

CROSSROAD

VOL. 10, #4 July - Sept 2002

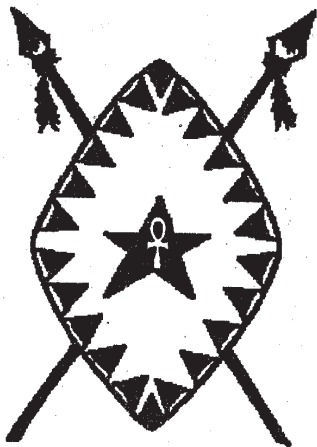


Yasir Arafat

*Settler Imperialists Want
"Better" Neo-Colonialists!*



J.C. Watts



Sister **Kiilu Nyasha**, of San Francisco, is a beloved venerated veteran of our struggle and has a long and accomplished history in the fight for human rights for Afrikan and all oppressed peoples.

Her thoughts and ideas deserve the widest distribution and deepest consideration. The following reprint of her recently written article, "What If? ..." is part of my contribution toward that end.

Sundiata Acoli

(<http://afrikan.i-dentity.com/sundiata/messages/41.html>)

WHAT IF?

WHAT IF WE DECIDED TO REWRITE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION?

This 1791 document is now 211 years old, is still racist, had to be amended 27 times, and has yet to address human rights, i.e., our human right to lead healthy lives. What if we began organizing a people's constitutional convention? ¶In fact, it's already been done. The Black Panther Party in coalition with numerous radical organizations of the Sixties devoted two years to the organizing of The Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention of 1970 in Philadelphia. The American Friends Service Committee opened numerous facilities to accommodate thousands of people from all over the nation (plus foreign journalists, et al.) who came together for three days of workshops and plenary sessions in Philadelphia.

It would be a rewarding endeavor for some bright scholar to devote some serious research to that historical phenomenon. ¶Mumia Abu-Jamal and myself were there. But I don't have much documented information except for the one article written by George Katsiaficas, titled Organization and Movement [which is featured in *Liberation, Imagination and the Black Panther Party*, edited by Katsiaficas & Cleaver - Routledge, 2001 (ed.)], He notes that "Under more *normal* circumstances involving such a diverse collection of people in groups as large as 500 persons, screaming fights (or worse) might have been expected, yet these workshops generated documents that offer a compelling vision of a more just and free society than has ever existed."

The Black Panther Party reported as follows: ¶"Taken as a whole, these reports provided the basis for one of the most progressive Constitutions in the history of humankind. ¶All the people would control the means of production and social institutions. ¶Black and third world people were guaranteed proportional representation in the administration of these institutions, as were women. The right of national self-determination was guaranteed to all oppressed minorities. Sexual self-determination for women and homosexuals was affirmed. ¶A standing army is to be replaced by a people's militia, and the Constitution is to include an international bill of rights prohibiting U.S. aggression and interference in the internal affairs of other nations [too bad that wasn't the law pre-911]. The present racist legal system would be replaced by a system of people's courts where one would be tried by a jury of one's peers. Community rehabilitation programs would replace jails. [A]dequate housing, health care, and day care would be considered Constitutional Rights, not privileges." The RPCC provided "a glimpse of the break from *normal* life," wrote Katsiaficas, ¶"solidarity, liberation, and celebration of difference."

WHAT IF WE DEVELOPED OUR OWN POLITICAL PLATFORM?

Instead of adhering to the programs, platforms, and policies of our adversaries, i.e., the Republicrats, why don't we develop our own? Why not give our community residents the opportunities to make their concerns, problems, and ideas for solutions heard? ¶We can develop our own initiatives. ¶We are a people with the kind of diversity that could be tapped for its smorgasbord of creative ideas and progressive answers. No one knows the problems of daily living better than those for whom the struggle is hard-

est. We must stop allowing rich and superrich politicians who are completely ignorant of our problems to provide us with programs that don't work and often are designed to fail. Their interests are incompatible with our interests. E.g., their primary interest is winning an election rather than serving the best interests of most of the people. Bear in mind we're living in a society wherein 1% of the population owns wealth equal to that of the 95% at the bottom of this capitalist pyramid.

It seems to me that to meet today's requirements for a decent life, one must have the following:

- healthy, organic food
- affordable housing
- free health care
- guaranteed income that insures a living wage or living wage standard of social security.
- Universal education to the highest levels that teaches us about ourselves and all the communities of our global village.
- affordable child care
- equal justice
- environmental justice and protection of the planet and all its species
- mental, emotional, and psychological rehabilitation
- athletic and cultural development through provision of programs in various arts (music, dance, visual arts, painting, sculpture, etc.;;) and sports (basketball, baseball, gymnastics, martial arts, swimming, skating, skiing, tennis, field and ice hockey, etc.)
- people's militias, domestic and foreign, that protect and serve the masses

The above list is offered merely as possibilities for progressive change. In the final analysis, it is the people and the people alone who must be the final arbiters. It is the active minority that must organize the people to let their views be known and honored.

WHAT IF WE BOYCOTTED THE 2004 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS?

We saw what happened in 2000 when Bush stole the presidential election in what was tantamount to a bloodless coup d'etat. This fraudulent election and court-appointed president should have made clear once and for all that this electoral system does not, and never was intended to, provide for one person, one vote, i.e., a true democratic process.

Our people fought and died for the right to vote. But just as the corrupt power brokers have denied or violated our civil and human rights over and over again, they have completely corrupted and rendered invalid the people's vote through their campaign (corporate) finances - mega-bucks - and various means of disenfranchisement. E.g., countless new minor offenses are now felonies that disenfranchise citizens for life, unless a president pardons. Billions of dollars are wasted on campaign nonsense that could be used to feed the hungry, house the homeless, provide health care, child care, etc.

The American people have been tacitly boycotting elections for decades. However, our refusal to participate in sham elections that always promote the lesser of two evils has been construed as apathy by the media and the world. We must change that perception by actively boycotting the presidential elections to say to the nation and the world that a majority of Americans don't vote because they are fed up with the status quo, including the total lack of choices and democratic process. We can tell the international community that we don't support these fascist politicians and their foreign policies of neo-colonial terror.

We should take to the streets en masse next Election Day after seizing these two years to organize our own people's platform and constitutional convention. (end)

MALE SUPREMACY

by Kiilu Nyasha

Male Supremacy, a.k.a., Sexism, Chauvinism, Machismo –Thank god I don't have to deal with it (well, at least not much) anymore. Not only is a wheelchair a serious shit detector, it virtually eliminates sexist aggression. Add to that the fact that I'm over 60 and I'm home free. Quite a relief!

I titled this piece "Male Supremacy" in order to facilitate my comparing this ubiquitous phenomenon to the similarly all-pervasive White supremacy in America and across the globe.

I could quote horror statistics ad infinitum re the battering, rape, torture, kidnap, and murder of girls and women throughout the world. E.g., right here in this so-called developed nation, a woman is murdered by her ex-lover or husband every three hours. You do the math! Of course, that means a woman is battered, raped, abused every few seconds. You do the research. It changes quite regularly. Just a few years ago, "domestic" murder happened "only" every four hours.

If you were to travel abroad, you would soon find that somewhere between 700,000 and seven million (depending on whose stats you read) human beings – overwhelmingly female – are kidnapped and enslaved whereupon the abuse is unbelievable. In India, men set their wives on fire frequently and with impunity or, worse, no sanction at all. In many African nations, women are still having their genitals destroyed, a tradition of male control that defies humanity. All one need do is reverse this procedure in the male imagination. What if your penis was rendered defunct and you would be forever deprived of sexual pleasure?

Male supremacy is manifested in a myriad of different ways. Men are dominant in the political arenas, religious hierarchy, corporate boards, food production, entertainment, and sports. In most families, men are the patriarchs or "kings of the castle." Everyone who is female is automatically subordinate.

White Supremacy is, of course, facilitated by male supremacy, since men have the physical strength and dominance with which to institute and execute overt and covert racism. Thus, white MEN are the group most dominant in government and industry; and they wield the most power. Added to the whiteness and maleness, wealth and the power becomes nearly absolute.

Now comes the question, what about the Black MAN? He is in a quandary. He's the dominant sex, but he's been enslaved, exploited, and dominated by "the white man." Naturally, the Black man is rightfully and righteously angry about his ongoing oppression in this white supremacist society, not to mention his continuous humiliation by his bosses, lieutenants or guards.

So while guns and economics might force him to accept his "place" in society (or remain in prison), he can still be dominant in his own home and hood. He can exercise the same kind of power he's subjected to by his boss with the females in his life. Moreover, he's been subjected all his life to White-male-supremacist images of what it means to be a MAN: John Wayne, Roy Rogers, Clark Gable, which he imitates: Superfly, Black Caesar, and, yes, even "the spook who sat by the door." (The women in that film are a sorry lot.) The John Wayne image of manhood is prevalent. Please recall how when a woman resisted Gable or Wayne's attempts to embrace her, she was grabbed and thrown over backwards and forced to be kissed. But of course she always surrendered and ultimately enjoyed this "persuasion."

In a recent issue of the San Francisco Bay View, Ewuare Osayande, wrote an article that really spells out the current acceptability of the degradation and humiliation, not to mention abuse, of Black women. In fact, when I first began reading it, I assumed the author was a woman. I couldn't perceive a man writing such an in-defense-of-women article. He writes: "we will be losing more than sleep if we fail to deal with the way in which Black women are imaged and treated in this country. We will continue to lose them to rape, incest, harassment, homicide, depression and suicide. What kind of community do we want to have? What are the values and principles that will hold us together in a mutual embrace of respect, admiration and love? Love is justice in its most intimate expression. What is operating right now as the norm is a far cry from love. The outright hatred of women has become an accepted expression in many parts of our community. It is not just in hip hop; it can be heard and seen wherever we are - in our homes, in the streets, in the churches, in the schools, in the workplace. This patriarchal pattern only breeds more and more disdain for us as men. Black women are gracious to us when they continue to hold onto the hope that we will get our collective acts together given all they have had to tolerate from us. But each time an episode like this one occurs, it draws a wedge deeper and deeper between us, making trust all the more difficult. The price of our complicit silence and defense of our madness is too costly. It is costing us our community, families and our very future."

Kudos to Osayande! I hope more men will follow his lead.

White supremacy and male supremacy have much in common. In fact, they're virtually the same phenomenon but with different targets and varying manifestations. Of course, a white, male supremacist targets a Black woman twice. I.e., Black women suffer double indemnity at the hands of White supremacist men - triple! If you add upper-class.

So I say to Black men: Think about how you have been treated, generally, by White men all your African life. You've experienced practically every level of racism, covert and overt. You've learned to recognize, almost smell, white racism when it's coming at you; when you're in its presence. You're conscious of the fact that no white person can know (theory + experience = knowledge) what it's like to grow up Black in Amerika. You know that well meaning White people must defer to Blacks when it comes to understanding white racism and all its manifestations. N'est pas?

Well, the same holds true for women, especially Black women. We have borne the brunt of White and male supremacy throughout our history, from chattel slavery to MTV and BET. The Harriet Tubmans must be turning over in their graves at the new images of young African women, their constant debasement. So when it comes to the various levels of male chauvinism, overt and covert, women are conscious of the fact that well meaning men cannot know what it's like to grow up female in sexist Amerika. Therefore, men must defer to women to understand sexism and all its manifestations. At the same time, just as too many Blacks cooperate with and even support their own oppressors (government and corporate), too many sisters do the same.

I'm of the opinion that Mother Nature did nothing wrong. She has checks and balances galore. And I believe that men and women are balanced equally. They are equally human and possess equally important characteristics. Moreover, they are equally lovable when all things are equal :>).

What's most important is that women should be respected and defended, not disrespected and abused.

Sisters of the world unite, resist all forms of oppression, and struggle to abolish White and male supremacy.

***Without A New Afrikan Personality First
There Will Be No Republic of New Afrika***

In the name of the Creator, to Whom all Praise is due! And in the memory of all our Freedom Fighting Ancestors, both known and unknown; who dared all; who sacrificed all; and died for our struggle for self - determination; Land and Independence. Now it is our time to do no less!

Greetings of Peace and to Us belong a sovereign Black Nation. We are gathered here this weekend in Detroit, Michigan, to commemorate the 34th Anniversary of the founding of the Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika (PG - RNA). The theme of New Afrikan Nation Day 2002 is, "Revisiting the Vision - Accomplishing the Mission."

Look back to 1968, a year in which 500 various Black Nationalists converged in this city and founded the PG - RNA. Indeed 1968 was a year of proclaiming a Black Nation and political murders. It was a year that 16 year-old Black Panther member 'Little' Bobby Hutton was viciously killed by racist Oakland police.

Moreover in 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated, resulting in over 150 U.S. cities being engulfed in flames, rocked by Black rebellions; 1968 was a year that John Carlos and Tommy Smith raised clinched - fist salutes at the Olympics. It was a high tide year of Black struggle against the amerikan empire.

From the first PG - RNA president, Robert Williams, who became an Ancestor, to our current PG - RNA president, Demetri Marshall, much has changed from 1968 to 2002. The world has changed; the competition and crisis of imperialism has made the amerikan empire change, which has externally impacted upon our captive Black Nation, causing tremendous adverse changes.

Inside the Black Nation, much has changed; our human rights struggle; our decolonization struggle for self - determination; Land and Independence, is at a very low - tide. Youthful Black power salutes have changed to throwing - up gang signs; youth saying Black Power has changed to saying 'it's all about getting paid'.

Urban political power has changed from white mayors to Black mayors neglecting Black neighborhoods. Black labor has changed to becoming economically obsolete. Black men's status has changed from working to being massively warehoused in prisons. In many instances police murders have changed from white pigs to Black soldier cops killing Black people.

The school systems have changed in our communities from white teachers miseducating our children to, in many instances Black teachers doing the same mentacide. Our neighborhoods have changed from Black businesses and Black Panther survival programs to dope houses, mega churches, and foreign economic monopoly. Alien businesses controlling almost every grocery stores, party stores, gas stations, coney - island restaraunts, used car lots, pawn shops / gold exchange, laundry mats, clothing stores, video stores, cleaners, and phone - pager shops.

Most importantly, from my perspective, the New Afrikan personality has changed, from believing We could 'Free the Land', now to acting like We want some 'Free Land', or maybe 'Buy the Land' when We get reparations. For the most part, We are now abstract New Afrikans; superficial New Afrikans; We have basically African - American personalities, with New Afrikan lip - service.

We lead 'double - lives'; We say We want to 'Free the Land'; but We don't engage in nation - building; We say the community is more important than the individual (NA Creed #3); but We act like the individual is more important than the community. We

primarily engage in surviving under the amerikan empire; instead of progressing toward Nationhood.

This internal contradiction (loyalty vs. betrayal), reflects the dual - identity disorder in the New Afrikan personality; as W.E. B. DuBois stated: "One ever feels his two - ness, an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body; whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder."

These warring ideals DuBois mentioned causes hypocrisy in our lives; it keeps us in a state of confusion; it causes split priorities and a 'love - hate' dilemma towards the amerikan empire; it results in a half - baked attitude towards nation - building. For the New Afrikan Independence Movement (NAIM) to progress, an individual internal synthesis must occur, where the New Afrikan personality becomes paramount - primary:

*The New Afrikan personality affirmation is based on point #14 of the New Afrikan Creed: "i will keep myself clean in body, dress, and speech, knowing that i am a light set on a hill, a true representative of what We are building."

*The standard affirmation of the New Afrikan personality is based on point #10 of the New Afrikan Creed: "i will give my life if that is necessary. i will give my time, my mind, my strength, and my wealth because this IS necessary"

*The mission affirmation of the New Afrikan personality is based on point #9 of the New Afrikan Creed: "Therefore i pledge to struggle without cease until We have won sovereignty. i pledge to struggle without fail until We have built a better condition than the world has yet known."

*The faith affirmation of the New Afrikan personality is based on point #1 of the New Afrikan Creed: "i believe in the spirituality, humanity, and genius of Black people and in our new pursuit of these values."

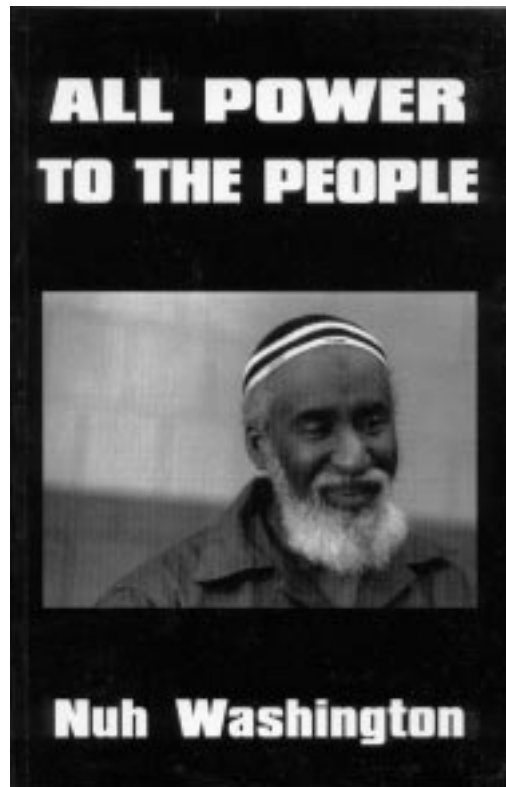
*The organizing affirmation of the New Afrikan personality is based on point #15 of the New Afrikan Creed: "i will be patient and uplifting with the deaf, dumb, and blind; and i will seek by word and deed to heal the Black family; to bring into the Movement and into the Community, mothers and fathers, brothers and sister left by the wayside."

From my perspective, developing and solidifying the New Afrikan personality is a prerequisite for advancement and Independence. Our Independence movement without strong New Afrikan personalities won't be able to endure the necessary sacrifices to 'Free the land'. Without this New Afrikan personality We can't 'Accomplish the Mission'. We will only continue to 'Dream the Land'. **Rebuild to Win to Free the Land!**

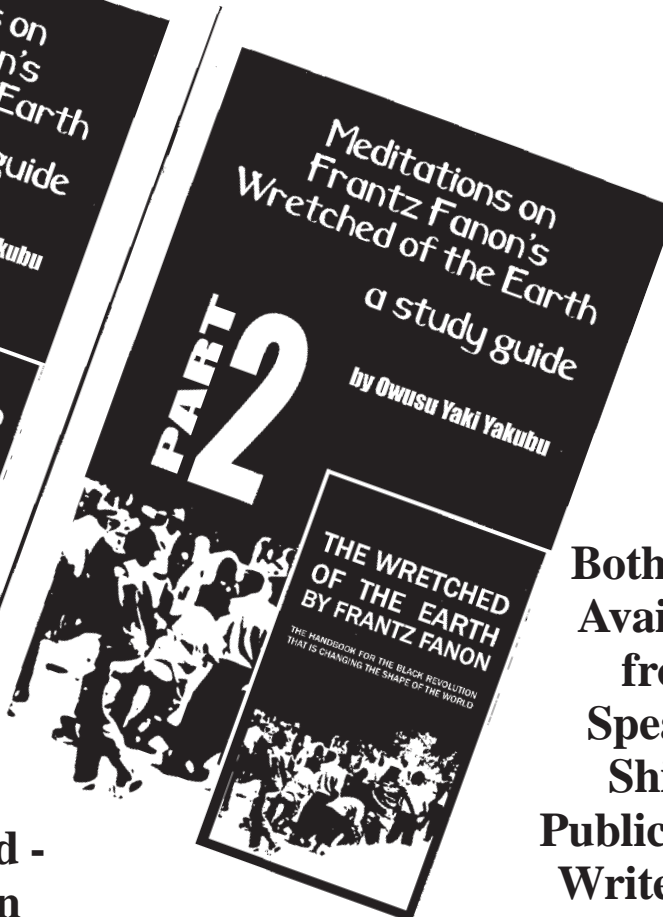
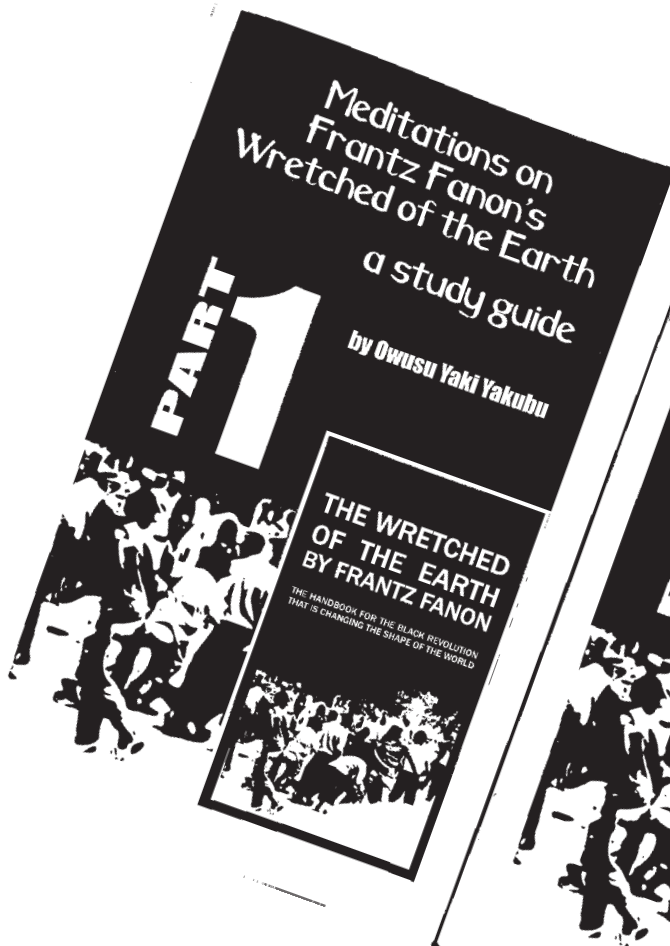
*Cinque Kofi Kinaya

aka: Kenny Anderson - New Afrikan Freedom Network
(Speech Given at Black Nation Day 2002)

**New From
 Arm The Spirit ★ Solidarity!
 available from
 Kersplebedeb Distribution
 SP 63560, CCCP Van Horne,
 Montreal, Quebec, H3W 3H8,
 Canada
 info@kersplebedeb.com
 www.kersplebedeb.com
 Write for a Spring Catalog!**



(\$10)



**Both Now
 Available
 from
 Spear &
 Shield
 Publications!
 Write for A
 Catalog!**

**A Joint Spear & Shield -
 Solidarity Publication
 (\$5 ea, \$8 for parts 1 & 2)**

5206 S. Harper • Chicago IL 60615 • crsn@aol.com