

CHALLENGE



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Workers, Youth Blast Racist Killer KKKops

Multiracial March Rips Fascist Terror



Students and Workers chant "NYPD KKK, How Many Kids Did You Kill Today?"

Sign reads "NYPD, NY's Finest Kid Killers"

THE BRONX, NY, February 7 — Once again, "New York's Finest" have demonstrated the true purpose of the kkkops: to protect and serve the bosses' state, not the workers of the world or in the Bronx. These fascist, racist cops use petty crimes to racially profile, beat, illegally frisk and search, and even kill our young, especially in impoverished neighborhoods where the majority are black and Latino.

On Thursday, February 2, an unarmed black man, Ramarley Graham, 18, was chased into his grandmother's apartment and shot dead in front of her and his six-year-old brother by Richard Haste of the New York Police Department. The police initially claimed that Ramarley had a gun, but no weapon was found, only a small amount of marijuana. The police then dragged Ramarley's grandmother to the 47th precinct and held her for seven hours, refusing to release her until she gave a statement.

Not long before Ramarley's murder, another young black man, Jatiek Reed, 19, was beaten viciously by the NYPD. This pattern of violence is the cops' real job. It has the single purpose of keeping working-class people, and black and Latino workers in particular, terrified and quiet.

But the bosses' strategy isn't working, because the outraged neighborhood has not stood passively by. The Mon-

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'We Charge You With Genocide!'

CALUMET CITY, IL, February 10 — On February 9, a multiracial crowd of 60 workers, students, and teachers packed a city hall meeting here to voice their outrage at the murderous racist kkkops who slaughtered 15-year-old Stephon Watts.

On February 1, Stephon, a black youth who had a form of autism known as Asperger Syndrome, experienced an extreme episode where his father could not get him to go to school. When Stephon's father called their hospital for assistance, he was told to call the cops. He dialed 311 (the non-emergency number), hoping to get a professional trained to work with special needs children. Instead Calumet City police sent a squad car.

Bosses' Thugs in Blue Show True Nazi Colors

When the cops arrived, Stephon's father insisted his son was "OK," but they forced their way into the house anyway. These murderers proceeded to chase Stephon around his home. When Stephon menaced one cop with a butter knife the bosses' thugs in blue showed their true Nazi colors by slaughtering Stephon, a child with special needs, in cold blood.

But the working-class crowd at city hall would not be fooled. Speaker after speaker correctly described the cops as rabid dogs who either needed to be caged (jailed) or put down for murder. When a commenter attempted to blame Stephon for wielding a butter knife, a high school student declared, "You have no idea what went on in the head of that special needs child. I don't care about the cuts on the cops! Think about the bullet holes in Stephon!"

Other speakers spoke at great length about decades of the city cops' blatant, racist harassment and profiling. Some wanted to discuss "the lack of training" of these particular cops. But, especially

in black neighborhoods, cops are trained to shoot first and are protected by their departments and city councils later.

To that end, one worker addressed the need to organize against the city council, the cops and the whole racist, capitalist system. The crowd erupted with, "Racist cops, you can't hide! We charge you with genocide!" They drowned out the city council's feeble attempt to restore order by reciting the pledge of allegiance, to a country whose cops have full permission to systematically murder workers, especially black youth. The crowd continued to chant as we slowly marched out of the meeting.

Sadly, no amount of anger or chanting will bring back Stephon Watts or any other victims of police slaughter. That being said, it's good the Watts family and their mostly black, working-class community are mobilizing to fight police brutality and racism in hopes of getting justice for Stephon.

But justice won't come from the Illinois state police (who are "investigating" this crime), the courts or the federal government, all of whom work for the same capitalist bosses. Even if — on the extremely remote chance — that these murderous cops get convicted, it won't stop the onslaught against the working class from the bosses' cops worldwide.

To end class war, we must fight in class war. Join with the Progressive Labor Party to organize the international working class on the basis of communism with collectivity, militancy and unyielding anti-racism. We must smash capitalism and create a society where there's no exploiting class, racism or murderous cops serving that ruling class. That's the only way to gain true justice for all the victims of capitalism's crimes, including Stephon Watts. ☪

Electoral Circus No Solution for Workers

Turn 'Occupy' General Strike into Communist May Day

The Occupy movement has called for a general strike on May 1. While this is a positive development, it falls far short of the traditional communist holiday, a celebration for the international working class. May Day grew out of a *real* general strike in Chicago in 1886 (see page 5), one that shut off the bosses' flow of profits — and not just for one day. For over a century, communists have organized around May Day's revolutionary message worldwide. It has never stood for the reform of capitalism, which is what the liberal bosses want us to believe is possible. Rather, May Day stands for the overthrow of the profit system, a system that brings the working class mass racist unemployment, periodic depressions, poverty, racism, sexism and tens of millions of deaths in imperialist wars.

As we have witnessed in Italy and France, one-

day general strikes are organized by pro-boss union misleaders who encourage workers to let off steam and then return to the workplace with the same unsolved problems. They barely touch the bosses' profits. They're more an inconvenience than a threat to the system.

The capitalist media will be sure not to cover our May Day marches for communist revolution. Our Party's ideas contradict their class interest. But the rulers will eagerly publicize Occupy's call for a general strike on May 1, as evidenced by their New York Times mouthpiece providing a link to Occupy's Web page (www.occupymay1st.org), which both advertises the event and exposes the movement's motives.

The page, sponsored by Occupy Los Angeles (OLA), begins:

In most European countries, May 1st is traditionally a Workers' day – a day of Labor Solidarity, and a public holiday. In Los Angeles, it's a day to celebrate and march in support of immigrant [and migrant] rights. In protest against the corruption of the worldwide marketplace, which has led to illegal foreclosures, mass unemployment, low wages, high taxes and a penalization of all those who do not own the "1%" of the world's resources, and in solidarity with the immigrant movements of May 1st, OLA decided to declare May 1st, 2012 a People's General Strike.

Hiding the Truth

Whoever leads the supposedly "leaderless" OLA is trying, hand in hand with the media, to misdirect the anger and militancy of rank-and-file Occupiers onto the fatal detour of reformism. In the leaders' view, all ills stem from corrupted markets that could be cleaned up by "tighter regulations." They deliberately hide the bitter truth: that unemployment, low wages and economic inequality are essential aspects of the profit system, and cannot be "reformed" away.

Even worse, Occupy's "Workers' Day" organizers omit mention of the deadliest scourges that capitalists inflict on our class: imperialism, fascism and racism. In their pursuit of maximum profit, U.S. bosses have murdered millions and impoverished billions around the world. Whenever PL'ers have raised the issue of racism at Occupy General Assemblies, or called for action against it in Los Angeles and New York (including a protest against racist murders by cops in those two cities), Occupy's leaders have tried to shut us up, despite support for the discussion from the movements' rank-and-filers.

The fact is that masses of Occupy participants honestly want to battle against the unavoidable ravages of capitalism — the racist inequalities in education and healthcare, the banks that rob billions by foreclosing on mortgages, the mass unemployment and declining wages. We in PLP also believe in fighting these profit-driven horrors. But we cannot fight and win by choosing one or another ruling-class faction. All of them — from the Tea Party Republicans to the dominant Rockefeller Democrats — must sustain the system that fosters them. They are bankrupt of solutions. We stand instead for communist revolution to overthrow that system and create a society run by and for the working class.

Even with the liberal bosses' attempts to control the Occupy movement and fold it into this year's presidential campaign carnival, many Occupiers have begun to stand up to oppose

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.

OWS Funded by One-Percenter?

While the rank and file of the Occupy Wall Street movement sincerely wants to expose the inequalities of U.S. capitalism, CHALLENGE has been reporting that — as the adjoining editorial indicates — the liberal Democrats and some OWS leaders are looking to use the movement's militancy to re-elect Barack Obama. But in what is a fairly well-kept secret, the origins of OWS may very well have received its initial funding from one of the world's richest multi-billionaires.

The following is an excerpt from our November 2, 2011 editorial:

"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 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, 'The group that started it all [OWS] 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."

Of course, this is the same Soros who poured millions into liberals' election campaigns in the Ukraine, Georgia and other Eastern European countries. Follow the money trail....

this exploitative system. From anti-war appeals to an anti-racist march in Los Angeles (led in part by PL'ers) to last December's shut-down of Oakland's port, rank-and-file militancy is on the rise. Anti-racism was front and center in the long-term occupation of a downtown Oakland park renamed Oscar Grant Plaza, after a young black man who was executed in 2009 by a local transit cop.

Who Bankrolled OWS?

At the same time, however, it needs to be clear that Occupy Wall Street owes its birth to Adbusters, an online outfit bankrolled by imperialist billionaire George Soros (see box). Liberal imperialists like Soros are pushing to steer Occupiers into "solutions" that solve nothing for our class. Their goal is to enlist the most militant workers into the rulers' desperate fight to maintain their superpower status by holding off their imperialist rivals — in China, Russia, India and Brazil — in the competition for control of fossil-fuel energy resources.

Predictably, the OLA May Day manifesto falls squarely in line with the war needs of the biggest U.S. bosses. It champions immigrants' "rights," namely a Dream Act that would guarantee citizenship to undocumented immigrant youth in exchange for college attendance or enlistment in the military. Since most could not afford college tuition, the "choice" narrows into a back-door draft. If this legislation passes, young immigrants will give the U.S. Army brass the additional troops it needs to fight the capitalists' imperialist oil wars. As a New York Times editorial noted, "The Defense Department, at least, understands [young immigrants'] value. Passage of the Dream Act is one of its official goals for helping to maintain 'a mission-ready, all-volunteer force'" (9/19/10).

In reality, Occupy Wall Street's attack on "marketplace corruption" is a call for drastic regulatory steps to put industry and finance on a more aggressive war footing. Two Democratic Party presidents, Woodrow Wilson and then Franklin Roosevelt, imposed strict White House control on domestic markets to pave the way for U.S. involvement in the first and second world wars. (They are unlikely to be the last ones, as long as imperialism exists.)

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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!**

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'PLP is in it to win it...'

PL'ers Reducate Schools Conference

The Occupy Wall Street Movement and opposition caucuses organized a conference to bring together teachers and students who are angry at capitalism's many attacks on education. The conference took place in The Center for Worker Education and PLP members did their best to give the participants a communist education. PL students and teachers were very vocal in the conference's many different discussion groups.

The unionists, liberals, and well-meaning workers all looked to the union, a pawn of capitalist rulers, to fight racism and create an education system that could meet the needs of the working class. They are ultimately wrong since education under capitalism must serve the bosses' needs, which conflict with the needs of the working class. The ruling class needs a patriotic, loyal working class to passively accept its attacks and fight its imperialist wars, so it can remain the world's superpower. Workers' need a society where we make all of the decisions based on our needs to develop as full human beings collectively. That is communism.

Union Helps Resegregate Schools

One participant pointed out that the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) was actually a backlash against integration in the '60s and is now helping to resegregate the schools. Unions walk the contradiction of appearing to fight the bosses while selling out the workers.

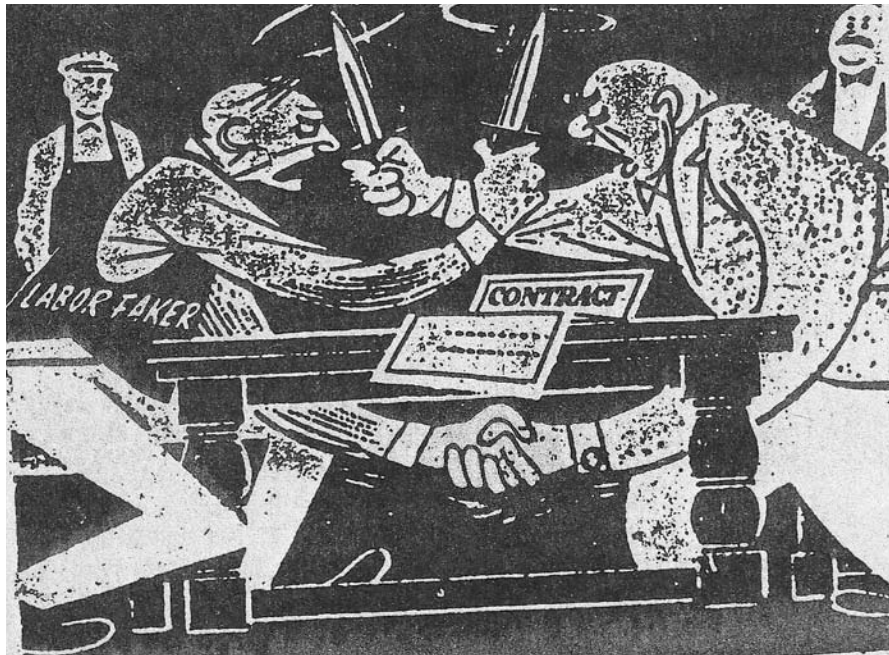
The need to fight racism was brought up continually throughout the conference. A PL'er pointed out that contemporary racism isn't about who perpetuated the action, but who is affected by the outcome. He said the bosses love to use puppets like Obama to carry out their racist attacks on the working class. The Party brought up the need to fight racism through multi-racial unity in opposition to fragmented forms of black or Latino nationalism or the Community Control of a People's Board of Education that pushed the poison of multi-class

unity.

A PL'er also reviewed the history of the UFT. Agreeing with another speaker who challenged the anti-communist attack on the USSR, he said that without the Soviet Union, the working class had lost its beacon at the time when the Soviets were leaders of the international working class. He also pointed out that the union is made up of workers. "Look around" he said, "You're all workers and you're here." Workers' power is needed to confront the UFT misleaders at the next delegate assembly and create a wildcat strike on the next professional development day (when only teachers come to school). These types of actions are needed to learn how to fight the bosses as a class. They also provide more opportunities to expose the bosses' democracy sham, when they use the cops and courts to attack workers' struggles.

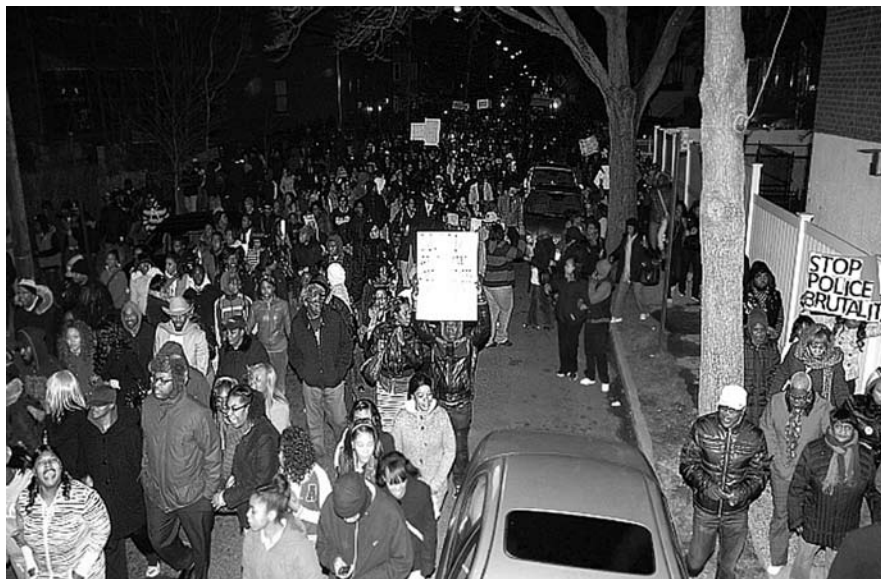
School with No Books

One participant taught in a Bronx school that claimed to be a college prep academy, yet it had no books. She is a technology teacher, but they had closed the computer labs for three years because three computers were stolen. The administration said that books were old and passé and that students should use the Internet instead, while keep-



ing the computer lab closed. Only under capitalism could this kind of racist hypocrisy exist.

Such conferences create the opportunity for Party growth. As we participate in them, we can struggle to advance our communist politics. A new anti-racist caucus was established there, but we have to be in it to win it. We need to struggle with those workers around us to go to conferences like this and bring the need to struggle back to our workplaces. No union will liberate us from capitalism, let alone an anti-racist caucus in a union that's playing ostrich. Only building the PLP to fight the wholesale attack on our class's education will eventually give the working class the learning that it really needs.✪



Multiracial March Rips Fascist Terror

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day after the attack, a demonstration of many hundreds marched on the 47th precinct. The crowd was angry, and some young workers had to be held back from physically attacking the precinct house. CHALLENGE has been sold for years in this neighborhood. After the incident, Progressive Labor Party distributed nearly 800 copies of a leaflet that explained why these attacks are on the rise.

New York's bosses fear the working class, especially the workers in the Bronx. The Bronx is the poorest of New York's five boroughs, with up to 45 percent living in poverty and 54 percent youth unemployment in some neighborhoods. As the capitalist economic crisis in the U.S. and worldwide continues to get worse, workers can only expect more repression. There will be more murders and beatings, in the Bronx and elsewhere.

We believe there is only one way to rid the Bronx of its racist murders, along with the violence, drugs, unemployment, and substandard education and healthcare that capitalism imposes on us. We must destroy the profit system at its roots. The only reason these conditions prevail, and the only reason that the mad-dog police ruthlessly enforce them, is because the bosses are making money on workers' misery.

Capitalism must be wiped out once and for all. Workers, students, soldiers; black, Asian, Latino and white, unite and FIGHT BACK!✪

New PL'ers' Lesson Plan: Boldly Spread Party's Ideas

"I think I want to join the Progressive Labor Party."

That was how a teacher introduced herself to me after a workshop at last week's anti-UFT union conference. The workshop was about how to build a union chapter in schools. A veteran comrade spoke about being in PLP and about the need to fight the bosses every opportunity we get. He said that we should all consider ourselves lucky to be able to dedicate our lives to fighting back.

I said I was a member of PLP and described some of the struggles we had been involved in to fight the racist bosses and their UFT lackeys. I mentioned the union's delegate meeting where I helped unfurl a banner that attacked the union leadership for not fighting the racist budget cuts. We were kicked out of that meeting by the union's security and then called terrorists by Randi Weingarten, the leader of the UFT at that time. Hundreds of delegates booed her and forced her to apologize.

That was a positive action, mainly because we forced the bosses to show their true colors. The lesson I took from this conference is that we have to be bold about telling people that we are members of the communist PLP. If we don't, we will miss countless opportunities to meet workers ready to join our movement!

Red teacher



Form PL Transit Group

Communist Ideas Primary in Building Job Actions, Strikes

Over several years, other PL'ers and I have been organizing among local transit workers to fight the transit bosses and build PLP. One particular transit worker, Jessica, has become closer to the Party.

Now, after nearly two years of shared discussions and actions, Jessica said she sees the need for a serious long-term, radical, transit rank-and-file study/action group.

Jessica and I attempted to organize a job action group. But when our campaign began this past summer, Jessica threw her energy into an Occupy anti-budget-cut campout led by liberal community groups and phony "leftists." She thought the campout would "wake up" the whole city. The month-long campout got little media coverage past day one and none of it made front-page or top-of-the-hour coverage. Slowly the campout died out and the city passed the budget cuts.

Throughout all this Jessica stopped organizing for our rank-and-file job action group. Advancing little on my own, I stopped too. Many workers said verbally they would support job actions but in practice most were very cynical about organizing collectively to pull off slowdowns.

I had thought there was enough support for job actions to form a group in which I could spread CHALLENGE and raise the Party. Slowly I realized that a PLP comrade's advice had been right all along: communist ideas would help build a base for collective job actions and strikes, not the other way around.

When the Occupy movement grew, the Party

decided I should spend more time there, where I ran into Jessica. To the surprise of both of us, Occupy did wake up many people, or at least opened them to discuss revolutionary ideas. But Jessica also noticed that the media and ruling class supported OWS much more than the summer anti-budget-cut campout. The cops harassed and fined the month-long pre-OWS occupation repeatedly but with little mainstream media coverage. Somehow OWS, which initially was not much bigger than the budget-cut campout, was a front-page top-of-the-news-hour story.

A Democratic Tea Party?

I shared the Party's analysis with Jessica, that U.S. Democrats wanted OWS to be a Democratic tea party. She agreed and said she was waiting for Obama to jump out from behind a curtain and tell Occupiers, "Gotcha!" We agreed that OWS was an important opportunity to raise militant ideas. She and I have met George, a fellow transit worker, at Occupy. But we both felt that without revolutionaries getting involved, OWS would lead to Obama's re-election campaign or cynicism.

The Party decided we should pursue a transit study group more seriously. A comrade, Mikey, recently started working in transit. Two old friends of the Party have also recently contacted us and said they want to attend Party meetings about transit.

Mikey, Jessica and I formed a study group in late December. We noted how important correct ideas were. The last transit strike led many transit workers to cynical and reactionary ideas, not to revolutionary or even militant ones. We also dis-

cussed the basis of the study group: revolutionary communist ideas or just militant trade unionism?

Jessica agreed revolutionary ideas were important but feared driving people away. She thought the group would be too small if communism was all we talked about. I argued that it was important not to hide communist ideas and that, no matter how hard it was to challenge anti-communism among our co-workers, there's no other way communists can build a communist movement. If we pretended we were only about militant trade unionism, workers would smell BS because the union hacks have all spit out the same militant trade union lines and then sell out.

'Be Real About Revolution'

Jessica was still concerned how we would approach communism and the Party. But she agreed it was important to be real with people about studying revolutionary communist ideas. Otherwise other fellow transit worker activists would be driven away by the same hollow trade union rhetoric that the hacks spew.

We decided that for now we would begin the study group with non-Party readings that would enable us to raise communist ideas. Most importantly we each discussed who we would invite to the next study group, making sure to cast a wide net. In January our transit contract expired, although the union "leaders" agreed to continue negotiations. We will have the second meeting of a PLP transit study/action group. Hopefully, and with effort, it will be bigger than the first. The struggle continues.☺

Turn 'Occupy' General Strike into Communist May Day

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U.S. rulers routinely use their electoral circus to lure the most disaffected workers into backing a war agenda. Obama's 2008 victory — after promising "yes-we-can" solutions to workers' problems — enabled him to perpetuate mass murder in Iraq and Afghanistan. But that was just the start. Obama used this mandate, plus his unmatched ability to pacify left-leaning workers and black and Latino workers in general, to spread lethal U.S. action into Libya, Pakistan, Somalia, Yemen, and places known only to the Pentagon and CIA. The incumbent president's murderous track record has the main wing of the U.S. ruling class hoping for his re-election.

Ballot Box a Dead End

The rulers' concern is that a crisis-ridden capitalist economy has weakened their ability to funnel workers into the dead end of the voting booth, the bosses' safety valve of choice to diffuse militant action. Millions fewer may vote in November than in 2008, and pundits are declaring that Obama will be toast unless job creation tops 150,000 per month from here on out. Black and Latino workers and youth, the people most victimized by the unceasing racism of police brutality, mass foreclosures, and brutal unemployment rates, are less than thrilled with Obama's performance. Significant segments of the working class, including documented and undocumented immigrants and anyone convicted of a felony, are excluded from voting even if they wanted to.

Even so, the 2012 election still looms as the bosses' main event. All the conflicting camps of U.S. capitalists need a popular stamp of approval for their various anti-worker, union-busting and militarist programs.

As CHALLENGE reported (2/1/12), the presidential campaign revolves around assorted bosses choosing which wars to wage next

and how best to mobilize for them. Rick Santorum, the recent winner of several GOP primaries, has come out of obscurity endorsing motives for war with Iran and China.

Santorum is a member of the Ethics and Public Policy Center (EPPC), an organization bankrolled by his top campaign donor, Foster Friess. EPPC proclaims itself "dedicated to applying the Judeo-Christian moral tradition to critical issues of public policy." As Santorum's own Website puts it, "China should be challenged on religious liberty." As for Iran and the oil-soaked Middle East, it declares: "War with Radical Islam."

Chanting "Onward Christian Soldiers" (though generously including the U.S. rulers' staunch ally, Israel), Santorum echoes the racist rant in "Clash of Civilizations," the book by imperialist darling Samuel P. Huntington. In posing a strategy for world war between Western imperialists and Muslim nations, Huntington makes an undisguised call for patriotic loyalty to an attack by U.S. bosses

against billions of our sister and brother workers worldwide.

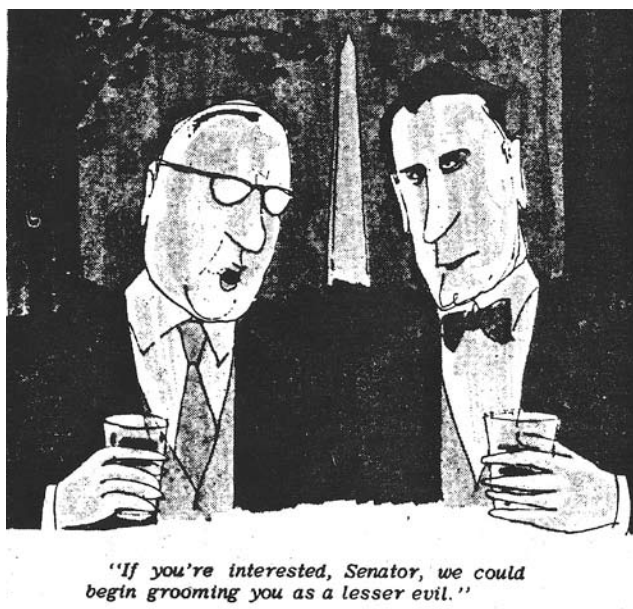
Blocked by its leaders from exposing capitalism's built-in contradiction between exploiters and exploited, the Occupy movement cannot stop the plight of workers from getting even worse. The war-makers' coming election is just as useless for our class. The profit system itself must be destroyed, and only a revolution for working-class rule can accomplish that goal.

Working Class the Key Force

Workers constitute the decisive force for transforming society. It is our class that produces all value in the course of production. The owners of the means of production have expropriated that value for their private profit, paying as little as possible to those creating that profit. The owning class cannot survive except by exploiting the working class, but workers definitely don't need the bosses. Once masses of workers understand that we can throw them out and take state power, and are won to the Progressive Labor Party, the hell of capitalism will be ground into the dustbin of history.

Today, many have been won to Occupy's leaders or Obama's promises, even if only as lesser evils to the Republicans' overtly racist ideology. Evil, yes; lesser no. It is now critical to work on all fronts — shops and unions, schools and campuses, churches and mass organizations, and especially among GI's in the military — to expose and attack their leaders and advance our communist ideas.

On this May Day, it is to these ideas that PLP and our friends and supporters dedicate ourselves. We must win the participants in this upcoming one-day strike to turn it into something far more powerful and significant: a communist call for workers' power.☺



How U.S. Rulers Will Step Up War on Iran

In many ways, U.S. imperialism is already at war with Iran. Assassinations and cyber-attacks by the U.S. lapdog Israel, sabotage and incursions, sanctions that can be more devastating than physical attacks — all of this has been going on for years.

The debate in the U.S. ruling class is not whether, but how to step up this war. There are three main camps, both in Washington and in Tel Aviv:

Assassination, a Weapon of Choice?

1. Step up the clandestine war. Meir Dagan, the former head of Israel's Mossad spy agency, says there is no need to bomb Iran. What he's really saying is: We spies can solve the problem by assassinating Iranian scientists and messing up Iran's computers. This camp calculates that massive bombing risks provoking a nationalist "rally-around-the-flag" response, along with international sympathy for Iran. So clandestine war is the first choice. But the issue is: Will that slow down Iran enough? Iran's fascist regime has been working on a bomb for 23 years, and they still are not there. But they are getting closer.

2. Work to overthrow the clerical fascists. This camp argues that Iran's nuclear issue is only one of many threats from that country. Iran has also sponsored Hezbollah, which has built an impressive missile arsenal to threaten Israel. It has also been active in Iraq, encouraging those who would pull down the democratic façade the U.S. created and replace it with a new dictatorship like Saddam Hussein's — except this time run by a different faction of the Iraqi ruling class (the Shia instead of the Sunni). So this camp advocates regime change, which means overthrowing the Islamic Republic.

Iranian workers, professionals, and many capitalists hate the Islamic Republic, a backward, re-

ligious, fascist regime. Ordinary Iranians want to join the world. They want to use the internet, hold hands in public, watch Western TV and movies, and wear reasonable clothes in place of the chador. As a result, some U.S. and Israeli bosses support regime change. They calculate that the Iranian people may rise up to overthrow the detested Islamic clerics, an uprising that could happen as quickly and unexpectedly as the recent regime change in Libya and Egypt. Unfortunately, the result will probably follow those two countries' as well. Another faction of capitalists will take over from the Islamist fascists.

The most likely scenario is...U.S. imperialism stepping up the pressure and the Iranian fascists escalating their response...a recipe for...a bigger war.

3. Bomb Iran. This is a risky step. It could backfire on U.S. imperialism or bring great rewards. The Saudis and other Gulf monarchies are urging the U.S. to act, but they would be the first to criticize if the action failed to go well. The Iranian ruling class makes all kinds of threats about what they would do if attacked, but they have a long track record of not responding if their only options

are poor ones. An attack on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, for example, would anger oil-importing countries like China that would otherwise sit on the sidelines.

The most likely scenario is the first one, with U.S. imperialism stepping up the pressure and the Iranian fascists escalating their response. That is a recipe for starting a bigger war. Iran's ruling class appears to have convinced itself that the United States is a paper tiger that talks tough but does nothing — a dangerous illusion.

Three Imperialist Wars Too Many?

In recent years, U.S. rulers have ignored provocations from Iran because they've been tied down in Iraq and Afghanistan. Washington did not want to take on another imperialist war while it was losing two others. Now that the U.S. military has mostly exited Iraq, there may be less patience with Iran. Standing up to Iran is one issue that unites the often bitterly divided U.S. ruling class. The Senate approved a recent law increasing sanctions on Iran by a vote of 100 to zero. In short, 2012 may be the year for a dramatic escalation of the ongoing U.S.-Iran war. Israel may attack. A broader war may be brewing.

In that event, our communist position is: to hell with both of you. We have no sympathy for either U.S. imperialism or for the clerical fascists in Iran. The only victory for the working class would be for us to use the war to win broad masses of workers for communist revolution, in Iran, the United States and the world.✊

A Communist May Day

Win the Hearts and Minds of the International Working Class

May Day organizes for revolution to destroy capitalism. This commemorates a massive strike wave in the U.S. and the particular battle in Chicago's Haymarket Square in 1886. The leaders of this movement demanded an 8-hour day but also advocated the "abolition of the wage system."

Then and now the capitalists feared this revolutionary side to May Day. In 1848, Marx and Engels wrote in the *Communist Manifesto*, "A specter is haunting Europe, the specter of Communism." By 1886, the rulers of Chicago saw this specter. "The newspapers and industrialists were increasingly declaring that May 1, 1886 was in reality the date for a Communist working-class insurrection modeled on the Paris Commune. According to Melville E. Stone, head of the Chicago Daily News...a 'repetition of the Paris Communal riots was freely predicted' for May 1, 1886" (P. 90, *Labor's Untold Story*, by Boyer and Morais).

Strike Wave Beats Up Scabs

In December 1886, San Francisco transit workers joined this strike wave. They were working up to 15 hours a day, 7 days a week. They wanted a 3-hour daily reduction in hours and a daily pay increase from \$2.25 to \$2.50. "Strike-breakers were hired, and there was a great deal of violence. Cars were damaged, strike-breakers were beaten, and one person was killed." Newspapers blamed eight instances of the use of dynamite on the striking workers. No doubt feeling threatened by the union and the worldwide strength and militancy of May Day, the Governor signed a bill in March 1887 "limiting gripmen, drivers, and conductors to a 12-hour day." ("Transit In San Francisco," published by SF MUNI R.R. Communications Department.)

By the 1920's the now pro-capitalist AFL union leadership, fearing the growth of communist ideas in the working class, reversed its support for May Day and the latter's openly declared communist ideas. Since then the AFL has collaborated with the U.S. government to subvert May Day and the revolutionary trend of workers here and abroad. At the 1928 AFL Convention, the Executive Council supported a Congressional resolution to make

May 1 Child Health day. "May 1 will no longer be known as either strike day or communist labor day."

During the peak of the communist organizing of the CIO unions, May Day was celebrated in the U.S. But business unionism and anti-communism soon triumphed after World War II, with organized labor only recognizing Labor Day in September.

From the Haymarket battle in 1886, revolutionary workers spread May Day around the globe. But history is written by the conquerors. Many workers born here know nothing of the contribution the U.S. working class made to the development of this revolutionary holiday. May 1st is the official Labor Day in most countries, but the leadership of these marches demands only reforms, and stresses the common goals of labor and capital.

PLP Reclaims May Day

However, after the U.S. "communist" party abandoned May Day in the 1950s, PLP resurrected it in 1971 and has organized communist marches and celebrations for the last four decades. We proudly raised the red flag among the workers in cities across the U.S.

PLP has learned both from the triumphs of the



communist movement in the USSR and China, and from their failure to fight directly for communism. We too advocate "Abolish the Wage System" as part of changing the relationship of workers and work in a new communist society.

The abolition of money, of production for sale or profit and of the wage system is absolutely necessary to establish communism. When, under the dictatorship of the proletariat, the international working class wins and holds control over all economic, political and cultural institutions of society, it will unleash a creative power that will propel the human race to its highest accomplishments in all fields of endeavor. Only a mass revolutionary communist party advocating and leading such a struggle can achieve this. Only such a party can defeat the fascism that capitalism will use to oppose it.

Long live the 1st of May, the revolutionary international working-class holiday! Fight for communism!✊

LETTERS



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

Winds of Change Blow Fiercely As Workers Hug CHALLENGE

The wind was from the north, cold and sweeping. Our CHALLENGES fluttered in our attempt to keep them open to show the workers exiting Brookdale Hospital in Brooklyn, NY at the end of their shift and others entered to start their shift.

"Is that the latest CHALLENGE?" asked one worker. "Thanks." He said a few words and moved on to get out of the cold wind. A doctor in scrubs who walked up to me said "Thanks," when I gave him a paper, shook my hand, and moved into the building.

A tall worker came out of the hospital and asked, "What's that?" The front page spoke of class war and we discussed it for a few minutes. He moved on to a group of friends standing by the car service drivers nearby. He showed them the paper. A lengthy conversation followed as the biting wind continued.

One after another, almost every individual who went in or came out of the hospital entrance took a CHALLENGE and had something nice to say. In some cases I was thanked over and over again, and my hand was shaken.

The other person distributing the paper had similar experiences. One woman, on seeing somebody refuse the paper told the other, "You should read that. It has good information."

It was not just the cold wind blowing or the icy sleet that started to fall, it was as if a great change was beginning to take place. Their hospital is under attack. Half of the large institution is slated to be closed down. Not because it doesn't serve its purpose to the large population in the area, not because the hospital workers and medical staff are incapable, but because of the needs of war, fascism, and profit.

Our distribution of CHALLENGE brought all of these views to the workers. For those taking the paper, it reflected their growing workers' anger, not only at the fraud that removed millions of dollars from their pension funds, but at the racism that would close a hospital that serves mostly a black, Latino and immigrant population.

We have been back about three times in four weeks with three different editions of CHALLENGE. The first time, two of us brought 60 papers, and they went in about 15 minutes.

The second time we brought 65 papers, and they disappeared in about 20 minutes during snow flurries.

The third time we had three sellers and 100 papers that disappeared in about 18 minutes. People were eager for information about the system we're living under and information on the hospital.

I got a sudden feeling that this is what it means to be serving the people. The bosses' newspapers raise all of the terrible things that exist in our society.

The only answer that's ever put forward is incarcerating more of our youth or voting for one of the bosses' politicians. We point out the need to struggle and fight back, no matter who the politician or boss is, that the way forward is to read and distribute CHALLENGE, struggle on the job, strug-

gle with our friends and help people understand the true nature of this class society.

A CHALLENGE seller

'I know capitalism isn't working so I want to find out more...'

"I don't know exactly what communism is, but I know capitalism isn't working, so I want to find out more."

These were the words of a teacher who had just attended his first PL study-action group. He is a fellow co-worker of a PL'er in a special-needs high school for emotionally disturbed youth. He's intimately confronted with the racism, injustice, and inequality inherent in capitalism's education system every day.

Another first-time attendee was a college student who had spent virtually every night at Occupy Wall Street (OWS). He had a lot to say at our discussion based on the CHALLENGE (12/14) article "OWS Slogan Hides Class Nature of Profit System." The article discussed how part of the 99% is also a part of the power structure that supports the capitalist system. We all read the article together and listened to each other's understanding of it. As a recent PL'er struggled with the student, it was inspiring to watch her give leadership based on her understanding of the Party line. A greater understanding of communism occurred.

A PL teacher had arrived a bit late because several high schools had walkouts against school closings earlier and some of her students had participated in it. Excited to see so many youth and so few phony leftists at the walkout, she took the opportunity to get out 50 CHALLENGES. She also had good political discussions with her students who'd walked out. She invited them to upcoming PLP events and congratulated them on taking part in such a sharp political action.

With another large study group and protests to look forward to, this PL club feels that growth is on the horizon. Within the context of a deepening financial crisis, the police murder of an unarmed teen in the Bronx, and sharpening imperialist conflicts, it is inspiring to see so much work transform into potential growth.

A Comrade

Palestine: Youth Know the Score and Fight Like Hell

As a college student in the U.S. on my first international trip, I was astounded by the situation in Palestine and at how blatantly the U.S. media manipulates reports on Israel and Palestine. The trip was at once infuriating and exhilarating. The great ugly gray walls penning Palestinians in their allotted lands, the widespread pattern of rubble where homes had once been, are now taken over by either Zionist Jewish settlers or the government itself. The situation is similar to what the U.S. did to the Native Americans when penned into reservations.

What was exhilarating, however, was the spirit of fighting back that was as strong as their coffee. The women, children — both Palestinian and Jewish — and workers united to fight and demonstrate on a regular basis. In Sheik Jarrah, the demonstrations are militant and frequent. They recognize that the fight is not between "races" or religions, but between classes.

As a young student, the most inspiring thing to me was the force with which the children fought. Young children no more than nine years old were leading massive marches.

Their political consciousness is something that we can aspire to in the U.S. They understand democracy does not exist in the U.S. any more than it exists in Israel, before they have even memorized their multiplication tables.

But it is also sad because their consciousness comes from growing up with brothers and cousins tortured in prisons, watching as the elderly are thrown to the ground and their homes taken in front of their own eyes. They grow up living in tents, cemeteries, encampments and streets.

FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD
BUILD THE INTERNATIONAL PLP!
PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

They grow up in racism and fascism so blatant and unavoidable that they have no choice but to be militant fighters and organizers. It is deep-rooted into their growing process. We can learn from their militancy and awareness that the working class is expendable in this racist system. Join the fight for a communist revolution!

Young Red

March vs. Racist Cops: 'Can't stand living under capitalism'

When I first heard about the shooting of 18-year-old Ramarley Graham on February 2nd in the Bronx, I instantly called bull****.

According to details (which are sketchy at best), police saw Graham adjusting his pants on a street corner and, since he was black, assumed he was taking out a gun. They then chased Graham to his home, where one of the cops cornered and fatally shot Graham in his own bathroom. No gun was found on him at all. Shocker.

I knew that I had to be at the protest against this grave injustice, which took place two days later in the Melrose area.

As I arrived with my communist friends I could feel a palpable anger in the air — the unrelenting fury and disgust towards the NYPD's treatment of an innocent youth who was doing nothing wrong.

A young Latino man dressed in a red hat with matching sweater passionately read off the names of the officers involved. Community leaders became southern pastors in full sermon, asking in booming voices when will the violence be stopped.

Mere yards away, an auxiliary band of pigs in blue watched the spectacle, supposedly there to "keep the peace." My journalistic senses kicking in, I took out my camera, activated the video function, pressed "record" and let the Cyber-Shot tell the story.

We traveled from an apartment complex to the 42nd precinct, the location which produced this particular group of pigs. On the way, I made sure to spit on a police wagon for good measure. Outside the station-house, cries of "Jail those killer cops" and another listing of the guilty party reverberated loud and clear for the officers stationed inside and out.

Soon after, the march's leaders led us down another street, blocking traffic on one side and encouraging people to join in.

I eventually found Graham's siblings, one of whom thanked me for showing my support. A man even took the opportunity to shout himself out before my camera lens.

Overall, I was enthused to have been part of this. While I don't consider myself a communist, I am a supporter and I do believe that a revolution can and will happen.

I can't stand living in a capitalist world where the police pit bulls are free to harass and kill black and Latino people, with Mayor Bloomberg holding their leashes. If this murder shows anything, it's that we need to protect ourselves. After all, these cops sure won't help us there. In the word of the rap group NWA, "Eff Tha Police."

Friend of PL



W.E.B. Dubois Hailed Stalin as A Tribune of the People

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magnificent lying propaganda, which he carried around the world. Against it, Stalin stood like a rock and moved neither right nor left, as he continued to advance toward a real socialism instead of the sham* Trotsky offered.

Three great decisions faced Stalin in power and he met them magnificently; first, the problem of the peasants, then the West European attack**, and last the Second World War. The poor Russian peasant was the lowest victim of tsarism, capitalism and the Orthodox Church. He surrendered [to] the Little White Father [the Tsar] easily; he turned less readily but perceptibly from his icons; but his kulaks [rich peasants] clung tenaciously to capitalism and were near wrecking the revolution when Stalin risked a second revolution and drove out the rural bloodsuckers.

Then came intervention, the continuing threat of attack by all nations, halted by the Depression, only to be re-opened by Hitlerism. It was Stalin who steered the Soviet Union between Scylla and Charybdis***; Western Europe and the U.S. were willing to betray her to fascism, and then had to beg her aid in the Second World War. A lesser man than Stalin would have demanded vengeance for Munich, but he had the wisdom to ask only justice for his fatherland....The British Empire proposed first to save itself in Africa and southern Europe, while Hitler smashed the Soviets.

The Second Front dawdled, but Stalin pressed unflinching ahead. He risked the utter ruin of socialism in order to smash the dictatorship of Hitler and Mussolini. After Stalingrad the Western World did not know whether to weep or applaud. The cost of victory to the Soviet Union was frightful. To this day the outside world has no dream of the hurt, the loss and the sacrifices. For his calm, stern leadership here, if nowhere else, arises the deep worship of Stalin by the people of all the Russias.

Then came the problem of Peace. Hard as this was to Europe and America, it was far harder to Stalin and the Soviets. The conventional rulers of the world hated and feared them and would have been only too willing to see the utter failure of this attempt at socialism. At the same time the fear of Japan and Asia was also real. Diplomacy therefore took hold and Stalin was picked as the victim. He was called in conference with British Imperialism represented by its trained and well-fed aristocracy; and with the vast wealth and potential power of America represented by its most liberal leader in half a century.****

Here Stalin showed his real greatness. He neither cringed nor strutted. He never presumed, he never surrendered....He asked neither adulation nor vengeance. He was reasonable and conciliatory. But on what he deemed essential, he was inflexible. He was willing to resurrect the League of Nations, which had

insulted the Soviets. He was willing to fight Japan, even though Japan was then no menace to the Soviet Union, and might be death to the British Empire and to American trade. But on two points Stalin was adamant: Clemenceau's "Cordon Sanitaire"***** must be returned to the Soviets, whence it had been stolen as a threat. The Balkans were not to be left helpless before Western exploitation for the benefit of land monopoly....

Such was the man who lies dead, still the butt of noisy jackals and the ill-bred men of some parts of the distempered West. In life he suffered under continuous and studied insult; he was forced to make bitter decisions on his own lone responsibility. His reward comes as the common man stands in solemn acclaim.

W.E.B. Dubois, March 16, 1953

*capitalist alliance

**Seventeen nations, including the U.S. invaded the Soviet Union, attempting to crush socialism.

***From Greek mythology, caught between two monsters."

**** Yalta conference with Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin, February 1945

*****Stalin insisted that the Balkans and Eastern Europe not be an imperialist launching pad for the West to invade the Soviet Union once again.☺

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

China's workers suffer; U.S. profits

NYT, 1/26 — Two years ago, 137 workers at an Apple supplier in Eastern China were injured after they were ordered to use a poisonous chemical to clean iPhone screens. Within seven months last year, two explosions at iPad factories, including in Chengdu, killed four people and injured 77. Before those blasts, Apple had been alerted to hazardous conditions inside the Chengdu plant, according to a Chinese group....

"If you see the same pattern of problems, year after year, that means the company's ignoring the issue rather than solving it," said one former Apple executive with firsthand knowledge....

Banners on the [factory] walls warned the 120,000 employees: "Work hard on the job today or work hard to find a job tomorrow."

Don't rely on law, Dickens said!

NYT, 2/6 — [Charles] Dickens knew whereof he spoke. At 15, he was hired as an "attorney's clerk," serving subpoenas, registering wills, copying transcripts; later he became a court reporter....Dickens told a friend...that "it is better to suffer great wrong than to have recourse to the much greater wrong of the law."

U.S. fosters Honduras corruption

NYT, 1/27 — Ever since the June 28, 2009, coup that deposed Honduras's democratically elected president, José Manuel Zelaya, the country has been descending deeper into a human rights and security abyss. That abyss is in good part the [U.S.] State Department's making....

The current government of President Lobo won power in a November 2009 election....All major international observers boycotted the election, except for the National Democratic Institute and the International Republican Institute, which are financed by the United States.

President Obama quickly recognized Mr. Lobo's victory, even when most of Latin America would not....

This chain of events — a coup that the United States did not stop, a fraudulent election that it accepted — has now allowed corruption to mushroom.... When prominent figures came forward to charge that the police are riddled with death squads and drug traffickers, the most famous accuser was a former police commissioner, Alfredo Landaverde. He was assassinated on Dec. 7....

At least 43 campesino activists participating in land struggles in the Aguán Valley have been killed in the past two and a half years....

And yet, in early October, Mr. Obama praised Mr. Lobo at the White House for leadership in a "restoration of democratic practices." Since the coup the United States has maintained and in some areas increased military and police financing for Honduras and has been enlarging its military base there....

The State Department....[sees] Honduras as a first domino with which to push back against the line of center-left and leftist governments that have won elections in Latin America in the past 15 years. With its American air base, Honduras is also crucial to the United States' military strategy in Latin America.

U.S. low on social-justice ladder

Otherwords.com — "USA: We're No. 1!".... No. [Number] 27....Our new national chant is, "USA: At Least We're Not Last!"

A foundation in Germany has analyzed the social justice records of all 31 members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation (OECD), ranking each nation in such categories as health care, income inequality, pre-school education, and child poverty....

[The U.S.] bottom-of-the-heap ranking in social justice confirms the economic and political inequality that the Occupy movement is protesting. It also helps explain why this grassroots uprising



in America has spread so rapidly to more than 600 communities and has generated such broad public support.

U.S. 'democracy' spies and bullies

Otherwords.org — The FBI now employs 36,000 people and focuses ever more on dissenters. The CIA, supposedly prohibited from spying domestically, now stations agents in local police departments. Homeland Security may legally confiscate your computer and smart phone at the airport, copy their contents, and eventually give them back....

Furthermore, thousands of peaceful protesters are arrested every year....

Anti-war protesters are treated as America's next greatest threat to national security....It's as though our political-economic structure would collapse if there were no more wars....

The media...keeps pretty mum about government spying overall. That espionage quietly undermines the lives and futures of whistleblowers and other Americans who openly oppose various harmful government/corporate practices.

It would be a comfort to believe that all this domestic surveillance had receded under President Barack Obama. No such luck.

Homeland Security still wants us to snitch on our neighbors and the FBI still conducts illegal wiretaps.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Hidden Lesson for Black History Month

W.E.B. Dubois Hailed Stalin as A Tribune of the People

Stalingrad: Red Army Victory Turned the Tide of World War II

February 2 marked the 70th anniversary of the Soviet victory in the Battle of Stalingrad, the real "Mother of All Battles." It was the turning point of World War II, the beginning of the end of the Nazi regime.

On August 23, 1942, Luftwaffe planes, commanded by Baron Wolfram von Richthofen (who led the fascist onslaught on Guernica during the Spanish Civil War) launched the mass bombing that eventually destroyed Stalingrad. In the first week, 40,000 of the 600,000 inhabitants were killed. The "devastating attack moved Stalin to declare 'Ni shag nasad' (not one step backwards)." (El Mundo, Spain, 2/2/03).

In September, Field Marshall Paulus' VI Wehrmacht army launched a series of successful attacks against the industrial center. But the Soviet 62nd Army, commanded by V. Chuikov, resisted. It was the beginning of what the Nazis called rattenkrieg (war of rats), or house-to-house combat. This prolonged the fighting until winter arrived. The commitment and courage of the Red Army and Stalingrad's working class held off the Nazi juggernaut. Right in the middle of the fighting, the workers built tanks and other weapons for battles outside their plants.

After 170 days, the remaining 91,000 Nazi troops and 24 generals surrendered. Hundreds of thousands of Nazis died, along with over one million Soviet soldiers and civilians.

"Our Red Army was so powerful that... we would have not only reached Berlin but the Gulf of Vizcaya (Spain)," one veteran told El Mundo.

Red Army Rolling West Forced D-Day

By mid-1944, Soviet tanks and infantry were rolling westward at 40 miles a day. Only when the U.S. and Britain realized the Red Army would defeat the bulk of the Nazi army by itself did they open the second front in France on D-Day. Over 70% of the active Nazi war machine in Europe was tied up fighting the Soviets.

The capitalist implosion of the former Soviet Union achieved what the Nazis couldn't. This was caused by the opportunism of the Soviet rulers and the weaknesses of socialism, retaining many capitalist practices like the wage system.

The lessons of the heroic Soviet workers and soldiers live on. As the world's imperialists prepare for endless wars, the international working class will continue what the Red Army and Soviet workers achieved in Stalingrad. That's the goal of the communist PLP.

For more information on the role played by the Red Army and the communist movement in defeating the Nazis see the CHALLENGE supplement: "50 Years Ago: Communist Red Army Defeated the Nazis, May 17, 1995" in the PL website: plp.org.



Red Army raises Soviet flag over Hitler's Berlin.

Black History Month is celebrated in February in the U.S. One thing that is always ignored is the influence of the communist movement in the civil rights movement in the U.S. The great William E. B. Dubois was one of the leading fighters against racism in the 20th century. He founded the NAACP a century ago. After 50 years of anti-racist struggle, he joined the Communist Party in 1961, declaring that becoming a communist was "the logic of my life." That fact will be well-hidden by the hypocritical U.S. rulers as they "celebrate" Black History Month while preparing another racist war for oil in the Middle East. Even more hidden will be the homage DuBois — a true hero, beloved by the working class, black and white — paid to the communist world leader, Joseph Stalin, on the occasion of Stalin's death in March, 1953, 59 years ago next month.

(From the National Guardian, March 16, 1953):

Josef Stalin was a great man; few other men of the twentieth century approach his stature. He was simple, calm and courageous. He seldom lost his poise; pondered his problems slowly, made his decisions clearly and firmly; never yielded to ostentation nor coyly refrained from holding his rightful place with dignity. He was the son of a serf, but stood calmly before the great without hesitation or nerves. But also — and this was the highest proof of his greatness — he knew the common man, felt his problems, followed his fate.

Stalin was not a man of conventional learning; he was much more than that; he was a man who thought deeply, read understandingly and listened to wisdom, no matter whence it came. He was attacked and slandered as few men of power have been; yet he seldom lost his courtesy and balance; nor did he let attack drive him from his convictions or induce him to surrender positions which he

Stalin...first set Russia on the road to conquer race prejudice and make one nation out of its 140 groups...

knew were correct. As one of the despised minorities of man, he first set Russia on the road to conquer race prejudice and make one nation out of its 140 groups without destroying their individuality.

His judgment of men was profound. He early saw through the flamboyance and exhibitionism of Trotsky, who fooled the world, and especially America. The whole ill-bred and insulting attitude of liberals in the U.S. today began with our naive acceptance of Trotsky's

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