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Jorge Majfud
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The hundred million dead of communism... And the billion of capitalism

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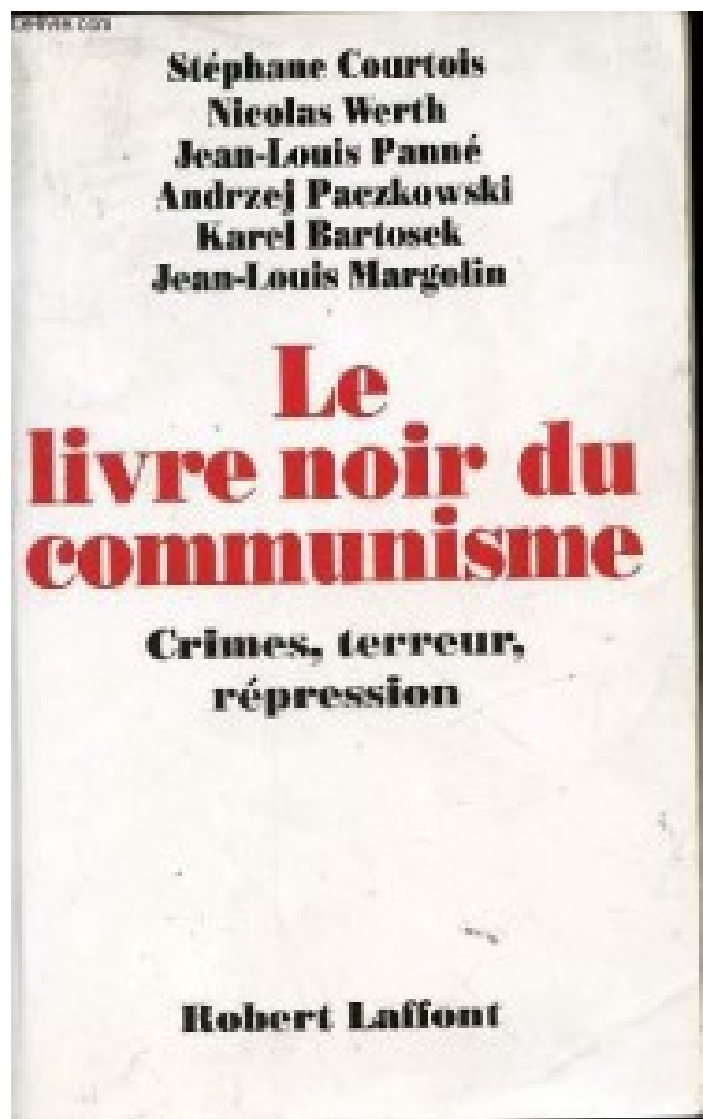
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Summary of a chapter in the forthcoming book Flies in the web

I know that it is not necessary from any point of view, but to begin with I would like to clarify that I am not a communist. I have other, less perfect ideas about what society and the world should be, which is not this, so fanatically proud of its own crimes. But since I resent the propaganda of the master who accuses any other form of propaganda thought, there I go against the current again.

In *The Wild Frontier* (2021) we stopped at Operation Mockingbird, one of the most secret and, at the same time, best known plans of psychological and cultural warfare organized and financed by the CIA during the Cold War. Now let's look at one of the most promoted and viralized cases of the 90s, such as *Le Livre noir du communisme*, published by the former Maoist Stéphane Courtois and other academics in 1997. We will not dwell now on the well-known psychology of the convert, because it is not necessary. The book was a kind of *Manual of the perfect Latin American idiot* but of the first world and with much more media life.



From this book come the infinite publications of social networks about "the hundred million dead of communism", although its own authors estimate a smaller number, between 65 and 95 million. Specialists in the field (its authors are not) observed that Courtois listed any event where a communist country was involved and took the highest figure in any case.

For example, the Second World War is attributed to Hitler and Stalin, when the latter was the first responsible for the defeat of the former, and it was the former, not the latter, that caused that tragedy. Moreover, he concludes that Stalin killed more than Hitler, without considering the reasons for each tragedy and attributing part of the 70 to 100 million deaths in World War II to Stalin, since one started the war and the other ended it. The twenty million Russian dead are attributed to Stalin. Specialists in the Soviet era estimate Stalin's responsibility at one million dead, which is a horrendous figure, but far from what is attributed to him and even further than any of the massacres caused by the other victorious superpowers, former allies of Stalin.

In 1945, General LeMay razed several Japanese cities, including Nagoya, Osaka, Yokohama and Kobe, three months before the atomic bombs. On the night of March 10, LeMay ordered 1500 tons of explosives dropped on Tokyo from 300 B-29 bombers. 500,000 bombs rained down from 1:30 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. 100,000 men, women and children died within hours and a million others were seriously injured. A precedent of napalm bombs were successfully tested. *"Women ran with their babies like torches of fire on their backs,"* recalled Nihei, a survivor. *"I'm not worried about killing Japanese,"* said Gen. LeMay, who less than two decades later recommended that President Kennedy drop some atomic bombs on Havana as a way to solve the bearded rebel problem. In the early '80s, Secretary of State Alexander Haig will tell President Ronald Reagan, *"Just give me the order and I'll turn that shitty island into an empty parking lot."*

Courtois' book lists two million deaths in North Korea attributed to communism out of the total three million dead, not considering that the indiscriminate bombings of General MacArthur and other "defenders of freedom" wiped out 80 percent of the country. Since 1950, hundreds of tons of bombs were usually dropped in a single day, all of which, according to Courtois and his repeaters in Miami and the Latin American oligarchy, would not have been responsible for the deaths of many people.

Courtois also counts a million dead in Vietnam due to the communists, without considering that it was a war of independence against the imperial powers of France and the United States, which left at least two million dead, most not in combat but under the

classic US aerial bombing (inaugurated in 1927 against Sandino in Nicaragua) and the use of the chemical Agent Orange, Not only did it wipe a million innocents off the map indiscriminately, but its effects on genetic mutations are still felt today.

He also attributes the barbarism of the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia entirely to "communism", just because the regime was communist, not to mention that Pol Pot had been supported by Washington and Western corporations; that it was communist Vietnam that defeated the United States that put an end to that barbarism while the West continued to support the genocidaires recognizing them in the UN as a legitimate government until the 80s. Between 1969 and 1973, more bombs (500,000 tons) fell on Cambodia than fell on Germany and Japan during World War II. The same thing happened to North Korea and Laos. In 1972, President Nixon asked, "*How many did we kill in Laos?*" To which his secretary of state, Ron Ziegler, replied, "*About ten thousand, or maybe fifteen thousand.*" Henry Kissinger added, "*In Laos we also killed about ten thousand, maybe fifteen thousand.*" The communist dictator who will follow them, Pol Pot, will far exceed that figure, massacring a million of his own people. The Khmer Rouge, children of the reaction against Western colonialism, were supported by China and the United States. Another communist regime, Vietnam that defeated the United States, ended the Pol Pot massacre after a massacre of 30,000 Vietnamese. Apart from those massacred by Washington's bombs in Laos and Cambodia alone, tens of thousands more continued to die since the end of the war, due to bombs that did not explode when dropped.

The largest number to the 94 million victims of communism refers to the catastrophic famine in Mao's China in the 60s. This famine of 1958-62 caused not 60 million, but, most likely, between 30 and 40 million and in no case was it a deliberate and racist extermination plan, Nazi style in Germany or British in India. The need for industrialization was repeated in countries like Brazil and Argentina and their only sin was to have arrived late. In the Chinese case, he combined a disastrous policy with climate problems. Despite everything, life expectancy in China began to improve rapidly from the 60s. During the same period of the Cold War, the new democratic state in India began to improve the life expectancy of its population. But it was not due to any plan but, simply, to have ceased to be a colony starved, brutalized and plundered by the British Empire, which only between 1880 and 1920 was responsible for the death of 160 million people.

However, in this period of capitalist democracy in India, the deaths attributable to the absence of social reforms totaled 100 million. The world-renowned economist and professor at Harvard University, Amartya Sen and Jean Drèze of the London School of

Economics, in 1991 had published *Hunger and Public Action* where they analyzed with statistical rigor several forgotten cases of world famines caused by systems, models and political decisions. In Chapter 11 they observed: "Comparing India's mortality rate of 12 per thousand with China's of 7 per thousand and applying that difference to a population of 781 million in India in 1986, we obtain an estimate of excess mortality in India of 3.9 million per year."

The mainstream press did not echo and the world did not find out. On the contrary, six years later he rose to fame, as if by magic, *Le Livre noir du communisme* and others of the same commercial genre of fast sale, quick consumption and easy digestion.



1878

Before we analyzed the position of the Indian-British intellectual and diplomat Shashi Tharoor and professors Jason Hickel and Dylan Sullivan on the impact of the imperial policies of capitalism, which contradicts the popular narratives most promoted by the mainstream media and government agencies, which could be summarized in one of their conclusions: "In all regions studied, incorporation into the capitalist world system was associated with a decline in wages below the subsistence minimum, a deterioration in human stature, and an uptick in premature mortality."

If, with the same criteria of Courtois and his repeaters, we continued to count the millions of indigenous people killed in the Americas in the process that made capitalism possible in Europe, the at least ten million dead that the Belgian king Leopold II left in the company

called Congo and so many other massacres of blacks in Africa that do not matter, or in India, or in Bangladesh, or in the Middle East, we would easily pass several hundred million dead in any black book of capitalism.

More than that. The renowned economist and professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Utsa Patnaik, has calculated that Britain stole \$45 billion from India between 1765 and 1938 alone and caused, over those centuries, the deaths of not a hundred million but more than a billion people. The figure reached in his book published by Columbia University Press of New York, which at first glance seems exaggerated, is no less excessive than that attributed by Courtois based on the same criteria—only it is better documented.

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