

(2023 January 26) Michael Gold, Red Scare Victim - Taylor Dorrell (JSTOR Daily)

"While critics promote the idea that Communists were ineffective politically, the FBI had their hands full stifling the rise of the Communist Party USA and their influence on progressive politics.

Gold advocated for civil rights, labor power, and a more democratic society—ideals anathema to the United States government during the Cold War. The critics appear to prefer literature that ignores the material realities of society and focuses solely on the subjectivity of the individual. That is, the antithesis of Mike Gold. . . .

Edmund Wilson sided with Gold in 1932, arguing that 'nine-tenths of our writers would be much better off writing propaganda for Communism than doing what they are at present: that is, writing propaganda for capitalism under the impression that they are liberals or disinterested minds.'"

- Taylor Dorrell

[Editorial aside: My first awareness of Mike Gold came as I was studying Ezra Pound's economic theories while writing my Pound Laundry. Pound was an untiring advocate of the monetarist Social Credit theory as were other American writers like William Carlos Williams, Dorothy Day and Gorham Munson. Pound had a lively exchange of letters with Gold, who found found social credit close enough to socialist economics to include some of Pound's writing on the topic in the first issue of New Masses, though their chumminess soon ended when Pound's praise of Mussolini became a little too much for Gold to tolerate.

For more on Gold, Pound and Social Credit:

<https://www.thenation.com/article/culture/michael-gold-peoples-writer/>

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_credit#:~:text=Social%20Credit%20elevates%20the%20importance,exist%20to%20serve%20the%20State.

<https://cryptonews.com/exclusives/the-economics-of-the-poet-ezra-pound-what-is-money-for-9073.htm#:~:text=According%20to%20Pound%2C%20a%20nation's,direct%20proportion%20to%20one%20another.>