

## Vietnam lesson unlearned

Three points need to be made regarding Timothy Ashby's Feb. 27 article in favor of giving \$100 million in unrestricted aid to the FDN "Contras" fighting against the government of Nicaragua:

First, by referring to the Contras only as "freedom fighters," Ashby obscures the well-documented fact that the Contras are led and controlled by brutal ex-Somoza guardsmen, who, according to disaffected former FDN director Edgar Chamorro, "talk mostly of recovering their lost wealth and privileged status." Chamorro is no friend of the Sandinistas.

Second, by writing as if Central American revolutions are solely the result of "Soviet expansionism," Ashby obscures the fact these revolutions arise from the decades of misery and exploitation suffered by Central America's poor under the U.S.-dominated "free enterprise" system.

Finally, by focusing only on the violent, military response to these revolutions, and the governments which they sometimes produce, Ashby shows his preference for killing those who finally rebel against the source of their misery, instead of working toward social and political environments which would make revolution unnecessary.

It is obvious that Ashby has not learned the lesson of Vietnam.

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