built on a fascist base. All major capitalist nations now have fascist ties. While fascism may not be the dominant form of capitalist government, elements of fascist ideology (biological determinism, rabid nationalism, etc.) and fascist organizations (sectors of the police, KKK, skinheads, etc.) are always present. No capitalist government has ever required a revolution to institute fascism.

Fascism does emerge in capitalist crises, the moments when the struggle for production reaches a point when the workers can no longer purchase the products they produce, a crisis of over-production and declining profits and/or an intense battle for cheaper labor, raw materials, and new markets; that is, war as we see now.

However, neither war nor capitalist crisis is a pre-condition of fascism; consider Saudi Arabia or Kuwait. In addition, it is possible to live under fascism within a nation that is not itself entirely fascist, that is, to live as a jobless black youth in Sao Paulo, or Los Angeles.

3. **Fascism deceptively calls for the national unity of social classes, class-collaboration**, but actually **promotes the division of people by race, sex, culture, nation, or religion.** Fascism was, under Mussolini and, later, Hitler, conceived as the "corporate state", that is, **all the resources of the society were directed toward the support of corporate profits in the name of national unity and economic development.** In order to motivate warriors and bolster profits, **fascism conceals the real and insoluble tensions between those who own and those who work.**

4. **Fascism frequently is employed as a strategic base for war.** Fascist shifts in government and official ideology grow with war preparations. **Violence and terror, made tolerable by racism and sexism (ideas which view people as sub-human) become public policy.**

5. **Fascism relies on mysticism**, organized irrationalism, a culture turned to superstition, irrationality (extreme religious dogmatism, the fear of sexuality, celebrations of misogyny, death, and hopelessness--serving to explain apparent systematic despair), and retards science and social production in order to mask its own decay. Indeed, fascism is organized decay. There is a jagged line which runs from conservative Christianity to anti-semitism to anti-communism which underpins much of fascist writing. But, **there is no consistency to fascist ideology, other than to preserve capitalism.** Fascism is irrationalism organized to sustain inequality and authoritarianism. Even so, the role of the ideology of irrationalism can become powerful, that is, Nazis sacrificed the productive work of many Jews in order to kill them.

6. **Fascism is virulently anti-communist.** Communists (and some anarchists), who have been the only consistent and effective anti-fascist fighters, are among the fascist's first targets.

7. Fascism has only been defeated internally (primarily by the actions of indigenous national resistance), perhaps, twice: in Albania and, maybe, China. However, **resistance movements have defeated fascism.**

8. **Combined theoretical and physical struggle causes fascism to retreat.** There is a growing body of research which indicates that vocal and written opposition to fascist ideas does cause a reevaluation and moderation of thinking in individuals. In pre-fascist Germany in the 1930's, areas which actively put people on the streets to fight the Nazis regularly caused Nazi withdrawals--and minimized fascist group membership. There is **nothing inevitable about fascism.** It is a political movement, reaching from production relations into the mass consciousness, and can be combated physically and intellectually.

9. **Effective resistance to fascism must be based on a class analysis of society, an internationalist perspective that attacks imperialist war, a multi-racial, anti-racist/sexist, organized approach.**