

Abstracts

The Idea of Progress, Industrialization, and the Replacement of Indigenous Peoples: The Muskrat Falls Megadam Boondoggle

Colin Samson

This essay examines the continuing currency of the idea of progress to justify the state and corporate appropriation of Indigenous peoples' lands and the diminution of their rights. Focusing upon the Innu peoples of the Labrador-Quebec peninsula and the Newfoundland government-sponsored Lower Churchill hydroelectric project, especially its Muskrat Falls megadam component, the essay shows how the megadam is framed by a narrative of progress and a corrupt land claims process that violates Aboriginal title. In this context, I argue that the idea of industry as progress justifies the replacement of Indigenous peoples and their land-based ways of life with appeals to prosperity and sustainable development in which they are rendered insignificant.

Material Conditions of Detroit's Great Rebellion

Mark Jay & Virginia Leavell

This article analyzes the conditions, and political significance, of Detroit's Great Rebellion in 1967. We first discuss the pre- and postwar political economy in Detroit. Second, we analyze the state of technology and automation at the plants and its relationship to the class struggle. Third, we address the uniquely high levels of class and race consciousness in the city. Finally, we take a critical look at *Detroit*, a recent Hollywood film that makes a spectacle of the Great Rebellion, and we analyze the lasting impact of the Rebellion and the radical organizations that formed in its wake. We insist that a dialectical analysis of race and class illuminates contemporary political issues in Detroit and across the United States, such as mass incarceration, police violence, and wealth inequality.

Myanmar: Promoting Reconciliation between the Rohingya Muslims and Buddhists of Rakhine State

Katja Weber & Allison Stanford

One of the most pressing challenges Myanmar confronts is the mistreatment of the Rohingya in Rakhine state. Although Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy's landslide victory in November 2015 has given reason for cautious optimism, a multistage process of reconciliation between the Rohingya and Rakhine Buddhists is critically needed to build sustainable peace and promote justice. Tracing Buddhist/Muslim relations and drawing on scholarship examining reconciliation events, we propose a three-stage reconciliation process for Rakhine State and scrutinize steps to be taken to promote reconciliation.

The Oromo Movement: The Effects of State Terrorism and Globalization in Oromia and Ethiopia

Asafa Jalata

This essay critically explores the dialectical relationships between the Oromo national movement and the consequences of state terrorism and globalization in Oromia and Ethiopia. On one side, the Oromo people are struggling to empower themselves and gain control on their economic and cultural resources; on the other side, with the help of global powers and their international institutions the Ethiopian government is engaging in state terrorism and massive human rights violations, transferring Oromo economic resources (particularly land) to state elites and their global partners. Opposing such policies, the ongoing Oromo peaceful protest movement is taking the Oromo struggle to a new level and transforming the relationship between the Oromo and the Ethiopian state.

The Economic Field and the End of Mass Incarceration

Vincenzo Ruggiero

In a recent special issue of *Social Justice* (Vol.42-2), a series of critical contributions examine recent developments in North American penal systems, offering hypotheses around the apparent end of mass incarceration. This commentary adopts a materialistic perspective, taking as a starting point the work of Rusche and Kirchheimer, and it tries to update their analysis through the concept of economic field, a useful concept for understanding the contemporary material function of the prison institution in advanced societies. The analysis proposed is then brought to bear on the debate around mass incarceration and its alleged end.

Intellectuals Outside the Academy: Conversations with Leanne Simpson, Steven Salaita, and Alexis Pauline Gumbs

Beenash Jafri

These conversations with independent academics Alexis Pauline Gumbs, Steven Salaita, and Leanne Simpson were inspired by the following questions: How do we make sense of intellectual work that happens outside of the chokehold of academic institutions? Is it possible to mobilize the collective power of the academic workforce toward political goals unimaginable within contemporary system of academe? The work of Gumbs, Salaita, and Simpson exemplifies commitment to political projects in a way that is exciting, boundary- and path-breaking, loving, and generative. These interviews are an attempt to share their wisdom and stories, in the hope of providing some fodder for intellectuals positioned inside or outside of the academy, or somewhere else in-between.