

Continental Floppa – 12 March 2022

Times are UTC.

Supplemental materials (links are to articles on New Multitude)

Opening discussions and waiting for people 6pm-6:35pm

Shooting the shit about context and writing manifestos to counter the patriotic upsurge.

Discussion of the text + context: 6:35pm – 8:45pm

6:35 Section 8 – prescriptions for the future, what situation is most reflected by the present and what does that entail for the actions we should take? (revolution being nigh or years away)

6:40 How much do we need to re-consider? How many formal colonies still exist vs economic colonies through neocolonialism? What changes should we make to our strategy in light of this?

6:45 Delinking by Samir Amin

Economic chauvinism is additionally a problem that doubles the oppression when combined with the political oppression.

7:00 Section 6 – the “3 worlds theory,” then vs now: how the groups Lenin outlined have evolved but maintained a similar grouping.

7:05 discussion of Ukraine and the rise of nationalism surrounding the topic – is this a new form of nationalism, centered on the “West” and Europe (white people) as opposed to specific European countries.

7:10 pan-europeanism as a higher stage of bourgeois nationalism, particularly in reaction to socialism

7:17 globalism vs nationalism/patriotism – Section 7 on the parallels with current i.e. a false dichotomy raised among the right wing of socialism (or in the present the “left” in the broadest sense as in people critical of the status quo). We see globalism through structures like EU and NATO vs national-bourgeois movements against “globalism” framed as a form of communism.

7:20 what does communist nationalism look like?

- practical self-determination, politically and economically with association on a voluntary basis rather than simply being a client state
- distinguishes ideological posturing from material critique and actual relationships, national pride secondary to political praxis

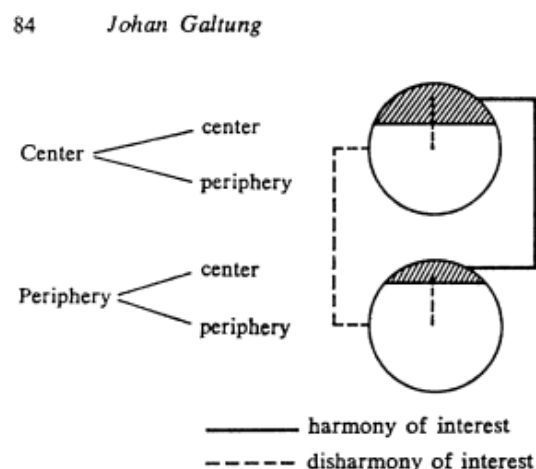


Fig. 1. The structure of imperialism

7:32 Rethinking Capitalist Development and Primitive Accumulation – Kalyan Senyal

7:33 Cuba Question – would Cuba survive in socialism as it has without sanctions? What does international solidarity look like in the 21st century? What mechanisms do we need to promote to make solidarity real in the sense of the Cuba-USSR sugar deal (mutual cooperation in parallel to international capitalism, or an alternative economic sphere)?

7:40 Sanctioning and impoverishing nations as propaganda against alternatives – fetish for “experiment” and “proving” capitalism superior while erasing material factors and blaming the victims

7:49 PEOPLE’S AGREEMENT OF COCHABAMBA (2010)

7:53 How do we speak to people about this? What language do we use? We should avoid overly complicating things and getting too deep in the weeds on theory, looking to what people face in their real lives.

7:55 Section 5 – speaking to people’s interests and using effective rhetoric, combating the liberal-moralist framing

8:00 Using the Ukraine situation to explain to people about the wider context and global phenomena. Judo-flip the racist narrative (this doesn’t normally happen here! → but it *does* normally happen elsewhere) to clarify to westerners that the same situation is and has been global. “You stand up for the people of Ukraine. Why don’t you stand up for this?” Ukraine creates a more concrete reference point for westerners.

8:03 struggle session on everyone’s position re: Ukraine situation

8:15 problematization of this text in our modern context. In Lenin’s time, demands were straightforward, but ours are much more complex. Do we need to talk more about global financial systems? Discussion of Debt and cancellation. Co-opted by imperialists and watered down. Use to be a big part of the left in the 90s, but has since fallen somewhat by the wayside.

8:20 Authors/texts on the topic of Debt and International Finance:

- Graeber – Debt
- Hudson – And Forgive Them Their Debts
- Perkins – Confessions of an Economic Hitman
- Jason Hickel – The Divide
- Naomi Klein – Battle for Paradise

8:25 Discussion on how to bring the topic of Debt and Finance back into the discourse on international relations, emphasis on accessibility to the public and decoupling from right wing “anti-globalism”

8:30 ANDRÉ BRANDÃO- THE POTENTIAL AND THE HISTORICAL LIMITATIONS OF THE PROLIFERATION OF MARXISM-LENINISM IN THE BRAZILIAN YOUTH [TRANSLATION]

8:40 aside on Posadas and Islamic Revolution

Takeaways: 8:45pm – 9:10pm

- Finding new material solutions to problems of solidarity and international cooperation/organization.
- Rhetorical methods for course-correcting the rightward drift of the mainstream left away from social chauvinism toward a correct line on the self-determination question.
- Building up a strong base (working class consciousness) so things can flow from there. Work against social prejudices, through reading and socializing with other groups. Read on these topics by these people.
- Turning this content into something external (podcast?) Discussing format for preparing
 - Keep notes, export to PDF, select most important topics to emphasize (and order), record second session.

Future Reading

1. Schedule next Luxemburg's The National Question chapter 1: The Right of Nations to Self-Determination
2. Finish that text in subsequent week(s)
 - Luxemburg – The Nationalities Question (1918) (optional)
3. Lenin - The Discussion On Self-Determination Summed Up (1916)
4. Future reading open-ended