

## Raymond Lotta Says “American Working Class in Invisible” 23 Feb. 04

By Majdur Travail

“I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me.”

--Ralph Ellison

[TUCSON] Raymond Lotta, member of the Revolutionary Communist Party and author of America in Decline, spoke today at the University of Arizona in Tucson. In his lecture, Lotta propounded a thinly veiled, and slightly revised, theory of ultra-imperialism to about 300 people at a 7pm lecture on the University of Arizona campus.

According to Lotta, the United States has promulgated a qualitatively new stage of imperialism under what Lotta termed the “Bush Doctrine”; referring to the post Sept. 11, 2001 actions of President George Bush--i.e., the implementation of the Patriot Act and the initiation of the “War on Terror” military adventure.

The Bush doctrine “is to regain hegemony on a whole new level,” Lotta said. He referred to the Al-Qaeda attack on the World Trade Center in New York as a “window of opportunity” for the Bush administration to implement the so-called “Bush Doctrine”. “The Bush Doctrine is to re-gain hegemony on a whole new level,” Lotta said.

According to Lotta, the United States, under this new doctrine, intends to replace the Cold War policy of infiltration, disruption and war by proxy with a policy of direct military occupation as a means of empire building and transforming neo-colonialism into direct colonialism indicative of the feudal age. The Bush Doctrine, according to Lotta, is furthermore characterized by a qualitatively improved form of “globalism” and “imperialism”, repeatedly comparing the US to the Roman Empire.

Lotta continuously referred to socialism as a form of “political economy” and discounted the United Kingdom, France and other European powers as significant imperialist powers by referring to Germany, Japan and the United States as the “three zones of capitalism” and insisting, inter alia: that capitalism develops and that the proletariat is now in a “global integrated labor pool”.

Lotta maintained that the fundamental contradiction in the world is between “oppressor countries and oppressed nations” which constituted “class relations on a world scale”.

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He sidestepped the traditional critique of ultra-imperialism by asserting that “imperialism remains rooted in national markets” which prevented the international imperialist bourgeoisie from coalescing into a unified international imperialist class.

The American working class was relegated to a mere footnote as Lotta repeatedly insinuated that the American worker benefits from US imperialism by comparing the American minimum wage to the minimum wage of workers elsewhere in the “third world” saying that the US worker make \$5.00 per hour while a worker in the Philippines makes \$5.00 per day. While he acknowledged the existence of “17 million manufacturing workers” in the US; he said the American worker is “invisible”.

Lotta went on by urging socialists to not vote on the grounds that voting “pacifies people”. He asserted that voting doesn’t change the system, but instead changes the worker. He claimed the discovery of a “counter-intuitive” truth which exposed the “fundamental illusion about voting”. He failed to mention that the RCP is running candidates in the upcoming Presidential election.

He did not elaborate on the un-democratic character of the RCP’s internal politics and the fact that the RCP Chairman, Bob Avakian, categorically debunked “democracy” in his article [“Is the Revolution Bound to Turn Out Bad?; Why Do We Need a Dictatorship?”](#) Revolutionary Worker #1083, December 17, 2000. [Majdur’s reply, [“Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Avakian”](#), Marxist-Leninist Newswire, December 22, 2000.]

He concluded by discussing the possibility of a “revolutionary situation” developing in the United States which he claimed without elaboration was contingent on both subjective and objective factors. He furthermore claimed that the RCP’s new programme contained a “military theory” for the initiation of a revolutionary war.

He also lauded the Maoist revolutionaries in Nepal, without addressing war crimes alleged against the organization (such as beheading prisoners of war), saying that the revolutionary activity by the Communist Party of Nepal—Maoist was proof that “another world is possible”.