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“The Individual, Intervention, and Democracy”

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We believe in this myth of restoring American democracy, and that it should be taught throughout the rest of the world. We believe in American exceptionalism, that we are somehow more capable of implementing justice than any other state, when we have never done so ourselves. The idea of restoration does little to recognize methods of fixing our country's domestic issues. Neither does it help to broaden our understanding of American imperialism and how it is presented to us as democracy.

Today, we fault individuals like Reagan, Bush, or Trump for the departure of American democracy. Although they certainly worsened the current state, the plights of American democracy began at the United States' very inception, with the creation of a corrupt system that made it possible to position these individuals in power. We need to collectively recognize this country was never democratic. The United States was built on the backs of slaves, the removal and genocide of natives, and the exploitation of both the prior as well as the working class.

Our view of these issues are often hyper-individualistic and fail to see structured oppression. Contrary to common belief, the punishment or liberation of an individual does nothing to view the broader scope of systemic violence. Consequently, it is devoid of ways to abolish or even lessen the brutality of an oppressive state. Whether this be through white feminism or Black/brown capitalism, we discover that structures of oppression (i.e., racism, sexism, homophobia, or capitalism) stay intact. In establishing democracy here, we have to rid ourselves of the hyper-individualistic view of organizing movements, as change has always stemmed from collectivities.

On the global stage, we are an axis power, thus we title ourselves protectors of the world, obscuring the fact that we view the rest of the world (mainly the Third World) as a means of expansion and cheap labor. Although expansion and empire are not necessarily

exclusive to the United States itself, it certainly is to the entire history and ideology of our current economic system.

It is simple: we cannot teach democracy to the world. In the past, we have interfered in countless elections, overthrown a plethora of democratically elected governments, and supported and funded a myriad of coups in other states, all in the name of democracy. Our past excuses reign consistent, and these series of interventions are widely believed to be altruistic. In doing so, we sound hypocritical. We have to address Russian imperialism in Ukraine, but we have to also address American imperialism in Yemen, Syria, Palestine, or Afghanistan. We have to stop supporting states like Saudi Arabia or Israel. And we have to fund humanitarian crises before we fund war.

Mainstream efforts take these movements advocating for substantial change, and water them down of any revolutionary substance and collectivism, further ceasing progress. If we were to ever achieve democracy here, where no one is exploited, we will discover that we are not the protectors of the world, instead one of its greatest terrorists.