

We Don't Have an Immigration Problem, We Have an Imperialism Problem

Quotes from Bob Avakian



Top to bottom: Women and children detained by US border agents, Massacre by US backed government in Guatemala, US drone strike in Yemen

Now I can just hear these reactionary fools saying, “Well, Bob, answer me this. If this country is so terrible, why do people come here from all over the world? Why are so many people trying to get in, not get out?”...Why? I’ll tell you why. Because you have fucked up the rest of the world even worse than what you have done in this country. You have made it impossible for many people to live in their own countries as part of gaining your riches and power.

—Bob Avakian, *Basics* 1:14

But then, you know, capitalism still has its needs internationally and within the U.S., so it brings in these waves of immigrants and exploits them and rewrites or blots out history and turns people against each other. It doesn’t tell these immigrants, who see a lot of Black people who’ve been pushed out of these jobs and are hanging on the corner, “By the way, those people went through this whole process a couple of generations ago; now we’ve got them in a different position and we’re bringing you in so we can exploit you because the dynamics have gone that kind of way and we’ve developed policy in relation to that.” No, they don’t tell them that.

—Bob Avakian, *Basics* 1:15



Top: Immigrant farmworkers today/Bottom: Archival photo of Black farm workers



Top, Women in India sew clothes for international market/Bottom, Wounded Knee Massacre of 250 to 300 native American men women and children

Now, sometimes you see these fools get up, you know, like these ranchers and all this kind of shit, and you can imagine “W” down there on his ranch. And they say things like “I’m a self-made man. Nobody gave me anything. I did it all myself.” Yeah, you’re a “self-made man.” All the clothes you’re wearing, everything you’re using is made by other people. The machinery you’re driving around, the rifle you own was made by other people. Everything you have and use is made by other people. And right now, you’re exploiting Mexican immigrants on your ranch. And you’re sitting on land that was stolen from native peoples in the first place. But you’re a “self-made man.”

—Bob Avakian, *Basics* 1:16