

Women In South Africa Study Questions

1) Both the chapters 1,2,3 from For Their Triumphs and For Their Tears and the article "Clinic in South Africa" from Big Mama Rag speak to the reality of daily life under apartheid. Discuss the impact of apartheid on women and the family.

2) What is the history of women in resistance in South Africa? Chapters 8,9 from For Their Triumphs and For Their Tears review both the anti-pass law campaign and specific women in Azanian history.

3) What is the US role in supporting apartheid and colonialism in South Africa? How do we see the current struggles (divestment, economic sanctions , trade embargoes, and Reagan's policy of constructive engagement)?

Women in South Africa Study

Weds. Feb ~~1984~~ 18th

S.F.

- 1) From these readings and what you already know what is the reality for women's daily lives under apartheid. Discuss the impact of apartheid on women and the family.
- 2) What is the history of women in resistance in South Africa? Let's go over this history of the anti-pass law campaign and ~~of~~ its specific impact on Azanian women.
- 3) What is the relationship, as seen by Azanian women - between their struggle as women and as Azanians. How do we see their struggle - within the context of apartheid, the bantustans, the fact the women and men see each other maybe a half dozen times a year.
- 4) What are the ANC and PAC demands? What is the level of armed struggle and mass struggle now?
- 5) What is the US role in supporting apartheid and colonialism in South Africa? How do we see the current struggles (disinvestment, economic sanctions, trade embargoes, the actions on campus, ~~etc.~~, Reagan's policy of constructive engagement, etc.).

Women In The Philippines Study

Wed. Feb. 4th - East Bay

We will see a new slide show about women in the Philippines, put together by GABRIELA. Also Mirk can talk about her visit there last International Women's Day.

- ① What was life like for women before Spain colonized it? What were the conditions for women under the Spanish? How was it transformed after 1898 when the U.S. took over? How did it deteriorate under Marcos? What are there new possibilities under Aquino.
- ② The "sex industry", i.e. "hospitality girls, prostitution, sex tourism, mail order brides, beauty contests, child porn, etc..." is a well known horror of what women in the Philippines are facing. What is the US role (in terms of military bases, World Bank-IMF debt, US corporations, etc.) in creating, developing and promoting this oppression.
- ③ What are the lessons drawn from the first women's organization, MAKIBAKA? What is GABRIELA and other women's organizations' strategy for building a women's movement? What do we think of their "Declaration of Principles" + "Program of Action"? What can we learn from them?
- ④ How do Filipina women see the relationship of the women's struggle to their national struggle? What do we know of and think of women's participation in the New People's Army.

Women in our study group

S.F.

E. Bay

WOMAN TO WOMAN STUDY- Preparation for Nicaragua

PART ONE

This study is divided in three parts:

- 1) History- US intervention and Nicaraguan resistance until 1961
- 2) The rise of the FSLN , the Insurrection, and the Triumph of the Nicaraguan People
- 3) The politics of the FSLN
- 4) Nicaragua and its impact on the Central American Region, specifically since 1979

Questions:

1. What was and is the motivation for US intervention, specifically in the early to middle 20th century?
lack int'l support
2. Who was Sandino, ^{called 134} his political ideology etc. Why was he eventually defeated?
ties of oligarchy - fascists
alliances changed
What impact did his impact have on Nicaragua?
3. How would the Reagan Administration describe that historical period?
4. What was happening in Latin America when the FSLN was formed? (Guatemala, Cuba, etc.)
How did the US respond (CIA, Bay of Pigs, Alliance for Progress, etc.)
Rigoberto Lopez killed Somoza - 56
5. What were some of the important historical moments of the FSLN?
luis Tachon
6. What were the differences between the three tendencies?
7. How was the Final Insurrection, victorious as it was, a reflection of the FSLN unity?
8. What are the basic tenets(?) of the FSLN? political pluralism, mixed economy and non-alignment,. How does that fly in the face of the attacks of totalitarian, communist, Soviet backed?
9. What is real democracy? Is Nicaragua democratic?
10. How does the FSLN see the relationship between the military/defense to social services? Contrast to the US.
11. How does Nicaragua threaten the US?
12. What was the US role in the region prior to the Nicaraguan Triumph? How did it change after?
13. Since 1979 what has been Nicaragua's relationship to its right wing dictators / neighbors?
14. What has been the impact of the triumph on the liberation movements in the region?

Next time we would like to focus on:

the state of emergency
the new constitution
the literacy and health brigades
the CDS
Miskitu
the US counterinsurgency plans
the church pro and con
the unions
the contra
agrarian reform

WOMEN IN NICARAGUA STUDY (Jan. 1986)

Questions

1. At the Non-governmental organizations (NGO) Conference in Kenya, women from Third World countries and liberation movements struggled that women's liberation could not be based simply on women's issues that have traditionally been thought of as "women's issues". They said that issues such as world peace, war, international relations, hunger, racism, production etc. ARE women's issues. What do we think about this and how do the readings and what we know relate to this?
2. The women's movement here has defined certain issues as "women's issues" i.e. violence against us, abortion rights, equal pay, equal opportunity, sexual harassment, ^{domestic violence} sexism in advertising, lesbian rights, child custody, free and quality childcare, women's equal opportunity to be in the military, police etc. (very controversial), self defense etc,. Are these issues similar/different than what women in Nicaragua are talking about and acting on? How are their strategies for resolution similar and different than here?
3. Using Adrienne Rich's article as a jumping off point : " We need to talk about ways this society has influenced our mental images of revolution". Lets talk about how the cultural values in this society influences our views of women's liberation and of revolution in general.
4. A lot of these articles are from BARRICADA, the FSLN paper. What does this say to us about the role the the government ^{is} in general and the FSLN in specific is playing in the struggle for women's full ^{equal} participation in every aspect of society and its commitment to end sexism? How is that different from here?
5. Sometimes people come back from Nicaragua saying that ~~the~~ women's liberation and equality hasn't yet reached the majority of women who are still living their lives in the homes, with the kids. Mercedes Mejia, a leader of AMNLAE talked about this in her interview in Dec. 1984: "Now we need to think in other terms: how to move the Revolution forward, how to achieve the status in society that corresponds to women: how to reach the oppressed woman, the marginalized woman, the woman who doesn't participate, who has no consciousness- who has accepted the notion that her role is exclusively that of taking care of the house and her kids. That is our task. How do we see ~~the~~ the future for women in Nicaragua?

Suggested and Encouraged Assignment:

Each person learn and memorize three achievements that women have fought for and won, or three facts, (statistics or laws) that will be on the tip of our tongue for talking about what has changed for women in Nicaragua.

Readings

1. Speech by Magda Enriquez, AMNLAE, given Feb. 1984 pgs. 260-1.
From Sweet Ramparts
2. Interview with woman in the militia, Jan. 1982 pgs. 59-62
3. Debate on Law of Relations between Mothers, Fathers and Children, published in BARRICADA Oct. 1981, pgs. 136-138
4. Interview with Sister Luz Beatrice, Aug. 1981 pgs. 149-151
5. From Unlearning the Alphabet of Submission, WIRE publication
6. Adrienne Rich on US feminism and Nicaragua, 1983 p.7-8
7. Necessary Critique, BARRICADA editorial Feb. 1983 p.19
8. Open Letter to My aggressors and His Accomplices, BARRICADA p.20
9. Family in Our Revolution, by Jorge Flores, BARRICADA, July 1983 p.21-22
10. AMNLAE Women's Leadership in the Revolution, Interview with Mercedes Mejia, Dec. 84 p. 23-26
11. BARRICADA article on legal changes proposed to National Assembly, Oct. 1985
12. AMNLAE's Pamphlet- Advances in Women's Legal rights & AMNLAE Born in the Struggle 1985

WOMEN IN NICARAGUA STUDY QUESTIONS

1. The women's movement here has defined certain issues as "women's issues", such as: rape, abortion rights, equal opportunity, comparable worth, domestic violence, sexual objectification in advertising, lesbian rights, child custody, free and quality childcare, pornography, sexual harassment on the job, street, etc. self defense, etc. Are these issues similar to/different than what women in Nicaragua are talking about and acting on? How are their strategies for resolution similar to/ different than ours?
2. At the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Conference in Kenya, women from Third World countries and liberation movements stressed that "women's issues" are broader than what is often traditionally thought of as "women's issues". They said, world peace, war, hunger, racism, international relations, agricultural production, etc. ARE and MUST BE SEEN as women's issues. What do we think about this? How do Nicaraguan women see it?
3. Using the Adrienne Rich article as a jumping point (pg. 18) "We need to talk about the ways this society has influenced our mental images of revolution." How does the cultural values in this society influence our views of women's liberation and revolution in general?
4. Sometimes women come back from Nicaragua saying that for the majority of the women, who live at home with their kids and maybe their husband- liberation and equality is still far off. Mercedes Mejia, a leader of AMNLAE talked about this in her interview (p3) "Now we need to think in other terms: how to move the Revolution forward, how to achieve the status in society that corresponds to women: how to reach the oppressed woman, the marginalized woman, the woman who doesn't participate, who has no consciousness of her role in society- who has accepted the notion that her role is exclusively that of taking care of the house and her kids. That is our task." How does this make us feel about the future for women in Nicaragua?
5. A lot of these articles are from BARRICADA, the FSLN newspaper. What does this say to us about the role the government in general and the FSLN in particular is playing in the struggle for women's full and equal participation in every aspect of society, and its commitment to ending sexism? Compare it to here.