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Blackshirts and the reds

American academic Michael ParentiParenti in 2004BornMichael John Parenti (1933-09-30) September 30, 1933 (age 87)[1]New York City, New York, United StatesNationalityAmericanEducation City College of New York (BA) Brown University (MA) Yale University (PhD) OccupationPolitical scientistAuthorHistorianActivistYears active1967–presentNotable work Democracy for the Few To Kill a Nation Superpatriotism Blackshirts and Reds Political partyLiberty Union Party[a]ChildrenChristian ParentiWebstemichaelparenti.org Michael John Parenti (born September 30, 1933) is an American political scientist, academic historian and cultural critic who writes on scholarly and popular subjects. He has taught at American and international universities and has been a guest lecturer before campus and community audiences.[2][3] Education and personal life Michael Parenti was raised by an Italian-American working class family in the East Harlem neighborhood of New York City.[4] After graduating from high school, Parenti worked for several years. Upon returning to school, he received a B.A. from the City College of New York, an M.A. from Brown University and a Ph.D. in political science from Yale University. Parenti is the father of Christian Parenti, an author and contributor to The Nation. Career Part of a series onSocialism inthe United States HistoryUtopian socialism Bishop Hill Commune Brook Farm Icarians Looking Backward New Harmony Oneida Community Progressive Era 1877 St. Louis general strike 1912 Lawrence textile strike Catholic Worker Movement Green Corn Rebellion Labor unionization Haymarket affair May Day Women's suffrage Repression and persecution American Defense Society American Protective League Communist Party USA and African Americans Communists in the labor movement 1919–1937 1937–1957 Espionage Act of 1917 First Red Scare John Birch Society McCarthyism Seattle General Strike Smith Act Smith Act trials Anti-war and civil rights movements Black Power movement COINTELPRO Great Society "I Have a Dream" March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom New Left Poor People's Campaign War on poverty Contemporary 1999 Seattle WTO protests Financial crisis of 2007–08 Occupy Wall Street People Abern Andrews Avrich Balagroon Barnes Bellamy (Edward) Bellamy (Francis) Berger Berkman Bookchin Brooks Browder Cabot Cannon Carmichael Carter Chomsky Clayre Davis Day Debs De Leon Dobbs Dreiser Du Bois Einstein Fearing Ford Foster Galleani Gitlow Goldman Graeber Greene Guthrie Hall Hammett Hampton Harrington Hay Haywood (Bill) Haywood (Harry) Hawkins Hedges Heywood (Angela) Heywood (Ezra) Hill Hillquit Hoan Hoffman Keller Labadie London Lovestone Lum McReynolds Moore Most Mitchell Ocasio-Cortez Ochs Owen Parenti Parsons (Albert) Parsons (Lucy) Randolph Ripley Reed Rocker Rustin Ruthenberg Sacco Sandburg Sanders Savant Seale Seidel Shaachtman Sinclair Spooner Sweezy Thomas Tucker Turner Vanzetti Warren West Wolf Zeidler Zerzan Active organizations American Party of Labor Black Riders Liberation Party Communist Party USA Democratic Socialists of America Freedom Road Socialist Organization Freedom Socialist Party Green Party of the United States Industrial Workers of the World Liberty Union Party Party for Socialism and Liberation Peace and Freedom Party Progressive Labor Party Redneck Revolt Revolutionary Communist Party, USA Social Democrats, USA Socialist Action Socialist Alternative Socialist Equality Party Socialist Party USA Socialist Rifle Association Socialist Workers Party Spark Spartacist League Vermont Progressive Party Workers World Party Working Class Party World Socialist Party of the United States Defunct organizations American Labor Party American Workers Party Black Panther Party Colorado Springs Socialists Communist League of America Communist Workers' Party Democratic Socialist Federation Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee Farmer–Labor Party Human Rights Party International Socialist Organization Maoist Internationalist Movement New American Movement Nonpartisan League Proletarian Party of America Puerto Rican Socialist Party Social Democracy of America Social Democratic Federation Social Democracy of America Socialist Labor Party of America Socialist Party of America Students for a Democratic Society Weather Underground White Panther Party Workers Party of the United States Youth International Party Literature Appeal to Reason Current Affairs Daily Worker Dissent International Socialist Review Jacobin The Jungle Looking Backward Monopoly Capital Monthly Review The Other America Voluntary Socialism Why Socialism? Z Related topics American Left Anarchism Anarchism in the United States Anarcho-communism Anarcho-primitivism Anarcho-syndicalism Democratic socialism Green anarchism Individualist anarchism Individualist anarchism in the United States Labor history Labor laws Labor unions Libertarian socialism Marxism Marxism–Leninism Minimum wage Mutualism Post-left anarchy Scientific socialism Social democracy Socialism Trotskyism Utopian socialism Socialism portal United States portaltv For many years Parenti taught political and social science at various institutions of higher learning. Eventually he devoted himself full-time to writing, public speaking, and political activism.[5] He is the author of 23 books and many more articles. His works have been translated into at least 18 languages.[6] Parenti lectures frequently throughout the United States and abroad. Parenti's writings cover a wide range of subjects: U.S. politics, culture, ideology, political economy, fascism, communism, democratic socialism, free-market orthodoxies, conservative judicial activism, religion, ancient history, modern history, historiography, repression in academia, news and entertainment media, technology, environmentalism, sexism, racism, Venezuela, the wars in Iraq and Yugoslavia, ethnicity, and his own early life.[7][8][9] His influential book Democracy for the Few,[10] now in its ninth edition, is a critical analysis of U.S. society, economy, and political institutions and a college-level political science textbook published by Wadsworth Publishing.[11] In recent years he has addressed such subjects as "Empires: Past and Present," "US Interventionism: the Case of Iraq," "Race, Gender, and Class Power," "Ideology and History," "The Overthrow of Communism," and "Terrorism and Globalization." [6] In 1974, Parenti ran in Vermont on the democratic socialist Liberty Union Party ticket for U.S. Congress and received 7.1% of the vote.[12][13] Parenti was once a friend of Bernie Sanders, with whom he later split over Sanders's support for the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia.[14][15][16] In the 1980s, he was a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C. In Washington, D.C., in 2003, the Caucus for a New Political Science gave him a Career Achievement Award. In 2007, he received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from U.S. Representative Barbara Lee and an award from New Jersey Peace Action.[citation needed] He served for 12 years as a judge for Project Censored. He also is on the advisory boards of Independent Progressive Politics Network and Education Without Borders as well as the advisory editorial boards of New Political Science and Nature, Society and Thought.[17] Appearances in media Apart from several recordings of some of his public speeches, Parenti has also appeared in the 1992 documentary Panama Deception, the 2004 Liberty Bound and 2013 Fall and Winter documentaries as an author and social commentator. Parenti was interviewed in Boris Malagurski's documentary film The Weight of Chains 2 (2014). He was also interviewed for two episodes of the Showtime series Penn & Teller: Bullshit!, speaking briefly about the Dalai Lama (Episode 305 – Holier Than Thou) and patriotism (Episode 508 – Mount Rushmore). New York City-based punk rock band Choking Victim use a number of samples from Michael Parenti's lectures in their album No Gods, No Managers. 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Trends and Tragedies in American Foreign Policy. Little, Brown, 1971. Ethnic and Political Attitudes. Arno Press, 1975. ISBN 0-405-06413-6 Democracy for the Few. c.1974. 8th edition, 2007.[10] ISBN 978-0-495-00744-9 Power and the Powerless. St. Martin's Press, 1978. ISBN 0-312-63372-6, ISBN 0-312-63373-4 Inventing Reality: The Politics of the Mass Media. 1986. ISBN 0-312-02013-9 2nd Edition, 1993. ISBN 0-312-08629-6 The Sword and the Dollar: Imperialism, Revolution and the Arms Race. St. Martin's Press, 1989. ISBN 0-312-02295-6 Make-Believe Media: the Politics of Entertainment. St. Martin's Press, 1992. ISBN 0-312-05603-6, ISBN 0-312-05894-2 Land of Idols: Political Mythology in America. St. Martin's Press, 1993. ISBN 0-312-09497-3, ISBN 0-312-09841-3 Against Empire. San Francisco: City Lights Books, 1995. ISBN 0-87286-298-4, ISBN 978-0-87286-298-2 Chapter 1 available online. Dirty Truths. San Francisco: City Lights Books, 1996. Includes some autobiographical essays. 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The Face of Imperialism Paradigm, 2011. Waiting for Yesterday: Pages from a Street Kid's Life Bordighera Press, 2013. Profit Pathology and Other Indecencies Routledge, 2015. Book chapters "American Foreign Policy: A Tragic 'Success.'" In: Curtis, Alan (ed). Patriotism, Democracy, and Common Sense: Restoring America's Promise at Home and Abroad. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield; Washington, D.C.: Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation, 2004, pp. 159-168. See also Communism portal Socialism portal Politics portal Slavoj Zizek Richard D. Wolff Noam Chomsky Notes ^ In 1974, Parenti ran for Congress for Vermont's at-large district in the House of Representatives under the Liberty Union Party ticket. He isn't associated with the party. ^ The article Parenti wrote featuring in the first edition of the Prevailing Winds magazine was an adaptation from a lecture Parenti gave in Berkeley, California on November 26, 1993. 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Democracy for the Few (Eight ed.). Wadsworth Publishing Company. p. 322. ISBN 978-0-495-00744-9. ^ CENGAGE Learning, "WADSWORTH CENGAGE Learning political science". Archived from the original on 30 August 2009. Retrieved 3 January 2008. ^ "Elections Results Archive". vt Elections Database. ^ Sanders, Bernie (1997). "You Have to Begin Somewhere". Outsider in the House. ^ ^ ^ Parenti, Michael. "Michael Parenti Political Archive". Retrieved 2 January 2008. External links Wikimedia Commons has media related to Michael Parenti. Wikiquote has quotations related to: Michael Parenti Michael Parenti Political Archive maintained by Michael Parenti Appearances on C-SPAN "Michael Parenti, The Darker Myths of Empire: Heart of Darkness Series". College of DuPage. May 11, 2012. Booknotes interview with Parenti on The Assassination of Julius Caesar, September 7, 2003, C-SPAN Michael Parenti's articles Dubious Design (Creationism & Intelligent Design) Audio Talks by Michael Parenti - MP3 format. TUC Radio's Michael Parenti Archive - recordings available for purchase. Michael Parenti talks about "The Culture Struggle" May 2007 on Democracy Now radio. October 2006 interview on KPFA radio. Retrieved from " by Michael Parenti (1997) 7/10 A good introduction to Marxist-Leninism. About 1/3 of it contained arguments that were novel to me, and the rest was an accessible and compelling rehash of things I already knew. A glaring defect of the entire book is the virtual absence of citations for any of Parenti's factual claims. I'm not arguing that he made them up, but I also cannot with integrity repeat claims without knowing how an author came by them, so this was frustrating. I subtracted a star for this egregious flaw in what should have been a relatively straightforward academic work. The book is called Blackshirts and Reds but he only deals with fascists in the first chapter – the rest is devoted purely to the Reds, so it's quite a misnomer. The first chapter was useful in distinguishing right from left totalitarianism, a distinction that moderates love to erase and whose erasure ultimately serves fascism. I had hoped he would develop more space to this conflation, partly expecting even a theoretical framework, but he really just wanted to describe the issue briefly and move on. The rest of the book is devoted to explaining revolutions, state socialism, and pushing back on common misconceptions about both. Highlights were: how we think of insurgent movements as "violent" yet don't use the label for state or economic terror; showing the utopian nature of many anarchists' and anarcho-communists' critiques of state socialism; showing how anti-communists routinely ignore the military and economic pressures that socialist movements face after coming into power; the distinction of "pure socialism" v. "siege socialism" and how pure socialism would likely fail in the face of centralized military opposition; and the admission that state socialism has been quite defective, while its benefits have been significantly underestimated. This was especially interesting to read after Murray Bookchin's Post-Scarcity Anarchism, an anarchist criticism of "centralized, hierarchical" Marxism that wielded many of the very criticisms that Parenti rebuts. I find Parenti's stance somewhat more compelling, especially his charge of utopianism: anarchists enjoy the convenience of not having to defend any real-world revolutions, because no attempt at anarchist revolution has ever succeeded. Parenti does veer into soviet apologetics at several points, something I would have felt more comfortable with if he better sourced his claims. It's hard to separate biased justifications for Soviet transgressions from salient points about the social safety net they provided, or the dismay many Soviet citizens felt after the transition to capitalism. I mean these claims are interesting but without supporting evidence they should not form the foundation of any sort of serious defense of Soviet communism. Overall I'm glad Parenti is out there. He's advocating an important position in an engaging and accessible way. I wish he was more serious about academic validity, but I still think he serves a valid purpose through introductory materials and lectures. I'd just urge people who are compelled by these arguments to perform further research before wholly adopting the claims as one's own.

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