



THE POLITICS OF IMAGES IN A MEDIATED ENVIRONMENT

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The imagined community of the West has no place for the islands that were its origin, horizon of self perception, the source of its wealth...Displaced from the main narratives of modernity, the shores that Columbus first stumbled upon now appear only in tourist brochures, or in occasional disaster tales involving hurricanes, boat people, drug barons, dictators or revolutions. Despite its indisputable narrative position at the origin of the plot of Western modernity, history has been edited and the Caribbean left on the cutting room floor' (Mimi Sheller, *Consuming the Caribbean* 2003: 1).

BOMBARDED, OR FLATTERED?

Ask yourself this: did members of the Greatest Generation spend a lot of time talking about where they were and what they did and how they felt when they first heard the news from Pearl Harbor? People certainly remembered the moment, and a few anecdotes got passed around - but did a whole folk genre spontaneously emerge? Did everyone feel compelled to craft a little narrative, starring me, an oft-repeated and inevitably embellished story-for-the-ages reporting on my personal experience of the Event? Or did they just assume that Pearl Harbor and its consequences were what mattered, and talk about that

Thomas De Zengotita, *Mediated* (2005)



It is a politics in which the unproductive (the poor, weak and racially marginalized) are considered useless and therefore expendable; a politics in which entire populations are considered disposable, unnecessary burdens on state coffers, and consigned to fend for themselves. Katrina laid bare what many people in the United States do not want to see: Large numbers of poor black and brown people struggling to make ends meet within a social system that makes it difficult to obtain health insurance, child care, social assistance, savings, and even minimum-wage jobs.

Henry Giroux: 'disposable people'



‘The resilient subject, therefore, is not one which “can conceive of changing the world, its structure and conditions of possibility. But a subject which accepts the disastrousness of the world it lives in as a condition for partaking of that world and which accepts the necessity of the injunction to change itself in correspondence with the threats and dangers now presupposed as endemic.’

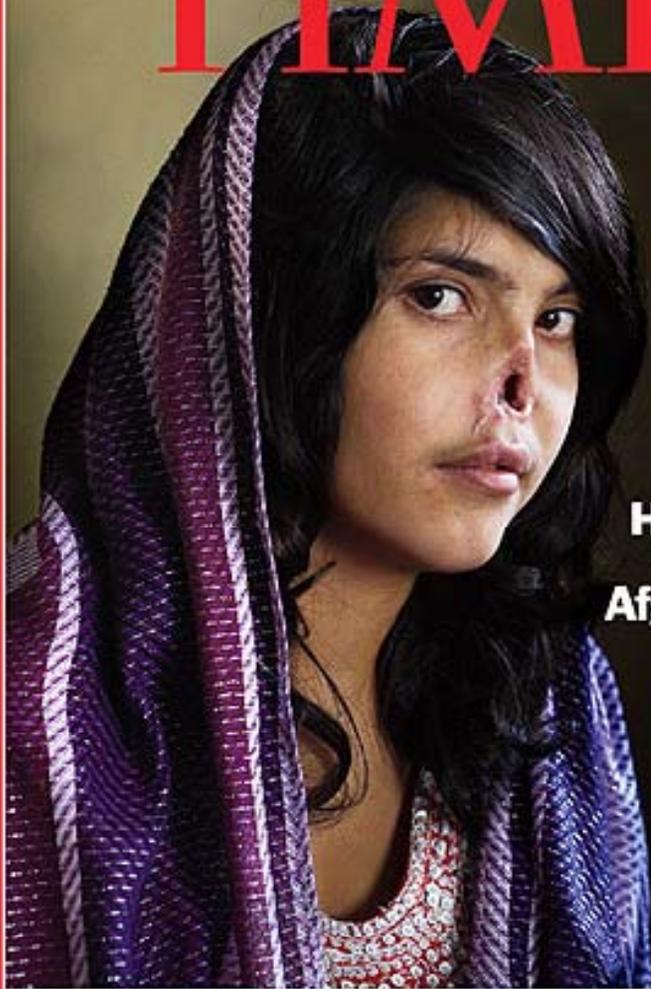
(Julian Reed quoted by Audrey Bryan, ‘From the Soul of Haiti to the Pluck of the Irish: Neoliberalism and the Discourse of Resilience’ 2011)

Photo from SoulofHaiti.ie

AUGUST 9, 2010

Inside: Joe Klein on the challenge in Pakistan

TIME



What Happens if We Leave Afghanistan

BY AILYN BAKER

Aisha, 18, had her nose and ears cut off last year on orders from the Taliban because she fled abusive in-laws.

WWW.TIME.COM

Negative or positive?

Supporting women's rights or exploiting an issue in the cause of war?

Human rights, or imperialism, or both?

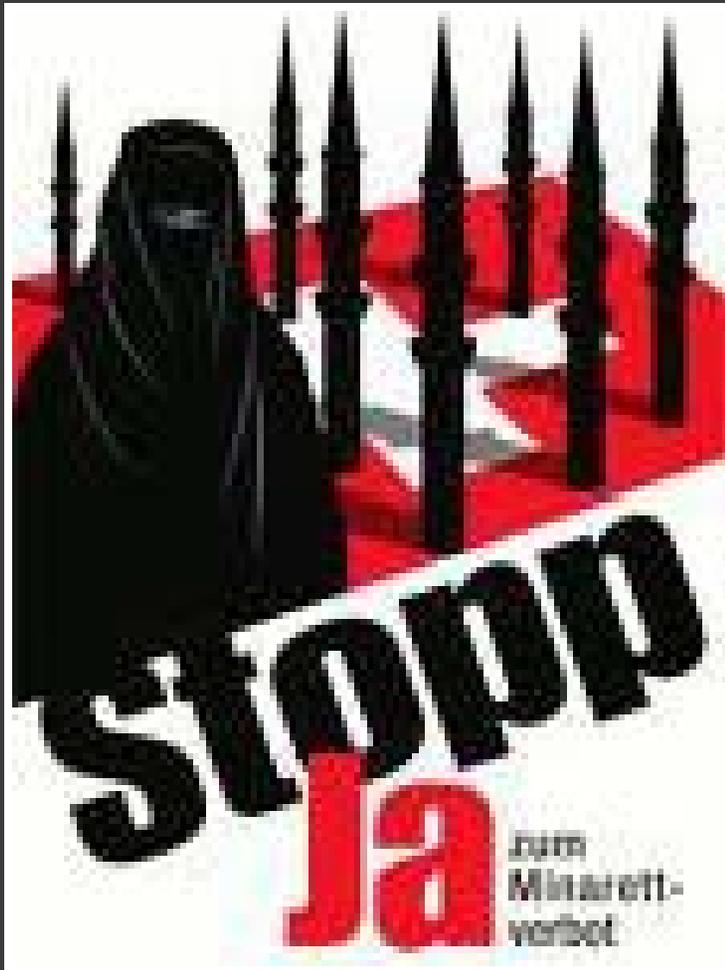
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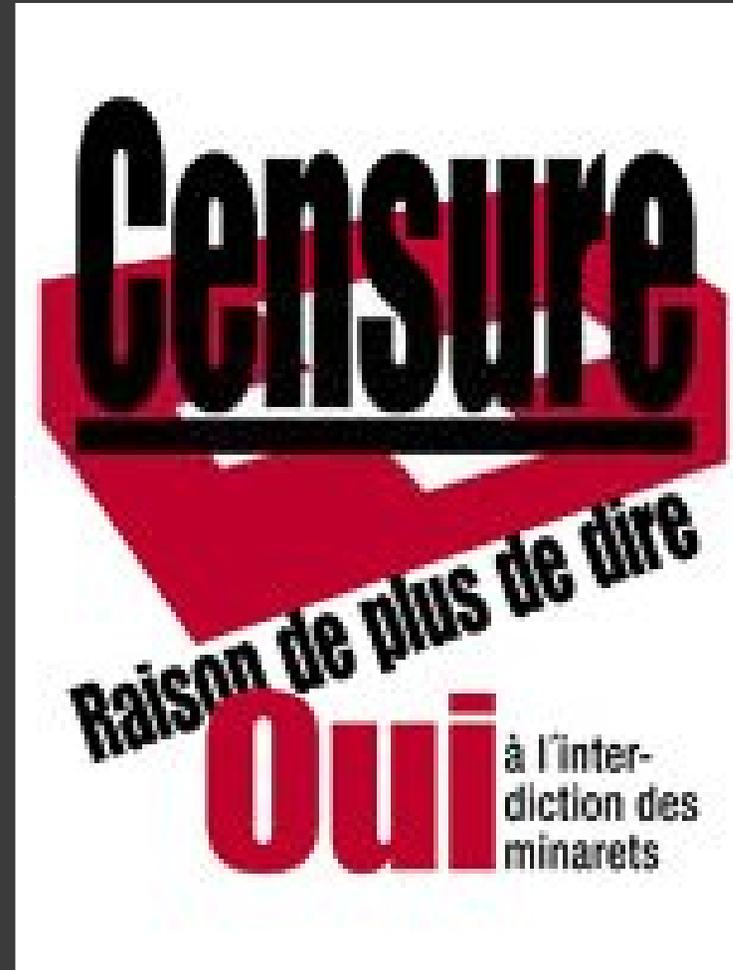
AFTER



Freedom of speech? Racist provocation? Both?



Swiss minaret campaign poster
banned in some Swiss cantons



Poster responding to the
municipal ban