

*The following prefacing remarks and introductions were given by elin slavick, UNC Professor of Art, at the Teach-In entitled "Understanding the Attack on America: an Alternative View," held at the UNC-Chapel Hill campus on Sept. 17, 2001.*

Hello and welcome to this Teach-In on Understanding the Attacks on the United States. The organizers of this event would like to start by condemning the violent attacks on New York City and Washington DC and ALL acts of terrorism. We would like to have a moment of silence for the victims of the recent attacks on the United States and for all victims of terrorism and war.

---PAUSE FULL 30 or 60 SECONDS---

I am elin slavick, a Professor in the Art Department. I will moderate this event. We have 7 speakers tonight, people with experience and information to share and we've planned this as a Teach-In, so there will be limited time for questions at the end. Please hold your questions until then. If you have announcements to make about relevant future events, please do so during the Question and Answer period. There are information tables in the back as well.

We recognize this space as non-violent, as a space for education and understanding, for broadening our perspectives and for coming together to share information and opinions. We offer this Teach-In as an alternative to the cries for war, as an attempt to interrupt the cycle of violence and hatred, as a break in the flow of images and reports that increase hostility.

Understanding the Attack on the United States must include an understanding of different kinds of attacks – attacks not only by unknown or suspected terrorists, but attacks by us on ourselves. When there is an attack on a Muslim neighbor in our community, that is an attack on the United States. As Thomas Merton would say, "The weapon with which we would attempt to destroy the enemy would pass through our own heart to reach him." And as Martin Luther King said, "The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Our first speaker is Professor of Anthropology, Catherine Lutz, author of Reading National Geographic and Homefront: A Military City and the American Twentieth Century - an analysis of Fort Bragg and Fayetteville - coming out next month.

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Our next speaker is Stan Goff, a retired Special Forces Master Sergeant and author of Hideous Dream: A Soldier's Memoir of the U.S. Invasion of Haiti.

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Our next speaker and special guest, William Blum, comes to us from Washington DC where he is an investigative journalist. Formerly of the State Department, Blum founded the Washington Free Press and is the author of Killing Hope: U.S. Military and CIA Interventions since World War II and Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower

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Up next is Rania Masri, national board member of Peace Action and co-author of Iraq Under Siege

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Our next speaker is Distinguished Professor of Literature and Latin American Studies at Duke University, Ariel Dorfman. As many of you know, he is the author of Death and the Maiden and Blake's Therapy.

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The next to the last speaker tonight is Sociology Professor Charles Kurzman, who has recently edited a volume titled Liberal Islam.

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Our last speaker tonight is Professor of English Rashmi Varma who specializes in postcolonial literatures from Africa, South Asia and the Caribbean, as well as on international feminisms.

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Now we would like to open this up to questions from the community for our speakers. Please use the 2 mikes placed in the aisles. We will alternate side to side. Please introduce yourself and please be brief.