

A Serial Killer SYSTEM



Wounded Knee, 1890

In 1868, the U.S. signed a treaty with the Lakota (Sioux) recognizing their right to the land around the Black Hills of what is now South Dakota. But when gold was discovered in the area, U.S. troops invaded and war broke out. The Indians of the northern plains were defeated, and two leaders of the Lakota, Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, were assassinated. Then on December 29, 1890, at a place called Wounded Knee, 500 troops of the U.S. 7th Cavalry massacred over 300 Lakota people who were trying to flee to safety through the winter cold.

The Philippines, 1899

At the end of the 1800s, the U.S. went across the Pacific to conquer the Philippines. The U.S. first pretended to back Philippine independence from the Spanish colonialists, and then stabbed the people in the back by seizing this island nation as their own colony. When the Filipino people rose up against American rule in 1899, the U.S. poured half its armed forces into the Philippines to drown the rebellion in blood. Massacres continued under U.S. colonial rule. In the First Battle of Bud Dajo in March 1906 (right), U.S. troops, in a counter-insurgency operation, slaughtered all but six of the 800-1000 Moro rebel men, women and children, who held that area in the southern island of Jolo.



Photo: Library of Congress



Vietnam, 1959-1975

On March 16, 1968, a company of U.S. soldiers went into the Vietnamese village of My Lai with orders to kill everyone and destroy everything. The troops forced all the villagers – mostly women, children, and old men – into a ditch and then shot them (above). Some women were raped before being killed. Corpses were mutilated. Over 400 were massacred. The name My Lai became a symbol of the massive brutality and horror of the whole U.S. war on Vietnam. By the end of the war the U.S. had dropped more than 7 million tons of bombs – more than twice the total tonnage dropped on Europe and Asia in all of World War 2 – on a country the size of New Mexico.

Some may remember Ted Bundy—a serial rapist and killer who terrorized the Seattle area some years back. What set Bundy apart from the typical serial killer was his clean-cut good looks and his polite, affable manner. His victims thought they were going out with a “nice young man”—and ended up raped and dead.

Look at this page. The evidence is undeniable: this system has been a serial killer since its inception. Just like Ted Bundy, it has its honeyed catchwords, its promises to be good.

But the reality is far different. As Bob Avakian has put it:

The essence of what exists in the U.S. is not democracy but capitalism-imperialism and political structures to enforce that capitalism-imperialism.

What the U.S. spreads around the world is not democracy, but imperialism and political structures to enforce that imperialism.

The victims of Ted Bundy never knew what he was really all about. But we do know what this Ted Bundy of a system is capable of. If we choose to let ourselves believe the sweet words and the nice smile, we are doing nothing less than the political equivalent of enabling a Ted Bundy system to continue its unbroken record of murder and rape, exploitation and oppression.

And that is unconscionable.



Photo: Library of Congress

Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 1945

At the very end of World War 2, the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. This was the first – and so far only – use of nuclear weapons in war. More than 200,000 people were instantly murdered, and 130,000 more died in the following years from cancer and other long-term effects.



Photo: Getty Images



Photo: AP

Afghanistan, 2001- Present

Shortly after the 9/11 attacks, the U.S. invaded Afghanistan in the name of the “war on terror” and “liberating” the people from Islamic fundamentalist Taliban and al-Qaeda. But, in fact, this “war on terror” is a war by the U.S. rulers for unchallenged and unchallengeable global empire. More than six years of U.S./NATO war and occupation have brought new horrors for the people of Afghanistan. The Taliban regime was replaced by a U.S.-controlled Islamic regime made up of feudal warlords and other reactionaries – which means continued poverty and repression for the people, especially women. U.S./NATO ground operations and air strikes have destroyed villages and killed many civilians. These four children were among ten villagers killed in a U.S. bombing raid outside Kabul, October 2001.



Photo: AP

Iraq, 2003 - Present

The U.S. invaded Iraq in March 2003 based on bald-faced lies about Saddam Hussein’s “weapons of mass destruction.” This was America’s next step, after Afghanistan, in the war for greater empire. For the people of Iraq, this has meant home invasions, mass round-ups, and cold-blooded killings by U.S. troops; artillery and air strikes on villages; torture and murder in the prisons. In November 2004, the U.S. laid siege to the whole city of Fallujah, killing several thousand people in the course of 10 horrifying days.