

CHALLENGE



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Only Revolution, Not Voting, Can End Capitalism's Racism, War and Unemployment



Multi-racial worker-student solidarity at New York City's Zucotti Park.

NEW YORK CITY, October 17 — Occupy Wall Street (OWS), spreading across the U.S. and worldwide, holds both promise and danger for the working class. It's now clear that large numbers are seeking an end to the profit system's misery and injustice. At the same time, Obama and union misleaders are embracing this protest for their own reasons. For the capitalists, OWS represents yet another ruling class effort to funnel workers' anger down the dead-end road of reforming capitalism, especially through electoral politics (see page 2).

The good news is that many in the movement's growing ranks reject the patriotic goals of the "one-percenters." On a subway headed to Wall Street, a rider asked, "Are you going to the protest? I'm with you. Your banner says 'Fight for communism'? I'm not so sure about that, but it sure is true the current system is failing. Stronger regulation of capitalism won't work. We need to learn from the mistakes of past communist movements because a revolu-

tion is what's needed. Okay, I'll read this paper."

When this kind of political discussion breaks out between strangers on a train, it's a sign that things are changing. The growth of OWS is driven by a profound frustration with capitalism's inability to provide a decent future for the broad masses of workers. In the face of repeated police repression, brave demonstrators have taken to the streets of New York. More important, many are open to communist ideas and to having the Progressive Labor Party participate in their movement.

On the October 15-16 weekend, as PL members chanted some slogans — "It's not just Wall Street, it's capitalism"; "The 99% needs revolution, not reform"; "The 99% need communism" — they were met with near-universal agreement. More than 500 PL leaflets were distributed among protesters and others who came to Zucotti Park to check things out. Friends of PL have been critical in helping spread the communist message, an important step forward toward real change.

U.S. Flag A Banner for Imperialist War

Previously, a larger group of PL'ers, including several youth, had met with a similarly positive response, but they also encountered the dangerous patriotic ideology — the bosses' ideology — that has infiltrated the movement. A protester holding high a large U.S. flag took issue with a Party banner that read, "Fight for Communism, Join PLP." A lively exchange ensued in which we attacked his flag and defended our banner as being more in tune with the future that protesters were demanding and deserved. Others gravitated to the debate, and several political discussions spun off.

Attacking the U.S. flag as the flag of imperialist war, the most hated banner in the world, brought out pointed disagreement. Attacking the U.S. Constitution as a slave-owners' document provoked other sharp exchanges. But through it all, a friendly tone of struggle won most people, some of them initially hostile, to weigh our message against their assumptions. We will continue participating in even larger numbers.

Opportunistic Democratic politicians and their union boss allies are striving to subvert OWS into re-electing war-maker Obama. "[A] consensus is emerging among Democrats that the 'Occupy' movement is worth tapping into, even helping along and joining with in some instances" (ABC News,

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10/10/11). "I support the message to the establishment," House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said on ABC's "This Week" (10/9/11). "Change has to happen." Labor hacks from the AFL-CIO to AFSCME to the SEIU are lending huge financial support. SEIU boss Mary Kay Healy found "incredible inspiration" in OWS ("The Hill," 10/15/11).

But meanwhile, these union sellouts do absolutely nothing to fight the layoffs of 660 NYC school aides and other low-paid workers, the 99 per-center victims of the one per-centers' crisis. Goldman Sachs' brokers stole \$15 billion in bonuses while billionaire NYC Mayor Bloomberg can't find the money to keep these \$14-an-hour school staffers on the job. As leaders from the United Federation of Teachers spout their lip-service support for OWS, they make not a peep as workers are



thrown out of their classrooms and their jobs. Why this seeming contradiction? These union leaders are in the hip pockets of the one percent.

Rulers' Shill Jesse Jackson Tells OWS'ers, 'Don't Fight'

The liberal phonies are making a special push to corral black workers in OWS — the ones hit hardest by the racist New Depression — away from meaningful, militant action and into futile voting. One-time Democratic White House candidate Jesse Jackson urged them to "maintain your disciplined focus, your peaceful nonviolent approach to protest and demand change. In the end, we will win" (Rainbow/Push website, 10/11/11). The "we" Jackson refers to is the U.S. ruling class, which has called his tune from the start of his public life. Back in 1978, the Rockefeller brothers anointed Jackson as their dutiful servant with their "Public Service" award.

Capitalist Press Clouds Billionaire Soros's OWS Role

Although U.S. imperialists don't yet control OWS as they would like, they most certainly helped spark it. The first call to "occupy Wall Street" came this past summer from an online magazine called Adbusters, a beneficiary of the San Francisco-based Tides Foundation, whose biggest sugar daddy is none other than billionaire U.S. imperialist George Soros.

The ruling-class media's bizarre treatment of this link suggests just how much they want to conceal it. At 11:09 AM on October 13, mainstream Reuters' coverage led with, "Anti-Wall Street protesters say the rich are getting richer while average Americans suffer, but the group that started it all may have benefited indirectly from the largesse of one of the world's richest men." By 5:25 PM, Reuters had changed the same article to begin, "George Soros isn't a financial backer of the Wall Street protests, despite speculation by critics...." At 6:45 PM, Reuters had the original opener followed by a disclaimer from Soros & Co. In the face of the money-trail facts, liberal rulers spin the lie that only right-wing lunatics see an OWS-Soros tie.

Bankers Provide 'People's Park' as Protest Site

Zuccotti Park, the demonstrators' New York base, did not fall from the sky. "People have a right to protest, and if they want to protest, we'll be happy to make sure they have locations to do it," NYC mayor Mike Bloomberg told a September 16 press conference. He obliged with a private park owned by Brookfield Properties, property agents for Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, among others. The mayor's lady-friend, Diana Taylor, serves on Brookfield's board. Brookfield head honcho John Zuccotti, the Park's owner, once ran the big-bank-loving Downtown Lower Manhattan Association founded by David

Rockefeller.

The grip on OWS of reforming capitalism is growing stronger. On the Sunday morning TV talk shows, an OWS representative blasted "shared sacrifice," saying the "working class" had already given enough. When the news anchor pressed for a "political strategy," his reply was, "We won't say for whom but we want all the allies of our movement to vote."

Clearly the liberal rulers have a plan: they want to make OWS the beginning of Obama's 2012 election campaign. "We are the 99%" is within the scope of Obama's "tax-the-rich" strategy to more fully fund and popularize imperialist war. Black volunteers from the Democratic Party were canvassing for Obama's phony jobs bill.

But this movement is also a direct result of frustration with the failures of voting. OWS resonates because elections have flopped. This disdain for ruling-class politics is good. But there's a long way to go. There was little sense of mass anger at the police. The mix of counter-cultural, religious, absurdist and reformist politics lends the scene something of a carnival atmosphere. Passers-by are looking for answers. The absence of anti-racist politics is evident, but the crowds are not all white, at least not in Manhattan.

Real Grievances Could Drive OWS Beyond Bosses' Grip

The sheer mass of protesters, and their increasingly working-class background, may nevertheless upset the rulers' scenario. At first the media focused on frustrated, mostly white, college grads with suffocating tuition loans. But then multi-racial representatives of the more than 30 million unemployed and under-employed workers starting showing up. That's when Jesse Jackson felt the need to chime in. The calming post-World War II U.S. social contract — a steady job, a house, college for the kids, and a pension — lies in ruins. Black workers gained it only briefly after fierce fights in the 1960s and 1970s and were the first to lose it.

OWS's originators claim inspiration from Egypt's Tahrir Square activists. But what did they win, without communist politics or leadership? The new cabal of military rulers Tahrir Square eased into power recently slaughtered dozens of unarmed Christian opponents. And OWS leaders' supposed savior Obama had his Africa Military Command send troops into Uganda, South Sudan, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Power of the Working Class Is Crucial

OWS must spread to support strikers on picket lines and into schools and workplaces through anti-racist sit-ins and job actions in solidarity with OWS. The scope of OWS must be enlarged to oppose U.S. rulers' oil wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan which will further improve the conditions for the spread of communist revolutionary ideas. It would make the movement overall more difficult for the ruling-class liberals to hijack and turn into yet another tool of imperialism.

What we do now to organize workers — the class that produces all the value that the 1% steals as profit and who more and more recognize capitalism's failures — will significantly advance revolution for workers' power. In participating in OWS, Progressive Labor Party can expose the capitalists trying to steer it, and win rank-and-file protesters to the long, hard struggle for communist revolution. ☸

OUR FIGHT

★ **Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.**

★ **Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.**

★ **Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.**

★ **While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.**

★ **Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. Everyone will share in society's benefits and burdens.**

★ **Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, Latino, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.**

★ **Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.**

★ **Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.**

★ **Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.**

★ **Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!**

PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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Why Articles Are Not Signed

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual. While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

Protest Nazi Killing Machine at Chicago Hospital

CHICAGO, October 13 — Students, hospital workers, and patients' family members gathered in the rain in front of Stroger Hospital of Cook County this morning to denounce the institutionalized murder of ventilator-dependent patients. "Does a system that kills its weak to save money deserve to exist? No, it does not," one speaker said.

As public hospitals like Oak Forest Hospital (OFH) are being shut down here, the bosses have trained their sights on the last remaining patients — those too sick and dependent to escape on their own — transferring these patients to poorly-staffed, for-profit nursing homes.

In early September, Michael Yanul, a 58-year-old ventilator patient with muscular dystrophy, who had lived at OFH for 17 years, was forced to

move. At a nursing home called Oak Lawn Respiratory and Rehab, Michael only survived three weeks before succumbing to pneumonia.

According to the national ratings Web site *nursinghomerating.org*, this 143-bed facility has an overall rating of one out of five stars. They have "widespread administrative deficiencies" and show a "pattern of quality-care deficiencies." Among short-stay residents at that nursing home, 34% have bedsores and fewer than half received flu vaccine.

Another one of the long-term ventilator patients from OFH, David Moreno, 34, is particularly concerned about what happened to his former friend. Michael lived down the hall from David on the OFH vent unit. David suffered paralysis from a spinal cord injury 12 years ago and, like Michael, cannot breathe without a machine.

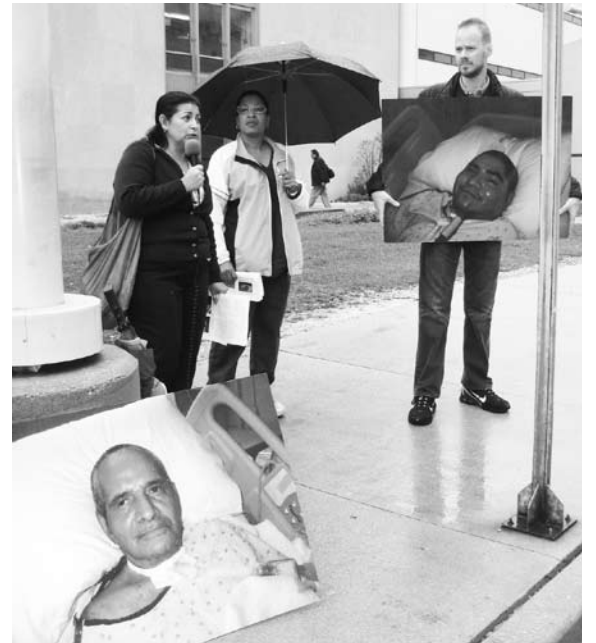
After OFH closed on September 2, he was moved to the Coronary ICU at Stroger Hospital until a long-term placement could be arranged. His social worker told him that the hospital administration plans to move him to Oak Lawn Respiratory and Rehab, where Michael died last month. "I'm scared of going to that place," he said in a recent interview.

By attacking the most vulnerable patients first, the bosses expect to desensitize workers and prepare the way for more murderous attacks. The Nazi Holocaust began as coordinated, hospital-based murders of physically and mentally handicapped patients (see box).

We distributed CHALLENGE and passed out flyers to patients and workers arriving for the morning shift, exposing the hospital administration's plans to kill off the few remaining ventilator-dependent patients through deliberate decisions that result in completely predictable deaths.

Their calculations are straightforward. It costs nearly \$3,000 a day to keep a patient on a respirator in the ICU. It costs about \$2,000 in a high-quality long-term vent unit. It costs about \$500 a day at the death-trap nursing home. In a year the administration can save enough to pay the salary of the new CEO, about \$550,000.

Our picket line featured large photographs of three OFH vent patients, Michael, David and one other survivor, Posey Conley. Their large images looking directly at passers-by made a stark contrast to the cold financial calculations that adminis-



Protesters Expose Capitalist Medicine.

trators were making to sacrifice their lives for the budget.

Several nurses, technicians and other hospital workers came out for our actions even though they had never been to a protest before. They helped pass out flyers and chanted. They didn't lose confidence even when the hospital police harassed us and threatened protestors with arrest. Eventually we moved about 40 yards away from the front door and resumed our picket. The husband of a patient joined the picket line. He grabbed the bullhorn in a spirited defense of his wife and every other patient who depends on public medical services, asking "This could happen to anyone — Who's next?"

We collected names of new contacts and deepened our relationships with friends in this little skirmish. For years we have been talking about the development of fascism in society at large and in medicine in particular. Today it is right in front of us and we confronted it squarely. We made some modest gains; this fight is far from over. All workers' lives are precious to our class. But none of our lives mean anything to the billionaires unless we can be used to make them richer. Their murderous system must be destroyed if workers are to live. ☺

Hitler's 'Euthanasia': Medical Murder

The Nazi "Euthanasia" Program, 1939-1944

The gas chambers and other mass killing techniques that the Nazis eventually used to kill millions of Jews and others were developed on Germans living in chronic-care public hospitals.

Dr. Leo Alexander, a Boston neurologist and psychiatrist, was called as a special expert witness to testify before the Nuremberg tribunal investigating the actions of German physicians during World War II. In 1949 he published a summary of his testimony in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM). He described how the most advanced medical profession in the world was transformed into an appendage of the militarized state, how it lost touch with its mission to care for the sick and infirm. Embracing the politics of the day with patriotic fervor, doctors and other health professionals actively organized a program that was referred to as euthanasia.

In the opening paragraph of his NEJM article, Dr Alexander describes "a rapid decline in standards of professional ethics. Medical science in Nazi Germany collaborated ... in the following enterprises: the mass extermination of the chronically sick in the interest of saving 'useless' expenses to the community as a whole; [and] the mass extermination of those considered socially disturbing or racially and ideologically unwanted..."

He goes on to describe the system: "The decision regarding which patients should be killed was made entirely on the basis of [limited] information by expert consultants.... These consultants never saw the patients themselves. ...[Q]uestionnaires were collected by a 'Realm's Work Committee of Institutions for Cure and Care.' ... The 'Charitable Transport Company for the Sick' transported patients to the killing centers, and the 'Charitable Foundation for Institutional Care' was in charge of collecting the cost of the killings from the relatives, without, however, informing them what the charges were for; in the death certificates the cause of death was falsified."

When Cook County arranges transportation of undocumented patients to home countries where we know they will not receive the treatments that are keeping them alive, that policy should be referred to as administrative euthanasia. When patients on ventilators are forced to move to nursing homes with none of the resources or expertise needed to care for them properly and a track record of extremely high mortality, that, too, should be labeled administrative euthanasia.

Dr. Alexander concluded, "Whatever proportions these crimes finally assumed, it became evident to all who investigated them that they had started from small beginnings. The beginnings at first were merely a subtle shift in emphasis in the basic attitude of the physicians. It started with the acceptance of the attitude, basic in the euthanasia movement, that there is such a thing as life not worthy to be lived."

Expose 'Dream Act' Nightmare Anti-Racists Blast Fascists At Liberal NPR 'Forum'

Recently, "liberal" National Public Radio's "Fronteras" program staged a "town hall" in Texas to discuss the DREAM Act, a proposed law to allow immigrant youth without papers to stay in the U.S. and go to college or join the military. The composition of the panel and the conduct of the event showed that the purpose was to promote racism and fascism. Anti-racist students from local colleges came to confront this panel.

In preparation, we passed out a leaflet on our campus and at the town hall that criticized the DREAM Act as a tool to force immigrant youth into the military. It exposed the composition of the panel: Lt. General Ricardo Sanchez, who had approved the torture at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison and is now running as a Democratic candidate for the Senate; a member of the racist, vigilante Minutemen/Border Watch; George Rodriguez, the head of a regional "Tea Party" organization; as well as an immigrant student and an immigration lawyer.

We called on students, teachers and workers to unite as one working class to "smash all borders and the capitalist profit system." On the day of the event, we brought signs with slogans like "Workers' Struggles Know No Borders."

As the event opened, the moderator, who had

selected the panelists, gave each a few minutes to speak. None of the liberals took a critical approach to the Dream Act. In defending youth who were "illegal through no fault of their own" and who could "contribute" to U.S. society, they demonized undocumented parents as "law-breakers."

When pressed by a college student, General Sanchez reluctantly admitted that the DREAM Act would force people into the military since "dreamer" students would not be allowed federal financial aid for college or work permits. But, he continued, this was good for the military since immigrant soldiers were more likely than citizens to complete their service "honorably."

Neither of the open racists addressed the DREAM Act. Each repeatedly called for more deportations and more militarization of the border. As the Tea Party's Rodriguez ranted that the "illegality" of immigrants came before immigration reform, the crowd broke their silence with boos and hisses and calls of "YOU ARE A RACIST!"

The majority in the audience were anti-racists, including pro-Dream Act activists from local col-

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Mexico: Marchers Honor Historic 1968 Anti-Government Struggle

MEXICO CITY, October 2 — Thousands of students, teachers, and workers participated in massive marches to honor the memory and struggles of the 1968 anti-government protests. The Party participated in the marches in Mexico City and in Oaxaca, distributing hundreds of flyers and putting forward its communist politics.

The marches were marked by the strong presence of youth and it was heartening to see that women led the groups coming from rural schools. We face the great challenge of helping those young people abandon the reform struggles to join the fight for an egalitarian society, communism. The massive police presence indicated that the repression experienced in '68 will remain a threat as long as the same oppressive class is in power.

Students, organized in the National Strike Council, mobilized close to a million and a half people. One of their essential demands was to abolish the repressive state apparatus and the laws that supported it.

On October 2, 1968, a peaceful demonstration of several thousand students and workers were violently repressed. The business and financial oligarchy, represented by President Diaz Ordaz and the Governing Secretary Luis Echeverría, ordered the military, the police, and paramilitary groups to murder hundreds of protesters. When the demonstrators realized there wasn't a legislative way to achieve the reforms they sought, many of those youth joined the guerrilla struggles of the 1970s.

By and large, the media distorted the truth about the movement, making it evident that they were just tools of the ruling class. Print media and television promote, to this day, the criminal idea that one should not protest, because "nothing ever changes." But the historical struggles of '68 demonstrate that workers' aspirations for freedom can only be accomplished if we change the social and economic system in which we live. That was one of its more important contributions.

Thousand of students, who were part of the movement in '68, found organization and inspiration in the communist movement of those days. Militant left-wing organizations were part of the leadership. Capitalism was still expanding then. However students and workers participated in great popular movements around the world.

Currently, the essential demands of 1968 are still relevant, because power remains in the hands of the social

class that massacred those protesters. If we workers don't take power we achieve nothing. Eventually, the system takes back all the reforms that we win. Even if we manage to take power away from the bourgeoisie, we must also eliminate capitalist ideas and practices, to prevent what happened in the Soviet Union, where, by maintaining wages and commodity production it created the basis for capitalism to return. Reforming the system won't work; it has to be destroyed.

One of the motivators of the struggles of '68 was the defense of university autonomy. Currently, UNAM (Autonomous National University of Mexico) authorities are trying to create a climate of intimidation to extend the same police control affecting the country over university installations.

The restrictions that the movement of '68 forced on the repressive state apparatus and in favor of freedom of expression were lost in a couple of years during Calderon's government. "Democracy" is only one face of the capitalist political system; fascism is always latent as the other violent and repressive side. For this reason, capitalism doesn't work for the workers and must be abolished through revolutionary struggle.

During the last sixty years the police and military apparatus has been fortified; the so-called freedoms won in '68 and in other struggles, have been reduced due to the strict ideological control that the media, education, and culture exert over the working class. The emergence of mass movements such the UNAM Students Strike, the Zapatistas, Atenco, and Oaxaca never moved beyond the context of capitalist bourgeois legality and eventually were undermined or co-opted by the ruling class. Nevertheless, the potential for rebellions still remains; to make it a reality we must develop a revolutionary organization capable of guiding the working class towards state power. Only a communist party can fulfill that role, which we are building in the PLP.

The movement showed the unity and solidarity of workers in Mexico and around the world against the falsehoods promoted by the government that we are passive and self-centered. There is a potential to struggle and to live in a free and just collectivist society. Workers and student will turn this potential into a reality.☺

Join Progressive Labor Party!

Mexico: Summer Project Reveals Workers' Class Hatred

This summer I participated in the PL Summer Project in Mexico.

The Party in Mexico was welcoming with a warm mix of comrades. They are factory workers, homemakers, teachers, professionals and unemployed workers. They are all bound together by the same force which brought me to Mexico — the desire to replace capitalism with a society that truly answers human needs.

Whatever weaknesses existed, however, pale in comparison to their enormous strengths. They are firmly grounded in the working class. They are not armchair intellectuals or phony revolutionaries. They all work hard in the difficult daily existence that is life under capitalism in Mexico, and they have grown stronger in the face of anti-working-class attacks, daily drug gang and state violence, and even the disgusting attempt by some turncoats to split our party.

We had dozens of meetings and visits with friendly and generous colleagues and friends. We would enter a home to visit a single person, usually a male worker, but instead entire families were involved in the conversations. Despite the sexism that exists in Mexico, the worker ALWAYS insisted his wife and children join the conversation.

One meeting stands out in my mind, even now. In the living room of one comrade, the Summer Project volunteers and a group of workers from his factory were discussing communist ideas and their willingness to help the Party and distribute CHALLENGE. A young workers related a story about how a fellow worker was severely injured in an industrial incident. (I refuse to call it an "accident" since it was a direct result of the blood-

sucking bosses' neglect and contempt for the people who make him wealthy) This young worker had fury in his eyes and wanted nothing better than to kill his boss. Our comrade — his colleague from work — calmly explained how killing just one boss would do no good, that we need to distribute CHALLENGE and organize to eventually get rid of all those bosses.

This moment demonstrated the possibilities for our Party in Mexico. The class hatred this young worker showed is a force that we need to embrace and organize with. Our comrades in Mexico clearly have the potential to use it for the good of the world's working classes. I feel strengthened by it, and look forward to taking it back to my own organizing.

A traveling reader



Anti-Racists Blast Fascists

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leges and a large group of Latino high school students. During the Question-and-Answer segment, speakers challenged the Minuteman/Tea Party positions. A high school student denounced the term "illegal alien" as dehumanizing and racist. A teacher asked the Minuteman if he would have "teachers perform the duties of ICE agents?" and if he would deport students attending the forum. His reply was "yes," teachers should be required to turn in "illegal" students and that he would deport youth without papers "in a heartbeat."

As the crowd began to boo, the Tea Party's Rodriguez chimed in to attack teachers for spreading "liberal ideas." When the teacher called out the Minutemen/Tea Party as "Nazis," the audience responded with cheers and applause.

The next speaker, an activist from Veterans for Peace, continued the theme by asking the panelists if they were familiar with Kristallnacht [the 1938 event when the Nazis attacked Jewish homes and began expelling foreign-born residents of Germany]. At this point the moderator, who had allowed the Tea Party far more opportunity to spew its racist anti-immigrant filth but had repeatedly tried to silence anti-racist comment, adjourned the forum.

The meeting ended with a chant of "DREAM Act Now." Despite the good reception of our leaflet and our success in exposing the Dream Act as a racist military draft, we had limited influence over the chanting. Instead the overt racism of the Tea Party made support of the DREAM Act seem the "lesser of two evils." Liberal NPR had used Tea-Party racism to build support for an anti-working-class piece of immigration reform.

But we have real opportunities to stretch these limits.

As people left the meeting room, Minutemen threatened the out-spoken teacher and a high school student. Students rallied to their defense. They took our signs and joined us in chanting "Minutemen, Nazis, KKK — Racist, Fascist go away!" The police quickly rescued the racists from the anger of the students. Since then, the Tea Party/Minutemen have launched an attack on the teacher, bombarding his school with calls and e-mail demanding his firing. Their demands have been publicized on the internet and in the local and national press. While the school system has so far refused to fire the teacher, no one should count on this.

We are developing a plan of action to continue the struggle against racism on our campus and to build support for the teacher and his students among our neighbors, coworkers and fellow students. Attacks against immigrants have intensified since the town-hall event, revealing the necessity of anti-racist, communist politics. We will continue to follow up with our friends and strengthen our contacts so that next time we can shut them down.

Friends in Texas

Need to Occupy Plants, Union Halls

GM, Ford, Union Hacks Agree On Low Wages, Big Profits

DETROIT, MI., October 19 — While the International UAW leadership was drumming up support for the Occupy Wall Street (OWS) protests, they were also signing new four-year agreements with GM, Ford and Chrysler, the first since the federal bailout and bankruptcies of GM and Chrysler in 2009. These new contracts show that the “progressive” union leaders share the rulers’ vision of a low-wage, highly productive workforce that will keep the profits flowing from the GM Building to Wall St.

GM made more than \$1 billion in profit last year and Ford about \$4 billion. The new contracts continue the wage freeze of senior workers that began in 2005. Instead, there is a series of signing bonuses and lump-sum payments (as high as \$16,000 to senior Ford workers, at least 50 percent less at GM and Chrysler) that do not go into our base pay or begin to make up the concessions taken from us. For new second-tier workers, base pay could rise by \$4/hr. over the life of the Ford contract, but there is no bridge from the second tier to the first. There is no increase in the pension and the retirees’ Christmas bonus has been ended.

‘Improve Competitiveness’ on Workers’ Backs

John Fleming, Ford’s head of global manufacturing and labor affairs, said the new deal “will continue to improve our competitiveness...” Harley Shaiken, a labor professor at the University of California, Berkeley said the union tried to win bonuses and new jobs without creating additional costs.

In fact, overall labor costs could go down. GM and Ford are reopening a few plants and bringing more work to some others, promising as many as 12-15,000 new jobs, all at the lower-wage sec-

ond tier. At the same time they are starting a new round of buyouts of senior workers. Now, second-tier workers are about 5% of the total workforce. By 2015 they could be as much as 20%. And in the industry as a whole, including the transnational assembly plants and the hundreds of supplier plants, probably two-thirds of the industry is at or below the GM, Ford and Chrysler second tier.

The UAW’s efforts to keep the Detroit Big Three “more competitive” has turned the U.S. into one of the low-wage, non-union centers of the international auto industry. And any promise of new jobs at any wage assumes the economy doesn’t crash again, taking the auto industry with it.

Forty Percent Say ‘No!’

The contracts are not going down easy with the workers. More than a third of the 40,000 GM workers voted to reject the deal and workers at the Ford Assembly and Stamping plants in Chicago turned the deal down by almost 80%. These are both older and newer workers whose communities have been ravaged by racist unemployment and cutbacks. They want to fight the rulers, not serve them.

Then the union hacks pressured the workers at two Kentucky plants to approve Ford’s new offer which resulted in overall ratification on October 18. Forty percent of the total vote rejected it.

The bosses and union leaders got their contracts this time, but as OWS and the high “No” vote indicate, the class struggle is heating up. This means a greater opening to win auto and other industrial workers to the revolutionary communist PLP. We will be up to the challenge.☺

Obama Breaks Railroad Strike

President “mendacity-of-hope” Obama blocked a strike by 25,000 railroad workers which he said was “not in our national interest.”

Just exactly what “our interest” means was neatly defined by Jonathan Flanders, a railroad machinist in a New York CSX locomotive shop. He said that if Obama signs a bill unilaterally imposing a give-back contract (a common past presidential practice), “It would be more evidence of who Obama serves. If banks disrupt commerce, they get a bailout. If workers disrupt commerce, it’s another story. We get forced to work under a contract we wouldn’t agree to otherwise.”

The rail bosses are demanding workers pay more for their health care despite the fact that the four largest carriers netted profits of more than \$8.5 billion last year. The 25,000 members of the Engineers and Trainmen’s union then voted to begin a walkout on October 7 if the companies did not withdraw their concessionary demands.

Obama used his executive powers under the Railway Labor Act to stop the strike and establish a Presidential Emergency Board to consider the concessions demanded by the rail barons. This makes a strike illegal for 60 days. If the Board’s recommendations are rejected by the workers, then Congress and Obama can unilaterally impose them.

So much for capitalist “democracy”....

China: ‘Red Capitalists’ Erasing Revolutionary History

Western guidebooks and the slickest of upscale marketing do their best to erode the history of communist-led revolution in China. The plain two-story building, where the Communist Party of China (CPC) was founded, is totally out of place, surrounded by upscale shops and overpriced restaurants catering to the international tourist trade.

Today, the little historic site, being a tiny island of workers’ history, has a quiet power. Yet it is in a rising sea of Chinese yuppie culture, next to giant photos of sexist models wearing the latest fashions from Paris and New York. The morning I went to Xingye Road there was a steady stream of visitors, including 20 young men in China Air Force uniforms. I also saw small groups of older men and women with weathered, solemn faces and callused hands and a group of younger adults who stood in front of the large hammer and sickle display and repeated some sort of oath with their hands over their hearts.

China’s Bosses Steal Fruits of Revolution’s Advances

Chinese capitalism is everywhere I visited in

the huge country. But the historical facts persist. The option to become the dominant capitalist economic power in Asia, and soon in the world, was only available to the current Chinese ruling class because communists of Mao’s generation ended a 2,000-year-old a system of exploitation. Pre-Revolution, 95% of the Chinese people were poor, ignorant and powerless. In the years after the 1949 socialist revolution the working people built a new country with schools, hospitals, factories and farms that existed to serve the people. Over the first 25 years of the People’s Republic there was the greatest increase in literacy and life expectancy ever recorded in a large impoverished country.

How was it possible for the “red capitalists” of the CPC — still calling themselves communists — to become fabulously rich by the restoration of a capitalist market system in the 1980s? They simply took advantage of the foundation of economic infrastructure and human power (a generation of workers raised with access to food, health services and education) to start making profit. They used, and still use, the prestige of the CPC to maintain their rule.

The “Communist” Party’s prestige comes from

their former revolutionary leadership that ended semi-feudal exploitation and drove out the occupying forces of Japan and the Western imperial powers in 1949. They took advantage of their positions in the CPC and made themselves CEOs. In the process many Chinese have experienced the rising level of material possessions associated with rapid industrialization, but hundreds of millions are being brutally exploited in sweatshops and have no voice in the current China. “Serve the People,” the slogan of the 1950s and 1960s is dead. “To Get Rich is Glorious” is the new order.

Capitalism Sows the Seeds of Its Own Destruction

The injustice and inequality that are growing just as rapidly as the modern skylines in China form the objective basis for a new revolutionary movement for social change in China. Despite the Chinese government’s efforts to control and distort people’s understanding of their country’s history, there are still millions alive who saw it unfold and know the truth. We know from the laws of capitalism that the rosy appearance of China’s prosperity for some will not last forever. The contradictions that we know so well in mature, decaying capitalist societies like the U.S., will develop further in China over the years ahead. They are already shifting resources from human needs to massive military investment.

PLP will connect with those who seek to re-establish a movement for communism in China, as we have in dozens of other countries. The needs of our class make that essential. The power of the world-wide movement for workers’ power and equality will take a great leap forward when that happens.☺



LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in concise letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses around the world.

9/11 Theories 'Do More Harm Than Good'

In the October 5 edition of CHALLENGE the writers of the "Hart-Rudman 9/11 Plan Fell Short" editorial speculate that the 9/11 attacks may have been planned and carried out by the U.S. bosses in order to ensure their Hart-Rudman plan. While it is important to remind readers of the bosses' past and current long-term goals for maintaining U.S. hegemony, it is a mistake to put forward and speculate on conspiracy theories that have been used to mislead the working class.

This theory has done little to educate anyone about the actual causes and consequences of 9/11 and has instead directed the attention of workers' and youth away from class struggle and toward the racism and nationalism of Alex Jones. For the past 10 years the "9/11-was-an-inside-job" conspiracy theory has been pushed by Alex Jones and his "9/11 Truth" followers. Further, Alex Jones and his website "Infowars" have ties to many Neo-Nazi and holocaust denial groups.

The effects of 10 years of Alex Jones' lies are evident in my classroom. In several classes of high school seniors asked to talk about what they know now about 9/11, Iraq and Afghanistan compared to what they knew 10 years ago, hardly any knew more about 9/11 or the wars than they knew when they were 8. The only "new" thing that students could recount that they have learned since was that maybe the U.S. government actually blew up the twin towers. Clearly the working class is in need of a clear analysis of 9/11 and the post-9/11 world that puts inter-imperialist rivalries front and center. Putting forward 9/11 conspiracy theories does more harm than good and doesn't bring the working class toward any greater understanding of capitalism or imperialism.

A Reader

'Truther' Myths Do Not Advance Class Struggle

The October 5th editorial in CHALLENGE seemed to endorse the 9/11 Truth Movement with its assertion that the U.S. ruling class either had prior knowledge of the 9/11 attacks and chose not to act or actively planned the attacks. This line of logic is troubling for several reasons.

The most obvious reason is that Truther [a term used to describe adherents to the 9/11 Truth Movement — Ed.] myths are just that, myths. Not one piece of Truther "evidence" that 9/11 was an "inside job" can stand up to even the most modest logic and reasoning. These myths are debunked in a variety of places, the best being the book, *Debunking 9/11 Myths*, by the editors of Popular Mechanics magazine.

The less obvious problem regarding the Truth Movement is its internal politics. If Truthers have no logical reason to believe the inside-job myth then the myth's origin must lie elsewhere. In this case it springs from hyper-nationalism and racism. Truthers find it inconceivable that the U.S. could ever be challenged by any competitor. Therefore any attack against the U.S. has to be an inside job.

Since hyper-nationalism insists that the U.S. military is invincible and the intelligence services omnipotent, then any blow against the U.S. empire must be the result of a shadowy conspiracy within the U.S. establishment itself. This is a common and universal belief in nationalist circles. For example, Germany's defeat in World War I led to the quick proliferation of conspiracy theories involving German Jews "betraying" Germany and causing the defeat. Truther myths operate in the same vein.

Truther myths also have healthy doses of racism embedded in them. Truthers are quick to claim that the 9/11 attacks could not have been carried out by "Arabs living in caves." This argument is even made in the conclusion of the seminal Truther film *Loose Change*. Due to internalization of decades of anti-Arab racist attacks on the part of the capitalist media, Truthers find it inconceivable that Arabs could strike a blow, no matter how small, against the U.S. empire.

This racism is evident when one examines who dwells in the Truther swamp. Prominent Truthers include Christopher Bollyn, Henry Makow, and Kurt Nimmo, three of the most prominent Holocaust deniers in the U.S. Truther publications are quick email: desafio.challenge@gmail.com

to cite and quote from the American Free Press, a journal run by the neo-Nazi Willis Carto. Given the origin of Truther myths it is not surprising that many contain vile anti-Semitic slanders such as the myth that no Jewish people died in the 9/11 attacks (implying they had forewarning).

We are not advancing the fight for communism by wading into the Truther swamp. 9/11 and its aftermath require a communist analysis that places inter-imperialist rivalry as the primary contradiction driving struggle in the world today. We know that many honest people are swayed by the Truther mythology which is why CHALLENGE needs to expose the realities of inter-imperialist struggle and capitalist crisis and consign the Truth Movement to the dustbin of history.

Red Beard

CHALLENGE Response:

We agree that "trutherism" represents a diversion from the life-and-death issues that confront the working class in today's period of rising fascism. The editorial noted that "the true story" about 9/11 may well never be known. At the same time, questions about possible U.S. ruling class complicity (either passive or active) in 9-11 are not confined to fringe right-wingers and obscure conspiracy theorists like Alex Jones. Many honest workers in the U.S. — and many more internationally, who have seen firsthand the mass-murdering ways of U.S. imperialism — understand that the bosses will stop at nothing to protect their interests.

History is studded with deceptions by the U.S. ruling class to trigger or escalate its imperialist conflicts. In 1898, after a coal bin explosion sank the USS Maine, President William McKinley blamed a Spanish mine and launched the Spanish American War. In 1941, to beat back domestic isolationists (the Tea Partiers of their day), President Franklin Roosevelt provoked Japan into the bombing of Pearl Harbor — a "surprise" attack that was decoded in advance by U.S. intercept stations. In 1964, after a phantom torpedo "attack" on U.S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin, President Lyndon Johnson used the lie to begin open warfare against North Vietnam.

In sum, there is no line the U.S. bosses will not cross to consolidate their Middle East oil resources. Our role as communists, however, is not to ferret out "the truth" about 9-11. Our task is to organize the working class and debunk the most dangerous lie of all: that capitalist "democracy" can ever serve workers' needs.

Weaving Workers' Struggles into Mystery Series

"Slim to None" is Timothy Sheard's fourth novel in the mystery series about a working-class person named Lenny Moss. Based on the real-life experiences of a friend who was a union shop steward and maintenance man in an urban hospital, this novel confronts working-class issues, such as union-busting, scams on gym memberships for employees' health care, and inadequate staffing.

Lenny is hard working and cares about patients and coworkers alike. He has a healthy distrust of bosses and cops. Instead he relies on his friends and coworkers throughout the hospital to organize against administration abuses and this murder mystery. Lenny Moss is a definite threat to the bosses' intimidation and cutbacks. So anytime there is a "problem" employee, Lenny will be defending him/her and usually win.

There are two major themes in the novel. The mystery revolves around the body of a hospital worker found dumped in the woods. A multiracial crew from the pharmacy, nursing, radiology, morgue and even sympathetic doctors work together to solve the crime. Another theme is trying to unionize workers at the hospital's gym.

This is the only mystery series I know of that is written about workers and their struggles in an open, honest way, warts and all. Solidarity, collectivity, and militant fight-back are the watchwords for this novel. This novel can be used to discuss anti-racist and anti-sexist politics with our friends, and relate the struggles in the novel to organize against the cutbacks at work and school.

A Comrade

Capitalism: Racism, Exploitation First, Last and Always

Capitalists love it when workers lack rights, forcing them into lower-wage jobs with no work-roles or overtime pay. Millions work off the clock. From all this capitalists reap super-profits. When workers in one country lack rights, bosses in competing capitalist countries drive workers down to work for still less.

Throughout most of the history of the original 13 colonies and their successor as the new United States, immigrants, women and children, and especially black workers (including black women and children) were the most oppressed; black workers were enslaved and, after the Civil War, controlled by the vicious system of southern penal servitude and Jim Crow racism.

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s ended some of the old Jim Crow forms of control, but capitalism works better for the bosses when workers lack rights, so following those struggles the bosses created new forms of racism. Their task was urgent because, as the most farsighted U.S. capitalists realized in the late 1960s, the system was in decline and had to sharpen attacks on workers. Three U.S. government initiatives developed new laws to enforce racism:

- In 1996, the old welfare system Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) was replaced by Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). Decades of racist slurs about people on welfare prepared for this change. This forced at least three million women into the labor force without welfare as an alternative (as a back-up); this lack of alternative often coerces workers to submit to sexual degradation, crippling conditions of work, or other sexist and racist brutalization and super-exploitation.

- Changes in immigration laws and in the world economy defined over 12 million people as "illegal," that is, living in the U.S. without legal authorization to do so and subject to deportations — 8.25 million are in the labor force reaping super-profits for the capitalists.

- Changes in laws and their enforcement have put 2.3 million in jail or prison (the rate of incarceration is five times the rate in 1973). Another five million are on probation or parole. Meanwhile, another 13 million are labeled as ex-felons (one in every three black men over twenty years old) and enter the labor force as vulnerable workers.

These laws and changes have produced at least 32 million workers who must work but are under: either direct government control (prison, probation or parole); government terror (undocumented immigrants); government coercion to work despite lacking child care for their children; or the government-created stigma of being labeled ex-felons. Black and Latino workers are disproportionately represented among workers under TANF control and discipline and among those controlled or stigmatized by the penal system. Workers from Mexico are by far the largest single group of undocumented workers. This is the "new racism."

All these workers are the most vulnerable and among the more easily coerced workers. U.S. capitalists enforce this because it makes U.S. capitalism more competitive, creating low-wage, pliable workers who feel forced to bend to the bosses' will.

These workers are then used to discipline the rest of the working class, especially other black and Latino workers as well as white workers. The boss reminds workers, "millions would love to have your job and would do it without complaining." Now the few remaining workers with some rights — teachers, transit, hospital and other government workers — are under attack. Here again the bosses' racism targets particularly black and Latino workers but sweeps many white workers along as well.

Our response must be to unite our class by fighting racism and winning those who are not directly in the most exploited groups to see that these are our class brothers and sisters and their super-exploitation is setting the stage to drive us down. We must remember that every previous struggle against racism has seen new forms emerge. Capitalism needs racism to make maximum profits. Only destroying capitalism and its profit motive will end racism. That's PLP's goal.

Red

Italy's Communist Party

From Brave Anti-Fascists to Electoral Swamp

In early 2011, Antonio Gramsci Jr., the grandson of a founder of the Italian Communist Party, gave a concert of Renaissance music in Rome on the last day of an impressive exhibition, "Avanti popolo: Il PCI nella storia d'Italia," commemorating the history of the Italian Communist Party (PCI), founded in 1921.

Twenty years ago, in 1991, the Italian CP was disbanded after seventy years of struggle.¹ At that time it was the largest "communist" party in Western Europe, and the second largest party in the Italian parliament, winning approximately 30% of the votes. CHALLENGE articles often state that communist revolution, not reform, is the only road to working-class victory over capitalism. Looking at the history of the Italian CP helps us to see why.

Shortly after its founding, the Party and workers of Italy faced a dangerous enemy, as Mussolini's Fascists marched on Rome in 1922. The king appointed Mussolini to be his prime minister and soon after Gramsci and other founders were in prison. Gramsci never left prison, where he died in 1937, leaving behind his famous Prison Notebooks. Nonetheless, during World War II, communists and other anti-fascist forces fought bravely. After the liberation of Italy Mussolini was captured as he tried to escape and his body, along with 14 other fascist leaders, was hung upside down from lampposts in Milan's central square.

Despite this apparent victory, Palmiro Togliatti, the new leader of the Italian Communist Party, returned from the USSR to find a country occupied by the British and American armies and devastated by Allied bombings, civil war and severe food

shortages. At this critical juncture, Togliatti and the Italian communists made a grave mistake by accepting the logic of the Popular Front, an alliance of anti-fascist forces, including communists, anarchists, socialists and the liberal bourgeoisie. They began supporting "democratic" reform measures and abandoned the philosophy of armed struggle to bring about communism.

The Italian CP became the largest "communist" party in Western Europe and the second largest party in Italy. Ironically, the larger the party became, the less communist it became. In practice, Italian Communists practiced reformism in the parliament but hypocritically preached revolution at party rallies.²

By 1964 democratic centralism was abandoned and reformist factions flourished. In 1972, Enrico Berlinguer, the new leader, announced the party's "historic compromise" of collaborating with the Socialists and center-left Catholics; revolution would no longer even be preached while reform was practiced. The Italian CP was now openly a reform party.

The 1991 party congress was the end. The Italian CP was dissolved and the name "The Democratic Party of the Left" was adopted, which today has become the "Democratic Party," and mimics the U.S. model.

Valuable lessons can be drawn from the history of the Italian Communist Party. We cannot dismiss those who founded the party and were jailed for their commitment to communism, such as Antonio Gramsci. Neither can we ignore the communist partisans who fought fascism and died during

World War II. We must also acknowledge how party members participated in strikes, protests and other struggles hoping to defeat capitalism.

But our Italian predecessors have shown us very clearly that holding elected office demands maintenance of the capitalist state, not revolt against it. Therefore, the most important lesson that can be learned from the mistakes of the Italian CP is that revolution cannot co-exist with electoral politics. Long ago, Karl Marx had warned workers that "the working class cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made state machinery, and wield it for its own purposes."³ Instead, he said, the entire state (political parties and practices, the courts, the cops, etc.) must be smashed.

As the final notes of Antonio Gramsci Jr.'s concert died away, the crowded hall burst into applause. Many of those present, old and young, still hope for a better future, one that will never come from reform, but only from communist revolution. The Italian CP was not an end, but a beginning, because we have learned from its mistakes. Antonio Gramsci Jr. took a copy of CHALLENGE and sends his "red greetings to his American comrades," words to strengthen us in our struggles, wherever we are in the world.☺

(Endnotes)

1 Images and Italian texts are available at <<http://ilpcinellastoriaditalia.it/index.html>>.

2 <<http://partitocomunistaitaliano.blogspot.com/>>

3 Karl Marx: The Civil War in France <<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1871/civil-war-france/ch05.htm>>

RED EYE ON THE NEWS

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Lying system, exposed, is dying

NYT, 10/12 — ...Paul Gilding, the Australian environmentalist and author of the book "The Great Depression," argues that [current] demonstrations are a sign that the current growth-obsessed capitalist system is reaching its financial and ecological limits. "I...see our system in the painful process of breaking down." ...

"What we now have — most extremely in the U.S. but pretty much everywhere — is the mother of all broken promises," ... "Yes, the rich are getting richer...But, meanwhile, the people are getting worse off — drowning in housing debt and /or tuition debt — many who worked hard are unemployed; many who studied hard are unable to get good work; the environment is getting more and more damaged and people are realizing their kids will be even worse off than they are. This particular round of protests may build or may not, but what will not go away is the broad coalition of those to whom the system lied and who have now woken up...It's most people...who are feeling the results of a system that saw all the growth of the last three decades go to the top 1 percent."

U.S. requires a big army

NYT, 10/11 — ...The [U.S.] Army's two top leaders argued Monday against shrinking their service too much, warning that the nation may have to rethink its defense strategy if the ground forces become too small...

General Odierno said similar arguments were made about the irrelevance of American ground forces before, and were disproved by the attacks of Sept. 11.

"We have to be ready for unknown contingencies"...as well as roles that we will play in strategies and other contingencies that we will be planning for."

Oil profiteers fund Africa war

GW, 10/7 — Shell has fueled armed conflict in Nigeria by paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to feuding militant groups....

The oil giant is implicated in a decade of human rights abuses in the Niger delta.... "Armed gangs waged pitched battles over access to oil money, which Shell distributed to whichever gang controlled access to its infrastructure."

Millions saying voting won't work

NYT, 9/28 — Hundreds of thousands of disillusioned [in] India cheer a rural activist on a hunger strike. Israel reels before the largest street demonstrations in its history. Enraged young people in Spain and Greece take over public squares across their countries.

Their complaints range from corruption to lack of affordable housing and joblessness, common grievances the world over. But from Central Asia to the heartland of Europe and now even to Wall Street, these protesters share something else: wariness, even contempt, toward traditional politicians and the democratic political process they preside over.

They are taking to the streets, in part, because they have little faith in the ballot box.

"Our parents are grateful because they're voting...We're the first generation to say that voting is worthless."Only an assault on the system itself can bring about real change.

Political strike by Latino workers in Alabama

NYT, 10/13 — At least a half-dozen poultry plants shut down or scaled back operations on Wednesday and many other businesses closed as [Latino workers] skipped work to protest the state's tough immigration law....The law allows police officers to detain people indefinitely if they are suspected of being in the country illegally, and



it requires schools to check the status of new students when they enroll.

NY school-support-workers fired

NYT, 10/8 — ...672 lost their jobs on Friday in the largest single-agency layoff since Mayor Bloomberg took office in 2002....The city...could not find a way to spare the school aides, parent coordinators, family workers and others who work in support jobs at roughly 350 schools.... [A protest group declared] "The constant attack on our education system will continue to burden the most vulnerable population of this city — our children."

'Crisis centers' lie to women

NYT, 10/6 — Defenders of "crisis pregnancy centers" are converging on Capitol Hill this week to lobby for increased support from the government, brandishing not picket signs, but babies.

The centers portray themselves as nonpartisan health counseling clinics, but in fact they oppose abortion, and sometimes even family planning, and push a political agenda on vulnerable women. A Congressional investigation in 2006 found that 87 percent of the centers surveyed provided false or misleading medical information. Nonetheless, the government has given these centers over \$9.3 million in grants since 2007.

They insisted on calling my pregnancy my "baby" and my "child." The intake questions included, "What is your relation to Jesus Christ?"

...I was cautioned that abortions caused breast cancer....that I would inevitably suffer from post-abortion stress syndrome....I found out that much of [this] was inaccurate.

China, U.S. Imperialists On Collision Course

The U.S. is in decline relative to China, the primary emerging imperialist rival. The U.S. ruling class is faced with massive unemployment, a continuing financial mess, a thinly spread and poorly functioning military, and an inability to enforce discipline within their own class. At the same, China displays an increasingly aggressive imperialism, challenging U.S. hegemony. Bosses are rarely hesitant to sacrifice the lives of workers in order to claim their piece of the capitalist pie, and so, as China's rulers demand a reordering of the world with them on top, imperialist war could lie in the future. Workers of the world have nothing to win from backing one group of capitalists over the other. Transforming this potential future imperialist war into communist revolution is the long-term outlook of PLP.

Industry is the centerpiece of capitalist economy. Industrial workers produce real value, and unlike the financial manipulations that are increasingly at the center of the U.S. economy, China's industrial might has skyrocketed. The economic crisis has certainly hit China and just as in the U.S., the Chinese bosses are making the working class pay. The net income of 400 million people has stagnated in the last decade and poverty levels have increased. But in the absence of a REAL communist party (unlike the profit-driven fake Chinese Communist Party) aimed at destroying capitalism, the bosses will salvage their system, and it appears that China might be on top of the pile when the dust clears.

Chinese Dominance Grows In Key Industries

Chinese oil companies have exerted their influence across the globe. The China National Petroleum Corporation has contracts in 29 countries around the world, including Iraq, Iran, Syria, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Burma.

Or consider steel. There is a dispute about how much steel China produced in 2010. The official figure — likely an underestimate — is 627 million tons, 44% of the world output and 50% more than Europe, the U.S., Japan and Russia COMBINED. Even if the lower official numbers are correct, the growth in China's steel output from 2007 to 2010 exceeded the total U.S. steel output in 2010: China's output in those three years grew by 131 million tons, whereas U.S. output in 2010 was 81 million tons.

In the auto industry the situation is similar. In 2010, the U.S. produced 7.8 million cars while China made 18.3 million, double the number in 2008 and nine times the number it produced in 2000. Again, the growth in auto production outstrips U.S. production. From 2000 to 2010 China's auto industry output grew by 16.2 million cars. The U.S. produced 7.8 million cars in 2010. However, a goodly portion of the profits from China's production goes to international auto companies like Ford, GM, and Nissan.

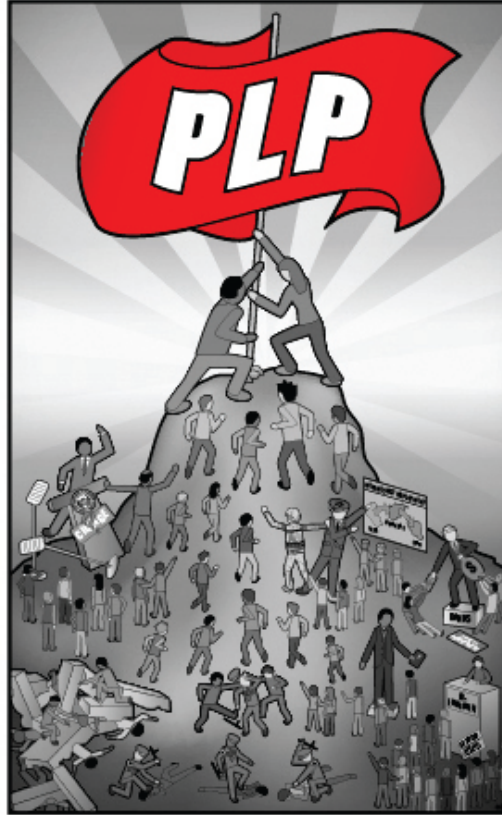
Battle Over Profits

In other basic industries, China's share of world output is around 40%. For instance, China makes 44% of the world's cement. Their dominance is even more complete in many other products. By some estimates, 90% of the world's shoes are made in China. All told, over the last ten years, the Chinese share of world manufacturing has risen to 19.7% from 7%. Meanwhile, the U.S. share went down from 27% to 19%. The U.S. has lost 5.7 million manufacturing jobs in the last ten years.

The picture is not complete, however, without understanding what happens to the profit that this manufacturing generates. Companies that simply manufacture their products in China but export the profit are not contributing to the rise of the Chinese ruling class. In some cases, the profits leave China. For example nearly all of Apple Computer's products are assembled in China. Most of the profit, however, leaves the country. Apple makes eight times more in profit than it spends in China.

However, in industry after industry — including the ones cited above — China has gone from low-

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BREEDS SEXISM
RACISM
& IMPERIALISM!**



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cost assembler to controlling the entire process: raw materials, basic manufacturing, assembly and sales. And not only are these manufactured goods controlled by Chinese companies, a large percentage are directly controlled by the government, through state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

About 80% of the bank loans in China go to SOEs, which get discounted rates compared to privately owned companies. There are 150 central

and 120,000 local SOEs, which account for the vast majority of manufacturing in the country. The 150 central SOEs generate more than two-thirds of China's GDP and more than half of the country's wealth. This profit can be funneled directly into build-up of industry, infrastructure and military.

Compare this to the U.S., where Warren Buffet, the ringleader of the liberal ruling class, has to beg and plead to the Tea Party-influenced government to raise taxes on the rich so that the U.S. can face its imperialist rivals in the future. The increase in taxes that Buffet is calling for is one aspect of the move towards fascism. Fascism is not just a ferocious attack on workers, using increased racism, nationalism and sexism to discipline the working class during crises. Another aspect of fascism is the attempt to forcefully impose discipline on the ruling class.

Industrial Battles Eventually Turn Into Military Battles

What Buffet and Obama are planning for, to some degree, is a potential future where the U.S. and China drag the working class into the hell of imperialist war. And they are worried that this future could be turning in the favor of the Chinese bosses. The Chinese Navy is already much larger than the U.S. forces in the Pacific. If current trends continue, within the next decade the Chinese Navy will be larger than the U.S. Navy in every category except aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines. They will likely have more attack submarines, destroyers, frigates, troop landing craft and smaller missile-carrying ships. The U.S. equipment is often more sophisticated, but it appears that the Chinese military has been quick to update to the latest technology. One thing is clear: the Chinese bosses think that they are catching up with the U.S. military and will soon pass it.

A century ago, the Russian communist Vladimir Lenin showed that modern capitalism has entered the era of imperialism and therefore war, as the imperialists fight over how to re-divide the world.

U.S. Wars Encircle the Globe

Ever since World War II, the main source of imperialist war has been the United States: Korea, Vietnam, Nicaragua, Kuwait, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc. The reason was not because the United States rulers are uniquely evil, but because of the nature of imperialism. For the first 40 years, U.S. bosses were desperately trying to stop the advance of communist ideas. After the implosion of the Soviet Union, they wielded their singular imperialist power to make others fall in line. Now, the world is changing as China's bosses' aggressive push for power challenges the U.S. position.

Both U.S. and Chinese bosses will be feverishly attempting to build political support among "their" workers for a potential world war. Already, there is a growing amount of anti-Chinese rhetoric coming from the U.S. bosses and their lackies in the industrial unions. The international working class has nothing to gain and absolutely everything to lose from aligning with one set of bosses over another. They are all bloodsuckers, willing to sacrifice the lives of workers on the altar of profit and imperialist war. Our class needs no bosses! Workers have no country!✊

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