Imperialism, Censorship and Fascism

Declaration of the Movement of Documentarists

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There is no weapon of massive destruction deadlier than Imperialism. It depredates nature, societies and civilizations. In the last 100 years, Imperialism has multiplied, as an acute phase of Capitalism, its destructive capacity. It has stopped development, it has started a period of generalized crisis and it has brought about the expansion of misery to an extent so far unheard of. Millions of corpses and maimed people, war casualties, millions and dozens of millions of terrorized, crushed, cheated people. It is an extraordinary cataclysm. A monstrosity. And they want to silence us with censorship.

Censorship is nothing but the cynic updating of Fascism. Many documentarists in the central as well as in the colonized or semi-colonised countries recognize the strategies of censorship and self censorship. They know that it is an imperative of their work to use even the most unexpected chance of "legality" left available to dodge endless prohibitions. But we cannot forget that every censorship is a form of ideological war. Imperialist war of conquest, banditry and theft of information. Subjection of truth in the distribution of the world into colonies or territories won by Capitalism.

The seed of censorship lives in the state or private monopolistic development of production, distribution, and consumption of documentaries. The growth of "show industries" constitutes one of the forms of censorship most typical to Capitalism. Because censorship is used not only to manipulate consciences by depriving them of their freedom of information but it is also the result of a struggle over the consumption markets brought about by the crisis of over production of images: censorship is also a way of preventing competition.

If the means, the modes and the relations of documentary production continue to be private property, the weight of the monopolies will increase. The almost total lack of experimentation is added to the already hideous censorship, practiced even on the theoretical and practical training of documentarists, while production methodologies are crushed by empiriocriticism and "inconvenient" authors continue to disappear from the shelves of university libraries. It will become more and more difficult to buy, hire or borrow the tools required for documentary production because the high cost of those tools and the almost absolute lack of alternatives is also a form of censorship. Distribution and exhibition will continue to be in the hands of monopolies that cannot be paid and cannot be penetrated. The censorship of commercial cynicism will continue to rule. Attacks by the media, sneering remarks by the television or the radio and the cases of direct attacks staged by all sort of groups against documentarists and documentaries will be more and more frequent.
The International Movement of Documentarists, that is growing in the whole world, cannot afford not to analyze and unmask the historic havoc played by Imperialism and censorship as its fascist expression. This is as urgent as its theoretical and methodological development side by side with the peoples that are struggling for liberation.

Direct or indirect censorship, whether ideological or economic, expresses the fascist parasitism and degradation of Capitalism which, leaning on policemen of conscience intends to keep watch over information, reality and ideas. Censorship puts forward a civil war of meanings. Not having understood the economic roots of Imperialism, without a profound diagnosis of its political and social implications, and not considering censorship the worst enemy of the documentary field, it is impossible to take even one step forward towards solving the current practical tasks of the International Movement of Documentarists.

http://www.documentalistas.org.ar/festival.shtml