



Commentary and Review The following featured comments are from individuals who have signed the Engage statement speaking to their view of Bob Avakian's work and what it has provoked in their own thinking.

From Cornel West, Professor of Religion, Princeton University* on From Ike to Mao and Beyond "Bob Avakian is a long distance runner in the freedom struggle against imperialism, racism and capitalism. His voice and witness are indispensable in our efforts to enhance the wretched of the earth. And his powerful story of commitment is timely."

From Fr. Daniel Berrigan on why he's added his name to the Engage statement, "Dangerous times demand courageous voices. Bob Avakian is such a voice:" "In reading Bob Avakian's memoir, From Ike to Mao and Beyond, I felt very attuned to Bob in what we're both seeking – a decent international order that takes into account the poor at the edge of life, resists domination and war, and an end to the prospering of the few at the expense of many."

From Harry J. Lennix, actor, instructor "In a time where we see many of our most precious freedoms threatened, and no convincing voice from either major party speaking on our behalf, it is reassuring to know that irrespective of labels we have advocates like Bob Avakian who is speaking on behalf of the people. There is certainly no more American precept than this."

From Henry Silverman Prof. and Chairperson Emeritus, Dept. of History, Michigan State Univ.* on why he signed the Engage! statement.

"First, I am a free speech fanatic; second, I followed some of his writing in Revolution and, while I am not a Marxist, found it worthwhile. I also think it's a good statement."

From Hal Perry, former basketball player on listening to the talk "The NBA: Marketing The Minstrel Show and Serving the Big Gangsters" by Bob Avakian: "That's right, he's good, that's fantastic, ooh boy, that's a powerful statement," these were some of the things I said while listening to the talk by Bob Avakian, "The NBA- Marketing the Minstrel Show and Serving the Big Gangsters." I really appreciated hearing this talk. Everything he's saying about sports, I lived through it. While listening to Part 1 of the talk, I couldn't believe how deeply and accurately Bob Avakian described everything."

From Reverend Earl Kooperkamp, Pastor, St. Mary's Church*, Harlem, NYC on Revolution: Why It's Necessary? Why It's Possible? What It's All About

"In times like these, this clear voice for social change is a welcome relief from all the confusion and lies. Listen, and you will truly hear a voice of reason, with sharp analysis and deep understanding, going up against the tide of injustice and oppression. Of crucial importance is the fearless opposition to the rise of the Christian right and its pernicious effect on the political and cultural life in this country. While you might not agree with everything he says, he will challenge you with his insights and a clarion call to what must be done."

From Wil-Dog, Jiro and Uli from Ozomatli on Revolution: Why It's Necessary? Why It's Possible? What It's All About

"Just like landmark art work or historically seminal music Bob Avakian's delivery and timing is truly inspiring. The only thing more inspiring is the vision and message he presents to us. Avakian is a revolutionary leader whose voice must be heard far and wide today." [Wil-Dog, Jiro and Uli from Ozomatli]

*for identification only