

# The Juggernaut of Empire and the Need for a Whole New World

On September 11, 2001, 10 years ago this week, nearly 3,000 people died in attacks at the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The 9-11 attacks were a horror; the people who died there were unjustly killed.

But the rulers of the U.S. used these attacks as a pretext to wage war and to severely repress people's rights within the U.S. These wars were and are designed for one main purpose: to forcibly expand and defend the U.S. empire... the U.S. imperialist system.

This is an empire that exploits billions of people, including children all over the world; that reinforces and props up the most outmoded and savage institutions of oppression against the peoples of the oppressed nations of the planet, including the horrific oppression of women; and rains down death on those who get in its way. This empire robs the people of hope, and of a future.

Humanity needs a different world. Humanity needs revolution—a communist revolution: one that puts an end to the grinding exploitation of billions and to all systems based on such exploitation... to the age-old and terrible oppression of whole peoples and of women that go along with and reinforce such systems... to the horrific and unjust wars such systems require... to the ignorance and selfishness generated by and serving those systems... and to all destructive, antagonistic conflicts between people.



Photo: AP

A prisoner being tortured at the U.S. prison in Abu Ghraib, Iraq, 2004. After 9-11, torture was made a routine, acceptable, and openly justified part of U.S. operations—carried out against prisoners in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantánamo in Cuba, and secret prisons around the world.



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Beneath all these horrors being carried out by the U.S. is the worldwide system of capitalism-imperialism, which exploits billions of people, including children, like this girl laboring in a battery factory in Bangladesh.



Photo: AP

Five children younger than five years old were killed by U.S. troops in a raid on the Iraqi town of Ishaqi in 2006. The U.S. military then carried out an air raid on the town in an attempt to cover up the massacre, and cleared the troops of any wrongdoing.



Photo: AP

The carnage caused by the attacks on 9-11 has been multiplied perhaps a hundred-fold by the U.S. response in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and elsewhere. By 2006 there were at least 600,000 deaths in Iraq as a result of the U.S. invasion and war, according to a Johns Hopkins study published in the medical journal the *Lancet*. The number of dead civilians in the U.S. war in Afghanistan is unknown, but more than 2.7 million Afghan people are refugees. At least 2,050 people have been killed by U.S. drone attacks in Pakistan, and the toll is mounting. Above: U.S. troops in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, which lay in ruins, with most of its people driven out and many killed, as a result of a brutal U.S. assault in November 2004.

These imperialists make the Godfather look like Mary Poppins.

Bob Avakian, *BAsics* 1:7