

CBC's "End of a Dead-end Road" Commentary on Death of Eduardo Galeano

By Grahame Russell, April 14, 2015

Eduardo Galeano, the globally known Uruguayan journalist, writer and activist, died on April 13, 2015. How dismal that Jeff Douglas of CBC's As It Happens focused his one comment about Galeano's life on how the writer supposedly turned his back on his award winning history book, "The Open Veins of America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent."

This distorted mainstream media coverage of Galeano's so-called "disavowal" of his previous views (read Larry Rohter's New York Times piece, May 23, 2014) has been critiqued elsewhere. Over the decades, Galeano often reflected critically about his 1971 "Open Veins of Latin America", as he constantly did about life in general. What a novelty for a journalist or historian.

How demeaning that As It Happens used Galeano's death to take a parting shot at the historical, political perspective set out in "Open Veins of Latin America".

How unfortunate for listeners that Jeff Douglas found nothing to say of Galeano's life of writing and activism, of his moving and widely read books: the "Memory of Fire" trilogy, "Days and Nights of Love and Death", "The Book of Embraces", "Upside Down", "Children of the Days: A Calendar of Human History", "Mirrors: Stories of Almost Everyone", "We Say No: Chronicles 1963-1991", "Soccer in Sun and Shadow", ...

Anyone who pays even minimal attention to Galeano's life knows he continued to write about and motivate people to be fully involved in life -work, play and struggle- to put an end to the human pillaging of other humans and of Mother Earth, to live one's life to create a fair and just world.

"I write trying to recover our real memory, the memory of humankind, what I call the human rainbow, which is much more colorful and beautiful than the other rainbow. But the human rainbow had been mutilated by machismo, racism, militarism and a lot of other isms, who have been terribly killing our greatness, our possible greatness, our possible beauty."

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/04/13/eduardo-galeano-dead-dies_n_7054062.html

In a 2005 interview with Connie Watson of the CBC, Galeano commented that most regimes in Latin America were "at the end of a dead-end road." The As It Happens report on Galeano's death remains there.

Sadly, this is not surprising. The Canadian government, through "free trade" agreements, through open support for recent military coups in Honduras and Haiti, and Canadian mining companies are participating in the on-going pillage of countries in the Americas, perhaps most particularly Honduras, Haiti, Mexico, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Colombia and Peru.

The CBC reports little on this in its coverage of Latin American issues, usually toeing the corporate and government (Conservatives and Liberals) line.

Jeff, don't be a "foolish flame" - help get As It Happens and CBC out from "the end of a dead-end road" in its coverage of Latin American issues. Do some, umm, research! Start with the books mentioned above. View Democracy Now's April 14, 2015, coverage (<http://www.democracynow.org/>).

Thank-you Eduardo Galeano, you shine in fire ...

***"The World.** A man from the town of Negua, on the coast of Colombia, could climb into the sky. On his return, he described his trip. He told how he had contemplated human life from on high. He said we are a sea of tiny flames. Each person shines with his or her own light. No two flames are alike. There are big flames and little flames, flames of every colour. Some people's flames are so still, they don't even flicker in the wind while others have wild flames that fill the air with sparks. Some foolish flames neither burn nor shed light but others blaze with life so fiercely that you can't look at them without blinking and if you approach, you shine in fire." (Book of Embraces)*

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