

SAN DIEGO, April 19. The 14th Dalai Lama is completing his tour of college campuses in Southern California, preaching “Compassion Without Borders.” The DL has been the leader of the Tibetan nationalist movement since the feudal government that he headed was overthrown by the Chinese Red Army in 1959. Preaching compassion for everyone, he has often shown his own compassion for leaders of the U. S. empire.

### Hypocritical Pacifism

The DL got the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 and has been hailed as a “man of peace.” Although he claims that “war is outdated and illogical” [1], he says that “you can’t blame America” for “still relying on showing force” in international relations [2]. The DL has long refused to say that the U. S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are wrong, claiming that “it is too soon to tell” about Iraq but “Afghanistan may be showing some positive results,” [3] and may lead to “perhaps some kind of liberation.” [4] The DL has announced his affection for George W. Bush: “I love him. Because since my first visit, I noted he is a human being [who is] very nice, very open, very straightforward” [5]. He also endorsed Bush’s “War on Terror”: “Terrorism is the worst kind of violence, so we have to check it, we have to take counter-measures.” [6] Although the DL expresses sympathy for Palestinians, he doesn’t denounce Israeli oppression, but asks them to appreciate Zionist economic development: “To the Arabs I say, it is sad, sad what happened to you. But look at what the Jewish people have done here. Take the good.” [7]

### “Don’t Fight for Equality”

Although he is an anti-communist, the Dalai Lama claims to be a “Marxist as far as economic theory is concerned” and says that equal distribution is a correct moral principle. [8] He rejects fighting for equality, however, and attacks “agitators” who “claim to be fighting for equality or for justice.” The rich “have to decide on their

own that it is good to share what they have.” They should realize that “in the long run it is in the interest of the richer people themselves to make sure that there is a less extreme gap between themselves and the poor around them.” [9]

### Tibetan Nationalism and U. S. War Preparations

Tibetan nationalism has been useful to the U. S. empire since the 1950s when Tibetan guerrillas were trained by the CIA. These days, as the rivalry between the U. S. bosses and China’s capitalist rulers intensifies, Obama has met the Dalai Lama several times, and “underlined the importance of the protection of human rights of Tibetans in China.” [10] Like all capitalist countries, Chinese capitalism produces racist inequality and conflict like that between the Han majority and Tibetans and Uighurs. But nationalist movements, which don’t see racism as an attack on the working class, help generate racism, not destroy it, and can help imperialists make propaganda against their rivals, as Obama does against China.

### Non-Struggle Philosophy

The DL’s consistent message is not to fight the bosses. Don’t act out of anger or hate, he says, but forgive instead. Everyone should become a “peaceful person” (except U.S. imperialists?) and “inner peace creates useful energy.” [11] Getting a “peaceful life” is supposed to be the main thing, which Buddhism claims to make possible even in the midst of unemployment, the bosses’ drive for imperialist wars, and racist murders. The truth is that there is no peace under capitalism, and hatred of the bosses is a good thing that can drive us to fight harder. It is internal contradictions, not “inner peace,” that cause change. Communists understand that collective struggle not only moves us towards communism, but is the best way workers can live under this system. Workers and students shouldn’t search for an impossible subjective peace, but join the struggle for com-

munist and serve the working class.

### References:

[1] Dalai Lama, *Beyond Religion*, 2011; [2] NYC Town Hall Speech, 9/23/03; [3] Interview *The Progressive*, January 2006; [4] Associated Press, 9/10/03; [5] *L. A. Times*, 7/23/08; [6] *N. Y. Times*, 9/19/03; [7] Speech in Israel, *Jerusalem Post*, 2/23/06; [8] Speech at Aspen Institute, 7/26/08; [9] Interview in *Rolling Stone*, 5/24/2001; [10] *Huffington Post*, 7/16/2011; [11] Speech at San Diego State, 4/19/12;



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Write to : PMB 362  
3175 S. Hoover St.,  
Los Angeles, CA 90007