Los Angeles
It's Right to Rebel
The People's Verdict on Rodney King Trial

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Become A Co-Conspirator!

by Bob Avakian
Chairman of the RCP, USA

What do we in the Revolutionary Communist Party want people to learn from all that is exposed and revealed in this newspaper? Mainly, three things:

1) The whole system we now live under is based on exploitation—here and all over the world. It is completely worthless and no basic change for the better can come about until this system is overthrown.

2) Many different groups will protest and rebel against things this system does, and these protests and rebellions should be supported and strengthened. Yet it is only those with nothing to lose but their chains who can be the backbone of a struggle to actually overthrow this system and create a new system that will put an end to exploitation and help pave the way to a whole new world.

3) Such a revolutionary struggle is possible. There is a political Party that can lead such a struggle, a political Party that speaks and acts for those with nothing to lose but their chains: The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA.

This Party has the vision, the program, the leadership, and the organizational principles to unite those who must be united and prepared for the better, all those who dare to dream and act to bring about a completely new and better world: Support this Party, join this Party, strengthen it to make it even more organized and prepare the ground for a revolutionary rising that has a solid basis and a real chance of winning.

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Bush: “The court system has worked.”
April 29, 1992

Gates: “I hope the people of this city will recognize this is indeed our system of justice.”
Los Angeles, April 29, 1992
Los Angeles Sends a Message to the World

Occupied Los Angeles, Sunday May 3—As the RW goes to press, the U.S. government has sent thousands of armed forces into the Los Angeles area. National Guard troops—who took part in the 1989 Christmas invasion of Panama—are on the streets with live ammunition. As they took up their positions, one National Guard joked, "Welcome to Beirut, West." Thousands more Federal troops—who invaded the Persian Gulf—have entered the city. As of Saturday afternoon, the Guard was marching, in massive numbers, down the streets of the oppressed communities like South Central and Pico Union and occupying Koreatown in force.

Under cover from the National Guard, the LAPD began to take back control of the streets with armed force. By Sunday more than 9,000 people had been arrested. The media has reported more than 40 people dead, but they are covering up how they died. In the coming days and weeks it will surely come to light that many were shot by police. The number of police killings acknowledged by the press has doubled in the last 24 hours, but we have not yet seen the full restoration of the old order and the cowardly revenge the LAPD is certain to attempt after their humiliating retreat. Here is an initial report on the high tide of rebellion that occurred for days over a vast area and involved millions of people:

Following the acquittal of the police who beat Rodney King, the tension that has been building during the past year—the anger at police murder, brutality, racism, and the desperate conditions of life for the masses of people—exploded over Los Angeles, throwing sparks across the U.S. The results have been spectacular.

The macho thugs of the Los Angeles Police Department ran squealing for cover, their "secret million-dollar plans" for dealing with "repressionists in the inner-city" swept away by the fury of initial outbreaks. People revealed in a brief taste of freedom and felt their power in a way that has not been seen within the U.S. for two decades. In the forefront of these actions have been middle-class people and students not far behind. The powers that have been shaken to their highest level, and have moved to restore their monarchical order with armed might—the bottom line of their system of organized greed.

At 1:30 p.m., Wednesday April 29, local radio and TV stations announced that verdicts had been reached in the Rodney King beating trial at Simi Valley, the nearly all-white town in Ventura County to which the trial was moved. By the time the verdicts were read at 3:00 p.m., 500 had gathered at the courthouse and dozens stood in front of Parker Center, the LAPD headquarters in the Civic Center, just north of Downtown L.A. In Simi Valley, as the police left the courthouse after the acquittal, people shouted "pig," "racist," and "guilty, guilty." A mainly-white crowd of over 100 tried to get their hands on Stacey Koon, the sergeant who supervised the beating, and Lawrence Powell, the pig who delivered most of the blows. John Singleton, the director of Boyz n the Hood, who drove to Simi Valley for the verdicts, said "They don't respect us and we're not going to respect them. We have to create our own system and we're not going to follow their rules any more."

Meanwhile in Los Angeles, by 5:00 over 600 had blocked traffic at Parker Center—the scene of many protests last Spring following the King beating. This crowd included white, Chicano and Black youth (many wearing Malcolm X and Africa tee shirts), revolutionaries, activists from ACT UP, police-reform-through-elections forces, college students and artists. By this time, an overwhelming Black crowd had gathered at Normandie and Florence in South Central L.A., stopping traffic and starting fires. By 7:30, rebellion had spread to many areas of South Central. Cars drove through the area with hand-lettered signs reading "No justice, no peace," "By any means necessary," and "Rodney King." As it became clear that the pigs were not going to enter the area, larger targets were attacked. People began to take food, clothing and other necessities of life from supermarkets and other stores. Empty shoe boxes and discarded worn-out tennis shoes were piled in front of chain shoe stores. By sunset, the first of many huge columns of smoke rose in the sky as some of these huge structures went up in flames.

Targeting the Enemy

At Parker Center, the crowd grew to over 1,000. Fierce conflict with various forms social movements tried to contain the rebellious spirit of the crowd by organizing a picket line and chanting "Gates Must Go." Just as one homeless man told the RW, "It was time to get beyond that." People debated what to do with their anger as the crowd confronted the pigs at the front doors. Some said, "Take the streets." But a youth replied, "We're in front of Parker Center! We're gonna take Parker Center where we are right now." Rocks, dirt clods, lighting fixtures ripped from the ground and other objects flew against doors and windows. The U.S. flag was taken down, torn to pieces and burned as people chanted "The flag, the flag, the flag is on fire. We don't need no water, let the motherfucker burn!" A parking lot truck was turned over and the youth danced a joyous war dance on it before it caught fire.

Once the police had inched their way to the front, the crowd broke away to target other buildings in the Civic Center. Traffic control sweeps from as the streets in the area were occupied. As the crowd walked past the Federal Building and blocked traffic (Miami Avenue), Homeless people pushed their shopping carts in the street, defying the police. "Venceremos" (we will win), Mayor Tom Bradley faithfully condemned the rebellion (with a little militant-sounding rhetoric), some less prominent Black establishment types could not bring themselves to urge calm and work within the system. Many of those inside First AME tried to speak out in favor of the masses in the street and protested angrily when they were cut off from doing so.

In the San Fernando Valley area of Pacoima, one of the few points in northwest L.A. hundreds demonstrated in front of the North Division of the LAPD, home of the pigs who beat Rodney King.

In the south Central housing project of Nickerson Gardens, an area known for its high political level since the days of the Black Panther Party, two people were shot to death by the pigs in what the police called "a gun fight." There were three others killed in Compton and Inglewood, cities that border south Central.

Windows were broken in Westwicke, a shopping area near the UCLA campus, and demonstrations gathered at the Westwood Federal Building and blocked traffic on Wilshire Boulevard. Westwood was the scene of a youth rebellion immediately after the beating of Rodney King.

Pico Union—a Latino barrio that has been the scene of fierce struggle against the LAPD's police state program and a strong area for revolutionary politics—erupted in advanced political action. This neighborhood—where police have tried to create a walled-off photo with barricades around the area—became a center of revolutionary action and struggle as people targeted the "old authorities." Homeless people pushed their shopping carts in the street, defying the police. "Venceremos" (we will win), Revolutionary SL, "Pack the Police and continued on page 4
Los Angeles Sends a Message to the World

Continued from page 3

"Fuck LAPD" were seen on the walls. Dumpster and garbage cans were set on fire in the street. Police barricades—set up around the neighborhood as part of the so-called "war on drugs"—came under attack. As the corner nearest the former INS concentration was the target of determined fire in the street. Police barricades—set up around the neighborhood as part of the so-called "war on drugs," the LA Times wrote that the rebellion marked the end of the hope of racial harmony, but in fact the random beating of residents occurred only in the first hours of the rebellion. What stood out in all reports was the multi-racial character of the crowds. And one Black homestake man told the RW that the People's Union was just the beginning. "The rebellion was about the people, not the pigs."

A call went out for people to come to Seventh and Alvarado on Friday to get more Manifestos to distribute. RCP members, people backed the pigs "Fuck Gates." When cops tried to surround and take out the Manifestos. At one point people split.

"Revolution es la solucion." Some of the people who had been at war getting together during the rebellion—clearly not the solution to "gang violence" that the powers wanted. Over the course of the rebellion the majority of the killings to the police but not being able to shop at this store. The man told him, "The flame and steam coming from my heart. And you don't have to like it, and you don't have to understand it." A Korean woman told TV reporters that she was sorry her shop got burned but she understood how people felt. She said that the people in the rebellion were her people too and she was just going to rebuild her shop.

Today's afternoon headlines decorated the corner of Damián Garcia Park. The largest one said: "Viva el 1 de Mayo Dia Internacional del Proletariado. Frente de los oprimidos." An immigrant came by with two large cardboard skeletons and said: "This is what the pigs do to my people." He hung the skeletons up on either side of the banner. Other people came by and took stacks of flags and Manifestos. Some pigs came and ripped down two of the banners but they were confronted by a crowd of people who put the banners back up.

At 6 p.m. the RCBY marched through the barricaded zone in Pico Union carrying red flags and RCP flags charging, "No mas puerco, no mas arrestos. Rodney King no mas. Discrimina. Adelante al 1® de Mayo." And "Zona del pueblo no zona de la chора." Some 150 people stood on four corners during a rally and people shouted, "Puebla, Puebla" and "La lucha sigue a pesar de la mierda." Later the pigs moved in to grab some masses hall a block from the rally. Fifty people from the neighborhood together with the Youth Brigade ran to the location. Some of the people who had been arrested got away and the pigs backed up and called for reinforcements as bottles shattered around them. By 7:30 p.m. pigs had arrived and riot-clad pigs lined up on one side of the intersection. Four RCBYs stood opposite them raising huge red flags. The police chased the RCBYers into the barricaded zone and six youths were arrested.

Throughout the rebellion people with a clear anti-system orientation struggled over which targets to hit and tried to get the message across to the media that this rebellion was not aimed at the system. In one scene on TV cameras rolled, an older woman stood in front of a group of youth and pointed to the police. "Y'all should stop killing each other," she said, and "start killing THEESE pigs!"

Standing across the street from a burned grocery store, a woman asked a pig from the neighborhood how he felt about not being able to shop at this store. The man turned to her and said, "The rebellion is a war against capitalism and imperialism. It's not just about the system. It's about the people."

As we go to press, it is unclear what will happen to the police. Some expect that there will be a massive show of force from National Guard troops. Whether this will be a "war of nerves" or some other tactic remains to be seen. But the people have proven that they will not be intimidated. The rebellion was about the people, not the pigs. And that's why they were out.

The Rebellion Spreads

The Santa Monica Freeway, at about 20th St., divides the ghetto and barrio of South Central from Westside. It is a reminder of the past, of the days when the LA police conducted a war on Black people. But it is also a reminder of the present, of the struggle that continues today.

As the scope of the rebellion increased, so did the mobilization of people. A half-dozen tanks were deployed in the area, with mothers and fathers getting clothes for the kids. The city was blanketed with smoke from hundreds of fires. This was not "mindless looting." Baskets were trashed as well as supermarkets. "Rodney King" and "Fuck the Police" appeared on TV screens around the world. A Korean woman told TV reporters that she was sorry her shop got burned but she understood how people felt. She said that the people in the rebellion were her people too and she was just going to rebuild her shop.

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Statement on the Rodney King Verdict from Carl Dix, National Spokesperson of the Revolutionary Communist Party


The People's Verdict – It's Right to Rebel!

This racist system delivered its statement this week. The system cut loose the cops who brutally beat Rodney King, even when the whole world has seen the tape of their crime. The system is saying straight up that a pig beating the hell out of a Black man—or any oppressed person—is no crime. The whole trial was a set-up to deliver that message from the start. That's why they moved it to a lily-white neighborhood. That's why they put two ex-cops and two relatives of cops on the jury. And the prosecution's case agreed with the cops that Rodney King was a "monster" who needed to be beaten. They only disagreed about how many times they should have hit him. But this whole trial and verdict wasn't just about Rodney King, the individual. This was a billy club to the head of the oppressed and exploited people—everywhere.

But the people are delivering their own message. It was delivered at LAPD headquarters—where youth of all nationalities stormed Parker Center and the Hall of Justice among other places and torched American flags and police buildings. It was delivered outside the courthouse in lily-white Simi Valley where Black, Latino and white youth joined together to go after the 4 cops as they left the courthouse. It's being delivered throughout South Central L.A. and all over the city. It's a message that the people are not going to stand for this abuse anymore. And that's the stand that they got to take.

The representatives of the system condemned violence and looting. But how can they talk about such things? This system is based on robbery and violence all over the world.

Those the media has dubbed "responsible leaders" are heard everywhere telling the people to chill out. They're saying we should "put the Rodney King beating behind us." They tell the people to "channel your anger into something constructive"—like voting to change the police department or waiting for the new Black police chief, Willie Williams. THIS IS A CLASS SOCIETY. The big capitalists who rule over this system are afraid of those they exploit and oppress. That's why the police—the rulers' first line of defense—are trained to treat whole sections of the population as the enemy.

And a Black police chief won't change any of this. In fact, both Willie Williams and the so-called "reforms" they are promoting are designed to tighten up and increase the brutality and repression of the police department against the Rodney Kings of L.A. Their hyped-up plan for "community-based policing" means more concentration-camp neighborhoods behind barbed wire and a snitch network to help the cops brutalize the people on the bottom even more.

A lot of people in the streets of L.A. haven't bought their hype and that's better than good. This outrage has to be fought and more, while we're battling them back, in rebellions like these, we got to make this part of getting ready for The Time—and it could come soon—to wage revolutionary war.

In order to get ready for the time, as the May First Manifesto says, "You have to lead the people to fight back, you have to move masses of people to battle the system in a way that is guided by revolutionary ideology and serves revolutionary aims, and through all this you have to build up the revolutionary consciousness and organization of the masses, with the Maoist vanguard Party at the very core, and prepare the revolutionary people to wage the people's war when the conditions for that are ripe."

This is the message we're uniting with the people to deliver. And it's especially strong on May First, the revolutionary holiday of the proletariat—the class of people of every nationality that can and will free itself by freeing all humanity. People need to get organized to act together with the Party and get its manifesto up everywhere so that the people can see it and the enemy will fear it.

No More Racist Police Brutality! Revolution Is the Hope of the Hopeless! It's Right to Rebel! The SYSTEM Is Guilty! The PEOPLE Will Bury the System!

To the National Guard and Federal Troops Sent to LA:

You came back from the Gulf War to the video of Rodney King. Now they send you to enforce the verdict!
The shameful verdict in the Rodney King trial touched off angry explosions all across the USA. In cities and towns from coast to coast, people rebelled, protested and clashed with the forces of the powers that be. Not since the storms of the ’60s has this country been shaken to its foundations in this way. And in the midst of this, revolutionaries and basic people in many cities celebrated May Day, and the RCP’s May Day Manifesto was distributed widely. The spirit of the the holiday of the international proletariat merged with the rebellion in L.A. and other cities. As the slogan read by the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigades in Cleveland said, “May 1st, Rage On L.A., Revolution Is The Hope of the Hopeless.” Check out next week’s RW for reports on May Day.

This is a roundup of the the righteous response to the King verdict, based on news we have received as of press time. The information comes from RW reporters and correspondents, news accounts and wire service reports.

San Francisco Bay Area

Wednesday, April 29: A few hours after the King verdict went out over the airwaves, there were protests and rallies in San Francisco, Berkeley and at Stanford University. After midnight, 200 San Jose State University students rallied at the campus and took off for the downtown area where store windows were smashed. At the University of California campuses in Santa Cruz, a midnight protest of 400 students surged through the campus. Graffiti, broken street lights and a dumpster fire were left behind in the wake of the march. The protesters went into the town of Santa Cruz where windows at the county government center, the police station and other buildings were broken.

Thursday, April 30: Students all over the area stopped school-as-usual. Two hundred walked out of El Centro High and marched on police stations. One hundred Oakland Tech students marched to downtown Oakland, taking up the chant “Seize the Power, Fight the Power.” At San Francisco State, students rallied and many classes were shut down. The main intersection near the university was blocked several times during the day by about 500 people, and kids from the middle school across the street burst out and joined in. Students from S.F. City College and other schools marched onto Interstate 280 and blocked it for about an hour.

At least half the students at Berkeley High staged a walkout and demonstrated at the police station where they were joined by several hundred seventh and eighth graders from King Jr. High. Then they joined UC Berkeley students and others in a rally on the campus and a march across town to the 1-80 freeway. They continued onto the Bay Bridge and shut down the traffic. Protesters chanted, “Justice... Now!” and “Freedom... Now!” They blocked the bridge until surrounded on both sides by not-so-great California Highway Patrol. As usual, full of arrested protesters passed the commuters stuck on the bridge, many people got out of their cars to cheer and yell in support.

As the Bay Bridge was being blocked, 2,000 more protesters marched down University Avenue in Berkeley. That night an angry, militant crowd of mainly Black youth stormed down Berkeley’s Telegraph Avenue, which police had shut down for business at 5 p.m. Store windows were smashed; and a cop car burned. In downtown Oakland, Black youth protested during the day and into the night. Police arrested 100. Three BART subway stations were shut down.

In San Francisco, 2,000 protesters marched from the Mission District to the State Building. Hundreds of youth then ragged on Market Street and the downtown area on the edge of the financial district, setting windows and post shopping and tourist spots were left with windows smashed out. All downtown BART stations were shut down and buses rerouted. For hours the situation was beyond the control of the authorities. Hundreds were arrested, and police shot one...
The evening of May 1st I was on my way to a May 1st celebration, waiting for a train in the subway. I was quite aware that I was practically alone except for one young Black woman several yards down the platform, and I was caught off guard by three Black protestin people who started hassling me. They started cussing me names like "white bitch," and then they started pushing me. They kept pushing and cussing me around and grabbing me. Because of all that I was feeling a little scared. I didn't want to be alone and feel like I was going to get hurt. I opened it up and read the paragraphs to them that were in bold type about how for everyone who refuses to be beaten down police will do it right and do something that will really make a difference. If we are going to fight and we are willing to die for something, let it be for revolution. We have got to be down for and do the work for this revolution right now, acting under the leadership of the Party and according to its strategic approach. After talking for a few minutes about the Rodney King verdict, we ended up buying two Manifestos, taking about 20 Rodney King leaflets, and then apologized for hassling me, as they jumped off the train right behind me.

After that, I stood there and thought for a minute about all of those people who think that it's human nature that people cannot change, those people who have no confidence in the masses, that Communism sounds good, but it will never happen. I knew I was going to write this letter as soon as I could—let people know that the ideology of the Revolutionary Communist Party, MLKism, is the way of correctly understanding the world in order to radically change it. Remember the young woman who was standing down the platform? She came up to me, tears rolling down her cheeks, and said, "I saw everything that happened. I'm sorry I couldn't help you, but you know, everything is just so messed up. I've been thinking that the whole world is coming to an end. Everybody's fighting between themselves." Just as I was about to say that REVOLUTION IS THE HOPE OF THE HOPELESS, she asked me, "What was that paper you gave those brothers anyway? It was like some kind of a magic weapon!"

Fear Nothing— Be Down for the Whole Thing! It's Right To Rebel! A revolutionary in Chicago

Get your hands on the 1992 May Day Manifesto: To order the May 1 Manifesto in full color, send $1 postage, plus $5 each for less than 20 Manifestos; 10c each for 20 to 50; 5c each for 51 to 100 for card orders; FOR ENGLISH OR SPANISH. Card orders to: RCP Black Panther, 5800 S Laramie Ave., Chicago, IL 60637.
The verdict on the Rodney King beating was a cold and hateful declaration of this system. The powers screamed, “L.A. is out of control.” But their class has one outlook. And our proclamation class has another. For many oppressed people there was a rare taste of being in charge.

Youth saluted passing cars with raised fists and were answered back by honking horns. Youngbodies packed “six deep” in pickup trucks flashed each other power salutes. People who yesterday jinned each other over petty disputes suddenly stood together. The joyful solidarity of black, Latino, Asian and white youth outside LAPD headquarters in Parker Center said it all. And throughout society, including among millions of privileged middle class—white as well as black—there was outrage against the system and support for the people.

Cars drove by in South Central L.A. with hand-lettered signs in their windows: “No justice, no peace.” “By any means necessary.” “Revolucion Si!” “Revolucion is the Hope of the Hood!”

The verdict on the Rodney King beating was a cold and hateful declaration of this system. The powers all said after the verdict, “now everyone must accept it.” But all this is just a cover as the street youth.

The flames that lit the sky were on TV screens from Moscow to South Africa. They sent this message around the world: A system without justice creates its own gravediggers—even here in the belly of the beast itself! And immediately there was proof that this message was received. In Berlin, the revolutionary street fighters of Kreuzberg waved a new banner in their May Day battle: “Congratulations Los Angeles!”

Counterattack from High Places

This system has its enforcers, its mouthpieces and its paid bootlickers. And immediately they all jumped to put down the rebellion of the people. The media described Los Angeles as a horrible nightmare filled with senseless violence and innocent victims. Various bootlickers tried to chill it all out—saying that people were only hurting their own communities, that anger may be justified but rebellion was not. The people were told to pray. They were ordered to be patient and have faith in the system. Meanwhile government officials mobilized thousands of armed troops.

L.A. mayor Tom Bradley said the streets had been taken over by “thugs and hoodlums.” President Bush said that the rebellion was the action of thieves who didn’t care anything about Rodney King. The purpose of these lies is clear. The powers want to portray the rebels as mindless killers to justify any murderous violence their armed troops may use to restore their dog-eat-dog order. And they want to drive a wedge between the basic people who rebelled and the broad middle classes who said they could understand the rage of the people.

Over and over again, the media showed small stories being looked and two white truck drivers being beaten. The media tried to say that even the pigs who beat Rodney King weren’t as brutal as the street youth.

Let’s be clear: Great upsurges of struggle cannot be neat and controlled. All kinds of forces were drawn into the rush of rebellion. That is a good thing. Some forces in the rebellion were
on Rodney King Trial

politically confused and hit the wrong targets. But this system has no right, EVER, to accuse ANYONE else of "senseless violence."

There is no comparison between an armed cop trained in brutality and an outraged street youth misleading his anger. They represent different forces. The youth are our oppressed brothers and sisters who can learn to recognize and target the real enemy—the system. The pigs are enforcers of this system—they will never learn to direct their force against the real enemy, because in order to do that they'd have to self-destruct.

Chairman Bob Avakian has written: "Lifting some bottles of whiskey or television sets is never the heart and essence of these rebellions, and everybody, the bourgeoisie included, knows that very well. It is the political fact that the oppressed have dared to rise up, if only for a few days for now; it is the example this sets and the shock waves it sends throughout the empire, that sends the emperors into a frenzy and that must be strangled and smothered."

Overall, a refreshing, new politicized sense of purpose stood at the core of people's actions. And people debated tactics, targets, and slogans as they attacked the old authority.

Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

Those who say "You are only hurting our own communities" cannot have deeply thought through the situation. Can anyone seriously argue that peaceful protests, prayer, or voting is a better response? Imagine what would have happened if the masses had not taken to the streets. Imagine the swagger of the pigs and the bitter despair of the people.

When the verdict came down, people seized the tactics and targets that were on hand to send a message. This was not the time to worry about getting to work or getting groceries. Lines were drawn. Some shopowners think their property is their life. When they cry to the media they are helping the government clampdown on the people. They should stop letting themselves be used. It is in this capitalist system—not the people—that ruins small businesses and turns tidy neighborhoods into bombed-out warzones on a daily basis.

Under this system, a Black man in Harlem has the same life expectancy as a man in Bangladesh. This is a society that builds prisons and bombers, not houses and schools. Why shouldn't the people write their urgent message in flames?

We ask: If you want a cleansing rain, how can you curse the growing waves and the stirring winds?

Everyone must think these issues through carefully. Because there is more to come. The time may be approaching when the struggle becomes even more powerful, more sweeping, and more cleansing—a time when protest may give way to an armed revolutionary struggle for power. The people must be prepared for the sacrifices and the complexities of that historic conflict. As Mao said: "Cast away illusions—prepare for struggle!"

BE POSITIVE! TAKE IT EVEN HIGHER!

A few minutes of freedom are not enough. It is not enough to drive back the hated police—only to back up before the march of armed troops. Sending a powerful message on the Rodney King verdict is just a first step.

We can see in this big rebellion how the actions of the people can change history.

But this system and power structure is completely dedicated to oppressing the people. In the final analysis, nothing will solve the problems of the oppressed people but a real revolution—a mass armed uprising of the oppressed people that shatters the old order and creates a new way of life. And to make that revolution possible people have to build on the events of last week—and go much, much further.

In the streets of the USA these past days, it was not a revolutionary war. But in the charged political firestorm, it was possible to see the potential outlines of a great future civil war between the forces of oppression and the rising power of a new world.

Look at how outrageous actions of the ruling powers and the just cause of the rebellion created a momentary polarization that was quite favorable to the uprising. Even the bourgeoisie's own polls claimed that 89 percent of the population thought the King verdict was wrong.

Look how the raw material for a great revolution has been gathering below the surface. A fearless generation has now taken to the streets. Will they be trained as a hard revolutionary core? Will they learn to even more forcefully target the real enemy? Will they learn to unite all who can be united against that real enemy? Will they be trained in a vision of a revolutionary new communist society? Will they further develop their fighting strength?

In short, will the work now be done to forge a revolutionary movement out of the crisis?

If the oppressed are going to go beyond a taste of freedom to complete satisfaction—there is much work to do. Revolutionary organization needs to be built deeply among the people. Oppressed communities need to become living political base areas of the Revolution. A powerful, growing revolutionary movement needs to grow through struggle—fighting the powers today and preparing through those battles for THE TIME when this whole system can be overthrown. The RCP has the line and leadership to carry this through.

Mao Tsetung said: "Many deeds cry out to be done." Be there.
On Police Brutality, the Rodney King Verdict, and the Rebellions of the People:

Words That Ring True

These stories come from a book by RCP Chairman Bob Avakian, Reflections, Sketches & Provocations. The stories were written a few years ago, but they speak true to the questions now on the agenda.

Why We Call Them Pigs

...I had a .44 magnum, too, man. I shot one of them, too. P-voom. The guy said, 'Ooh, Ooh.' It got to me: I shot another one—P-voom—'Ooh, Ooh.' And that vodka I was drinkin', 'go ahead, shoot somethin' else.' I shot the motor, the motor fell out the motherfucker. Motor said, 'fuck it.' Then the police came: I went into the house, 'cause they got magnum too—and they didn't kill cars, they kill nig-gars.'


Recently I was reading reports of police assaults on Black people and of Black people fighting against the police in Memphis and Miami. This called to mind a story I was told a while back. A rookie cop was riding in his police car with his veteran partner when a report came in that there was a Black man in the vicinity with a gun. As their car screeched around the corner, a young Black man suddenly appeared sprinting up an alley—into a dead end. 'Shoot him!', the older cop screamed. 'Go on, shoot him—it's free!'

'It's free!' Think about that for a second. "it's free!" In other words, here's a chance that gets a pig to sweating and salivating with anticipation—a chance to "kill a nigger" with the already provided cover that a Black man—a Black man, any Black man—was reported in the area with a gun. This is an opportunity too good to pass up. 'Go on, shoot him—it's free!'

Well, in this case, the rookie was not ready for this—perhaps he was one of those rare ones who joins a police force actually believing the "serve and protect" bullshit—and that particular Black man did not die that day. But one of the most telling things about this whole incident is the fallout from it. The rookie cop had to resign. If he wasn't ready and willing—if he didn't have the proper attitude to do what his veteran partner was calling for, what came natural— to the seasoned "peace officer," what any pig in his place and in a pig's right mind would do—then there was no place for him on the force. It was he, the rookie who hadn't learned, and couldn't learn it seems, what it's all about—it was he who was the easiest and felt he had to resign.

Perhaps this whole story helps give an inkling of the answer to the question: Why do we call the police "pigs"?

Pigs are pigs. Of course, that's an image, a symbol—in the most literal sense they are human beings, but they are human beings with a murderer's mentality, sanctioned, disciplined, unleashed by the ruling class of society to keep the oppressed in line, through terror whenever necessary and as a symbol—in the most literal sense they are people, or other oppressed masses (as, in fact, the case with the audience for Pryor's live performances)...

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But for the masses of Black people in this "great land of freedom and justice for all" it can be—and it has been for hundreds, at least, every year. Of course, this kind of freedom and justice is not reserved for Black people alone in the U.S., though they are special beneficiaries of it. It also lasheds out and cumulates millions of the masses of other oppressed nationalities, immigrants (so-called "illegal" as well as so-called "legit") and in general those who are without wealth and therefore without power, including many white people, for whom Officer Timpson is hardly a friend, either.

In short, the armed force of the bourgeois state exists for the purpose of suppressing, by force and arms, the proletarians and all those who would step out of line and challenge this "great way of life" founded on
A revolution would meet with more stubborn opposition, and more ruthless repression, from those who run this system and those who really do like this way of life and are willing to go on defending it. But more importantly, it would call forth more committed involvement from those who oppose this system and those who hate this way of life, and it would gain greater support from those who at least see that such a system and way of life hold no hope for a better future.

A revolution is different from a rebellion in two very important ways. First, a revolution aims not just at hitting back at the system and its enforcers—it aims at overthrowing them and replacing them with a new system. And second, a revolution is led by an organized force with a clear vision and political program that can unite its strongest supporters with still broader numbers to win the battle for power and to create a new society and help create a new world. That is why, even more than the most righteous rebellion, a revolution can win huge numbers of people and can change the minds of millions and millions of people. And that is why those who want such a revolution and are working for such a revolution must urgently approach everything, including righteous rebellions, as part of the process of preparing for and then waging the real, all-the-way revolutionary struggle for power and for a new world.
Outrage from Coast to Coast

Continued from page 7

when the police lined up five-deep and har- nessed people into a side street. News- reports said seven pigs were injured and 115 people were arrested. A large red flag flew at the march, and copies of the RCP May 1st Manifesto were distributed.

A march to the Harlem State Office Building, called by the revolutionary black nationalist group December 12 Movement, was joined by two hundred mostly white students from Columbia University. Some workers from Harlem Hospital also joined. Marchers blocked traffic, and Black youth in the neighborhood taunted cops with chants of "F*ck the Police."

Many more students walked out of schools. Eugene High School students joined with students from other Brooklyn high schools and Long Island University in a protest march across Manhattan Bridge to City Hall. Students at three high schools in the Bronx were arrested and charged with表格错误，无法阅读。
PERU: The Justice of Revolutionary Violence

"The emperor can burn down a thousand villages, but the people can not light a candle." An old Chinese saying

"It is right to rebel against reactionaries."

The great revolutionary Mao Tsetung

The oppressed people in Peru are rising up in a just war of liberation against the reactionary Peruvian government and the Yankee powers that back it up. They are waging a people's war, under the leadership of the Maoist Communist Party of Peru—often called the Sendero Luminoso or Shining Path in the press. For this, the revolutionaries in Peru and their vanguard leadership are being attacked viciously by the enemy.

Down through history, the oppressors have claimed the "right" to use violent means to protect their wealth and power and keep the people down. And they have denied the oppressed any right to rise up in righteous armed struggle against their chains. Those who dare to rise up have been called "bandits" and "terrorists" and have come under merciless fire: the people have nothing. Before the people's war in Peru started in 1980, the oppressed in Peru had no army to fight for their interests and their future. They had no armed force of their own to go up against the big landlords and exploiters and their military which is equipped with imperial-supplied weapons.

But the people of Peru have now built up a mighty revolutionary army of their own—an army of fearless women and men fighters. The People's Guerrilla Army of Peru is winning great victories in the battlefield against the enemy. And in the growing base areas all over Peru, the communist armed force is creating a new revolutionary power—by turning the people into a mighty armed force to protect their rule. They preach that revolutionary violence dehumanizes people. This brazen lie is backed up with a threat: If people do take up militant struggle that goes up against the interests of the ruling class—and especially if they take up revolutionary war to overthrow the system and create a new revolutionary power—they will face all-out armed suppression and be humiliated down like rats. This is the reality of bourgeois class dictatorship, enforced at the point of the gun.

Mao Tsetung pointed out a deep truth when he said, "Without a people's army, the people have nothing." Before the people's war in Peru started in 1980, the oppressed in Peru had no army to fight for their interests and their future. They had no armed force of their own to go up against the big landlords and exploiters and their military which is equipped with imperial-supplied weapons.

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The anti-women, anti-abortion stormtroopers of Operation Rescue came to Buffalo on April 18. They came in for “another Wichita,” a repeat of last summer when thousands of Christian fascists attacked abortion clinics and grabbed headlines for weeks. They hoped to go unopposed. They wanted free rein to spread their ugly lies and rally people around their whole program that subordinate and oppresses women. They wanted to bolster current moves by the Supreme Court to make abortion illegal.

But this time...their venom did not carry one in suburban Amherst. Operation Rescue closed four clinics, three in Buffalo and (BACOR), and the National Women’s Choice forces in Buffalo were able to not only deliver a defeat to Operation. Rescue demoralization and defeatism has infected lions were focused on Buffalo, at the very time that the U.S. Supreme Court was set to hear arguments on Pennsylvania’s anti-choice movement overall. It put the powers of the Feminist Majority, the Bay Area Coalition Against Operation Rescue (BACOR), and the National Women’s Rights Organizing Committee, brought people in from around the country for the showdown.

The battle in Buffalo has been a real war. The pro-choice movement has launched a new spirit of militant mass resistance—a determination to go on the offensive—that has been contagious and inspired the pro-choice movement in recent years. And its impact is far beyond the clinics where Operation Rescue attacked throughout the country. It put the powers of this country on notice that women and men are determined to keep the clinics open, that not one woman would be denied the right to abortion.

For weeks, hundreds of people (from 300 to 1,500 each day) showed up beginning at 5 a.m. to defend the clinics. People took off their people crawl out onto the streets and lie down, and several times they tried to block the streets or parking lots in front of clinics. But they were never able to actually shut down any clinics.

Clinic defenders were at every site each morning for 14 days; Operation Rescue had their people crawl out onto the streets and lie down, and several times they tried to rush the clinic defense lines. Hundreds of them were arrested for blocking the streets or parking lots in front of clinics. But they were never able to actually shut down any clinics.

When Operation Rescue started to employ more aggressive tactics, things started looking more and more like the typical “police-Operation Rescue” hits, where the police allow Operation Rescue leaders to move on clinics, block the entrances and only then move in to slowly arrest people. At times like Wichita, the cops have basically allowed Operation Rescue to block the entrances to clinics and harass women trying to go inside. In two cases in Buffalo, police removed pro-choice defenders from the entrances to clinics, inviting Operation Rescue to move in for symbolic blockades. While these efforts were not successful in closing down the clinics, it did make it more difficult for patients to get inside without being harassed and it gave Operation Rescue the media attention and arrests they wanted.

A lot of times the police kept things under control by doing everything they could to keep the pro-choice and Operation Rescue people separated. To seize the offensive in these stand-off situations where defense lines were being held around the clinics, and Operation Rescue was massed to make a move, pro-choice activists utilized the technique of "shadowing" Operation Rescue leaders to politically expose them and call out their lies. Refuse & Resist! activists in particular played a leading role in dogging Operation Rescue leaders relentlessly with "in-your-face" verbal attacks. This served to get a clear pro-choice message out in the media, compounded the anti-abortionists’ lies and set a defining edge of "Abortion Without Apology." It put the Operation Rescue leaders, who were trying to strategize for their attack, on the defensive and demoralized and confused their troops.

From the high school students taking their first political action ever to the veteran feminist fighters for women’s rights, everyone on the pro-choice side was charged with the sense of being on the frontlines and going on the offensive. Many people were emboldened by the sense that they were acting for millions more across the country who are sick and tired of the way these Operation Rescue stormtroopers have been supported by the government and unleashed to create public opinion and pave the way for attacks on abortion. For some people on the clinic defense line this was the first time they had ever faced down the "other side" directly.

Understanding the Stakes in Buffalo

Buffalo United for Choice, arising out of the mainstream women’s movement, was very clear on the importance of the bottom line objective of clinic defense: to keep the four clinics open, and get patients inside for health care. They mobilized very widely, printing a two-page ad in the Buffalo News signed by thousands of people, demanding that Operation Rescue stop its efforts to close clinics. They organized thousands for pro-choice clinic defense, and put out 50,000 flyers for the April 5 pro-choice March on Washington calling on people to come to Buffalo to take on Operation Rescue. Their call galvanized a lot of unity among people who understood the importance of thoroughly defeating Operation Rescue on this front. For years now, we have seen the impact Operation Rescue has had on abortion rights. We’ve seen how they’ve used their “clinic hits” to humilate women and...
Rodney King WAS ASSAULTED! On some 1,500 pro-choice forces gathered in collective rage—at the Rodney King verdict defenders began to see the role the police system treats the masses of people. Chants dictated and, for many, at the whole way this side with Operation Rescue, they also knew more than ever why the police system—a path that would only end up sacrficing women’s lives by channeling Roe again, they will pay the highest political price.

Building Off Buffalo

The challenge was answered in Buffalo and the ugly forces of Operation Rescue have been delivered a significant defeat. This is an excellent beginning that must be built on and learned from to do what must be done to bast the powers continuing attacks on abortion. Operation Rescue will have a more difficile time mobilizing its forces in New York City, where they are planning actions in July at the Democratic National Convention. But the people must be vigilant—these Christian fascists have the support, backing and are led from the highest offices in the land. And they are a crucial component of the overall efforts by the ruling class to erase the oppression of women. Operation Rescue’s actions, time and again, have become more desperate and vile when they’ve been on the defensive, from clinical bombings to stepped-up harassment of women, clinic staff, and doctors. Everywhere they go, the people must continue to hound and expose them. Only with a group Buffalo must be developed and spread. This is a significant, if beginning, departure from the stalling and demoralizing politics of working within the system—a path that would only end up sacrficing women’s lives by channeling Roe into dead-end electronical policies. Having risen to the challenge in Buffalo, and won a lot, we still have a challenge before us. In July the Supreme Court will announce its ruling on the Pennsylvania case. As the AW said, “Some people think there is nothing the people can do to stop the Supreme Court from overturning Roe v. Wade. But this is not true...” What is really required to win this battle is putting the powers in this country on notice that they will have to pay a very high political price if they take the way to the right to abortion. They must face the specter of broad social isolation and “no business as usual” resistance. “Showdown in Buffalo” by Li Ong. RW, No. 355.

Refuse & Resist! has put out the call: “Prepare now for mass demonstrations the week before and the day after the Supreme Court decision. Make it clear that if they touch Roe again, they will pay the highest political price.”

...a member of Refuse & Resist! who had been dogging an Operation Rescue leader was suddenly grabbed by five cops. A Refuse & Resist! demonstrator was thrown into a police van, punched and called a “white nigger” and later charged with resisting arrest. And on April 28, five members of NWROC were brutally arrested when cops workers put up a defense line after a woman from Operation Rescue complained that someone had broken her fingernails. The cops then turned on the crowd, waving their batons and calling them “hand-over-handled” and were outraged at what was going on. For many of them, their first up-close and personal taste of police brutality.

At 5 a.m. Thursday, one clinic demonstrator spoke to the clinic before the police began to arrest. “From L.A. to Buffalo. This Revolution Has Got to Go!” And many people went directly from the clinic defense lines to demonstrations being held to protect the King verdict. As debate went on around how to fight the oppression of women and Black people, more than one person voiced out loud that the attacks on women which escalate every system from the everyday will be met with the same kind of rage and anger that was coming out around the Rodney King verdict.

To My Sisters and Brothers on the Front Lines in Buffalo:

On this day, May 1st, the revolutionary holiday of the international working class, we address the people on the offensive from Los Angeles to Buffalo! It’s a fine day for the red flag of revolution to be raised from the clinic defense lines where women are boldly defying their would-be overlords, to Touch Central Los Angeles where Black people are sending their own verdict on the acquittal of the thugs in blue who assisted Rodney King. The stakes are high and the world is watching; will people here seize this opportunity to push the whole struggle to a higher level? Can we seize this time to push the revolutionary struggle against overturning Roe v. Wade! Can the wars on women against assaults on Black people—and do it in a way to strengthen our forces for future battles? We can and will.

I came to Buffalo three weeks ago as part of the effort by Refuse & Resist! in solidarity and unity with others, to defeat the woman-haters and send a message to their high government backers and to all those who would force women to breed: “We will defy you and we will not be stopped!” Not a day has gone by that I haven’t been proud to be part of all those—clinic defenders, providers, and medical personnel—who have stood their ground and refused to be intimidated by the fascist stormtroopers. But people need to go further, beyond all the way for what holds them back, including the view that they can only overthrow the system if they are ready to really lead a revolution and that the police is enough to make the system work in the people’s interests. The cold truth is that this system is built on the oppression of women and the oppression of Black people and needs to be torn down.

The powers would have us believe that this is impossible; that the collapse of the Soviet Union has meant “the collapse of communism” and that with the collapse of any hope for another future. But it was proven that these delusions have passed last year; we in the Revolutionary Communist Party say “Lenin was right! Yen was right!”

The good news that May 1st brings from our class, the proletariat, is that possibilities do indeed exist for another, quite different future than what the powers offer today. That revolution really is the hope of the hopeless. And that it’s not an impossible dream but realizable. It’s been done before, in every country where the working class has seized power. And it’s being done today in the mountains and cities of Peru where the people’s war, led by the Communist Party of Peru (known as Sendero Luminoso or Shining Path), is fighting for the people power with the flag of revolution to be raised from the Central Los Angeles where Black people are sending their own verdict on the acquittal of the thugs in blue who assisted Rodney King. The stakes are high and the world is watching; will people here seize this opportunity to push the whole struggle to a higher level? Can we seize this time to push the revolutionary struggle against overturning Roe v. Wade! Can the wars on women against assaults on Black people—and do it in a way to strengthen our forces for future battles? We can and will.

The new standards set in Buffalo must be shared with the struggles of peoples across the country and around the world. Let May 1st (in the media) is advancing toward victory with the struggles of peoples across the country and around the world. Let May 1st (in the media) is advancing toward victory with the struggles of peoples across the country and around the world. May 1st.
NOW AVAILABLE!

Bob Avakian has written a bold and challenging work that cuts right to the debate of our times. Over and over we are told that history has judged communism to be a "grand failure," and that there is no use fighting for a different world. But is capitalism the best of all possible worlds? Avakian contrasts the brutal realities of the free market to the claims of its defenders. Has revolutionary communism proven to be a disastrous nightmare? Avakian refutes the charges that socialist economies are unworkable and that communism suppresses individuality and freedom.

Bob Avakian has produced a defiant manifesto. But this book is more than that. It probes deeply into the real history and lessons of revolution, especially the Maoist Cultural Revolution. Can revolutions survive in a hostile world? How can they avoid going sour? Can the basic people actually run society? And is it really possible to move society beyond private gain and money relations?

If you want to know what real communism is about, and if you wonder whether society really has to be run as a dog-eat-dog enterprise, then you will find this book as timely as it is provocative.

TAKE HEART AND TAKE PART...help raise $5,000 to get this momentous book by Bob Avakian out and into the hands of those who are searching for a realist road to true liberation.

Send your contributions to RCP Publications, P.O. Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago IL, 60654. Or give your donation to an RW/OR distributor in your area.

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“There is nothing more uplifting than communism—nothing which gives greater scope to human imagination and creativity, to the vision of a vastly different world, and to the initiative of the masses in creating such a world. That the rulers of the Soviet Union could not inspire people with this ideal is a condemnation of them. But more than that, it is a reflection of the fact that they had abandoned and betrayed the principles of communism and become but another group of enforcers of the old order.”

Bob Avakian, Phony Communism Is Dead...Long Live Real Communism