

CHALLENGE

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CAPITALISM MEANS MASS RACIST MURDER AND WAR



GI's march as part of mass movement and soldiers' and sailors' rebellion against the Vietnam War (see box, page 2).

The mass racist killings on August 5 by a neo-Nazi veteran in Milwaukee, Wisconsin was not an isolated atrocity. When Wade Michael Page murdered six people and wounded three others in a Sikh temple, he reflected both the long-term needs and contradictions of U.S. imperialism. As the U.S. ruling class proceeds on its collision course with rising capitalists in China over the world's oil and gas and cheap labor, its murderous brutality will victimize workers at home, as well.

The ex-GI's crime exposes a serious flaw in the U.S. war machine, where racism cuts two ways. On the one hand, the top brass needs racism to motivate troops to kill dehumanized en-

emies. On the other, racism hinders U.S. bosses' ability to mobilize for ever-larger wars that will inevitably become global.

A substantial number of U.S. troops share Page's virulent hatred for black, Latino and Asian soldiers and superiors. Some racist officers refuse even to recognize Barack Obama as commander-in-chief. Racist "hazing" (actually torture) discourages working-class Asians from enlisting. Moreover, the extreme racism rampant in the U.S. — police killings of black and Latino youth in big cities nation-wide; double jobless rates for these groups; turning their schools into prison-like institutions; their mass incarceration (70 percent of prisoners in the U.S. are black and

Latino); the massive deportation of immigrant workers — all deter black and Latino youth from joining the military.

Throw in the two Middle East shooting wars over the last decade, and it's no surprise that black recruitment plummeted 58 percent between 2000 and 2007, despite the patriotic frenzy following 9/11. And Page's anti-Sikh rampage further dampens Pentagon hopes that tens of millions of U.S.-led Indian troops will join a potential future battle against China's vast forces.

The bosses' dilemma is that capitalism can't live without racism. The lower wages and benefits paid to black and Latino workers net U.S. bosses hundreds of billions in super-profits, which the capitalists depend on for their very existence. These inequities hurt white workers as well, because they're used as a club to keep white workers from demanding more or even keeping what they've got. The differential is designed to split the working class and weaken its ability to unite to fight the bosses' attacks.

As the U.S. president, it is Obama's job to enforce the capitalists' profit system that wages its economic war on the entire working class. Obama's racism may be less overt than Wade Page's, but it is no less dangerous to workers.

The one way for the working class to rid itself of this racist profit system is to join and build the revolutionary Progressive Labor Party in organizing a communist revolution. Communism unites all workers and eliminates bosses, profits, and the wage system that divides us. It enables our class to share all the value that workers — and only workers — produce.

Racists in the Military

In the run-up to the 2001 Afghan and 2003 Iraq invasions, Pentagon chiefs worried openly over the dubious loyalty of racists like Page and how they hurt enlistment figures. They were

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right on both counts. In 1995, Page was at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, when two neo-Nazi soldiers from the Army’s 82nd Airborne Division killed a black couple in nearby Fayetteville. Page himself belonged to a neo-Nazi group. The Army punished him for dereliction of duty and going AWOL.

As Togo D. West, Jr., the former black Secretary of the Army, once said, “Extremist activity compromises fairness, good order and discipline and, potentially, combat effectiveness” (*Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, 8/6/12). Yet West’s Army routinely teaches and trains recruits using racist slurs to wipe out “hajis” and “ragheads.”

In 2010, Lt. Col. Terry Larkin, an Army doctor, refused orders for Afghanistan because he challenged the legitimacy of Obama’s presidency. The year before, Maj. Stefan Rhodes did the same thing, while Capt. Connie Rhodes rejected deployment to Iraq. All three tried to cover their gutter

OUR FIGHT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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racism with the “birther” argument, the spurious idea that Obama wasn’t born in the U.S. and therefore is ineligible to be president.

But regardless of his color, Obama must enforce racism to serve his master capitalists. He has deported more immigrant workers than any other president. He endorses education policies that perpetuate racist schools. Racist unemployment and housing foreclosures have soared on his watch.

Tea Party Challenges the Dominant Power Structure

The Tea Party represents domestic bosses with less of a vested interest in imperialist wars. Its dubious loyalty to the dominant power structure makes it a threat to the liberal, imperialist, finance capital wing of the U.S. ruling class. In 2010, a U.S. Army training document envisioned the use of troops on U.S. soil under the following scenario:

In May 2016 an extremist [read “racist” — Ed.] militia motivated by the goals of the “tea party” movement takes over the government of Darlington, South Carolina, occupying City Hall, disbanding the city council, and placing the mayor under house arrest. Activists remove the chief of police and either disarm local police and county sheriff departments or discourage them from interfering. In truth, this is hardly necessary. Many law enforcement officials already are sympathetic to the tea party’s agenda, know many of the people involved, and have made clear they will not challenge the takeover.

U.S.-India Tie Strained

In the wake of the Milwaukee bloodbath, the bosses’ pressing concern is that it could set back the Pentagon’s dream of a grand war alliance with India against China’s vast forces. On August 1, after returning from India, Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton D. Carter reported back to the ultra-imperialist, Rockefeller-founded Asia Society: “India is a key part of our rebalance to the Asia-Pacific, and, we believe, to the broader security and prosperity of the 21st century. The U.S.-India relationship is global in scope.... Our security interests converge” (*Times of India*, 8/2/12). “Rebalance” refers to Obama’s new anti-China military build-up. Carter vowed “to work with the Indians on developing a joint vision for U.S.-India defense cooperation.”

But this plan may be compromised by Page’s slaughter. “Sikhs make up 10-15% of all ranks in the Indian Army and 20% of its officers, while Sikhs form only 1.87% of the Indian population, which makes them possibly 10 times more likely to be a soldier and officer in the Indian Army than the average Indian.” (*BBC*, 8/8/07). In fact, India’s prime minister Manmohan Singh is a Sikh.

Ravi Srinivasan, a Hindu, West Point graduate, and veteran of Afghanistan, lamented how Page may have strained U.S. alliances:

Diversity is a force multiplier on the front lines. It offers a means to relate to... our coalition partners.... Whether or not Page’s military record had any effect on his racist views, the fact that he is a veteran makes him an ambassador for the military....[T]he next time we invade a country, the consequences of that perception may follow us there (*New York Times*, 8/7/02).

Rulers’ Achilles Heel

These are problems that racism, an essential component of capitalism, poses for the capitalists themselves. Even as the bosses use racism to

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Why Articles Are Not Signed

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

Anti-Racist Troops Turn the Guns Around

U.S. rulers’ worries over the Pentagon’s ability to field a reliable military harkens back to the mass GI rebellion during the Vietnam War. Writing in the June 1971 *Armed Forces Journal*, Col. Robert Heinl, a Marine historian, described it as “The Collapse of the Armed Forces.” And it was a massive collapse:

• Heinl reported that sedition “infests the Armed Services....There appear to be some 144 underground newspapers...at U.S. military bases in this country and overseas.”

• “Fragging” — the hurling of fragmentation grenades at officers — was common. GI’s raised bounties of up to \$1,000 for leaders they wanted to rub out. Requests were published in the GI’s underground papers. GI Says publicly offered a \$10,000 bounty on the lieutenant colonel who led the costly assault on Hamburger Hill in 1969. In 1970 alone, the Pentagon reported 209 fraggings.

• In October, when the USS *Kitty Hawk* was ordered to return to the Philippines’ Subic Bay, black sailors led a major rebellion, including hand-to-hand battle with Marines sent to break up a meeting on board. The ship was forced to retire to San Francisco for a “6-month re-fitting job” and was removed from the war altogether.

• By November 1972, five giant aircraft carriers were tied up in San Diego, forced out of combat in the Gulf of Tonkin by crews involved in anti-war activities. When the USS *Ranger* was ordered into action in June 1972, 20 acts of sabotage culminated in the destruction of the main reduction gear, delaying its sailing for more than four months. When the ship made it back to the Gulf of Tonkin, sailors disabled it once again by deliberately setting it on fire, the sixth major disaster in the Seventh Fleet in a five-week period.

• Sailors on the USS *Coral Sea* organized a “Stop Our Ship” (SOS) movement, forcing its return to San Francisco. SOS then spread to the USS *Enterprise* through its underground paper.

• By the end of 1971, resistance was intensifying to the point that U.S. commanders ran short of reliable ground troops to send into battle. When President Richard Nixon resorted to massive air power, launching a 12-day, all-out bombardment of much of North Vietnam, individual pilots refused to participate. The super-secret 6990th Air Force Security Service unit staged a work stoppage bordering on open mutiny. During the stoppage, according to Seymour Hersh’s *The Price of Power*, there were cheers whenever a B-52 was shot down by the Vietnamese.

• In March 1972, when the USS *Midway* was ordered to leave San Francisco for Vietnam, protests and sabotage swept the ship. Crewmen spilled 3,000 gallons of oil into San Francisco Bay (*San Francisco Chronicle*, 5/24/72).

• “Search and evade” — avoidance of combat by units in the field — became a virtual principle of the war.

• Between July 1, 1966 and December 31, 1973, there were 503,926 “incidents of desertion” (*NY Times*, 8/20/74). In 1970 alone, the Army recorded 65,643 deserters, the rough equivalent of four infantry divisions.

These incidents are only a sampling of the massive resistance and rebellion by GIs during the Vietnam War. Books have since described what was largely kept from the U.S. population. As Colonel Heinl reported in his “Collapse” article, these “widespread conditions among American forces in Vietnam...have only been exceeded in this century...by the collapse of the Tsarist armies in 1916 and 1917” in the Russian Revolution.

What GIs did in the past can be done again.☺

Mexico: Building International Unity and Communist Solidarity

Fifty members and friends of Progressive Labor Party from around the U.S. and Mexico, across borders, are participating in a Summer Project in Mexico. The PLP has planted the seeds of communism in Mexico, the U.S., and many other areas worldwide. We're cultivating these seeds, a long-term process with many ups and downs, which will prepare the international working class for its role in making communist revolution.

This process involves many inter-connected elements, all of which are evident at the Project in Mexico:

- The working class requires international unity, which we put into practice by building ties between comrades and friends across borders and by supporting workers' and students' struggles in all areas of the world. In building an international Party, we are overcoming capitalist divisions caused by racism, nationalism and sexism, as well as obstacles like different languages and cultural backgrounds.
- Communists organize the working class and give leadership in the class struggle while introducing and fighting for PLP's communist ideas in the struggle.
- We understand the importance of raising the political consciousness of the working class and making communist ideas mass ideas. In the process of revolution for communism and consolidation of the new communist society this ideology is a powerful weapon.

- We learn how to answer workers' questions about the strengths and weaknesses of the old communist movement, how communism works in practice and overcoming capitalist individualism and anti-communist lies.
- We are building a base among workers and students in order to organize Party study-action groups and Party clubs (collectives of members).
- We are developing new leadership, especially among youth and women.

Spread PLP Literature

In all areas, the PLP in Mexico is advancing. During the Summer Project, we organized study groups to understand the Party's line: "What We Fight For." Workers and youth in Party concentrations in factories, communities and schools agreed to join the study groups. One dynamic young woman, active at her university, joined PLP.

In the first week of the Project, we distributed hundreds of CHALLENGES written and printed in Mexico. We also distributed 3,000 flyers about a community fighting back against government plans to cause flooding. They want to form reservoirs where water will be sent to purification plants and sold at prices working-class families can't afford. Whole neighborhoods risk losing their homes so the government can continue to provide abundant water to wealthy citizens and irrigate large farms owned by capitalists inside and outside Mexico. Meanwhile,

water is turned off in poor workers' homes for many hours at a time.

Anger and fear are mixed as neighbors in this community organize to fight back with communist leadership and growing consciousness about the necessity to organize for communist revolution.

Capitalism offers scarcity, poverty and exploitation to the working class, from Mexico to India! The Party will organize international support for this struggle. *(More details in an upcoming article.)*

The Project so far has been well-organized and strongly led by a team of workers and students, including five women leaders from Mexico and the U.S. Capitalism uses sexism, like racism and nationalism, to divide workers and keep our class weak. Communists reject the idea that women and men should have separate roles in society. We need to pay more attention to winning and developing women in order to build unity and strengthen the Party and the working class.

Workers and youth from Mexico and the U.S. are organizing together, cooking and cleaning collectively, and overcoming the language barrier. Onward to week two!✱

(More articles and letters will follow about communist organizing among workers and youth and in the communities, among teachers and students, and evaluation and experiences of Project volunteers.)

Campus Workers Invade Bosses' Office

LOS ANGELES, CA, July 11 — Progressive Labor Party joined together with workers from a university campus here to rally and march into the office of the assistant vice chancellor. These workers have been fighting for four years in order to be hired by the university itself — not by an outsourcing company that had fired workers on a whim and forced the remaining workers to do twice the work. Recently, the workers won that battle, but the fight continues.

In the last three months about 30 workers, almost a third of the staff, have received "counseling memos." This is a fancy way of saying they were written up. Many of these write-ups were based on the fact that the supervisors didn't understand what was necessary in order to get the work done. For example, one worker was written up for being "out of area." The worker wasn't working in the building they were supposed to be because the workload they had been given in another building was too much and they could not finish on time. Three workers have been fired recently because of these attacks.

Latina Women Won't Back Down

The supervisors have also been harassing the workers in other ways, such as giving them their checks late. This is a blatant attempt to intimidate these militant, mainly Latina women workers. The bosses and supervisors are scared of these workers because they have refused to back down.

Today was no exception. The workers chanted and refused to wait as they walked into the building and into the assistant vice chancellor's office. They presented him with a petition. They demanded that the harassments stop, that workers be rehired, that all "counseling memos" be rescinded, and that the workloads be reduced to a reasonable size for each worker.

The assistant vice chancellor said that he would "look into it." These workers have heard

that before. So they told him they need action within a week or they would continue to fight.

These university bosses and their pet bureaucrats should be scared. These workers have the will to fight and communists are on their side. We must transform this reform fight for reasonable working conditions. A reform maintains

the system that keeps the working class fighting the same fights over and over again for the bare minimum. It essentially builds capitalism, and fools workers into thinking that capitalism can be reformed for workers' interests. We need to put forth revolution. We need a system that works for all workers: communism.✱



Profit Wars, Racism Drive U.S. Troops' Suicide

Local working-class people in Iraq and Afghanistan, mainly civilians, have bore the brunt of suffering in the U.S. imperialist wars, with casualties, both deaths and injuries, numbering in the millions. This carnage has also damaged working-class U.S. troops — who've survived physically uninjured — by what they've seen and done. For every U.S. soldier killed in the war zone, about 25 vets die by suicide.

The racist lies the Pentagon uses to direct U.S. working-class troops' anger towards local workers, especially anger over a battle buddy's death, underlie these skyrocketing suicide rates. These racist lies lead many troops to kill, beat or harass innocent local workers or at least passively support those troops that do.

Since the U.S. military defines the troops' mission as only to "carry out good intentions," it's easy for troops to get angry at civilians who refuse to turn in insurgents and view these civilians as "ungrateful savages."

Individualism A Loser

But once troops learn more about the profit motive behind the mission and are separated from the chain of command that reinforces racist lies, it becomes difficult to live with what happened.

Unlike Vietnam War veterans who had the option of joining a massive GI and veterans' movement against racism and war (see box, page 2), today many veterans individually tear themselves up with guilt, shame, depression and rage. Many feel no one knows what they're experiencing except maybe those who were there with them.

For thousands of veterans who wonder why they survived, the burden of carrying the memories of dead friends and civilians haunts their minds

GENERAL, YOUR TANK IS A
POWERFUL VEHICLE

It smashes down forests and
crushes a hundred men.

But it has one defect:
It needs a driver.

General, your bomber is powerful.
It flies faster than a storm and carries
more than an elephant.

But it has one defect:
It needs a mechanic.

General, man is very useful.
He can fly and he can kill.
But he has one defect:
He can think.

Bertolt Brecht

and becomes too much to bear.

Additionally, troops have been driven to suicide because of racist harassment. Army Private Danny Chen killed himself in Afghanistan after repeated anti-Chinese harassment from two Officers, four NCOs (Non-Commissioned Officers) and two fellow lower enlisted soldiers.

After public outrage from Danny's family and the Chinese working-class community in New

York City, the Army pressed charges on the eight soldiers who hazed Danny for weeks before his death. But the first soldier to stand court martial only received a 30-day sentence, a fine and demotion out of a possible 30-month sentence!

A Veterans Affairs hotline on suicide exists but capitalism has little to offer veterans dealing with suicidal thoughts. Addressing the racist lies of profit wars on a mass scale would undermine the bosses' imperialist mission.

According to a pair of liberal mental health pundits, the mental damage imperialism does to working-class troops is a "moral wound" that can only be treated socially by a non-judgmental community that has the moral courage to "examine its own responsibility for the war."

But it is not this "community" that is responsible for the U.S. bosses' wars, it is capitalism. The VA suicide hotline may help some individuals but it cannot own up to exploiting the good intentions of working-class troops without risking rebellion within the ranks.

The most positive, lasting and significant way to address profit wars, racism and the intense feeling to make amends is to become part of a communist movement to smash the capitalist system that spawns these oil wars and racism. Getting vets involved in anti-racist fight-backs for jobs, education and more veterans' services can be an important part of healing for many troops.

But ultimately, taking anti-racist and anti-imperialist actions in the barracks, on the battlefields and in the neighborhoods as part of the Progressive Labor Party is the most important way to undercut the imperialist mission that drives troops to suicide.☸

Tel-Aviv

Workers: Burn Down Capitalism, Not Yourself!

TELL-AVIV, ISRAEL-PAL-ESTINE, July 20 — Moshe Silman, died from his wounds after setting himself on fire during last week's rally against the government's economic policy. This act of desperation served as an example to several other workers, pushed to the brink of suicide by the inhuman capitalist system, who began setting themselves on fire to protest their poverty.

One hundred sixty years ago, Marx and Engels wrote how the capitalist system, in its dog-eat-dog competition between businesses, drives many petit-bourgeois (the self-employed and the small businessmen) into the proletariat (working class). Silman's tale is a clear example of this. At one time he owned a tiny transport company with four trucks, but due to debts to the National Insurance (Israel's "Social Security"), one of his trucks was repossessed, starting a downward spiral for him.

Soon he found himself penniless, forced to work for his living as a taxi-cab driver. Eventually he suffered a series of strokes, forcing him off his job.

He then had to live on about \$550 a month in disability benefits, hardly enough to pay for food, medications and rent. Finally, he found himself living on the mean streets. As an act of protest, he committed suicide by setting himself on fire.

Capitalism is an economic system with no mercy. The bosses (much less than "1%" of the population) own great wealth produced by the labor of workers. The workers (more than "99%") own nothing substantial and are forced to sell their labor power — essentially, the best part of one's life and livelihood — in order to earn an often meager existence. There is no real middle ground between these two classes. Competition between businesses leads to the concentration of wealth in the hands of the few big capitalists at the expense of their smaller and less vicious competitors, who end up, in many cases, driven into the working class. Even the so-called "middle class," workers who were given a few more crumbs than usual from the bosses' table, find themselves more and more

thrown back to the bottom of the working class by the crisis of the capitalist system.

The only real way out of this hell on earth is to get rid of the root of the problem, the capitalist system itself. Instead of harming themselves out of desperation, workers should organize, fight back and eventually lead a communist revolution under the banners of the Progressive Labor Party to overthrow the profit system once and for all. Only together, led by a Party of millions of workers, will we be able to build a real future — a communist future where workers will run the world for the interest of the working class!☸

Mass Racist Murder and War

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exploit and divide workers, it will prove to be the rulers' Achilles heel. The imperialist war machine's racist outrages and atrocities sparked widespread militant revolts during the U.S. genocide in Vietnam (see box). With communist leadership, such rebellions could lay the groundwork for destroying the deadly profit system.

The fight against racism needs to start in the belly of the beast, here in the U.S. That has been a cardinal principle of the Progressive Labor Party since our inception half a century ago, as shown by our active support of the 1964 Harlem Rebellion. Our Party has joined the current fight against the racist police murders of Shantel Davis and Ramarley Graham in New York and the racist executions of Manual Diaz and Joel Acevedo in Anaheim, California. PLP mobilizes the working class in the workplace and the unions, the military, the communities, and the churches. It fights racism on college campuses and attacks Jim Crow segregation in Brooklyn's high schools. The Party's anti-racist struggles help unite our class as a prerequisite for communist revolution.

As our Party has grown and expanded onto five continents, we have spread our anti-racist fight to opposing mass evictions in Palestine-Israel and uniting all ethnic groups in Pakistan and Mexico as well as other areas (see pages 3,4,5).

Join this international class struggle. Organize class war against capitalism. Join and build Progressive Labor Party!☸



Israel-Palestine

Bedouin Workers Fight Racist Land Grab

AL-ARAKIB, ISRAEL-PALESTINE, July 27 — Hundreds of workers, both Bedouin-Arabs and Jews, marched against the Jewish National Fund's (JNF) attempt to evict the Bedouin village of al-Arakib from its ancestral lands. In the last two years, this village has been demolished no less than 40 times. Yet the villagers, impoverished workers and peasants, still cling to their land and rebuild again and again, bravely defying the will of the racist Israeli regime.

Workers from all parts of Israel-Palestine stand in solidarity with this struggle, encouraging the villagers of al-Arakib in their fight for a piece of land to call their home. But what is this struggle really about? For this, we must look at the history of the Bedouins in Palestine.

Before the 1948 war, 90,000 Bedouins lived in the Negev (southern Israel-Palestine), mostly settling down as pastoral peasants in the early 20th century. When the Zionist movement took power and established the State of Israel, 59,000 of them were deported, mostly to the Sinai peninsula and the Gaza Strip. The rest were kept under martial law in the "Siag" region, essentially a tiny native reservation (or ghetto) until 1966. Then they were allowed more freedom, but were still confined to a small part of the land. Currently, the Bedouins, some of whom were living in the Negev for centuries if not millennia, make up only 25% of the Negev's population; the remaining 75% are Jews brought by the Israeli government after 1948.

How Israeli Rulers Cheat Bedouins

The Israeli government claims almost all of the Negev as its own state land. Bedouins who live on state land — even if it was their family's ancestral land for centuries — are considered to be "squatters." Since the 1970's, the Israeli government "generously" allowed the Bedouins to "sell" parts of their claimed lands to the state for ridiculously low prices, usually around 25-30% of the land's market value.

Understandably, most Bedouin workers and peasants were very reluctant to give up their lands, especially for such an unfair price. So most remaining Bedouin settlements are technically illegal — that is, the government and the Zionist JNF can demolish their homes and evict them legally. These "unrecognized" villages, such as al-Arakib, are not allowed to receive electricity or running water from the state infrastructure, and have to improvise amenities. Sometimes their children have to walk for many kilometers to get to school.

Since the late 1960's, Israel has built "planned" settlement towns, essentially ghettos, for the Bedouins. In these towns, the largest of which is Rahat (population 50,000), there are almost no jobs, and the residents have to make do with minimal infrastructure and under-funded health and education services. Unemployment in Rahat, for example, is upwards of 50% for men and 85% for women with 60% of households below the poverty line. This poverty breeds crime and drug use.

This is the main reason why half

the Bedouin population chooses to stay in "unrecognized" villages with no modern amenities and engage in subsistence farming (usually herding sheep) rather than move to the poverty-stricken "planned" towns where no jobs can be found.

Real Estate Bosses Profit from Racism

The policy of the Zionist movement (and its creation, the State of Israel) places more Jews on more land and less Arabs on less land.

This racist policy is heaven for real-estate capitalists all over the Western world, particularly the U.S. It is hell for the Arab working class, as well as the Jewish working class which was settled in underfunded "development towns" providing cheap labor for local capitalist factories heavily subsidized by the government from the 1950's to the 1980's. In the 1980's and 1990's, most of these factories were shut down or moved to the Far East, leaving the entire towns stricken with mass unemployment.

Meanwhile, the Israeli government and the JNF keep planning and building gated communities for wealthy Jews in the Negev, all while claiming that the Bedouins — who were already there long before the state was founded — are "stealing land" from the state.

Al-Arakib, an unrecognized Bedouin village near Rahat and Beer-sheba, is home to several working-class families. In the past, they engaged in subsistence agriculture to supplement their meager income. In the summer of 2010, however, their village was demolished. The government uprooted their olive trees and destroyed their homes. Since then, the regime has demolished this village 40 times. The locals still fight back, with the help of working-class activists. This struggle is not only for the village of al-Arakib, but for the fate of 100,000 Bedouin workers and peasants who live in "unrecognized" villages. If al-Arakib falls, the racist Israeli regime will move on to demolish many more villages to make room for real-estate development for the profits of U.S. and Israeli bosses.

The only answer to this racist attack on workers and peasants is to fight back, and the villagers at al-Arakib are fighting courageously. However, the only way to ensure a better life for all parts of the working class is to get rid of the root of all evil — capitalism and its creation, nationalism — and replace them by a multi-ethnic communist world ruled by the working class as a whole. Such a communist society will provide real infrastructure and livelihood to all workers. The Progressive Labor Party fights for a communist Israel-Palestine and a borderless communist world. Join us!✊



Pakistan: Slaying of Woman Fighter Fuels Farmers' Anger

Landless farmers are facing horrible exploitation in Pakistan. They are absolutely dependent upon the rule of big landowners, even in their private life. They're constantly abused, physically, verbally and sexually, and may be kept imprisoned while they have no work.

When laboring in the fields, they are treated as slaves. From dusk to dawn, they either endure the scorching heat or shiver in the cold. Their legs are chained, and are even denied access to food. These parasitic bosses are becoming richer and richer off the blood of the poor workers and are gaining increasing control of the state.

A comrade addressed the 65th anniversary of the death in Sindh province of Mai Bukhtawar, a poor farmer woman who worked in the fields. She had no formal education, but she had great class consciousness. She refused to accept the so-called laws formulated by feudal lords (landowners descend-ent from aristocracy) to control the working

class. A brave worker, she stood firmly against new methods of exploitation and subsequently was assassinated by these powerful bosses.

The comrade noted that her death fueled anger among the peasants against feudal lords, inspiring them to resist and revolt against oppression and exploitation.

Reform No Substitute for Revolution

He made his point loud and clear that without an international communist revolution we cannot eliminate these miseries. He explained that the struggle against landlords is deep-rooted in Pakistan. Many poor peasants have sacrificed their lives in the fight against exploitation but the situation hasn't changed. History proves that reform struggle cannot be a substitute for revolution.

The peasants twice forced the rulers to announce land reforms, in 1959 and 1972, but the bosses used these reforms to cheat us. They did this by putting a

cap on the amount of land an individual can own but not on the amount a family can acquire. Through many provisions and loopholes, the landlords were allowed to transfer land beyond the cap to their children and relatives. Exemptions were granted for orchards, livestock farms and huge hunting areas.

Ironically, many high government officials used these reforms to acquire land in Sindh and Punjab provinces at exceptionally low prices, using their officialdom to increase their wealth. Thus a new class of landlords emerged to intensify the exploitation of the working class.

Now 18 million farm workers, about 70 percent of the entire work-force, have no right to unionize nor organize sit-ins or strikes. Most are treated as slaves, receiving only cheap food for their hard labor. The comrade emphasized that to eradicate this exploitation we must build an international communist movement, led by PLP, and establish workers' power.✊

LETTERS

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

Carpenters in Contract Fight, Win Anti-Racist Demand

The working class is under attack. New York Consolidated Edison workers, recently locked out of work by management for several weeks, just got a sellout contract. Another group of unionized workers in a sharp contract battle are New York City carpenters.

The carpenters union is simultaneously negotiating five different contracts for five of the associations it represents. Workers rejected four out of the five contracts. The hoisting contract, covering carpenters working with cranes, was accepted.

The bosses want a 20 percent wage-cut and "full mobility," the option to pick and choose all carpenters on the worksite. Currently 33 percent of carpenters at any union site must be staffed by the union hall, an anti-racist reform won partly to ensure black workers were not turned away by racist bosses. Full mobility is a racist attack on the carpenters.

At one point in the negotiations, the bosses were willing to give a pay raise in exchange for full mobility. But the workers rejected it.

The carpenter's contract expired June 2011. But union delegates recently put \$40,000 in a strike fund. The only reason carpenters are still working is because of the evergreen clause, which extends the old contract year. Now that the evergreen clause expired they are still working under the old contract. But from talking to carpenters, some are willing to strike because there's no new contract, especially guys at the hall.

Carpenters may or may not strike. But if they do, PLP should be ready to support striking workers on the picket lines. We should be prepared to bring friends, co-workers, students, community members and fellow churchgoers to the lines.

Red Steel

Algeria: Muslim Workers Fight Sexist Attack

On August 1, in Tiaret, Algeria, 90 percent of the workers at the provincial central seat of the Algerian National Health Insurance Fund held a two-hour work stoppage here today to support a female co-worker who had filed a sexual harassment charge against a driver employed by the Fund. The workers were protesting the driver's return to work after having been transferred last year. The bosses claimed the anti-sexist stoppage was "illegal" but that didn't prevent the workers from refusing to work. The action was notable since it reflected male Muslim workers backing a female colleague's fight against sexism.

Comrade

Spain: Workers Seize Food for Jobless

In Marinaleda, Spain on August 7, two left-wing militants were arrested after leading a raid to expropriate food from two Andalusian supermarkets. "This is a really tough time for a lot of families," said a local union official.

The action was protesting unemployment



AMIENS, FRANCE, August 12 — Workers in this small town rebelled against lack of jobs and cuts stemming from the continuing euro economic crisis. Pictured are residents attacking the French interior Minister as he came to the town to quell workers' anger. Jobless youth clashed with cops, injuring 17, and burnt buildings in protest.

here and the depressed economic situation workers in Andalus. Twenty shopping carts loaded with food were taken from the markets "so people could eat. People don't have money to pay for their house or electricity or water.... Many families have had their water cut off," which is what prompted the action, said the demonstration leader Diego Cañamero

Red



Disputes Idea of All-out U.S.-China War

In CHALLENGE (8/1), the box on page 2 ends: "History tells us that the U.S. capitalists will go to any lengths to meet the challenge of a rising China in a competition for the world's vital resources, especially oil and gas. Can World War III be far behind?"

It is true that capitalism means war, but there are choices available in making war. For instance, when Britain got strong enough to decide that its next step was to smash India's industry, it did so. But they did not massively invade India. They achieved their aim by a divide-and-conquer tactic, supporting various nationalistic or religious forces and getting other to do most of the fighting. This is an old tactic.

The U.S. today is certainly responsible for a lot of shooting. But it is mostly carried out by nationalists — usually corrupt — who agree to run the country in ways that suit U.S. bosses.

There are choices capitalists make regarding war. The idea of a ruling-class leadership deliberately opting for all-out war with China is preposterous. The same goes for China wanting an all-out war with the U.S. Both parties want maximum advantage and profit, but it is impossible to outline a scenario which would lead to one of these two benefitting from an all-out war. How would it help profits?

Well, you may think, military threats may start small, but then things can get out of hand. In other words, the ruling class will obligingly make it easier for PLP to take steps toward a workers' victory. An alluring idea, but don't bet on it!

Ancient Red

Thank you for your comments. We invite our readers to participate in this discussion. — Ed.

PLP's May Days Inspire Red Friend from China

This May Day, a friend, a member of the Chinese Communist Party, attended our dinner. Since being in the U.S., he has missed the last two May Days — the only two in his life.

He was surprised by the celebration. While it was definitely different than what he was used to, he saw interesting aspects in our gathering. "It reminds me of the stories of May Day celebrations before the Chinese revolution," he said to my delight. Having had many conversations with this friend, it is clear that it has been decades since the fight for communism in China.

He sees that capitalism has swept over China. Most importantly, he sees his friends in PLP as good, fighting, anti-racist workers. PLP has a long road ahead for a worldwide communist revolution. But, now we are inspiring our friends to see capitalism as a system that must be destroyed in order to end the suffering of our sisters and brothers internationally. Now, more than ever, I am proud to be a communist in Progressive Labor Party.

Red Organizer

Red Bread: A Woman's Fight for Soviet Collective Farms

Red Bread, by Maurice Hindus, was written in 1931 about the collectivization of the farms in the Soviet Union (USSR). Hindus was a U.S. citizen who was born and raised in a small village in the USSR and was visiting his home and writing about the people there.

In one chapter, a "New Girl," Vera was introduced to Hindus by her superior on the collective farm (kolhoz) as a real daughter of the revolution. Her formal job title was as a milk maid — charged with milking eight cows, three times a day.

Her real job started after her milking duties were finished. She was only 18 years old but her station and responsibilities made her appear more mature and a bit older. She was also the secretary of the kolhoz. She was a talented organizer and passionate orator who

gave lectures on the benefits of the kolhoz and also on the latest farming techniques.

According to Hindus, the Russian peasantry at this time were living in unimaginable poverty and squalor. Moving to the kolhoz was a big improvement. Yet some resisted. The kolhoz grew from 10 Jewish families a few years before to an international kolhoz, with Poles, Letts, Lithuanians and Russians. One of Vera's responsibilities was to settle disputes and promote collectivity among the workers from various backgrounds.

Vera's many duties and chores kept her very busy. Still she was a vibrant and inquisitive young woman. She wanted to know many things about the U.S. and especially about U.S. girls. She wanted to know their interests, what what

they wore, what books they liked to read, if they have talking motion pictures. Hindus tried to answer all her questions which usually only led to a barrage of more questions.

Vera was very impressed with U.S. technology and advancements in manufacturing and agriculture. But she felt they were grossly underdeveloped in culture. The manufacturing was advanced in that it could furnish the workers with more than one pair of shoes. Yet U.S. workers were lagging behind the Soviets because capitalist exploitation destroyed their lives.

Vera was a dedicated communist who was convinced that workers would soon overthrow the capitalist system in the U.S. Mainly she thought that capitalism had outlived its usefulness.

Hindus told Vera that the middle class in the U.S. would thwart any attempts at revolution, but Hindus failed to tell Vera that in the 1930s workers and the Communist Party in the U.S. were organizing and fighting against capitalist oppression in basic industries, such as textiles, steel, mining and auto.

Even though the manufacturers were producing plenty of clothes and shoes, many workers were not paid enough to buy back what they produced; the same dilemma workers face today worldwide.

Overall *Red Bread* takes a positive look at the collectivization of farms in the Soviet Union. And the chapter on the New Girl takes a good look at the new international woman. ☺

RED EYE ON THE NEWS

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

Jobless youth protest; cops shoot

NYT, 7/28 — ...On this small U-shaped street about five miles north of Disneyland [in Anaheim, Ca.], the anger and frustration are palpable.

Last Saturday, the police shot and killed a 25-year-old man here who was apparently unarmed. Hours after the shooting, protests broke out on the streets, with some residents throwing bottles at the police...who responded with spray and beanbag bullets. A police dog broke free from a car and attacked a woman and her two children.

"After all that, what are they even doing?... They can't think they're welcome here." ...The next day a 21-year-old man was also killed by the police...It was the eighth police shooting so far this year...

About 1,000 demonstrations showed up at a City Council meeting on Tuesday night, leading to outbreaks of violence and two dozen arrests...

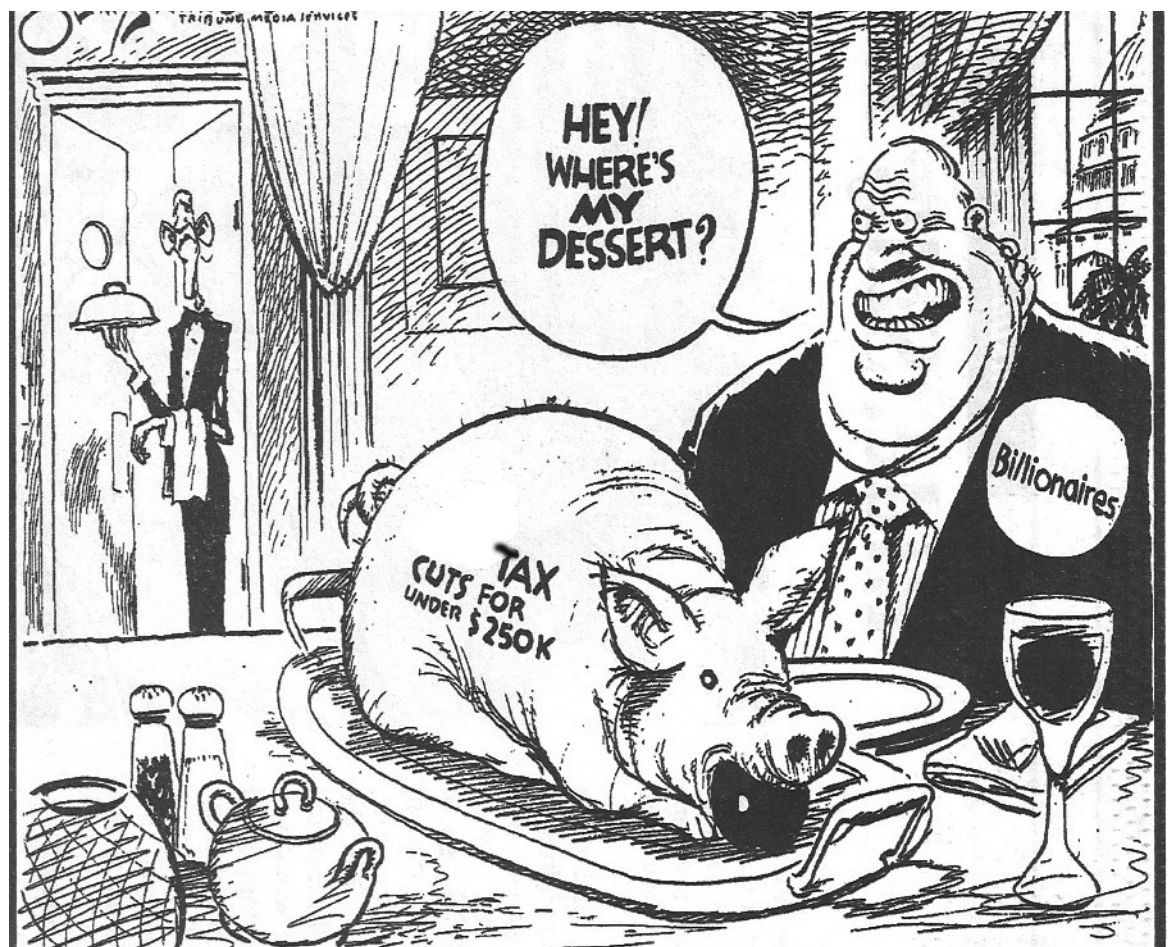
The police...adopted a zero-tolerance stance against any city code violations, like loitering... while more than half of the city is Latino....Many young people in the neighborhood have been unable to find work for months at a time...

Last Saturday, Mr. Brito said, he began crossing in the middle of the street, holding a protest poster with both hands. About halfway through, he saw a police officer heading toward him with his hand on his gun holster. The officer then grabbed Mr. Brito's arm and told him he was citing him for jaywalking....The shootings have thrust into the spotlight long-held complaints about the police. On Anna Drive, where Saturday's shooting of Manuel Diaz occurred, resentment against the police has been building for years. Young men here say they have been stopped by officers more times than they can count, often, then say, for doing nothing more than walking down the street.

China-coastal clashes on sea riches

NYT, 7/25 — BEIJING — The disputes between China and four of its Southeast Asian neighbors over claims in the South China Sea have become so intense, the prospect of open conflict is becoming more likely, an authoritative new report says....

On Monday, the Philippine president, Benigno



S. Aquino III, announced plans to buy aircraft, including attack helicopters, that could be used in territorial disputes in the South China Sea...China and the Philippines have competing claims there over the Scarborough Shoal and potentially energy-rich underwater ground... The sea is one of the most traveled bodies of water in the world and a vital pathway for the United States and its allies.... China lays claim to....some...80 percent of the South China Sea.

But China's assertive approach has been matched by Vietnam and the Philippines, which are forcefully defending their claims and enlisting outside allies...

Alabama: she had no time for fear

NYT, 7/28 — Thelma Glass, the last surviving member of a black women's group that in 1955 organized a yearlong bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala., after the arrest of Rosa Parks for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, died on Tuesday. She was 96.

....The women's group, realizing that three-quarters of the bus riders in Montgomery were black, called on blacks to boycott the buses to put pressure on the city, the state and the bus company to stop forcing them to ride in the back and surrender their seats to white passengers....

On Monday, Dec. 5, the buses were empty.

"When the first bus came by with nobody on it, I couldn't believe it."....Bus after bus rumbled past without a soul on board. She grew more and more delighted. "It's a feeling of such happiness and accomplishment that you just can't quite explain," she said.

....Whites retaliated, sometimes with violence, sometimes with arrests and fines for offenses like conspiring to interfere with a business...

"We're didn't have time to sit still and be scared," Ms. Glass said....

Kids' trauma: not 9/11, but poverty

NYT, 7/28 — ...Dr. Pamela Cantor....is a psychiatrist who specializes in childhood trauma...After 9/11, she...was asked by New York City's Department of Education to assess the impact of the attack on the city's public school children. What she found were plenty of traumatized children — but less because of the terrorist attack than because of the simple fact that so many of them were growing up in poverty.

'Anti-nuke' U.S. backs nuclear Israel

NYT, 8/2 —After a flurry of high-level visits,

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Dark Knight Rises Batman Spews Anti-Communism to Save Capitalism

Three thousand police march like Nazi storm troopers through a downtown metropolis to do battle with hundreds of rebels on the steps of city hall. Sounds like NYPD's response to the Occupy Wall Street protests or the response of the Anaheim police to the anger at their latest racist killings? Try the latest movie in the Batman trilogy, *Dark Knight Rises*. In this film, the Dark Knight (Batman) must "rise" to the challenge of greater threats to the capitalist system as he leads thousands of Gotham police to fight armed rebels who have occupied the city.

While previous villains like the Joker wanted to watch the world burn for fun, Batman's newest foe, Bane, is committed to destroying Gotham because of a strict political ideology. For Bane, the decadent rich, corrupt kkkops and politicians have ruined the city and the only thing left to do is to blow it all up and start over.

In fact, *Dark Knight Rises* does not hide from the fact that a society ruled by the wealthy is unpleasant, full of poverty and crime and the petty rivalries of modern aristocrats jockeying for position. As Bruce Wayne dances at a high society ball with Catwoman, a thief from Old Town, she threatens him, stating that "a storm is coming" and asking how the wealthy ever "thought they could live so large leaving so little for the rest of us."

Perverting Revolution

As director Christopher Nolan soon makes clear, this situation, where the rich take everything and leave nothing for workers, is preferable to the prospect of workers taking over. Instead of portraying him as a potential revolutionary hero, a leader of a party committed to organizing the workers of Gotham, Nolan's Bane combines Al Qaeda-style terrorism with the revolutionary language of the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Falsely equating communism with terrorism appears to be one of the key manifestations of anti-communism in the 21st century.

After obtaining a nuclear weapon and trapping thousands of Gotham police underground, Bane implements his plan: The "innocent" and elderly rich are thrown out of their homes and into the streets. "Peoples' courts" run by a psychotic madman sentence "good" and "bad" capitalists alike who are summarily executed. He frees all of Gotham's prisoners who have been incarcerated by the Dent Act. It's a policy reminiscent of New York's racist Stop-and-Frisk, which has harassed 700,000 youth and workers in 2011.

While workers hide in their homes, the terror wreaked by Bane and his army of escaped convicts is presented as a natural outcome of revolutions. The film transforms the fascist Gotham police into "freedom fighters" who go underground and organize against Bane's "revolutionary" terror.

Distorts Communist Justice

Bane's "people's revolution," however, has nothing to do with Gotham's working class and draws heavily from a long history of anti-communist propaganda. The film's version of "people's courts" grossly perverts the true history of public trials like the ones held in the countryside in

revolutionary China, where landlords were justly held accountable for their crimes against the peasantry. And Bane's top-down "revolution" plays on the age-old anti-communist lie that revolutions are forced onto people and inherently lead to corruption, strongman dictatorships and anarchy. The true history — that millions in revolutionary Russia and China were won to fight for communist revolution — is obscured by Bane's caricature.

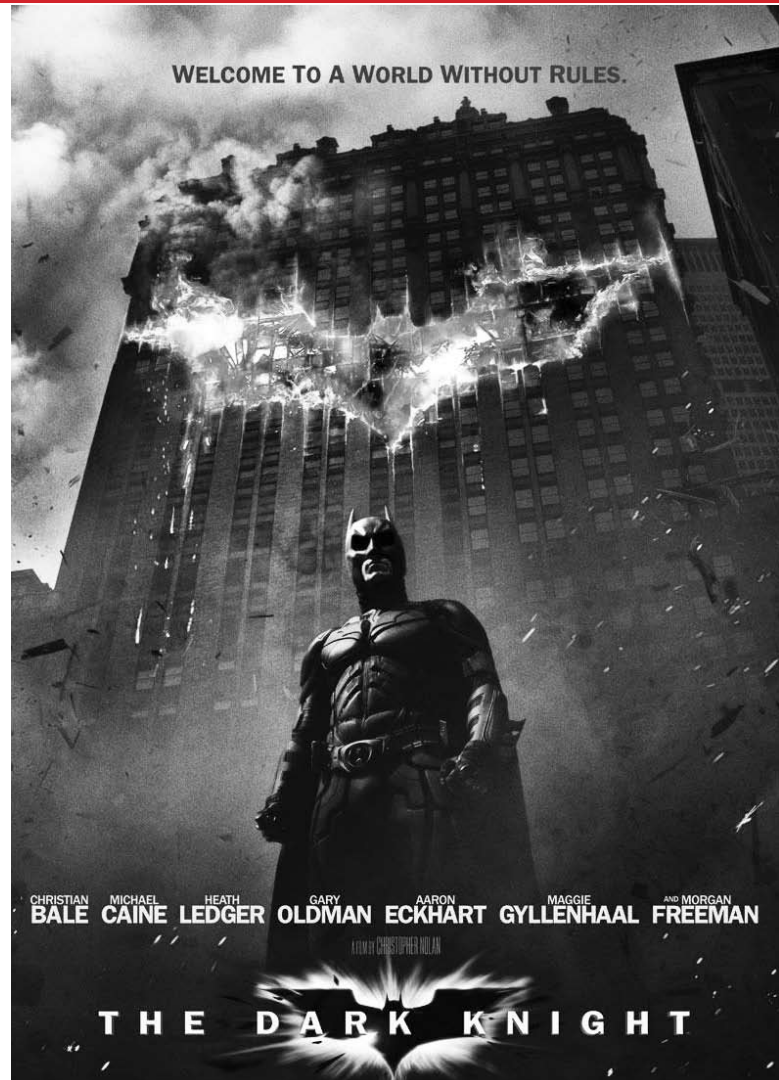
The overarching message of the film is clear: revolutionary alternatives to capitalism are worse than the current system. According to the film, workers are essentially irrelevant and powerless. They are passive followers of either a madman or the bosses. Billionaire playboys, cops and fascist "caped crusaders" are the true heroes that will save our cities from "revolutionary" terror.

Keeping a lie like this alive is critical for the bosses. In the same way that Gotham is really a dictatorship of bosses like Bruce Wayne, ruled by fascist laws like the Dent Act, real-world capitalism is a dictatorship of the rich that continues to create chaos and racist terror for workers worldwide — from the cholera epidemic in Haiti to the ongoing imperialist wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan to the rampant murder of workers by police across the U.S.

In the end, Batman saves the day, rescuing Gotham from a nuclear explosion. In the aftermath Gotham is left to believe that Batman has made the ultimate sacrifice. As the masses cheer, the idea of hope that Bane earlier in the film said was only a façade used to control people has been restored.

Neither Batman, Bane, Obama Nor Romney Will Save Us

As the 2012 presidential election approaches, the U.S. bosses hope to restore workers' "hope" in capitalism in the face of continuing war, racist unemployment and economic crisis. But as the crisis worsens, workers can't afford to wait around and "hope" that some politician will save us. Like Batman, both Romney and Obama serve the capitalist ruling class. No matter which candidate wins, the working class will lose.



The problem with *Rises* and the *Dark Knight* series is not simply its political content, but the depth of skill with which it was made. The films are engaging and highly entertaining. Workers root for Batman to send the poor back to hell where they belong while they are asked by Nolan to rationalize things like mass surveillance programs, expanded police powers, and vigilante violence on behalf of the capitalist class.

Batman is a capitalist fantasy, but it is a fantasy willing to get into the grittiness of real life and so becomes a powerful metaphor for the modern era. It cannot be simply dismissed as movie fantasy like other "rich savior" films such as *Iron Man*. Dark and brooding Batman feels real (after all, what differentiates Batman from other superheroes is that he is "just a man" without any super powers).

And ultimately this film dramatization of capitalist fantasy threatens to become real as the working class imbibes these class politics with no communist politics to counter them. Our role is to expose this fascist vision with a fight for working-class politics and power. Our friends and family will see this film. It is our job to reveal its class bias and provide a real solution: communist revolution.✊

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