

## HYPOCRISYWITHACAPITAL“J”

By

B.N.Clare



### **LeftistLeanings**

Ever heard of John Maxwell? *The* John Maxwell, I mean. The one who writes for the Jamaica Observer. Oh, I see, you're not in the habit of perusing West Indian newspapers. Well, John Maxwell doesn't know that, or doesn't care. In the past he's been convinced that his writings are threatening enough to the rest of the world that hackers from Israel have "invaded" his computer in order to spy on him. He has written about the Government of the U.S.A.: "These people do not understand the complexities of the world." Mr. John Maxwell, of course, does.

Mr. Maxwell is at the forefront of a movement in Jamaica of the extreme-left pseudo-intelligentsia so much against the latest Iraqi excursion that they have in effect pushed themselves beyond any possible merit-worthy arguments into the deep blue sea of Saddam Hussein support. They are a part of the tide of Third World-wide righteous indignation at the supposed gall of President Bush and his alleged imperial intentions (today Iraq, tomorrow the world!). Of course, we all know what hotbeds of deep thought and high learning the poorest countries of the world are! Men like Mr. Maxwell (yes, there are others) exploit the deep ignorance and illiteracy that runs in the veins of Jamaican society, even up into the middleclass pseudo-educated where "tertiary education" has become the latest catchphrase and status symbol. Everybody now is a pundit. Informed by snippets from CNN and the BBC played on all the local radio stations, and available on cable TV, every other Jamaican thinks of himself as "well informed", enough to eye George Bush and the citizens of America with singular

contempt, and be certain that the invasion of Iraq will result in Armageddon. Their inability to so much as find Iraq on the map is irrelevant.

In spite of the outward display of erudition the core argument for most Jamaicans is very simple: not that Bush is wrong because Saddam Hussein has been proven not have chemical weapons, but that the war will throw the world into chaos i.e. hurt our tourism industry and affect the ability of our relatives abroad to send us money. And, naturally, with Bush-condemnation as a fashion accessory, well, there's that added benefit. It feels good to see eye-to-eye with Justin Timberlake and Martin Sheen on matters of world policy.

### **AlGoreLost**



With Mr. Maxwell and his kind, George Bush was never going to do anything that didn't elicit their scorn. Every single post 9-11 action on America's part to protect itself and root out its enemies has been met with the shrillest whines of outrage, as if the very desire for safety (as long as you're an American) is an outward show of the desire for imperialism. As if America existed for providing us with jobs and soap operas and nothing more. We rave against American bigotry as we crave more people from the Great Satan to come with their greenbacks and lie on our beaches, we lust for American visas so that we can visit legally for two weeks but stay for five or six years. You see, life as an illegal immigrant in the imperial, evil U.S.A. is still better than life in Jamaica. Life without the Great Satan supporting us is intolerable.

The anti-war protests in the Third World, the arguments by simpletons drunk on hundred-proof white rum in Jamaican bars, all by men and women fed on American wheat, informed by American television, wearing American clothes. Every natural disaster, every famine (natural or man-made), every terrorist atrocity, the American media and American aid organizations are there to offer at least as much help as local governments. None of that is remembered now, though. Somehow the fact that Saddam Hussein is considered a war-criminal by even the staunchest of anti-war protestors never actually enters anyone's reasoning, it has been separated, shelved, locked away by the BBC, by Martin Sheen. Somehow by virtue of being opposed by America he now merits a kind of sympathy.

So now one must wonder, might this all not be a part of the contempt that familiarity breeds? Maybe America has been a little too nice, a little too open in showing what democracy and free enterprise can achieve. A little too free in giving help. You give a beggar a dollar and his eye rests not on what is in the proffered palm, but on the wallet that goes back into your pocket.

One wonders, why would anyone hate a benefactor? What could give birth to malevolence so irresponsible and irrational as to suggest that America risk harm to its citizens? What reason could they possibly have but envy?

How soon they forget.



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