

TARGETING IRAN

—BOOK REVIEW—

Targeting Iran by David Barsamian and published by City Lights Books is a well-written, appropriately titled book, especially when you consider how many troops and aircraft carriers surround Iran and how many of Iran's neighbors possess nuclear arms and the ability to deliver them.

It is safe to say that Israel and Pakistan have as many potentially lethal issues as Iran and Iraq. Has Iran somehow forfeited its rights to defend itself? This 187 page book is a series of interviews with Noam Chomsky, Evand Abrahamian, and Nahid Mozafrri. Each conversation peppers itself with a different specialty.

The section with Noam Chomsky is like sitting at the dinner table with your favorite uncles. David Barsamian and Chomsky have worked together so many times that it seems as if they finish each other's sentences. This is the most academic section of the book, packed full of geo-political agendas and issues.

Chomsky reminds us that we shot down an Iranian civilian airline over the Arabian Sea, killing everyone aboard. Then he discusses the 1954 CIA overthrow of the democratically elected Iranian government to be replaced by a tyrannical puppet, the Shah.

In 1979, the Islamic revolution overthrew the U.S. backed Shah and it's at this point that Evand Abrahamian takes over from Chomsky and delves into the politics of an independent Iran. Going from the war with Iraq, to international misconceptions of the people of Iran, he does a first rate breakdown of the transfer of power from a brutal police state controlled by the Shah into a full blown republic led by the Ayatollah.

Abrahamian discusses Iran's nuclear power plants, facilities that the U.S. constructed for them before the Islamic revolution. You seem to see many creepy similarities between our foreign policies with Iraq and Iran and it is down right scary when you read the true details of our meddling in the Middle East.

The third part of the book is devoted to understanding Iranian culture. While being fragmented and quarrelsome, Iran's people do have an amazing history of uniting to confront foreign military threats. The means that they have to defend themselves are formidable at best and a nightmare for any force attempting to occupy the country. At the same time, we also learn about the massive amount of oppression and control that the Ayatollah forces upon the people of Iran and their continuing struggle to taste true freedom.

Iran is not a paradise for its people, and at the same time, a U.S. attempt at the "liberation" of Iran would have catastrophic consequences for them and the world. All three writers in this book do a stellar job at breaking down the past and present of Iranian culture, politics and history. It's a must read book

BE THE MEDIA!

State of Disunion

AMOUNT OF MONEY
NEEDED
a year for HIV treatment
in Africa:
10,000,000,000

NUMBER OF PEOPLE
AT THE 2007 summer
solstice at Stonehenge:
30,000

PERCENTAGE OF
AMERICANS
that have confidence in
President Bush:
24

NUMBER OF CITIES
that have Critical Mass
celebrations:
432

NUMBER OF
DOLLARS
by which the Democrats
have out fundraised the
Republicans:
100,000,000

AMOUNT OF
DOLLARS AFRICA
PAYS A YEAR
to G8 lenders:
14,000,000,000

NUMBER OF
TRP REPORTERS
ARRESTED
at the 2004 RNC in New
York city:
2

PERCENTAGE OF
AMERICANS
that approve of the way
Congress is handling
the war:
3

ISSUE NUMBER
of this Red Pill:
50

NUMBER OF U.S.
CASUALTIES IN
IRAQ:
3774

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IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH TAKE

The Red Pill



GRAND JUNCTION,
COLORADO

50th

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G-8 REPORT-BACK



Our days started at the crack of dawn, thousands upon thousands of people, shuffled sleepily from their tents to the outhouses and then from there to the free chow lines. Hippies, Anarchists, Socialists, concerned yuppies, and every sort of individual you could imagine, slowly amassed at the gates to the camp. From the gates, rivers of people clogged the roads and highways, eventually melting into the tree lines to avoid the constant drone of police helicopters overhead.

Like a peasant army on the move, we snaked our way through the valleys and over the tree-filled ridges, marching through the German countryside, coming closer and closer to the nobilities' estate, which in this situation, was the town of Heiligendamm on the coast, a resort city that couldn't be further away from the concerns of the real world. A resort that had seen Czars, Kings, and now, the aristocracy of the G8 nations—Germany, Italy, France, Japan, Canada, Russia, and the United States. Together these nations only make up 14 percent of the world's population, yet they control three quarters of worldwide wealth (measured by gross domestic product).

Militarily, the member countries of the G8 outspend and outproduce everyone else by a sickening

margin. In 2005 they accounted for 71 percent of the world's total military budget, with the US accounting for nearly 48 percent of the world's total. When it comes to nuclear weapons, it is even more frightening how much death the G8 nations could rain down upon the world if they so chose to, or if the world rebelled against their oppressive corporatization and neo-liberal imperialism. Of the world's 100,000 nuclear weapons, this council of corporate and government interest controls 98 percent of all nukes on the planet.

Yet, force is often the second option for these countries when it comes to keeping the world under their thumb. Economically, these nations enforce unfair trade practices upon under developed/developing nations, break down the strength of labor movements within their own countries, encourage corporate welfare, and in the case of Africa, they often enforce the high price and patents of AIDS medications, thus forcing millions to suffer while the coffers of big pharmaceuticals swell into absurd amounts of money.

On the Red Pill's first day at the protest, we took the road leading into the east gate of the summit. Five thousand people spent the day on the hard

"G-8" ON PAGE TWO

"G-8" FROM FIRST PAGE

concrete and a nearby rail line chatting in a dozen different languages. Police helicopters dropped off loads of police reinforcements and looked on helplessly as peaceful protesters kept hundreds of diplomats from entering or leaving the compound.

The second day, we hiked for miles through the dark German forest forging a road to the west gate. Flanking lines of riot cops stationed on back roads attempting to stop us from our destination, we burst from the tree line a hundred strong and pushed the German version of storm troopers off the road, throwing down a barricade and sitting down; locking arms and legs, we held our ground as the police came back with water cannons and a fresh load of shield-wielding cops. As they pushed and dragged us from the road thousands more protesters had occupied the field behind the police. Wearing black masks and chanting the songs of the people, water cannons raged into the crowd to no avail. Helicopters by the dozen swooped in dropping off more and more aristocratic head breakers as the people still held their ground. By the end of

the day fifteen thousand police had amassed at the gate and still they couldn't part the sea of people keeping the nobility locked in and out of their estate.

This summer the people spoke and acted with a strength that startled and then humiliated the German government and their elite police forces. Rushing from the tree line, masked freedom fighters and their allies showed the world that the true strength lies in the heart and will of the masses, not in all the military strength and greed that the world leaders used to guard their castles, friends, and allies. It scared them so much that the mainstream media suppressed hundreds of stories from journalists who ran with the crowds of protesters throughout the week. Instead of a people's victory flooding the airwaves, only stories of Paris Hilton, and her pathetic spoiled attempt to stay out of jail, flooded the world's airwaves in a hundred different tongues, while the people of the world stood shoulder to shoulder against the tyrants, bankers, and their thugs.

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CRITICAL MASS: LONDON

Critical mass is a sociodynamic term to describe the existence of sufficient momentum in a social system such that the momentum becomes self-sustaining and fuels further growth. -Wikipedia

Critical Mass is an ongoing celebration of the melding of humanity and bicycle, a form of transportation that is healthy for the world and people. A mode of transit that has the power to return the streets to pedestrians and the community, instead of reserving the road way for lumbering, noxious hulks of steel and plastic. Started in 1992, in San Francisco, all across the globe, people meet on the last Friday of each month and retake the streets from cars for one night. Bicyclists in London joined in on the celebration in 1994 and no matter what the London Metro Police have done, the celebration has continued unabated to the present day. This summer the Red Pill was lucky enough to join the party in London at its monthly gathering spot on the South Bank near the National Film Theatre.

This was a really special Critical Mass for London. Just recently, a couple of the United Kingdoms' Lord Justices had ruled that the organizers of the event had to register with the police and give full details about the ride six days in advance. Unfortunately for the Metro police, Critical Mass has never had a leader that can be bullied or pushed into conforming with the authorities or the status quo. In fact, Critical Mass has never had a leader at all.

It's a community, a party, a celebration that a thousand people in London chose to come out to and ride their bicycles through their city on their streets together on that night. Whoever happens to lead the procession of bicyclists is the decider of

the route that is to be taken. It's an organic process and there is no authority figure guiding Critical Mass. The only authority the Red Pill saw was lines of yellow clad bike cops following a procession of joyous people that they had tried to stop and repress by every means possible. Yet at the end of the day, the streets were retaken from the car and police, and given back to the young and old, freaks and normals, the people that they truly belonged to.

If you would like to know more about Critical Mass and the massive amount of police repression it faces in the United States please check out the rocking documentary, "Still We Ride," www.stillweridethemovie.com, or google 'Critical Mass.'

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Saturday, September 22nd • 5pm

Colorado Straw Bale Association is hold its annual sustainable building conference in Durango, CO. For more info checkout:

www.strawbaleconference.com

Thursday, September 20th • 7:30PM

"End the Violence Vigil" sponsored by A Voice of Reason, will seek to honor those who have died in the Iraq War and call for peace.

6th and Rood, downtown Grand Junction

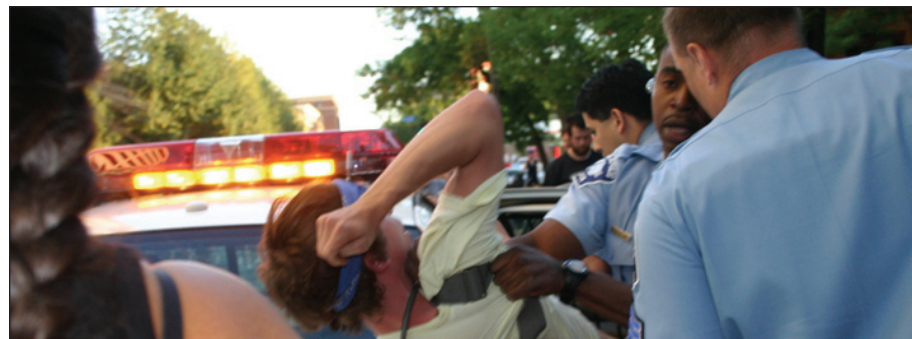
COMMUNITY: CREAM CITY COLLECTIVES

The Cream City Collectives, located on 732 E Clark Street, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has been successfully running for over a year now. It's in River West, where TRP saw the city's radical thought concentrated. The Collective consists of the Mathilde Anneke Infoshop, a free meeting space, and the River West Co-op and Cafe. TRP had the opportunity to talk with Tom from CCC. He says the collective was "designed to be a center for social change and a community meeting place." Their aim is to enrich, not by political means, but with events like waffle breakfasts and community bike rides. Tom said it's a great way to introduce radicals to something "not completely insane." The Co-op's goal is to provide "food for people, not for profit."

Currently, members of CCC are working with the RNC Welcoming Committee in order to prepare for the 2008 Republican National Convention in St. Paul, MN. Visit Cream City Collectives on MySpace to see their progress on the RNC. www.myspace.com/creamcitycollective.



2008 RIOT ROADTRIP



Police attack Critical Mass in Minneapolis during the pReNC planning conference.

With the election already in high gear, next summer's Democratic and Republican National Conventions (DNC and RNC respectively) will prove to be massive points of protest and dissent.

The DNC, which is going to be held in Denver from August 25th through the 28th, will attract thousands of antiauthoritarian, antiwar, labor, and anti-globalization activists to the city. Opposition to the Democrats is being organized by Re-create 68, a name that references the riotous antiwar protests at the DNC in Chicago, 1968. Check out their website for updates and more information: www.recreate68.org

The RNC is going to be held in Minneapolis just a few days after the DNC, just 919 miles away, September 1-4. The RNC Welcoming Committee is a self-described "Antiauthoritarian/anarchist" group organizing protests and civil-disobedience actions in and around the convention. Check out www.rncwelcomingcommittee.org.

Both cities have looked at or passed legislation

that severely restricts the right of free assembly and speech. Denver City Council has proposed locking up the homeless during the convention. Minneapolis Police have issued a national call for back-up. Minneapolis ACLU has estimated that 100,000 people will come to the city to protest the Republicans.

This past Labor Day, Minneapolis activists held the pReNC, a networking and organizing conference focused on preparations for protests and disruption of the RNC. On the first day of the conference, a Critical Mass bicycle ride with 400 riders was attacked by police using pepper spray, tear gas, and Tasers to arrest 19 people.

The Democrat controlled Congress and the Republican president have approval ratings hovering around 25%. It's clear that both parties have strayed drastically from what the people want. Protesting is one way of getting them to listen. Join us in the streets next summer in the fight for a better world.

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RED PILL LOCATIONS

You can pick up your copy of The Red Pill at the following locations: Planet 9, Heart of the Dragon, Third World Imports, Spekulationz, Planet Earth, The Hot Tomato, Kleen Sting, Colorado Java, Himalayan Feeling, Contemporary Glass Works, Change Skateboards, Coffee Muggers, Triple Play Records.

Download the Red Pill at: <http://colorado.indymedia.org>.

Become our friend on Myspace.com @ http://www.myspace.com/gjam_theredpill

“I’LL NEVER BOW DOWN AGAIN,” SIX NATIONS EUROPEAN SPEAKING TOUR

In June 17, 2007, in Dublin, Ireland, The Red Pill had the honor and pleasure of meeting Kathy Garlow and Mary Sandy during their speaking tour around the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, in which they described the struggles faced by the Six Nations in a land reclamation dispute in Ontario, Canada, beginning on February 28, 2006 and continuing to this day (see The Red Pill Vol. 4 No. 9, May 2006 and Vol. 5, No. 3, Feb 2007).

What we heard were emotional and heartfelt accounts of the struggle and how they’ve experienced it first hand. The two women expanded briefly on how the chiefs are not the ones with the power—they are the spokespeople. The clan mothers are the ones who make the decisions. Decisions are made by consensus—the first true democracy.

The Six Nations (comprised of Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora nations) first came together in the 1000s and declared peace by digging a hole and throwing in their arms. A white pine was planted there—the pine was chosen because it grows through and weathers all seasons. The colors don’t change and the roots grow in all directions. This is from the ‘Great Law of Peace’ and they take in anyone who wants peace. When the clan mothers make decisions, they are not just making decisions for the here and now. They are looking to seven generations ahead and what they will be leaving to those generations.

From the beginning, the land struggle has been non-violent. They ‘stood in silence.’ On February 28, 2006, just a handful of people, led by the clan mothers, stopped construction and development on Six Nations Land. The Douglas Creek Estates outside of Caledonia, Ontario, were planned on sacred burial ground. Some of the construction workers who were natives themselves stood with the women saying, ‘no matter what, this is my people.’ The Canadian Government considered all the people involved in the reclamation to be terrorists for sitting on that land—land given to them in 1789 by the Queen of England for their loyalty to the crown during the American Revolution. This was their land for “as long as the grass grows and the river flows, the sun shines.” Since the Six Nations were allies to the Crown, the Canadian Government was and is required to honor those treaties made by the Crown and the Clans. These treaties made the Six Nations a sovereign nation, to rule over themselves.

This most recent land struggle is the first time they spoke up and said ‘no more’ since the war of 1812. “We are basically a beaten people, but not a conquered people,” Kathy stated. Many times throughout the past year and a half, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) tried to take back the land—most of the time, using force through large numbers, tasers, pepper spray, and beatings. The people stood their ground. Every time, the solidarity of the people rang true, showing and giving support at just the right times.



“Time and history is something that has to come together. Now is our time,” said Kathy. They have endured a backlash from surrounding non-native people. The native people lived with racism before and what these non-natives had to say cut deep. Older folk had to hold the younger people back at times because violence was not their way. There was support for them, though, from people and organizations such as The Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP), who helped with meals, tea, coffee, etc.

They pay the price for the struggle, many are followed by police, and their phones are tapped. Even by being on this speaking tour, they are taking risks. But they felt the speaking tour was a good way to get their voices and stories heard. They’ve stopped sending press releases out because the mass media just turns everything around anyway.

It was encouraging and uplifting to hear the continued struggle and resistance of the people standing up for their land and rights, but the most heart wrenching experience heard thus far was how many of the children were basically stolen and made to go to ‘residential schools’ and stripped of their language. From the late 1800s up until the 1990s for some schools, the children were taken from their families and forced to reside at the schools. They were starved, beaten and raped. This past year was the first time Kathy went back to that school. Kathy recalls that one could still smell urine on the third floor where the girls were sometimes locked up. They had turned it into a museum. Kathy thought, at the time, about how she just wanted to burn it down. Children died there, those who were sick or beaten which resulted in death, were burned in the incinerator in the basement.

As a people, they learned not to make waves. They stood by while the whites took their land and watched their culture die. The more traditional folk went underground and wouldn’t teach the children their language because the parents knew what would happen.

This is the first time they stood up, because the world needs to know what has happened and what is happening. Kathy wanted it to come out of her own mouth. They have paid the price and still are, as Kathy expressed several times. “I’ve held my head up high now, I’ll never bow down again, no matter what.”

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PILGRIMAGE TO STONEHENGE: SUMMER SOLSTICE 2007

Summer Solstice is one of the few time the public is allowed to be inside the Stonehenge Circle. For the rest of the year, it is cordoned off. Going to Stonehenge has always been a distant dream of mine, and going during the solstice was a very exciting experience.

We started walking at about 4:30pm from Stonehenge Touring Park where we had been camping for the past three days. Located in the quiet, small town of Orcheston, the campgrounds were about 4 miles from the sacred historical site of Stonehenge. Braving the racing motorists on roads with no sidewalks and little if any shoulder, and a few small rain showers here and there, we made it to the entrance of the car park around 6:30. From the distance, we saw the cars lined up, waiting. We had 90 minutes before Stonehenge was open to the public.

The crowd was overwhelming. In a group of thousands, we trekked to the stones, looming large ahead of us. The overwhelming feeling grew stronger the closer we got to the circle of stones. To be able to walk up to those stones and touch them, to feel history coursing through them is something language does not have the capacity to convey.

The inner circle quickly filled with people and stayed that way throughout the night. As we approached, I could no longer hold back the tears threatening to run down my cheeks. Visiting Stonehenge at any point really was an experience I had always wanted to be a part of, but I never believed it would happen until that moment, especially on such a sacred day. People were playing music, dancing, taking pictures, and generally milling about. A Druid-led opening ceremony kicked off the celebrations.

We had a plastic bottle filled with red wine (glass was not allowed). We passed it between ourselves and shared it with the Earth—an offering of thanks. We relaxed in the grass and watched the amazing sunset and spectacular cloud display. We absorbed the scene and the people.

The clouds were nowhere in the sky through out the night, but they moved out with the daylight.



It got a bit chilly outside of the inner circle. When in the circle it was hard to move through the sea of people. We made our way to various drum circles—more like drum clusters, it was so crowded. Flashes were going off like strobe lights. All through the night, people drummed, danced, and moved about.

It started getting light somewhere around three a.m. I could feel the anticipation in the group for the sunrise. For hours, the drumming continued, horns were being blown, light slowly came. Finally, the sun arrived, behind clouds that moved in sometime in the early morning. It was a bit surreal at that point, actually seeing the faces that surrounded us in the dark for hours. With the light came feelings of disappointment and disgust. The circle and all around it was littered with the celebrations’ remains. It was depressing to see such a sacred site littered as if it was a street corner or alley way. Being up all night was quite exhausting, so we made our four mile walk back to the campground. Despite the remains and leftovers of the partiers, it was one of the most magical and rewarding experiences of my life.

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Saturday, October 6th

Join grassroots activist and native Americans in the streets to protest and stop the celebration of genocidal Christopher Columbus.

Denver, CO. Checkout: www.transformcolumbusday.org

November, 16-18th

Thousands will gather at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia to protest and participate in non-violent direct action to close the School of the Americas. If you don’t know what the SOA is or are interested in attending

check out: www.soaw.org

RED PILL GETS OFF ASS AND LAUNCHES WEBSITE

After years of twiddling our thumbs, talking about getting a website, and posting on other’s sites we’re proud to announce the birth of www.gjredpill.org. “I don’t know its pretty shitty,” said one Red Pill co-conspirator. The site is still in its infancy, but it is a reliable way to get the newest issue and get involved.

Coming soon: PDF’s of back issues, Red Pill store, Red Pill Blog, and web resources.

G-8 PROTEST HEILIGENDAMM, GERMANY

—Photo Essay—

