Thousands take the streets in Washington, D.C.

DEFYING U.S. WAR MOVES

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Three Main Points
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 and to do? 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 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 enable them to do what must be done. There is a challenge for those with a burning desire to see a drastic change for the better, all those who care to dream and bring about a completely new and better world. Support this Party, join this Party, spread its message and its organized strength, and prepare the ground for a revolutionary rising that has a solid basis and a real chance of winning.
Defying U.S. War Moves

Thousands take the streets in Washington, D.C.

by Orpheus

Greetings from the frontlines of resistance in Washington, D.C. Today, September 29, at least 10,000 people took to the streets in defiance against the war preparations of the U.S. government and military and the global oppression of capitalism. The protests went up against police riot squad mobilization, and scored an important beginning victory in what is sure to be an escalating struggle.

The plans for the D.C. protests took shape months ago to oppose the meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank scheduled for the 29th and 30th. Following the September 11 events, the IMF and World Bank canceled their meeting. One mainstream group then canceled street protests—but others continued and mobilized to meet the situation by putting a new focus on opposing the U.S. war moves.

At a time when the media and government are pumping out that 90% of the population in the U.S. is for war, the D.C. actions sent a very different message. The protests in D.C. were the first manifestation of national scope against war since Sept. 11. It built on other protests that have taken place in New York, Seattle, Portland, the S.F. Bay Area and elsewhere. There were 529 support demonstrations in other cities around the country—including 7,000 to 10,000 people in San Francisco, 2,000 in Los Angeles and 1,000 in Denver. The September 29 D.C. protests drew people from all around the country, and from all around the world.

Throughout the week before the 29th, the D.C. protests were a significant moment in the intensification of the repression of the masses in the U.S. and Latin America, the intensification of the repression of the masses in the wake of September 11, and the way forward for the movements of resistance. On Sunday, September 30, over 1,500 people joined together in a rally and march organized by the Washington Peace Center and American Friends Service Committee.

The D.C. protests were a significant victory in beginning to break through against the flag-waving, people-hating, police-state atmosphere the power structure is trying to generate. In the D.C. streets two sharply opposing futures were posed. On one side, the cold and hateful police-state atmosphere. On the other were the youth and the people can live together without the constant war and misery the U.S. brings. The protests gave voice to the love and determination of many people to reach out and create a different future, together with the people of the world.
After September 11

Oppose Bush's "Anti-Against the..."
powers are supporting the U.S. war moves while sometimes gloating over the U.S. heavy hand toward even its partners-in-crime—these are two sides of the same effort to protect their own place at the imperialist banquet table, where the labour and lives of human beings is the first, last and only course, washed down with the planet's natural resources.

In the last decade the basic tendencies of the world imperialist system have been intensified under the signboard of globalization. The powers are exploiting every comer of the globe more deeply than ever before—and this has inflicted unbearable violence everywhere through both force of arms and the grinding out of profit in daily life. If this has brought some prosperity for some of the people some of the time in the imperialist countries, the decent lives and happiness they promised their own middle classes in return for silence have proved to be an illusion. In the oppressed countries, electronic gadgets and a taste of the worst of Western culture have been offered to a minority in hopes of purchasing their acquiescence, whilst the masses of workers and peasants are driven further into poverty and the dignity of nations is trampled into the dust.

The U.S. towering crimes and its swaggering dismantlers of the world made many people around the world glad that a big blow had been delivered at the heart of its empire. But those who want out from under the heel of the U.S. boot and not just a fleeting and degrading revenge must look to history when the masses of people were able to take on and defeat even the mightiest of enemies. Most important to remember today is the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people, which defeated the American army in the context of a worldwide revolutionary upsurge centred in Maoist China that not only rocked all the colonialist and imperialist powers but also saw unprecedented militant opposition and revolutionary mass movements in the rich countries themselves, including the U.S. That was a history lesson few dare talk about lately. But it is not just history. Maoist-led people's wars—wars that rely on the people and embody the struggle of oppressed and exploited millions of people against the mass murderer all over the globe—proved that the imperialists were able to take on and defeat even the mightiest of enemies. Most important to remember today is the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people, which defeated the American army in the context of a worldwide revolutionary upsurge centred in Maoist China that not only rocked all the colonialist and imperialist powers but also saw unprecedented militant opposition and revolutionary mass movements in the rich countries themselves, including the U.S. That was a history lesson few dare talk about lately. But it is not just history.

Whether the resistance to the announced "crusade" advances as part of the worldwide battle to rid the earth of imperialism, or whether the struggle is hijacked by reactionaries, depends ultimately on what programme and vision lead the people's struggle. We can never allow people to be presented a false choice between exploitation and oppression in its modem, imperialist form and packaged as Western-style "democracy" or an impossible return to an oppressive medieval form of existence under the signboard of Islam or other religious movements. In the last two decades, history has proven again and again in Iran, Algeria, Afghanistan itself and elsewhere that Islamic movements will never liberate the people or defeat imperialism. On the contrary, history has shown that it is only when the masses have political power in their own hands, in socialist states or new-democratic republics led by the working class and its communist vanguard, that it is really possible to shape a new future. Whether the resistance to the announced "crusade" advances as part of the worldwide battle to rid the earth of imperialism, or whether the struggle is hijacked by reactionaries, depends ultimately on what programme and vision lead the people's struggle. We can never allow people to be presented a false choice between exploitation and oppression in its modern, imperialist form and packaged as Western-style "democracy" or an impossible return to an oppressive medieval form of existence under the signboard of Islam or other religious movements. In the last two decades, history has proven again and again in Iran, Algeria, Afghanistan itself and elsewhere that Islamic movements will never liberate the people or defeat imperialism. On the contrary, history has shown that it is only when the masses have political power in their own hands, in socialist states or new-democratic republics led by the working class and its communist vanguard, that it is really possible to shape a new future.

The need for the communist vision of a world society based on the free and voluntary association of all human beings—no longer divided by classes and into oppressed and oppressor nations, no longer marked by the subjugation of women to men—cries out as never before. Even as we unite in struggle with masses who still embrace other ideologies, our scientific vision provides the backbone to stand firm in the concurrrents of a humiliated world and gives strength and courage to rally the people to meet the trials of the moment, to rise to the occasion.

The Revolutionary Internationalist Movement calls upon the people of all countries to unite in their millions to oppose and resist every act of U.S. aggression. Reject the hypocrisy of the imperialist enemies. Aim high and fight for genuine liberation. Remember that the darkest hour comes right before the dawn.

Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, 24 September 2001

(For more information, write: BCM RIM / London WCIN 3XX / UK or contact a RIM participating organisation)
A student pointed to the RCP statement and said, "I hope what they are saying is true. It's not them people in the Middle East's fault. It's the United States' fault. Why do they hate the United States? Why do they want to get back at the United States and kill all innocent people? You have to go back in time. It didn't just start now. The United States has always been in another people's backyard. They're always undermining somebody else's business. And this is what you get as a result. I'm sorry so many innocent people died. I feel the pain, you know what I'm saying? And it's only because of the government. That's why these people died. And a lot of the people don't know the truth — it was the government here in the United States that caused all of this because of greed."

A street vendor said: "The United States is minding everybody's business, trying to institute their policies and imperialism across the world. It's not right. What we went through on September 11 is a horrible thing. Other countries go through that every day because of the United States."

A Puerto Rican minister in the Bronx put the RW centerfold on the altar while Spanish copies of the statement were passed out among the congregation.

A Contradictory Situation

While there are less flags in Harlem, some people here have been influenced by the government's argument that "We should unite as Americans to respond to this attack." And some people told us that they support displaying the U.S. flag as a way of "honoring the victim" and "showing the terrorists that America is united." Many are scared there could be another attack — possibly with biological or chemical weapons. One woman said she can't sleep because she's worried more innocent people could die — maybe people she knows or herself. Quite a few we talked to said they support U.S. government "retaliation against those responsible." And many, even among those who believe the U.S. government is responsible for what happened, believe that some kind of retaliation by the U.S. is necessary "to make sure it doesn't start a war." A few African Americans we met in Harlem made a point of referring to themselves as "Americans" and were wearing red, white and blue ribbons or pins. A few said things like, "We get all the immigrants out of here and other ugly chauvinist remarks about Arab and Muslim people." Some of them said things like "America is the land of opportunity" and "we need to protect our nation."

In the face of this many people who oppose the government's plans for war told us they feel isolated and afraid to speak out. A Black woman told us about a conversation she had with a Jewish counter: "She said the most frightening thing about what's going on is that it's like what happened with Hitler. Hitler was able to kill millions and millions of lives because the whole world was silent. She said many Americans do not want war but they're afraid."

I met a young African American woman with a red, white and blue ribbon on her bag. When I asked the government wants people to wave the flag in a show of patriotism to support their plans for war she said: "I did it because America bombed all those countries right there. A lot of innocent people died there. But a lot of innocent people died in other countries, too." She walked away with a copy of the RW and the party's statement.

One of the things we found was that it is possible to change the terms of debate. Many people wanted to talk — even people who had big disagreements with us. Overnight people have been jolted out of their complacency and are questioning very heavy ideological and political questions. When revolutionaries have gone into the midst of this situation and argued for the truth it has had a dramatic effect on the discussion.

In Harlem we met an African American computer professional who worked on the 102nd floor of the World Trade Center at Cantor Fitzgerald — where everyone who was at work that day died. He's alive because he wasn't at work, that day. He said he was angry when he first saw the RCP statement, but then came back and told us: "My initial reaction was although they make sense why would they not want action taken considering the lies? I have a personal stake in this because I worked in the building. My friends and family also worked in the building. I've kind of joined, maybe blindly and ignorantly, America's march towards 'let's get em.' This information that you've published and listening to you has helped me to re-visit this from another perspective as opposed to just blindly marching to the sound of war or the acts of war, just blind-ly marching forward with that intention — which is really just fueling my anger and my pain. This has at least, if nothing else, enabled me to stop and think. This to me is like an inversion to that. And that's probably what I need right now."

People who we argued and debated with, including those who really disagreed with us, thanked us for being out there. Almost everyone took the RCP statement to read. And a number bought the RW to read the articles about protests against war and other information that the mainstream media has fed about or censored. One Black youth who bought the paper said, "They don't tell us what's going on. They only tell us what they want us to know."

The response in Harlem reminded me of the kind of mass debates that went on in Union Square on the days after September 11. Union Square became a central place where thousands of people came together to grove and discuss what caused this horrible tragedy. Thousands of pictures of missing family members, candles, bouquets of flowers and signs covered every surface. Tears of people took the RCP statement and the large centerfold poster out here and many hundreds of people got into debate about the party's statement.

Vietnam veteran and RCP supporter Joe Urigre told me one story that gave a flavor of what this was like: "I was handed out pamphlets — look at the photo display — in the Lefferts — look at the photo display — the mass dead hot stand with the people of the world. Every 10 or 15 minutes somebody would get into an argument with me. This skinny Vietnam vet covered with his medals got in my face. I understood that as bad as this guy was, he is not the enemy. I worked my way around him and kept leafletting. My voice started to get louder. I talked about how the United States bombs and kills people all over the world and how millions of people around the world hate the U.S. and now they've
brought that madness down on this country. The guy followed me around: "If you don't love it, why don't you leave it?" I said, "You know, I used to say that before I went to Vietnam."

The leaves and 40 minutes later he

comes back with a huge Vietnam vet three times his size. This guy walks up to me, pulls off his bag and gets right up to my chest. I looked at him and said you're not trying. I'm not going to fight you. I turned around and started leafleting people again. Now there's such a big crowd he's going with a whole bunch of other people of different nationalities. Now you've got groups of people yelling and debating." This kind of thing happened to everyone who went out with the statement at Union Square.

On Thursday, September 20, in the middle of the night—a profound show of disrespect for the people who died and their families—the city removed all the messages, artwork, banners, candles, flowers and prayer cards left by surviving family members and others in Union Square. All the informational leaflets pasted by relief agencies and peace and justice groups were gone—ripped down, swept up, bagged and trashed. Spray-painted messages were removed with high-powered steam equipment.

It's Not Our War

Black people have been the targets of intense police brutality and racial profiling in this country. Most people we met in Harlem and Crown Heights were angry about how Arabs and Muslims were now on the receiving end of the same kind of racist attacks black people suffer in America. One Black man said, "Right now in the United States the Arabs are the new niggers, you know? They got off our neck for a little while and then they got somebody else to do it to."

Most people said they don't support the war the U.S. government is planning. Even people who said they support some kind of "U.S. retaliation" don't want to see a war in which thousands more innocent people are killed. One man in Harlem said: "I feel sorry because I lost my best friend in the World Trade Center." People think that figurine can use our grief as revenge. They're trying to get us to go to war for something that is not really our fault and basically we had no business being over there in the first place. They sending all our people out there to fight for a war that's not even ours."

Many of the people we met in Harlem have relatives in the military. One woman told us: "They say we America. I want to be in a country that's respectful of other people of color. On September 11, I knew I had to come out here today. By being out here, I'm going to help save the lives of people, a lot of us don't want war."

Across the city, thousands have continued to organize and speak out against "America's New War." Over 3,000 people packed a peace program at Riverside Church. Hundreds have met to organize protests against war, repression, government measures and racist attacks against immigrants and people of color. On Friday, September 21, 5,000 marched from Union Square to Times Square. And on Saturday, September 29, even though many activists in New York had gone to Washington, DC, to demonstrate against the war and racism, 500 people marched in Manhattan. Activists have begun to spread the word—demonstrate at Times Square at 5:00 p.m. the day after any U.S. military action, noon if it falls on Saturday or Sunday.

In the midst of all this, and in neighborhoods all over the city, over 25,000 copies of the RCP statement "The Horrors That Come From This Horrible System" have been distributed. Revolution Books has a window display with a huge copy of the RCP's new Draft Programme. Market regular readers were wailing for us. We arrived at the Farmers' Market, several folks at the Market have gotten the RCP's new Draft Programme. Market regulars—conservative and progressive alike—know that when something happens in the world, they can come in the Market on Sunday and find out what the revolutionaries have to say about it.

The Sunday after September 11, when we arrived at the Farmers' Market, several regular readers were waiting for us. We had hundreds of copies of the Party's statement and a big sign that said: "The people of Afghanistan and the Middle East are NOT our enemies. They are our brothers and sisters! No to U.S. wars of conquest!" One woman warmly greeted us and said, "I knew you'd come! I just knew I could count on you!" Another woman said, "I knew I had to come out here today. By being out here, I'm going to help save lives." She stayed with us throughout the day, selling papers and passing out leaflets. At noon, morning people came by to share their grief, support each other, and talk about what the future holds and how the people should respond.

Many people said they specifically came to the Market to find us, wanting to hear the Party's analysis. After reading the RCP's statement some people said...
The Consequences of Empire
A history of war and intrigue in the Middle East
by Larry Everest

This morning, as I was writing, CNN reported that U.S. troops have landed in Afghanistan and British troops in Pakistan. "America's New War" is underway.

Americans are asking, "Why do they hate us?" President Bush stated in his nationally televised call to war. His answer was "they have been excluded, our freedoms of religion, our freedom of speech, our freedom to vote and assemble and to live with others of our choice." As a correspondent for the Revolutionary Worker I've covered the Middle East for more than 20 years—travelling to Iran, Palestine, and Iraq to investigate, first-hand, the impact that U.S. actions have had on the peoples in the region. And I came away with a totally different understanding than this myth of "freedom" told by George Bush.

Most people I met, and this included people from many different political trends, didn't hate "us"—they made a distinction between the U.S. government and the people living in the U.S. But they did not view the United States as a place of "freedom." They saw the U.S. as an arrogant, cold-blooded, and hegemonic powerhouse which has wrecked havoc with the lives of the people in this region.

The early years:
replacing rivals and waging war on national liberation

Beneath the earth, the vast oilfields of the Middle East and the Caspian Sea lie in an area of the planet that stretches from Algeria and Libya in the West to Afghanistan and Pakistan in the south, from Kazakhstan and Russia in the north to Saudi Arabia and Yemen in the south. Before World War II, Britain and France had divided the region into "spheres of influence" and ruled them as colonies. But World War II severely weakened these old school colonialists, while the U.S. imperialists—who had been maneuvering to come on top of rivals and allies alike—emerged with the pieces of empire.

In the mid 1950s and early 1960s, the ambitions of the U.S. imperialists conflicted with a world struggling for self-determination and national independence. They were struggling against the formerly colonized countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. And a new rival—the once socialist Soviet Union—emerged to challenge the U.S. and also seeking to expand into the Middle East region.

The U.S. government dealt with these challenges ruthlessly: sometimes interfering directly, sometimes mounting covert operations to overthrow pro-Soviet or nationalist regimes.

One of the more notorious actions by the U.S. government in the Middle East took place in Iran in 1953, when the CIA organized the coup that overthrew the Mossadegh government after Mossadegh nationalized British holdings in the huge oilfields of Iran. With Mossadegh out of the way, the U.S. put the Shah of Iran,Reza Pahlavi, on the throne, and backed his regime as a gendarme in the region and a military outpost of the Soviet Union's southern flank.

Under the rule of Reza Shah, the U.S. imperialists intensified their economic and political domination in Iran. And for 25 years, this Shah ruled as an absolute monarch, torturing, killing and imprisoning his opponents—especially the radical and revolutionary-minded students. Iran was not only the main target of U.S. intrigue. In 1949 the CIA backed a military coup which overthrew the elected government of Syria, backing the Syrian royalist faction. And in 1963, the CIA supported Iraq's Ba'th party (soon to be headed by Saddam Hussein) with names of communists, who the Iraqi regime then imprisoned or murdered.

Israel: America's Gendarme in the Region

Even small children know that Israel is nothing without America. And here American means F-16, M-16, Apache helicopters, the colds Israelis use to kill us and destroy our homes.

Palestinian interviewed in the Christian Science Monitor, 9/27/01: "Why do they hate us?"

Aming in and wars were sweeping the formerly colonized countries. Today—about the tune of $3 billion a year—was another pillar of U.S. strategy in the region.

created through violent repression of Palestinian people, the state of Israel was quickly recognized in 1948 by the United Nations—which had coldly refused to recognize the large number of Jewish refugees after World War II.

I traveled to Palestine during the first Intifada of 1982 and saw youth wound ed by U.S.-made "rubber" bullets in Palestinian communities, while U.S.-made tear gas canisters larded the ground outside. Today the Israelis are using live ammunition and U.S.-made attack helicopters against the Palestinian people's second "intifada."

Based on land stolen from the Palestinians, the Israeli state became the U.S. gendarme in the region, ready to strike out against regimes that stood in the way of U.S. "strategic interests."

Israel's 1967 and 1973 wars not only expanded Israeli territory but were aimed at weakening the surrounding Arab regimes, particularly Egypt—which was the heart of the Arab world under Nasser. The U.S. was keen to threaten and bring Egypt to the U.S. and not the Soviet Union.

In 1976 and again, in 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon—killing more than 20,000 Libanese and Palestinian, seizing southern Lebanon and holding it until 2000. In 1982 the U.S. had invaded Lebanon in 1958, once again sent troops—supposedly as part of a multinational "peace-keeping" operation, but in reality to protect U.S. interests, including Israel's occupation forces. U.S. troops were withdrawn after a suicide bomber destroyed a U.S. Marine barracks.

Iran: A threat to U.S. interests

In 1975, the U.S. attempted to deal with the new, more nationalistic and anti-U.S. Islamic regime in Tehran with both carrots and sticks. The Shah was putting U.S. interests first, and the U.S. was willing to work with the Shah in order to stop the spread of Islamic fundamentalism. In 1979, the Shah was overthrown, and the Iranian revolution revealed to the world the deep and broad hatred of the U.S. for the Shah. And in 1980, the U.S. retook control of the Persian Gulf and the world's oil supply—including keeping other Western imperialist rivals from the U.S. "oil umbrella."

In 1979 President Jimmy Carter designated Iran as an "Area of Concern" and declared the U.S. would go to war to ensure the flow of oil.

At one point, the U.S. was ready to send a Soviet move into Iran during the turmoil following the revolution. "In 1979, the U.S. was ready to mobilize U.S. forces on nuclear alert and warned the Soviets they would be used if Soviet forces invaded Iran," reported John St./operator, national security adviser to Carter, called the elevation of the Persian Gulf to a "vital" interest of the U.S. "strategic revolution in America's global position." And here the U.S., backed by the National Security Council, "if we lose the Persian Gulf, we'll lose Europe.

War and Intrigue in the Persian Gulf

The U.S. attempted to deal with the new, more nationalistic and anti-U.S. Islamic regime in Tehran with both carrots and sticks. It was even revealed later that the U.S. personnel were being held in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and that the U.S. had seized almost entire of the country in January of 1980. By the second "intifada" the U.S. government was determined to get back "hostages to better Reagan's chances in the 1980 election.

A key element of maintaining U.S. global power was maintaining its grip on the Persian Gulf and the world's oil supply—including keeping other Western imperialist rivals from the U.S. "oil umbrella."

In 1979 President Jimmy Carter designated Iran as an "Area of Concern" and declared the U.S. would go to war to ensure the flow of oil.

The Shah was put under U.S. pressure to open the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and to create an "Area of Concern." In January of 1980, the U.S. government seized almost entire of the country in January of 1980. By the second "intifada" the U.S. government was determined to get back "hostages to better Reagan's chances in the 1980 election.

For the U.S., Iran remained the big challenge in the region. But for the U.S., Iran remained the big challenge in the region. But for the U.S., Iran remained the big challenge in the region.
The Cruel CIA Manipulation of the Kurdish People

Today, the U.S. remains as the protector of the Kurdish people against Saddam Hussein, but the history of U.S. treatment of the Kurds is marred by decades of support for Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi government. The U.S. military has repeatedly provided military assistance to the Iraqi government, which has used that support to carry out a brutal campaign against the Kurdish population.

In 1986, the U.S. sold a significant amount of military equipment to the Iraqi government, including fighter jets and other weapons. These weapons were used by the Iraqi government to carry out a brutal campaign against the Kurdish population, resulting in the deaths of tens of thousands of Kurds. The U.S. government has been complicit in this violence, providing military support to the Iraqi government while knowing of its atrocities.

In 1990, the U.S. responded to the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq with the deployment of U.S. forces to the region. This response was not prompted by a direct threat to U.S. interests, but rather was driven by the desire to use military power to secure U.S. strategic interests in the region. The U.S. invasion of Iraq was a direct result of the U.S. military buildup in the region, which was driven by the desire to secure U.S. influence and control over the region.

The U.S. military presence in the region has continued to grow in subsequent years, with the establishment of permanent military bases in the region. This military presence has been accompanied by a wide range of military operations, including the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 and the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003.

These military operations have had a devastating impact on the people of the region, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people and the displacement of millions. The U.S. military operations have also had a significant impact on the environment, with the release of large amounts of greenhouse gases and other pollutants.

The U.S. military presence in the region has been accompanied by a wide range of human rights abuses, including torture, summary executions, and other forms of mistreatment. The U.S. military has also been involved in the displacement of large numbers of people, resulting in the creation of refugee camps and other forms of displacement.

The U.S. military presence in the region has been accompanied by a wide range of economic abuses, with the U.S. military using its influence to secure contracts and other forms of economic advantage for U.S. companies.

In summary, the U.S. military presence in the region has been a direct result of the U.S. desire to secure its strategic interests in the region, and has had a devastating impact on the people of the region.

This planet does not need another unjust war!
Cincinnati Rebels Denounce Killer Cop Verdict

"Officer Roach, you're free to go."
Judge Ralph E. Winkler, Cincinnati, September 26

"He killed my son. All the rest is smoke and mirrors."
Angela Leisure, mother of Timothy Thomas

It was 2 a.m., April 7, when a dozen cops chased Timothy Thomas into an alley in Cincinnati. Timothy, 19 years old, had just stepped out to pick up some things at a corner store. And then he was dead, ever nothing, shot in the heart by Officer Stephen Roach. Timothy was alone and unarmed.

After Timothy died, people rose up in Cincinnati for three days, in the most powerful rebellion since L.A.'s 1992 uprising over police brutality.

Now comes a new injustice. The system has examined this case. The system's judge, Winkler, has heard the evidence. And the verdict of this judge and the legal system, is very clear: The cop did nothing wrong. Winkler, a 20-year military veteran, ruled that Roach was acting in self-defense.

"He killed my son. All the rest is smoke and mirrors?"

A Black teenager lies dead, and the judge tells the packed courtrooms, "Police Officer Roach's action was reasonable."

A Green Light for Police Murder

The charges brought against Roach were themselves an outrage. The state did not charge him with murder—but only with two misdemeanors—"negligent homicide" and "obstructing official business." These charges carried a maximum sentence of only nine months in prison.

Roach was given the choice between a judge-only process and a jury trial. And like all cops do, he picked the judge. And at the judge he got found Roach's deadly shooting to be "reasonable"—and essentially, found Timothy guilty of his own death. All that Officer Roach new faces are "departmental administrative proceedings" from his police superiors.

Judge Winkler simply announced that the shooting was "not a culpable criminal act." Why not? Judge Winkler said, "The reasonableness of an officer's action should be judged from the officers on the scene perspective of the facts... If an officer mistakenly believed that a suspect was likely to fight back, the officer might be justified in using more force than was actually necessary. In such situations, an officer's action should not be subjected to 20/20 hindsight or Monday morning quarterbacking."

Further, Judge Winkler blamed Timothy, not Roach, for the shooting. Winkler said to the packed courtroom: "This shooting was a split-second reaction to a very dangerous situation created by Timothy Thomas."

What exactly had Timothy supposedly done to "create" this situation? First, he was a young Black man in a poor Black community. Winkler specifically described the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood as an "especially dangerous section of Cincinnati"—which can only mean that he thinks it is especially reasonable for cops to shoot people there.

Second, Timothy ran away from the cops. (Does anyone looking at this shooting and this verdict wonder why a young Black man was running from the cops?)

Then, when Timothy had stopped running, he reached down to pull up his pants. Winkler apparently thought that with events of September 11 there is all this talk of national unity, but police can still pull up his pants. And the system has ruled, again, that police don't pretend there is unity in Cincinnati.

Much had been done to suppress any fresh outburst of rebellion. The city authorities had carefully planned a full-blown show of force. Cincinnati was locked down, and the courthouse in large numbers armed with heavy flashlight clubs and billy clubs. The city was shut down early, businesses and workplaces shut down. No one knew what was going to happen. It was the day the area-wide curfew made it illegal to be outdoors. Anyone on the streets was subject to immediate arrest.

Meanwhile, the spokespeople of the city, Black ministers, had been mobilized around the courthouse in large numbers urging patience and non-confrontation. There was, they insisted, a "correct way to protest"—peaceful protest and votes. There was a chance of getting a Black mayor in the November elections and any rebellion would damage that hope, they said.

There were angry rallies held outside the courthouse and at City Hall plaza. Officer Roach's cowardly trial. Hundreds of people protected in Over-the-Rhine. People gathered on the streets, shouted at the cops, talked and debated.

At night came, a state of emergency was declared. As one reporter wrote: "Demonstrating was no longer a right. In fact, it was a sin. For all the police threats, groups of youth went into the streets. The city's top cop knew that his police were seeking out those who 'are renegades and just not going to adhere to any type of law enforcement.'"

Much of what happened that night is still not known outside of Cincinnati. There were reports of shots being fired in several areas and a car set on fire. Vehicles of the hated news media were targeted with rocks and bottles. It was reported that groups of 50 to 100 youth took the streets throughout the night. At least 30 fires were put out, mainly in garbage cans. About 40 people were arrested over the next two days—mostly in Over-the-Rhine.

Cincinnati's Mayor Charlie Lukan was filled with self-congratulation. The court had released Roach, and there had not been a full-scale rebellion. Lukan took a page from President Bush—he went on WLW radio and told the city, "Go have fun.""There are angry rallies held outside the courthouse and at City Hall plaza. Officer Roach's cowardly trial. Hundreds of people protected in Over-the-Rhine. People gathered on the streets, shouted at the cops, talked and debated.

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Alabama Mine Explosion

Thirteen Dead at Blue Creek No. 5

On Sunday evening, September 25, 32 people were in Blue Creek No. 5. There is no production on Sundays. Only skeleton crews go underground—to man the water pumps, check ventilation, test for gas buildup, to do maintenance on the equipment and the rails. Suddenly, an explosion ripped loose, expanding in a wave of superheated air, rock, and flame.

The company says a rock fell laden on a large battery charger and ignited the gas. But there is no reason to believe any details the company offers about such events. And there are many reasons for them to lie.

This much is known: a spark went off underground in air filled with methane. There were six miners in the area—all were injured by the flame and rock. Three of them made it out of the mine when everyone evacuated.

Immediately, the miners outside discovered that three of their brothers were left below. A rescue team quickly organized. Ten miners climbed into the elevator cage and were lowered down the shaft—risking everything. The three injured men were in an area more than three miles from the foot of the main shaft—a huge distance to travel on foot, under such dangerous conditions. Explosions leave behind carbon monoxide—which is invisible and deadly.

A badly injured miner, Ray Ashworth, was found and successfully brought to the surface.

Then, 45 minutes after the first explosion, a second, even larger explosion ripped through Blue Creek No. 5. It was strong enough to lift dust and humps of coal up into the air and ignite them—to a fire that started in methane spread to the walls of the mine itself.

The mine tumbled into a raging blast furnace. The temperatures under the ground and air went off— it was like a little nuclear bomb.

The miners had demanded that the owners, Jim Walter Resources, do something. They had refused to pay attention to methane levels.

Unfortunately, the owners were more interested in making a lot of money—other than the report that rains had weakened the mine roof and caused the inadequate supports to collapse. Last month, on August 8, a methane explosion killed at least 34 miners in western Kentucky. On July 17, water rushed through a tin mine in Guangxi, China, killing more than 70 miners. And earlier this year, a methane explosion killed nine workers in Ukraine’s Donetsk coal fields.

A Known Danger

As they gathered in the union hall of UMWA Local 2368, people spoke bitterly of how the coal company ignored the danger. Relatives cornered reporters to tell the world how the workers had lived in fear of explosion.

Mike Boyd lost his brother, Clarence “Bert” Boyd, in the explosion. He said that for a month, workers had been pointing out the high levels of methane gathering underground. Mike works on methane control at Blue Creek No. 5, screening and sizing vacuum hoses to remove especially dense concentrations of the gas. He said that during a meeting with union leaders, one of them had told him that the company “told them they were operating on a shoestring and they were going to get someone blown up down there.”

Jackie Carroll said her brother, Junior Boyd, had told his daughter that he thought something was going to happen. Junior is among the dead underground.

Even a former mine boss, Jim Layne, came to the miners’ union hall to grieve and say how the company ignored methane laws.

The United Mine Workers Union observed a mourning day on Tuesday, September 25, for the miners who died.

Meanwhile, the company spokesmen have refused to make any comment on the disaster. They have said publicly, however, that they plan to reopen Blue Creek No. 5.

by Mike Ely

The miners know there was something wrong at Blue Creek No. 5, as they showed up for work every day and were lowered—down, down, down into the dark shaft of the mine.

This Alabama mine, about 40 miles west of Birmingham, is one of the deepest in the U.S., deepest of all below the surface.

In deep mines like this, methane gas is always a worry. If miners turn off their machinery for a moment and just listen, they can hear the methane hissing and bubbling out as it escapes from the coal face.

Methane is lighter than air and explosible. It drifts up to the ceiling of the coal seam and gathers in pockets and cracks in the rock. If miners are going to work, methane must be dispersed and blown out by a continuous vigorous flow of air throughout the mine.

But this summer, over and over, there had been “pops”—mini-explosions—at Blue Creek No. 5. Pockets of gas ignited, flared, but then burned the available methane and died out.

During the years I worked in the mines, I was in a “pop” like that once. The ripper head of the continuous miner ground deep into the coal seam, and suddenly cut into a chamber on the other side. There was methane there. A brilliant flash lit the work area—like a strobe chasing away the darkness of the steel and the dust. Flames licked back over the equipment towards the miners, throwing up sheets of coal, igniting them in a rush of fire. Heat like an oven flashed on our faces, illuminated our stunned expressions, pressed against us... and then, suddenly, was gone. Death had touched us, and then drawn away. The darkness was back, a few embers glowed on the steel plates of our equipment, and, as we looked at each other in silence, we caught our breaths.

I thought of this moment when I heard terrible news from Brookwood. Alabama. This is what the miners there had experienced, over and over this summer. There had been at least three such pops in Blue Creek No. 5. The memory of those pops kept the miners of No. 5 awake at night. They spoke of their fears to their families. They knew something was wrong with the ventilation. But there is no reason to believe any details the company offers about such events. And there are many reasons for them to lie.

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Shirley Hyche, a miner for 20 years at the Blue Creek, said that when the underground air went off it was like a little bomb.

The miners had demanded that the owners, Jim Walter Resources, do something. Shirley said: “They wouldn’t listen. They didn’t do anything.”

It says something about working class life, about capitalism, that the miners returned anyway, day after day, to be lowered into that shaft to dig the coal.

Many of the workers had traveled far to find work here at Brookwood. Groups of them had moved from the southern tip of West Virginia, from MacDowell County, where the huge complex of U.S. Steel mines shut down in 1986. Many came because they were in their 50s, and needed to work several more years in the mines to get their pensions. They would lose those pensions if they took other kinds of jobs. These workers were trapped, forced to work—despite the danger.

Each one knew that if they quit it would be hard to find another mine that would hire them.

Just a Spark

“There is never a mine blown before and now, but we’re buried alive forever.”

—from revolutionary song

“We have fed you all for 1000 years”

—from revolutionary song

Blue Creek No. 5

Betty Rhoten, whose brother Wendell Johnson was one of the 13 miners killed.
I have been thinking about how deeply something else is required. I have been thinking about the courage it requires to think about something other than violence as a response to violence. I am thinking about the complexity of this and the looseness of this and the helplessness and the sorrow that would be felt in the space where violence was once and the grief.

I have been thinking that for those of us who work on the planet right now, right now, nothing less will do if we are to go on as a species. That we must live in, and protect the space where violence was once and the grief.

I have been thinking about the man who called his mother the dust on the people’s shoes and the dust on New Yorkers’ shoes and all the others disassociated rage, disconnection, rage, disassociation.

I have been thinking about why, what it feels like to be a consequence of something else is required. I have been thinking about how deeply something else is required. I have been thinking about why, what it feels like to be a consequence of something else is required. I have been thinking about how deeply something else is required. I have been thinking about how deeply something else is required. I have been thinking about how deeply something else is required.
stopped official and unofficial attacks on Arab people and all immigrants!

Vieques Support Campaign

Under the guise of security, civil liberties are under attack, and such a dangerous assault on our freedom must be stopped. The Vieques Support Campaign asks everyone, regardless of race or religion, to join in the assault on civil liberties and rights, to demand that the U.S. government stop its retaliatory war and stop encouraging racist hate crimes against Arabs and all people of color. We stand with the people of Vieques.

From the TV Show Politically Incorrect

Remarks by Holland Taylor (Emmy-winning actor) and Michael Eric Dyson (author and professor at DePaul University) during ABC TV's Politically Incorrect which aired on September 24:

"Taylor: Am I saying something on the " Hate America" theme?...The thing that I find myself thinking again and again since September 11 is that a lot of us, a lot of my friends, it's a new world, it's a different world. The fact is, it's a new America. It's a different America. It's the same old world. And what I find, in terms of everyone hating us, is that the world has been kind to us and tolerant. Because we are like a prodigal bad child who has all the goodies and our face smeared with candy and our pockets stuffed with dollar bills and our bicycles and our guns and our submachine guns. And we've been having a while of a time over here on our continent, and something has happened to us. The scale of it was so spectacular that it stopped the world. But really, nations around the globe could have said, "Grow up, wake up. So now, you understand what the world is really like." Because they live with the possibility that any moment the world could blow up.

"Dyson: What's interesting, too, is that this is the first time since the Great Depression that the working class in the United States--the people who are home owners, the people who buy the goods and services...Highly educated black people. And because of the collective reemergence of the white folks who were there against the black folk, they went out and looted their stores, burned their homes and killed these people out of their communities. In Ohio, an all-Black community was destroyed. It's just the scale of it was like—it was like a child that was whipped in an unseemly way. The world is now saying, "That was a hell of beating that young nation had to get up to wake up, to grow up and enter the world which already was there.

New York, Sept. 21: 5,000 marched from Union Square to Times Square. On Sept. 22, even though many marchers had gone to D.C. to demonstrate, 500 people held another anti-war protest.

Los Angeles, Sept. 29: Over 2,000 marched through Westwood Village, next to the campus of UCLA. People on the sidewalks joined in as the march ended in a rally at the Westside Federal Building. Chicago, on Sept. 24 and again on Sept. 29: More than 400 people marched through downtown. People chanted, "No war, in our name—Islam, is not to blame." One proster said, "The road to hell is paved with American intentions." Seattle, Washington, Sept. 22: Over 1,000 people gathered in Westlake Park. Albuquerque, New Mexico, Sept. 22: The march of 1,000 people went through downtown. People chanted, "Bring home the brave."

Naples, Italy, Sept. 27: Over 20,000 anti-war demonstrators marched to protest U.S. war threats and the build-up of NATO military forces in Italy. Naples had been scheduled for a major NATO conference—but it was moved.

Athens, Greece, Sept. 27: Over 6,000 people marched through the streets demanding that the Greek government not give any political or technical support to U.S. war moves. They condemned U.S. war threats, "anti-terrorist hysteria" and racist attacks against Muslims.

London, England, Sept. 22: 2,000 rallied against war, while 1,000 marched to Glasgow. Actions were also held in Reading, Nottingham, Portsmouth, Leeds, Manchester, Dublin, Bradford, Birmingham, Brighton, Oxford, and Cardiff. Fashion designer Katharin Hamnett was a figure on a BBC news programme that read "No War" and "Stop and Think."

Montreal, Canada, Sept. 23: Over 1,000 people started from the statue of the North American uhmonic. Marching through the downtown against U.S. imperialism's war plans and racism. Activists have also taken place in Hamilton and Victoria.

Mexico City, Mexico, Sept. 28: Marchers protested outside the U.S. embassy against threats of U.S. attacks.

Calcutta, India, Sept. 24: Associated Press reports India's Macintosh government organized a major demonstration. One sign read, "Down, Down U.S. imperialism—U.S. the creator of terrorisms war everywhere and the killer of innocent people of Iraq, Korea and Vietnam." It was reported that some marchers were also critical of religious fundamentalists forces.

Jakarta, Indonesia, Sept. 28: Thousands marched against U.S. threatened attacks—prominently burning U.S. flags and dollars. There have reportedly been daily protests in other Islamic cities.

Johannesburg, South Africa, Sept. 27: Students from the University of Witswatersrand organized a large march protesting "war talk." From the U.S. government, and expressing strong support for the Palestinian struggle against Israel. Banners denounced Zionism as ethnic cleansing, and described Israeli Prime Minister Sharon as a war criminal.

Baghdad, Iraq, Sept. 27: People rallied outside the offices of the United Nations Development Program to protest U.S. Iraqi and British attacks on the Arab world, and to mark the first anniversary of the current Palestinian intifada uprising.

Manilla, Philippines, Sept. 29: Marchers denounced U.S. threats against Afghanistan, and denounced Philippine president Arroyo's vocal support for the threatened U.S. strikes.

Istanbul, Turkey, Sept. 29: Riot police arrested 38 people during large actions against U.S. threats against Middle East countries. The protest came one day after Turkey's government expressed its support for the U.S. war plans.

Dhaka, Bangladesh, Sept. 29: Muslim forces marched against expected U.S. attacks.


Tokyo, Japan, Sept. 27: A protest was held against threatened U.S. attacks outside the Parliament building. Many anti-retaliation rallies have taken place all over Japan, opposing the Japanese government's plans to provide logistical support to U.S. attacks.

Worldwide Resistance to U.S. War Moves

Since September 11, thousands have demonstrated against war, racism, attacks on immigrants and Arab people, and repression in New York, Berkeley, Chicago, Seattle, Portland, Washington D.C. and other cities across the U.S.

Protest outside U.S. embassy in Manila, Philippines, September 28.
Hollywood Farmers’ Market

Continued from page 7

"Thank you." This is exactly what I feel.

"This is what I’ve been wanting to say, but I’ve been too scared to say it."

A number of people gave us clenched-fist salutes and flashed us peace signs. One older woman went up to our sign and stared at the words with her fist yelled, "Bigger! Bolder!" Put it in Big Red Letters.

The Afghan people are NOT our enemy! They are our SISTERS AND BROTHERS!

Our experience at the Farmers’ Market is that because the scene here is overwhelmingly progressive, reactionaries here don’t feel like they have a lot of freedom to jump out with their shit. A couple of times, when people confronted us with patriotic arguments about how the “U.S. has to defend itself against terrorism,” others joined in taking this up, talking about the crimes of U.S. imperialism around the world, and struggling with people to read the leaflet with an open mind.

One older Russian immigrant, a Sunday regular, has been always been galvanized at the presence of communists in the Market. On many occasions, he’s tried to provoke an argument and prevent others from buying the paper or talking with us. He braced himself when he saw us coming. But on this day he came up to us and said, “Bush planned the whole thing. How do they know that for me and all my friends, we don’t think so. We don’t think that the U.S. is the good war—a war of U.S. aggression. We are conscious that misrepresents the people, being in the U.S. to look for a better life, and how they are now in the military and may now call on him to go to war.”

A woman got a stack of leaflets at her mosque, and immediately went up and down the street pasting out leaflets and trying to convince vendors not to sell the leaflet. She was covered with all this patriotic stuff, like a little flag pin and a red, white, and blue neckerchief. And she was saying, "Yeah, I support America and this is my country. And I think that what George Bush is doing is crazy! We don’t want to go to war, we don’t want to fight those poor people over there. I think it’s peace." And she told me that now she signs off on all her emails with “imagine—dot, dot, dot.” It made me feel really strong.

Many people wanted to talk about how bad they felt about all the people who had been killed on September 11. They also wanted to clarify that their sadness didn’t make them treehuggers for the RCP for a white said, “In a nutshell, I think that if we buy into Bush’s ‘crusades,’ we are buying the facts or means that the idea of maybe people are mad that 3,000 kids die every month in Iraq. None of the so-called Christians who run this country has said that this is not acceptable. No. They say, ‘We’re Christian America, we’re righteous, and they are evil.’ The things they’ve done! I like bombing the pharmaceutical factory in the Sudan—that caused great damage to the people. Shouldn’t they apologize for that? Shouldn’t they make amends for that? They call themselves a great Christian nation. Well, what would Jesus say about this all? He’d say, ‘You guys are fucking criminals!’"

Two young African-American women talked about all the patriotism being promoted now. “It’s not that I don’t feel sympathy for the people in New York. It’s just that I can’t get behind this government after everything they’ve done all over the world. If I die, I’d be a hypocrite. Where? Should I forget about the Past? Should I forget about the Past? Would I forget about the Past? I forget about the Past.”

"I feel the same way," her friend said, and that’s why I can’t stand behind the government anymore. And about the backlash against Muslims and Middle Easterners—what about Timothy McVeigh? There weren’t any big backlash against young white men from the Midwest after the Oklahoma City bombing. After World War 2, they put all the Japanese Americans in concentration camps. I don’t want that to happen again. Another thing is that bin Laden was trained by the CIA. Now, conveniently, there’s not a big threat, the Soviet threat is gone, so it’s who can we use next? If you really care about all that, then you can’t really put a flag on your car.”

A young Chicana spoke from the heart, saying, “A lot of treaties have been broken by this government, a lot of people’s civil rights have been violated, and I don’t think what the United States does to other countries and how many countries are going through devastation, and poverty and hunger and how the United States has a part to play. I think this country making coups and going into Central America and the importation of crack cocaine into our inner cities—you’re getting hurt, especially people of color. And now they’re going to tax us all we’ve been fighting this war. I mean, how many times do we have to go through history to learn our lesson on how people are going to stand up for our government and say, ‘Enough is enough!’ We’re at a point that we need to stand up and speak against our government... And the red, white and blue, it just represents discrimination, the genocide, the hunger, the pain, the sadness—all the things that’s inflicted on so many people to build the United States. It doesn’t represent anything to be proud of.”
In a major effort to boost up the flagging airline industry, U.S. President Bush flew into Chicago's O'Hare airport on September 27 and spoke at a "pop rally" which was a message for all travelers to "Get on board. Do your business around the country."

On the same day, the front page of the Chicago Sun-Times featured a big photo of a federal air marshal pointing an automatic weapon at the head of a passenger during a hijack drill inside a jet liner. Bush announced that up to 5,000 National Guard troops will be positioned at airports around the country. And there were reports that mid-level Air Force generals can now order the shooting down of passenger jets that are considered hijacked and a threat to cities, without clearance from higher officials.

Welcome to the surreal world of air travel in America 2001—where airports have been turned into military checkpoints and passenger jets are potential targets of F-16s, while the president tells people, "Fly and enjoy America's great destination spots—get down to Disney World."

The power structure is continuing its work to expand the power of the Office of Homeland Security. The report—commissioned by both Republicans and Democrats—was the first major review of the U.S. national security apparatus since 1947. Among its proposals were the creation of a cabinet-level post with the fascist title of "assistant secretary for homeland security." Rudman suggested Bush make "homeland security" a primary mission of the National Guard. Bush has already proposed that the Department of Defense name an "assistant secretary for homeland security." Rudman recommended that Bush make "homeland security" a primary mission of the National Guard. Bush has already expressed his support for expanding and strengthening the Joint Forces Command and Joint Task Force for Civil Support to deal with security within the U.S.

Much about the powers of the Office of Homeland Security is still in rough outline. But the overall thinking behind its creation makes clear that the rulers see the security forces as a key body geared toward confronting crises and challenges to their system—including, as a key element, the deployment of National Guard and Army troops to maintain control within the U.S. borders.

Broadening Police Powers

The Bush administration and other ruling class forces are also pushing hard to quickly pass laws giving the police expanded powers. These laws will allow the government much greater ability to tap people's phones, detain people, and collect information from other governments. Attorney General Ashcroft has drafted something called the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported on one aspect of the proposed law: "A court order to monitor the phone numbers that a suspect calls or the e-mail addresses that he or she sends messages to would apply not just in the jurisdictions in which it is granted but also nationally. An order granted by one judge would be valid across the country." Aschcroft's proposals would also allow the police to seize recorded voice mail.

Ashcroft also wants to expand the ability of U.S. police agencies to use the work of police from other governments which don't face the same kind of legal restrictions that currently exist in the U.S. In other words, U.S. police agencies would be able to openly receive information gathered by Europol (European Police Office), Mossad (Israeli political police), or others through certain kinds of telephone and electronic surveillance officially prohibited under current U.S. laws.

First, there is the legitimization of racial profiling. People from the Middle East, or who "look like" they are from that region, or who have certain kind of names are being stopped and searched repeatedly at airports. In many cases, people "fitting the description" have been ordered off airplanes, thrown into detention, and released only after passing through many layers of security screening.

The government is moving to greatly increase the presence of armed personnel at airports and in other places. Bush said he wanted as many as 5,000 National Guard troops deployed at 420 U.S. airports. And he wants Congress to authorize the hiring of thousands of armed air marshals to be placed on commercial passenger flights. The prospect of federal agents flying on regularly scheduled commercial flights can hardly be comforting to air travelers. And the fears of travelers wasn't eased by U.S. Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's announcement that mid-level Air Force generals can shoot down suspected hijacked commercial planes without higher approval.

There is active work to install "biometric" face-scanning technology at airports. Using this technology, police can use computers to compare people's faces taken through video surveillance cameras with a computer database of "wanted" people. USA Today reported that "Federal officials have told biometrics firms to get cracking."

In the air terminals, passengers are already being subjected to incredible levels of intrusion. People must repeatedly produce their IDs and allow bags to be searched. Metal items are being seized before passengers board—from pens to knives. The Baltimore-Washington International Airport has even removed all the knives from its restaurants, including scalpels.

Capitalizing on the panic that people are feeling after September 11, the rulers are asking—and forcing—people to buck the system's war moves and accept increased police-state repression. The actions of these rulers are not in the interests of the people—and they must be opposed.
Looking for a plan to change the world?
It's here...

Draft Programme
of the RCP, USA
May 2001

In the fall of 1999, the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA announced plans to forge a new Party Programme. The first phase of this great project is now complete.

On May 1st, the Draft Programme of the RCP,USA was released in English and Spanish.

Here in the “belly of the beast,” our party has produced what we believe is a powerful document...that breathes the science of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, the fire and the hope of revolution...that speaks with clarity to the basic problems of this society and world—and to their solution.

As the authors of the original Communist Manifesto said, our new Draft Programme “disdains to conceal its views.” It explains that the world capitalist system of exploitation and oppression is outmoded and unnecessary...that a radically different world is possible...and that there is a path to overthrowing the U.S. ruling class.

What is the path to revolution in this country? What about the revolutionary potential of the proletariat here? Does a revolutionary MLM programme truly speak to the basic problems of this society and the world and their solution? What will the new society be like? What are the needs of different sections of the people and how will they be met through this revolution? How can we win?

JOIN A COAST-TO-COAST, BORDER TO BORDER, REVOLUTIONARY CONVERSATION

This Draft Programme, and what it has to say about creating a new society, connects with the concerns of millions of people.

The RCP is serious about learning from the ideas, suggestions, and criticisms of others about this Draft.

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