

Stirring up the Bee Hive

The eve of an indigenous revolution

I apologize for the crude hastiness of this article as it had little time to be refined due to the development of events at Burnt Church.

Canada is indeed at a disadvantage in regards to its current aggression against the Micmac Nation at Burnt Church. With the current acts of aggression and violence at Burnt Church, indigenous nations in Canada and the United States have now joined in that struggle for indigenous rights and resistance against colonial attempts at assimilation and genocide. Canada should proceed slowly and reanalyze the situation, as it now has the potential to surpass the intensity of the 1990 Oka Crisis.

Currently, the situation in North America is similar to a powder keg. As indigenous peoples in North America become better educated and economically independent, its focus and determination have become stronger and more powerful. As this morale and confidence becomes more impassioned, the governments of Canada and United States do what they can to destroy its progress by denying indigenous people certain inherit rights. Recently, we have seen some outrageous examples of such injustice and repression with regards to the Cayuga land claim, the murder of Dudley George, and the constant appeals to the our border crossing cases etc. The renaissance of indigenous nationalism and resistance in combination with the long history of injustice and oppression is a dangerous mix for a potential uprising.

Indigenous people are frustrated and dissatisfied with the governments of Canada and the United States, for they falsely portrayed natives as semi-third world citizens who are more than dependent upon their country's resources. In turn, these governments encourage them to leave the reservations, go to school, and take their place in 21st century society. Yet when they go to school and find innovative ways be self-determining and economically independent; they are instantly labeled as radicals, militants, or criminals for proceeding in directions that jeopardize the colonial hold on native people. After being discredited by corporate media outlets, these native "activists" are then suppressed by government policy, economic sanctions, and at times through savage violence.

Why is the Government of Canada reacting so rigidly and so aggressively to the Burnt Church situation? The answers are woven together in a web of economic globalization and vintage colonial rhetoric. Corporate Canada suffers greatly from indigenous economic development. Corporate Canada, once threatened, then puts pressure on its capitalist-friendly government to find different strategies to discourage, and in the Micmac's case, halt any lucrative forms of economic development. Also, in order for the Government of Canada to maintain its status quo of superiority over the "colony", they need to make an example out of the Micmac fishermen, or anyone else that defies or challenges their political or economic dominance.

Here in Kahnawà:ke, the men of the community have set the example of support for other nations across Canada and the United States. People here have put aside their personal differences to join forces for the common good. Certainly, indigenous nations across Canada look upon the Kanien'kehá:ka as symbols of nationalism and resistance. It becomes quite apparent in situations

such as this, that a formal internationalist support network of indigenous peoples must be established in order to ensure political pressure and physical protection in times of distress.

The Canadian government's only true solution to this potential revolution of indigenous people is to first pull its agents of repression out of Burnt Church and return to the negotiating table. Canada must then begin to honor treaties established with its indigenous people. If there is recognition of these treaties, then sovereignty must be recognized and respected by the Government of Canada as treaties are only made between nations. If there is bloodshed in Burnt Church, then the powder keg of revolution will explode and the Government of Canada will inherit a "Indian war" that they could not possible fathom.

UNTIL THE VICTORY, FOREVER!

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