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Reader Response 13

Michael Parenti in “Super Patriotism” goes over his thoughts on the American norm and society. In this novel, he states two chapters, “Rulers of the Planet” and “Why do they Hate us?”

He goes over in his novel, exactly why Americans have these prideful complexes and support the American way despite all its mistakes and imperfections.

Michael Parenti lists his chapter thirteen as “Rulers of the Planet” because that’s exactly what each American thinks of their country. Americans think they’re at the center of the world and that they rule the world. The way we know that is through their prideful attitudes towards their country and their occasional showing of their military strength as often as they can. Americans have started wars in Vietnam, the Middle East, and Japan to simply show who has the strongest and biggest military. They have also literally started a cold war competing with Russia to simply see who has the better citizens and man power. They competed in the making of the nuclear bomb, the first man on the moon, and even in intelligence level. When America achieved on putting a man on the moon, it was clear that this war showed America as the better country. This became the motto for the American leaders and citizens that they were better than everyone else.

Parenti also goes over the topic of “Why do they Hate us?” The country is so diluted thinking that they’re so helpful and nice to other countries that it would be impossible for someone to hate them. Americans believe that when American troops come into other countries that they’re helping other nations, but when in reality, a majority of the time we don’t help them at all and instead it goes backwards and hurts them fairly hard. As well as the fact that Americans seem to laugh at other people’s culture and are very unaccepting of it, leads to a lot of dismay from other countries.

Stereotypes and bad examples have shown us that a dictatorship is not the best type of government for a lot of countries. We usually relate dictators like Hitler or Castro as the type of dictators all dictators are. However, Parenti opens us to ‘friendly’ dictators who have actually helped their country in very beneficial ways. A friendly dictator is a leader who makes all the rulings, but does them all in favor of the country as a whole, instead of being greedy or selfish.

An example of a friendly dictator would be Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. He was a leader in the Turkish War of Independence and soon became the dictator of Turkey. He is known as the founder of modern Turkey from his work with implementing secularism and letting women have the right to vote. He created a great community for the Turkish citizens and has actually improved on life in Turkey.

Another example of a friendly dictator would be France-Albert René who has helped a small east African country of Seychelles. He had to overthrow the current government in a coup, but once in power, he created many educational institutions, created a universal health care program, and even increased the literacy rate to a whopping ninety percent. He helped out his entire nation and improved his country despite his role as dictator that everyone connects to as a malevolent person.

Parenti opens up readers’ minds to kill stereotypes and make people more aware of their own social formalities that we as Americans do every day without noticing and how it shows us a country. We all think the same way and do the same things without actually thinking why and to question our thinking.

The United States of America has helped many dictatorships with the slaughtering of their people. They supported and funded many dictators mostly in the global south such as south America.

For example, John F Kennedy supported Castelo Branco, a Brazilian dictator, who was supported by US troops. The US troops helped overthrow the Brazilian government so that Branco could rule it. After that, Branco ended up killing and torturing thousands of Brazilians from the coup. The US government helped a man kill thousands of Brazilians without many Americans even knowing about it.

In 1973, Augusto Pinochet got US support to stage a coup against the democratically elected president of Chile. Pinochet after reigning control of Chile killed all his enemies and anyone who had opposed his values. To this day, nobody knows what happened to the bodies of the 50,000 Chileans that Pinochet murdered during his reign.

Another example of the US supporting other dictators would be Ceausescu. He used the US support to ban abortions, and all forms of contraception to increase the birth rate in the country. Many of these babies grew up with neurological issues without anyone to hold them and ruined the lives of many of the people in Romania. The US also made sure that Ceausescu would always be the richest communist dictator.

The US supports Global South Dictators to weaken the countries around them, and to gain control of them as well. They weaken the countries around them by having the government be run by malevolent dictators that run wild and kill their entire sense of government. Then America can do as they please with these countries or even get some money out of them. This is just an increase in power for the US. They invest the lives of other county men and some of their own troops to gain control and wealth of the world.

John Stockwell, a former CIA officer, spoke out against the US government and their Presidents on how the CIA were corrupted and misleading people. The CIA simply killed millions of people from third world countries, without anyone knowing. They were pretty much hired assassins who killed because it was their job.

Stockwell goes on to say how the CIA is corrupt for simply following orders and killing people without having any form of remorse or feeling at all. They would talk about their families and kids, and the next day kill a few hundred men. The CIA director, Bill Colby, lied to the congress at 36 briefings and it’s a felony to lie in front of government officials. The ones supposedly trying to protect American rights are violating them.

Stockwell goes against the US government because he has seen the ruthless senseless violence that they create,. The worst part of it all is that they act like its all justified but really that’s all propaganda from the public truly seeing the horrifying monster America really is to other nations, especially third world nations.

So when Stockwell calls it a Third World War, doesn’t mean a WWIII, but a war against the third world nations, the undeveloped nations. The American CIA were assassinating countless number of people who spoke out against certain American values. It just seems that American spies simply invade different countries and mass murder many people under the justification of them being communists. Stockwell even says that within these third world countries many of them don’t even know what communism is because of the lack of education there.

The US intervened a lot in Africa for many reasons. But first what they did was terrible. They funded fifty out of fifty three countries with weapons and guns, making Africa the most war-torn continent in the world. The US leaders also loan and then take tons of money from African countries stacking huge amounts of surplus debt on these poor countries. This ruins their health care plans, their economy, and their education sectors. This puts a halt in any sort of advancement or development of these countries. They have no space to develop and become part of this digital age and era. The way they topple these countries with debt and weapons and a terrible economy leads America to their greatest prize. By taking control of these countries, America can now take over their natural resources like oil and certain minerals. This country filled with a great amount of precious resources are being robbed right underneath their feet by America.

The African Oil Policy Initiative Group is a group of representatives who want to strike oil in Africa and center all oil extractions from there, instead of taking oil from the Gulf of Guinea. But in doing so, could even ruin the African nations even further down the ground. This would ruin their economy and would almost make it impossible for the Nations to get out of their underdeveloped nation status.

The US policy is to support democracy, and fight terrorism. The country starts many wars on these topics and lay down countless numbers of lives to do so. However after reading about the intervention in African Nations, the root of all US policy is the capitalistic gain from doing anything internationally. By supporting democracy, they can gain control of more nations and in doing so, make more money off of these countries. By fighting terrorism, the government gains support of the American people to involve themselves in International countries taking control by force. All America wants is control of other countries so they can make a profit.

Blowback is the response from affected countries and military groups when the United States military inserts itself into world conflicts and faces retaliation for its actions. The term was first used in a classified 1954 report by the CIA detailing the United States government’s involvement in overthrowing the government in Iran. It was used to describe the unintended consequences that the US and region would face as a result of the United States’ interference. The United States’ interference ultimately led to the installation of a regime that proved to be far more deadly to the citizens of Iran than the previous government.

A major example of blowback is the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan. In 1979 the US armed fighters in Afghanistan again Soviet forces who were trying to invade them. After the Soviets were successfully combated, the Afghan region was left with no concrete government, causing the region to be subjected to decade’s power struggles and terror which has yet to cease.