

COMMENT

Patriotism, Chavez and Bush

POPULIST VENEZUELAN LEADER Hugo Chavez had the sheer audacity to stand before the United Nations and deliver an angry diatribe against the enemy of humanity. Dispensing with mealy-mouthed pleasantries, he verbally savaged Bush in his fiery oration.

George Bush had addressed the assembly the previous day with an incredibly disingenuous monologue loaded with platitudes and Orwellian Doublespeak. Admittedly, with his credibility around the world and uncanny capacity to articulate in an intelligent manner, Bush was a tough act to follow at the UN. But somehow, Chavez managed.

Underscoring his blasphemy against the predatory capitalism inflicted on the world by the economic and military titan “affectionately” known as the American Empire, the champion of humane social democracy waved a copy of *‘Hegemony or Survival’* by Noam Chomsky, a vehement domestic critic of the United States political and economic systems.

In the aftermath of Chavez’s blistering verbal attacks on US imperialists and the miscreant conducting their symphony of the macabre, “patriots” emerged to defend American president. Given the overt fascism and aggressive militarism emerging in the United States, it is almost inconceivable that such a regime would continue to enjoy popular support. Yet economic tyranny, consumerism, and relentless pressure to conform to the American Way are so powerful that many US Americans have sold their very souls by offering their voluntary complicity in the subjugation, exploitation, and (in some instances) extermination of billions of human beings around the globe.

The reality in the United States is that there is little difference between Republicans and Democrats. While both parties give ample lip service to meeting the needs of the working class and the poor, most of the Duopoly’s “elected” officials zealously devote themselves to advancing the interests of their corporate and aristocratic patrons.

The virulent nationalism that has swept the United States since 9/11 is not a healthy loyalty to fellow countrymen. “Patriotism” in the United States today is a symptom of the rapidly spreading malignancy of fascism. Being a “patriot” in the United States requires one to support egregious crimes against humanity, domestically and abroad.

Hugo Chavez embodies nearly everything the working class and poor in the United States have been indoctrinated to fear, hate and ridicule. Like Evo Morales in Bolivia, he champions indigenous poverty-stricken people and their long unfulfilled needs. Morales’ administration is in its infancy, but Chavez has had time to deliver free health care, free education, and food at subsidized prices to many of the staggering numbers of Venezuelans who had been living in abject poverty in a nation flush with huge reserves of precious petroleum.

Today's American Crisis? These are the times that enslave men's souls. And the hell of the Bush Regime will not be easily conquered.
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