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II. THE FORMAL, STRUCTURAL CONSTITUTION OF APARTHEID MAN AS A HUMAN RIGHTS CRUSADER

The Theory and the practice of linear perspective

People and governments of small countries, particularly in the South, would like to be able to explain what happened to Yugoslavia in 1999, Afghanistan and Iraq in 2003 and to know what to do about it as well as how to stop it from being repeated many times in the future.

Selective conscience has been there for many centuries. In 2000 Pope John Paul invited the Catholic Church to confess its contribution to the cultivation of a selective and discriminatory conscience over the last two thousand years. In the late 1980s some of the white churches of South Africa also apologised for teaching "heresy" over the last three hundred years of racist Christianity and apartheid.

Indeed the Christian Crusades, the Inquisition, the European witch-craze, slavery, colonialism, the holocaust and apartheid have all been justified through the careful cultivation of a selective conscience. What is different now?

The answer is the crisis of capitalism and the desperate, contradictory struggle of those who control this system to deny and minimise the current crisis.

The capitalism of flexible accumulation and the niche economy, the capitalism of the global corporation and the global city "is not the capitalism of the past;" it is a mutation which requires a new name." (Midnight Notes No. 12).

Linear Perspective and Digitalisation as its latest, most lethal form

Just as the contemporary selective conscience it helps to transmit has its ancient roots in slavery, the crusades and colonialism --- the linear perspective of modern digital media also has ancient beginnings (Romanyshyn,1989, 26 - 38).

Patriarchal Euro-American religion, philosophy, science, technology and culture in the last four hundred years have been characterised by linear perspective. The epistemology reflected in Rene Descartes dictum, "I think, therefore I am," is one that leads to solipsism very much like the self-confirming claims of Senator Helms in his address to the Security Council on 20 January 2000: Americans think they are the guarantors of universal human rights, therefore they can never violate human rights.

But what is this linear perspective? It is a way of seeing, knowing and controlling the world, the self and the other which multiplies and exaggerates the power, the sense