

TWO FACES OF EMPIRE

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The specter of rainbow-imperialism, in lieu of any comprehensive analysis, has allowed various opportunist “lines” and distortions to proliferate without rectification. The confusion has been caused by the contemporary division of the American imperialists into two camps: those who opportunistically support the democratic rights of LGBT people *in rhetoric*, and those who maintain a more traditional line on opposing them. The former camp, while openly tailing the general mood among the masses for support of queer rights, nevertheless [spend money behind closed doors](#) which exposes their words as shallow and hypocritical. The latter camp, in the more orthodox tradition of bourgeois moral hypocrisy, privately engage in all manner of sexual exploits and ‘perversions’ which they simultaneously condemn the masses for. The effect has been a schizotypal division of Western imperialism, on the one hand vocally condemning anti-LGBT oppression, and on the other, [clandestinely supporting Christofascist initiatives](#) to oppress LGBT people. These are the two faces of the Western empire: hypocritical support for the LGBT community, and hypocritical condemnation for ‘those sinful pederasts.’ The former provides cover for the latter; the latter provides justification for the former.

And this is precisely what we mean when we call America rainbow-imperialist: *rainbow in words, but imperialist in deeds*. The American Empire continues to oppress LGBT people at home, bomb LGBT people abroad, and to support anti-LGBT governments as long as they will partner with NATO. The American Empire has never once brought “human rights” (let alone queer rights) to an occupied territory. In point of fact, the vulgar thesis that opposition to the democratic rights of LGBT people is itself opposition to Western imperialism is precisely backwards: it is predominantly because of Western imperialism that former or current colonies have institutionalized the oppression of LGBT people. Certainly, one would be a fine “anti-imperialist” indeed to accept the imperialist’s propaganda at face-value, to confound their words with their actions, yet all too many of our would-be anti-Western warriors propagate this very distortion of the facts.

With this in mind we can identify two distinct strategies for countering imperialist propaganda: reflexively staking the opposite position, or thoughtfully deconstructing it. To stake the position of being anti-LGBT is to accept that the American Empire is truly invested in the rights of LGBT people, when by all accounts this is false. At the same time, the use of rainbow propaganda indicates that the authorities believe the public to be so invested; hence, to be truly persuasive to the public, one would have to instead explain how supporting American imperialism is not the way to support LGBT rights. Conversely, insisting that being anti-imperialist means being anti-LGBT will not only *reinforce* the imperialist’s propaganda, but turn the public *against anti-imperialism*. And this precisely what has happened: opposite to the anti-LGBT anti-imperialists one will indeed find ardently pro-NATO homonationalists. And how can we be shocked by this when avowed proponents of anti-imperialism declare their rights imperialistic at the same time that imperialists proclaim intervention in the name of a queer crusade? The two are in agreement! One would have to assume that the broad public is already interested in anti-imperialism and disinterested in LGBT rights for such rhetoric to be effective. Either these

vulgar anti-imperialists are woefully ignorant of the facts, or else we shall have to question: Who are the vulgar anti-imperialists really trying to persuade? Obviously, it can only be those who already consider themselves anti-imperialists — otherwise, what is or is not anti-imperialistic would have no persuasive force. And why should one be interested in turning anti-imperialists against LGBT rights? Why should one be interested in promoting discord and disunity among the people? Comrades, I'm sure we don't need to spell it out.

The true resolution to the contradiction of rainbow-imperialism is to recognize that imperialism is nothing more and nothing less than a vehicle for exploitation and extraction; that ideological justifications do not accurately reflect the actions taken by the imperialists, only the need to swindle their working classes. The true resolution must be to recognize that siding with Western imperialism is decisively an anti-LGBT policy, and that Christofascism is the real, substantive policy of Western imperialism.