

Fanon in Context



Fanon makes it plain Imperialism doesn't sleep. This is dedicated to all you out there who thought the right to vote was the only struggle colonized people fought for, and those who feel that nonviolence is the only way to fight.

"Our mistake, the mistake we Africans made, was to have forgotten that the enemy never withdraws sincerely. He never understands. He capitulates, but he does not become converted. Our mistake is to have believed that the enemy had lost his combativeness and harmfulness. If Lumumba is in the way, Lumumba disappears. Hesitation in murder has never characterized imperialism."

*Toward The African Revolution
Page 196, by Frantz Fanon*

I was working out and I saw two Afrikan-American (pejorative) men in an impassioned polemic about the Houston Texans football team. You really had to be there, I've never seen two people as dead serious about absolutely nothing as these two (well that's not true I've been to church as a young chap... LOL Cheers Mr. Jesus!).

"The youth of Africa ought not to be sent to sports stadiums but into fields and into the schools. The stadium ought not to be a show place erected in the towns, but a bit

of open ground in the midst of the fields that the young people must reclaim, cultivate, and give to the nation. The capitalist conception of sport is fundamentally different from that which should exist in an undeveloped country. The African politician should not be preoccupied with turning out sportsmen, but with turning out fully conscious men, who play games as well. If games are not integrated into national life, that is to say in the building of the nation, and if you turn out national sports men and not fully conscious men, you will very quickly see sport rotted for professionalism and commercialism for bourgeoisie of the town."

*The Wretched of The Earth
Page 196, by Frantz Fanon*

So I'm watching the news, a "left" leaning news affiliate at that, and I thought to myself about the paradigm of how Western media present criticism to the war in Afghanistan is so disgustingly egocentric. The perspective is shaped from how America is in some sort of way losing its innocence from participating in this war. It's about how soldiers are needlessly losing their lives in this war, and are suffering irreversible psychological effects. I'm not Nell Carter, but give me a break! It's typical of those in power to always place themselves at the center of

conversation and debate, with total disregard of those who are affected by their actions. Genocide of Indigenous Americans, the enslavement of Africans, the theft of the Southwestern Territories, and every other atrocity always becomes not about those affected by these atrocities; but a reduction of the victims to that of an object to maintain the perpetrator's perspective as the only one that matters. Of course, Fanon had a critique of this pathological narcissism of Imperialism. While reading this quote from Fanon just simply substitute "American" for "French" and it becomes apparent Fanon is as apropos today as he was in his time.

"The gravity of the tortures, the horror of the rape of little Algerian girls, are perceived because their existence threatens a certain idea of French honor. This attitude is worth meditating. Such shutting out of the Algerian, such ignoring of the tortured man or of the massacred family, constitute a wholly original phenomenon. It belongs to that form of egocentric, sociocentric thinking which has become the characteristic of the French."

*Toward the African Revolution
Page 71, by Frantz Fanon*

