

Using imp CARELESSLY in my analysis
Maxima Rodinson
cr. review of Fred Halliday, Arabia without Sultans

p. 84
Arabian rev. movement within the context of the combined & uneven dev. of the cap. eco. & of its effects upon peripheral areas & of the equally combined & uneven reaction of the different classes in the Arab world as a whole & in the Arabian peninsula in particular.

valuable ch. on Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman & the Arab Gulf also one ch. on Iran, "a country whose sub-imp. as he calls it, forms an essential party of the peninsula's politics."

CRITICISMS: 1) Halliday appears to lump all the proponents of this idea (rd) that oil states blackmailing of Wes power + those also of Arab nationalists who oppose such blackmails + ALSO ARAB LEFT + pro-windist sections of European left) together as 'local regimes & their aggressors (p. 500....)'

2) Use of words imperialist & imperialism as "no contemporary non-cap. state (in their normal sense of the word capitalist) can be called imperialist. This, they claim, means that no such state can oppress & exploit others." p. 88 Halliday uses the term imperialism carelessly & in that mythological manner which is so common on the left... This kind of approach turns imp. into a world-wide conspiracy org'd. by a single imaginary center, rather as THE NAZIS USED TO REFER TO THE JUDAEO-CATH-MASONIC ALLIANCE, or COMMUNISTS UNDER STALIN TO THE CONSPIRACY OF THE TR-ISTS & RTISTS IN LEAGUE WITH THE IMP. SECRETE SERVICES

3) (1st AS LISTED BY RODINSON) no index, no maps. MY main specific criticisms of the book's content concern the pre-modern per. It is mistaken to claim that Arabia was annexed directly by imperialism in the 19th c. More importantly, the acc't of pre-Islamic So. Arabian kingdoms is based on antiquated sources & on views that no specialist has held for a long time.

4) quote a few errors re Dhofar.

5) It is difficult to see what is so wrong about the assertion that the Palestinian problems is the result of a clash bet. 2 equally legitimate nationalisms

6) In the Gulf there are also comparable nationalist myths; there is a tendency among the Arabs to regard the migration of impoverished Iranian & Pakistani sub-proletariat into the smaller Gulf states as being, like Zionism, a part of a colonialist plan to colonize the area & subsequently annex Arab territory. As Halliday emphasizes this emigration is an effect of the cp. labor mkt. & of the policies purged by the Arab rulers of the area." (p. 426, n. 24)

***** (p. 90) The most commendable aspect of Arabia without Sultans is that it breaks unequivocally with the deplorable & frequent tendency of many Mxist revolutionaries to collude with nationalism on the grounds that this is a nationalism of the victims of imperialism... *****

(p. 91) In short, he refuses to go along with so many 'red-tinted' nationalists (Lenin dixit) who in the name

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