

From an Editor...

Dying for Recognition

By *Nicholas Allanach*

Is a concept more significant than life? Definitely. Why else would so many march to their graves for a belief or ideology? Of course, this logic often regrettably legitimizes violence as justified in maintaining a system's power and historical supremacy. The concept of today, this issue, and arguably "Universal History" itself is liberal democracy and how it can be achieved. Democracy is not isolated, innocent, or even absolute: make no mistake, it too spills blood to be universally and reciprocally recognized by all. But why: shouldn't democracy be about leading through example instead of by force? Furthermore, why is democracy so essential? Is it worth the lives it sacrifices for recognition?

As this issue illustrates, our understanding of democracy tends to revolve around the American system. No doubt, the highly charged 2004 presidential election and current attitude of democracy being the "only" solution to terrorism, has had some clout in influencing our focus. Moreover, many of us are deeply concerned that American exceptionalism is not only erratic and destructive to an increasingly interconnected global system, but ironically —democracy itself. Thus, it is our hope that this issue will inspire critical and constructive dialogue of American democratic policies. We also recognize that although November 2nd may circumvent the irrational stubborn arrogance of America's current political discourse -it will not solve the most crucial problems facing democracy. In fact, November 2nd will only be a first, and necessary step democracy must take in reclaiming its legitimacy.

Admittedly, the issues threatening liberal democracy are ones the United States has created through its own volition. On some level, this might be why America is so adamant about locating problems offshore, so

