

“Unjust war in Iraq...half the planet living on \$2 a day...strangulation of the Earth’s ecosystem. Is this the best of all possible worlds? An honest conversation is urgently needed about the real experience of socialism. About the breath-taking achievements of the Soviet and Chinese revolutions, as well as their problems and shortcomings. About the relevance of all this to today.”

—From publicity for Set the Record Straight event at Harvard University

Stirring Controversy on Campus

Most students today have encountered a very one-sided perspective on the history of socialist societies, if they’ve studied it at all. In open-air debates on campus quads and in classrooms, Set the Record Straight has challenged students about the history of socialism and circulated fact sheets, articles, and other educational materials, including a provocative “pop quiz”—six questions covering the achievements of the Mao years.

Funds will enable us to expand outreach to more colleges and reach high school students, create more printed and multimedia material, and add to the resources on the website.

“Socialism Is Much Better than Capitalism and Communism Will Be a Far Better World”

Raymond Lotta Speaking Tour

Set the Record Straight has sponsored Raymond Lotta, a Maoist political economist, on a tour under the title “Socialism Is Much Better than Capitalism, and Communism Will Be a Far Better World.” Since 2005 the tour has traveled to Stanford, Columbia, UCLA, and other universities, and to London and Mexico, sparking interest and debate among hundreds of students and professors.

We want to take this tour to many more places, with several events already slated for the coming fall and winter. Funds are needed for publicity and travel expenses, and to produce DVD recordings of this and other speeches and Q&A sessions.

“Coming into the lecture I had no idea what to expect, but I was immediately taken with Lotta’s methodology and scrutiny toward the subject matter. I walked away with a completely different perspective...on the possibility of real change, revolution, and history of communism. I was also left with an intense desire to further my own understanding of the Chinese historical struggle and Marxism in general.”

—Student at Roosevelt University, Chicago

The Same People Who Lied to You about the Vietnam War and “Weapons of Mass Destruction” Are Lying to You about Communism

Taking on the Lies and Distortions in the Media

The mainstream media spouts: “Mao, Stalin, or Hitler—which monster was worse?” The Cultural Revolution—“10 years of madness.” Set the Record Straight is countering this anticommunist barrage with press releases, letters to the editor, op-ed pieces, and articles published in the print media and on the web. Set the Record Straight has been interviewed on BBC, Pacifica, and in the *Chinese Daily* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

We need to expand our ability to break into the national media in a timely way. Funds are crucial to doing this.

Networking with Scholars, Dialogue and Debate at Conferences

Set the Record Straight has participated in progressive conferences like the U.S. Social Forum and Rethinking Marxism, and networked at Association for Asian Studies gatherings. We are collaborating with progressive scholars on panels and public events to explore the history of socialism and take on academic and popular misrepresentations of that history, such as the slanderous biography, *Mao: The Unknown Story*.

To expand this activity will require a new level of financial resources.

Our Mission

From a thousand different directions, we are bombarded with the message that communism was a “nightmare” and “failure.” Go into a bookstore and look at the current titles on Mao, the Cultural Revolution, or socialism in the Soviet Union. Take a listen when commentators on TV and radio say something about communism. Leaf through a standard-issue textbook on modern history. There’s a highly distorted narrative of socialism in the 20th century and it goes largely unanswered.

The mission of Set the Record Straight is to factually refute the lies spread in the media, mass-market books, and mainstream scholarship about the Soviet and Chinese revolutions—upholding the overwhelming achievements and pointing to problems and shortcomings.

We seek to open up a two-sided debate about socialism and communism and to promote a conversation about why a radically different and liberating world is possible. In all of this, we are bringing forward Bob Avakian’s exciting vision of a vibrant communism for the 21st century. At a time when the world is in great peril, the intellectual landscape needs to change—and a new generation of students and scholars needs to engage the question of communism’s past and communism’s future in a whole new way.

Set the Record Straight seeks to challenge the paralyzing conventional wisdom about communism that has seeped so deeply into popular understanding and to raise people’s sights to a far better future for humanity.

Donate to Set the Record Straight

Your support is important to advance our mission and programs:

- Take campus speaking tour to key U.S. and international cities in 2007-2008
- Organize panels at academic conferences
- Raise media profile and impact
- Expand research efforts and publish more materials
- Redesign the ThisIsCommunism.org website

Your donation is tax deductible; checks can be made payable to IHCenter/SRS. Mail your contribution to:

Set the Record Straight
P.O. Box 981
Chicago, IL 60690-0981

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Thank you for your support and partnership!
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