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**A Time for Reflection
Keeping it Real
By Larry Pinkney
BlackCommentator.com Editorial Board**

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Nothing is quite as pathetic as a people without roots, identity, or history.

Recently, I was conducting business at a U.S. post office when the clerk assisting me at the counter noticed that I was wearing a small red, black, and green flag on my lapel. The clerk said to me, "I see you are wearing the flag of Ethiopia." I replied, "No. This is the flag of Black America and these colors in this order emanate from the Marcus Garvey movement and represent our ongoing struggle for justice in this nation." The clerk then said to me with visible annoyance and disapproval, "Why do you Black Americans need a flag of your own?" To which I replied, "A flag is an important symbol. Just as the Germans, the Irish, the Jews, the Turks, the Swedes and many other peoples proudly display various flags representing their history, culture, and background, we *Black Americans* [the descendants of slaves in America] also have an important common history, background, and ongoing struggle of which we are aware and rightly proud. Why do you begrudge us this?" The clerk suddenly became very quiet and simply and abruptly said, "Good day sir." I smiled and having completed my business, slowly walked away from the counter.

This above exchange gave me pause for thought and reminded me of how intent the U.S. media of disinformation is on eviscerating Black America - culturally,

economically, physically, and mentally / psychologically. Indeed, nothing *is* quite as pathetic as a people without roots, identity, or history.

Black, Brown, Red, Yellow, and White peoples in the 21st Century United States are kept in a perpetual state of denial and ignorance by the corporate, military, prison apparatus, represented by the Democratic and Republican Parties [i.e. the Republicrats] and promoted by the institutions of the U.S. media of disinformation. The masses of Black, Brown, and Red peoples in particular are deemed the biggest and most obvious internal threat to the aims of the U.S. Empire and are therefore targeted in every manner imaginable, including, as a political comrade of mine puts it; having colored "*misleaders*" their white liberal cohorts put up on pedestals in order to castigate, and in so doing, effectively strangle and eradicate the Black liberation struggle in the United States.

I think of the paraphrased words of Malcolm X when he said that this system turns "right into wrong and good into bad." This is precisely where we are in this nation today. But we do not have to submit to this mentality or to this condition.

We must be about the business of creating a *New Person* to which Ernesto "Che" Guevara often made reference, and which has become even more relevant in this century as the peoples of Venezuela, Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador valiantly struggle to throw off the blood-sucking, capitalist, yoke of the U.S. Empire and its surrogates. Peoples around the world are struggling to be free. We have no less of an obligation in this regard.

Ours is an obligation to create, to paraphrase Frantz Fanon, something utterly different and utterly unique in contemporary human history. Ours is an obligation to reject the hypocritical and politically-psychotic vampires of the corporate, military, and prison apparatus of the United States, who are represented by the Democratic and Republican Parties [i.e. the Republicrats] and their massive media of *disinformation*. We must be creative in every sense of the word even as we seek to dismantle this despicable U.S. Empire at home and abroad.

We must build *outside* of the Democratic and Republican Party death traps. No one should be in the least bit surprised that the Democratic Party recently submitted to and was complicitous with George W. Bush and the Republicans in fundamentally quashing the supposed U.S. Constitutional right of "Americans" to be free from illegal corporate and Government spying. This is simply part of an endless list of betrayals by the Democratic and Republican Parties.

Time to throw off the blinders - -and then the chains! Onward, then...

BlackCommentator.com Editorial Board Member, Larry Pinkney, is a veteran of the Black Panther Party, the former Minister of Interior of the Republic of New Africa, a former political prisoner and the only American to have successfully self-authored his civil/political rights case to the United Nations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In connection with his political organizing activities in opposition to voter suppression, etc., Pinkney was interviewed in 1988 on the nationally televised PBS NewsHour, formerly known as The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour. For more about Larry Pinkney see the book, [Saying No to Power: Autobiography of a 20th Century Activist and Thinker](#) , by William Mandel [Introduction by Howard Zinn]. (Click [here](#) to read excerpts from the book). Click [here](#) to contact Mr. Pinkney.

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