

CHALLENGE



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ANTI-RACISTS CONFRONT DC NAZIS, COPS



Youth form human blockade against neo-Nazis and cops.

WASHINGTON, DC, September 22 — Today, over 300 anti-racists confronted a dozen Nazi/Klan white supremacists. Only their 500-strong police escort saved them from severe beatings that would have discouraged them from future events. Protesters nevertheless drowned out their racist filth with militant anti-racist chants.

These racists rode into Lincoln Park on the anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. This apparently deliberate attack on anti-racism echoed the 2006 KKK rally at Harper's Ferry, the site of John Brown's raid against slavery. Ironically, they arrived on a bus with a black driver and labeled Haymarket (the location of the 1886 protests that gave rise to May Day, the international working-class holiday).

PLP members distributed over 100 CHALLENGES and talked to anti-racist marchers about communism, free speech and the role of the police and capitalist state in perpetuating racism. Most agreed with a sign that declared "Hate Speech Is Not Free Speech." White supremacists use such rallies to recruit members to carry out violent attacks on blacks, Arabs or Latinos, but the militant opposition of multi-racial groups like this crowd

make racists think twice about joining such racist gangs and slows their growth.

The crowd drowned out the Nazis' feeble efforts to speak over their bullhorn. Then mounted park police, supported by regular DC police and motorcycle cops, led the Nazi parade down East Capitol Street. The anti-racist crowd would have none of that, and by consensus formed a human barricade across the street. We stopped the mounted cops, forcing the Nazis to stand in the horse manure behind them.

The top brass of the DC police began threatening arrests, and just before the arrests began, the protesters dissolved the barricade and re-formed it a block away. A PL'er gave a bold communist speech via the human mike (the crowd signifies agreement by repeating the speech) in the middle of the confrontation. The barricade scenario happened again, but this time, a brave young black man declared that he would not move, that he had lived in this neighborhood since he was three, and that no Nazi would march down his street.

PL'ers called on the protesters to come back from their next barricade and support this bold fighter, and they did. At this point, the mounted police used their horses as bat-

More War, More Racism

We should recall that the organized white supremacist movement in the U.S. in the 1930s included hundreds of thousands and was supported by the ruling class. When the U.S. ruling class wanted to win workers to fight fascism in the 1940s, they reduced their support for such racist groups to build a façade of anti-racism. Fighting Hitler at that time had become extremely profitable for U.S. bosses.

However, before World War II, Hitler had received support from U.S. companies such as Ford, GM and IBM in building his tanks, trucks and technologies — a fact omitted from history textbooks.

Today a veneer of anti-racism is part of the ideas pushed by U.S. bosses. But the deeper they lead us into wars around the world, the more racist terror they unleash both in the U.S. and worldwide. Arab workers locked up without trials after 9/11 and immigrant workers rounded up on the job and deported away from citizen children can attest to that.

As the economic crisis deepens we may see even more blatant racist attacks from both the state and gutter racists like the neo-Nazis, Klan and Minutemen. We must not let them get away with it. We have a world to win.

tering rams against the crowd of furious anti-Nazi protestors. The Nazis were able to continue marching, but protesters continued to harass them all the way to the Capitol building, drowning out their message with chants of "Death, death, death to the Nazis; Power, power, power to the workers!" The Nazis rallied briefly behind a phalanx of fully-equipped riot police serving as their personal bodyguards and then scurried off to their bus and left town.

Smash Racists

Stopping the most extreme racists is critical in an atmosphere of intensifying racism

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U.S.-Qatar vs. Russia-Iran Axis

Syrian Invasion Looms

Over Gas Riches

The imperialist drumbeat to invade Syria is getting louder by the day. The U.S. rulers have found a willing partner for a push to war in the energy-rich slave state of Qatar, which borders Saudi Arabia on the Persian Gulf. This blossoming alliance seeks to use the Arab Spring upheavals and the Iraq War to heighten its profitable influence in the Middle East.

In a September 25 address to the UN General Assembly, the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, urged other Arab countries to do their "military duties... to do what is necessary to stop the bloodshed in Syria."

Two days later, the New York Times ran an op-ed piece, "Five Reasons to Intervene in Syria Now,"

by Max Boot of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and Michael Doran of the Brookings Institution. The column's rhetoric — in line with President Barack Obama's pledge "to foresee, prevent and respond to genocide and mass atrocities" — cynically masks the drive for profits from gas pipeline routes that motivates Qatari and U.S. war plans. It is apparent that yet more death and devastation await workers in the Middle East.

This latest push for a U.S. intervention, including (for starters) a countrywide no-fly zone and a Turkish corridor for military supplies to Syria's largest city, Aleppo, is part of a sharpening competition between imperialist interests.

In the name of "freedom," U.S. and allied capitalists aim to remove Syria's Assad government, which has united with gas-rich Iran and Russia in jockeying for gas export routes. Qatar contains 14 percent of the world's natural gas reserves, ranking it third behind Russia and Iran.

The majority of Qatar's natural gas is located in the massive offshore North Field, which spans an area nearly as large as the country itself. The leading foreign investor in Qatar's North Field is ExxonMobil, the largest U.S. oil and gas company and the world's richest corporation by revenue.

According to the Asia Times, "It's clear what Qatar is aiming at: to kill the \$10 billion Iran-Iraq-Syria gas pipeline....Here we see Qatar in direct competition with both Iran (as a producer) and Syria (as a destination), and to a lesser extent, Iraq (as a transit country)" (9/28/2012). With Qatar as a main source, the article adds, the "strategic aim" of U.S. ally Turkey "is to become the top energy crossroads from the Middle East/Central Asia to Europe."

U.S. 'Humanitarianism' Murders Millions

Since the First Gulf War invasion of Iraq in 1991, Qatar had been home to a major U.S. Air Force base and now serves as a launching pad for strategic U.S.-backed energy and financial ventures (see box). The victims of these ventures mount into the millions:

- Reporting on the strife in Egypt, The Economist magazine (9/9/2011), a staunch booster of U.S.-UK imperialism, provided a conservative body count of 846;
- Libya's own health ministry estimated at least 30,000 dead in that country (Associated Press, 9/9/2011);
- According to The Lancet, the authoritative British medical journal (10/12/2006), Iraqi war deaths totaled 654,965 between 2003 and 2006;
- At least half a million children died from earlier U.S. sanctions that Bill Clinton's secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, deemed "worth it" ("60 Minutes," 5/12/1996).

Racism Kills Worldwide

Furthermore, domestic U.S. racism, as reflected in the recent rash of cop killings of black and Latino youth, has been "exported" to this mass murder of Arab, Muslim and black workers in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia. Racism has no boundaries. It is fueled and justified by the demonization of peoples as "worthless" or as "terrorists" for imperialist purposes.

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.

Middle East Bank Scramble Mirrors Global Imperialist Rivalry

As a willing U.S. client state, Qatar hopes to turn a fat profit by taking over banks in lands recently "liberated" with lethal U.S. assistance:

Qatar National Bank (QNB), seeking to boost its regional presence, has hired J.P. Morgan Chase to advise on its planned buy of [French] Societe Generale's Egyptian arm.... It also raised its stake in Iraq's Mansour Bank and bought a 49 percent stake in Libya's Bank of Commerce and Development earlier in April. BNP Paribas, another French lender, is said to be seeking initial bids for the sale of its Egyptian retail arm, with QNB interested in the business.... However, the lender lost out to Russia's Sberbank in bids for Turkey's Denizbank earlier this year (Reuters, 9/2/2012).

ExxonMobil and Qatar Aim to Break Iranian-Russian Gas Dominance

Qatar's energy sheiks have joined U.S. bosses' domestic schemes to break the global gas supply dominance of Russia and Iran. As the world's largest shipper of liquid natural gas (LNG), Qatar has vessels and expertise that could transform the current U.S. gas boom into a geostrategic weapon. "Exxon Mobil Corp. and Qatar Petroleum International are teaming up on a proposal to export LNG from Texas. Exxon is a 30% owner of Golden Pass Products and Qatar holds a 70% stake. The two firms could invest up to \$10 billion in the project" (MarketWatch, 8/20/2012).

The CFR and Brookings proponents of a Syria invasion share something in common with Qatar's ruling clan: the same benefactors, representing the dominant wing of U.S. capitalism. JP-Morgan Chase and ExxonMobil have invested fortunes in these finance-capital think tanks. In accord with Qatar's rulers, Boot and Doran propose that "American intervention would diminish Iran's influence in the Arab world."

The agreement between U.S. and Qatari rulers is not complete, however. Qatar's sheiks believe that Saudi-led, U.S.-armed Gulf Cooperation Council forces can oust Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. But while U.S. finance capitalists understand that "Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Jordan, Qatar and Israel would like to see Mr. Assad toppled," and that "France and Britain could also be counted on to help," Boot and Doran maintain that only the U.S. Air Force and Navy "have the weaponry needed to dismantle Syria's Russian-designed air defenses with little risk." The authors manage to ignore nuclear super-power Russia's naval base in Syria.

CHALLENGE doesn't make speculations. But when capitalists are calling all the shots, we know for certain that whatever happens in Syria (or Iran) won't be good for our class. A U.S. coalition strike will kill many. In the absence of such a strike, imperialist rivals Russia and China will be in a stronger position — another step toward a wider war.

U.S. Elections Hide War Dangers to the Working Class

The phony choice between Obama and Republican Mitt Romney aims to derail U.S. workers from uniting to rise up against these war-makers.

By painting Obama as a lesser evil to the right-wing Republicans, the U.S. ruling-class media attempts to deceive workers into believing he will protect them from the "extremists." But while Romney rants about bombing Iran, Obama prepares for it. Tens of thousands of U.S. military troops are stationed throughout the Middle East. Nuclear-armed aircraft carriers, waiting in the Persian Gulf, are not there as peacemakers.

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OUR FIGHT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Haiti: Anti-Cholera Campaign Building PLP Internationally

Two comrades went into the Haitian countryside to meet with two groups about the necessity to build the struggle against capitalism. The first group was a reading group made up of 15 high school and university students. The second group was a freedom school ("tilekòl") of 12 regular agricultural workers and 30 of their friends.

The agendas of both meetings were to discuss a mass campaign to end cholera in Haiti and the historical importance of August 14. This date commemorates the initial planning meeting in Bois Caïman, in the north of Haiti in 1791, of slaves for their revolution against slavery.

In every period of imperialism, the class enemy brings not only a political and an economic oppression, but also genocidal dangers (e.g., yellow fever in the colonial period, "chik," a parasite which attacks the feet, in the period of the 1915-34 U.S. occupation, and cholera with the current UN/Minustah occupation).

Both groups discussed the source of the exploitation and assassination of the working class — the capitalist system. Even if we are able to win today's reform struggles, as long as capitalism exists there will be other similar problems to resolve tomorrow.

The only way out of this perpetual struggle is to destroy the capitalist system. We must transform ourselves into determined fighters, build our Party into a mass party internationally, and create an egalitarian communist society that serves the interests of our class.

Cholera: The Bosses' Killing Machine

The youth group began with some information about the continued presence of cholera in Haiti. This disease of poverty has been made worse by the lack of clean water and sanitation. Fifty percent of city-dwellers and 70% of people in the countryside do not have access to clean water; fewer have adequate toilets. It continues to kill four to five each day. After the devastating earthquake in 2010, UN occupation troops brought the cholera virus by leaking their waste matter into the Artibonite River, the source of drinking water for tens of thousands of working-class people in the Plateau Central.

The Haitian government, the UN (including the World Health Organization), the imperialist countries, and the "humanitarian" organizations all maintained their silence. They did not prepare for the possible appearance of any epidemic after the earthquake. They did the minimum necessary when cholera was introduced. Once the main manifestation of the epidemic was over, they all turned their backs and walked away.

Today, cholera continues to spread, not only in Haiti, but in the neighboring Dominican Republic, in Spain, in Ghana and elsewhere where working-class people live in poverty. It was noted that the budget of the hated UN occupation troops — Minustah — for 18 days would pay for the inoculation of every man, woman and child in Haiti!

We debated whether Minustah's presence in Haiti serves any purpose other than suppressing the will of the

masses. We also discussed how superstition about the spread of cholera (not by a magic powder but by the lack of clean water and sanitation facilities) hides the political reality that it was brought to Haiti by imperialism. The ruling class allowed cholera to spread by its racist neglect. By ignoring the continued cholera epidemic, the working-class's ability to organize and fight back is weakened.

Youth Study History of Haiti's Revolution

During the presentation about the slave revolt of 1791 we learned that it was the first planned meeting between the "maroons" (those who had escaped slavery and lived freely in the mountains) and slaves. It led to a mass violent uprising lasting 12 years, ending the ability of the slave owners to continue their brutal, racist exploitation of the slaves. It also led to the successful abolition of slavery and the independence of Haiti from the yoke of French colonialism.

Bourgeois education teaches students in Haiti that what happened at Bois Caïman was a spontaneous, religious ceremony that relied on superstition. In our discussion, we learned that the planning of the insurrection used the cultural symbols of voodoo as tools of resistance against slavery. The young people asked why voodoo was no longer a tool of resistance against capitalism but just another religion which weakens workers' ability to fight. It was pointed out that the capitalist class always corrupts popular culture and turns it into a poisonous substance that alienates workers.

Workers Organize Against Flood Conditions

The peasant group — tilekòl — has been meeting for several months, in part to resolve their water problems. When it rains, instead of watering their fields, it floods them. They have no access to clean water and are forced to pay for drinking water. The contamination and privatization of water is a problem for workers around the world. A similar struggle continues in the 12 districts to the east of Valle de Mexico, near Mexico City.

Tilekòl has decided to organize its community and fight back to change these conditions. They can try to solve the flooding problem and irrigate their fields by creating a system of canals (typically used in Haiti to solve flooding.) They will organize "koumbites" — collective work teams — to dig the canals. However, they don't have the hand tools necessary to do the job. They also require an adequate system to bring clean water to the community with a series of public fountains.

Therefore, they have agreed to circulate a petition among all the members of their community and organize a huge delegation to present the petition to the local bosses demanding that they act. However, more action will be needed.

All of these steps are important to show that workers have the skills needed to run society for the benefit of all. When workers around the world understand that we don't need the bosses or their capitalist system, we will be one step closer to breaking the chains of our oppression!✊

Multi-Racial March Hits Cover-up of KKKops' Racist Murder

Recent issues of CHALLENGE have contained articles on the struggles against racist killer kkkops in Anaheim and NYC. There's been a similar situation out here in the coalfields of Western Pennsylvania.

In June, three Johnstown cops fired 18 rounds into a car filled with unarmed black men, killing the driver and wounding another. The racist cops were placed on paid administrative leave and state cops were chosen to conduct the investigation into this shooting — like sending the foxes to guard the henhouse.

After two months, the state cops gave their report to the \$160,000-a-year Cambria County District Attorney, who works with the cops. This DA said the cops were justified in the shooting, that they were "attempting to protect fellow officers," and refused to release the names of the cops.

Then the Johnstown NAACP called a public meeting, billed as one to encourage cooperation between the cops and the community, inviting the DA and representatives from the police department. About 150 people from the community turned up, including several CHAL-

LENGE readers. The crowd made it clear they were not there to discuss cooperation with the cops but to discuss the racist murder of the black driver. The DA was practically driven up a wall by people's questions, stating this was not "her sort of meeting."

A call was made for a protest march through Johnstown, to end at the police station. This community march was militant and multi-racial.

At this point, the cover-up by the cops and the DA continues, but the people have proven they won't forget the racist murder of this black man.

Of course, what's needed is communist leadership to raise the consciousness of the people to understand that the cops are there to protect and serve the rich. Only a communist revolution can end this sort of fascist assault on the working class. Nonetheless, like the struggles in Anaheim and NYC, this one is righteous and deserves the support of communists and other workers everywhere.

Red Coal

EXPOSE NYC TOP COP'S RACIST DEATH SQUAD



NEW YORK CITY, September 27 — "Justice for: Shantel Davis!"

We chanted in the halls of the Presbyterian Church where the Women's City Club of NYC was presenting the head of the murdering NYPD, Ray Kelly, an award for enhancing the life of residents.

Our interjection of anti-racist politics as well as the reality about the death squad (NYPD) that Ray Kelly leads was not welcoming news for these high-society women. We brought the fight directly into their arena. The struggle for an indictment of the kkkop Philip Aktins continues, intertwined with the struggle to end capitalism's racist reign.✊

'FREE TRADE' MASKS INTENSIFYING EXPLOITATION

The term "free trade" is a lie, since it implies that it is only about buying and selling (trade) without hindrance (free). Actually, free trade agreements (FTAs) are a mask to cover exploitative relationships imposed by the more powerful economies on the less powerful — i.e., imperialism. Take, for example, the "United States–Dominican Republic–Central America Free Trade Agreement" (CAFTA-DR). This treaty, like other FTAs, contains malignant elements that are hidden under the benign-sounding title.

CAFTA-DR prohibits any Central American country from opposing an attempt by a U.S. business to set up a subsidiary within its borders, so long as the business meets certain requirements. And if a member country objects that those requirements have not, in fact, been met, that country can be sued by the U.S. business at the World Bank. In 1965 the World Bank set up its International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) for just that purpose, with the participation of almost 150 countries from around the world.

Thus Pacific Rim, a mining company, has staked a claim in El Salvador to extract gold. The company claims that its plan will preserve the environment, including the nearby river Rio Lempa. Rio Lempa is the source of livelihood for many Salva-

dorans, through farming and fishing. The workers in these industries have been fighting against Pacific Rim for some time now, knowing full well that the many poisonous chemicals used in mining will pollute and destroy their river. Indeed the workers have formed organizations and put so much pressure on the Salvadoran government that so far it has refused Pacific Rim's permit to mine the gold. As a result of their resistance, a number of workers in these organizations have been threatened with death or actually murdered.

Under capitalism the laws are designed to protect the bosses and their system. Thus, Pacific Rim and the U.S.-based Commerce Group are suing the El Salvadoran government in the ICSID for lost profit.

Commerce Group has already polluted the San Sebastian River with aluminum, zinc, iron, manganese, and nickel, among other toxic metals. One study found that these toxic elements produce weakness, fatigue, rashes, and mental confusion in 60% of the local population, with women and children most affected.

But Pacific Rim and Commerce Group are not in business to care about the health of the local working classes. Rather they are in business for one thing only — profit — and health problems are not their concern.



Furthermore the rules of the ICSID do not even permit it to consider environmental or health problems, but rather only narrowly defined investment issues. It is likely therefore that it will grant Pacific Rim and Commerce Group the \$100 million they each seek from the Salvadoran government, as compensation for their lost profits. Thus does imperialism illustrate the power of the strong over

the weak, but only when the weak fight by themselves, separated from the rest of the world's working class. When workers around the world unite in one powerful force under the leadership of PLP, such struggles can not only be won, but can be transformed into revolution by putting a complete end to capitalism and its current manifestation of imperialism. Join us.✊

Syrian Invasion Looms

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Meanwhile, U.S. workers under Obama suffer from all the pathologies of capitalism: mass racist unemployment and home foreclosures, huge numbers of racist deportations, and the world's highest racist incarceration rates, with black and Latino workers representing 70 percent of the U.S. prison population. These attacks stem from a profit system enforced by whoever resides in the White House. Clinton or Bush, Obama or Romney — for the working class, it makes little difference.

The only real choice for workers lies in uniting to destroy this exploitative system and its oppressive state apparatus, and to replace it with a communist society without bosses, profits, racism, sexism and capitalist-bred imperialist wars.

The goal of the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party is to win workers and youth in all our workplaces, unions, schools, campuses, communities, churches and mass organizations to the fight for revolution. That's the answer to the bosses' election circus. Join us!✊



WALMART WORKERS STRIKE AGAINST SLAVE LABOR



ELWOOD, IL, September 20 — Workers at Wal-mart's contractor Roadlink here have been on strike since September 15. Two days earlier they had filed a lawsuit for non-payment for all hours worked, for being paid less than the minimum wage and for non-payment of overtime they had worked. Several workers who sued were fired on the spot. This sparked the walkout.

The workers' hellish conditions include enduring extreme temperatures, inhaling dust and chemical residue and being forced to lift thousands of boxes weighing up to 250 lbs each with no support. Their work-day can vary from two hours to 16 hours. Injuries are common as well as discrimination against women and retaliation against workers who protest these conditions.

This warehouse is a key Midwest distribution center for Wal-Mart. Six lawsuits have been filed against it for wage theft.

While a trillion dollars worth of goods pass through the Chicago region, the majority of warehouse workers are temps paid poverty wages; 25 percent need public assistance; 37 percent work more than one job; and 96 percent of temp workers have no health insurance.

Wal-Mart warehouse workers in southern California have also walked out protesting similar conditions after lawsuits were filed to stop mass firings.

It appears Wal-Mart's exploitation is not exclusive to China. Capitalist oppression is worldwide.✊

Thousands Cry “Resistance!” in March Against Bosses’ Austerity

PARIS, September 30 — Up to 80,000 demonstrators from across France marched here today, shouting “Resistance!” as they protested the European budget treaty forcing the French government to impose austerity measures.

Workers were outraged at the attacks on their class. Many of the demonstrators were activists from trade unions, associations and political organizations. “Hollande [Socialist Party president] promised to renegotiate the Merkozy treaty but not a comma has been changed,” said Jordi, a 26-year-old computer technician. [“Merkozy” is a combination of German Chancellor Merkel and former French president Sarkozy, the politicians who drafted the treaty]. The treaty is likely to “anchor austerity in all the countries of Europe,” he added.

Jean-Claude, a 70-year-old retired food processing worker, said “this treaty is going to make people into paupers.”

Christine, a 58-year-old high school teacher, said, “With the adoption of the golden rule, austerity budgets are going to be voted year after year.... France is going to wind up resembling Spain or Greece.”

Many women marched behind a banner reading, “Women in struggle against austerity, for steady jobs and for solidarity in Europe.”

About 50 workers from the Fralib factory near Marseilles marched. “We are here above all to



September 30 — Demonstration against austerity.

demonstrate against the European treaty, to say that we don’t agree with this treaty invented by Sarkozy and Merkel,” said the union secretary of the company works council. [See CHALLENGE, 2/2/2011, page 5, for the Fralib workers’ struggle].

The austerity falls most heavily on the Arab and black North African immigrant workers who, because of racism, suffer the lowest wages, highest unemployment and worst working conditions.

The demonstration was called by the Front de Gauche, mainly an alliance of the Left Party and the phony “Communist” Party. Nearly 60 other organizations also supported it but the governing Socialist Party and its junior partner Green Party did not.

The Front de Gauche presidential candidate, Jean-Luc Mélenchon, insisted the demonstration was against austerity policies but not against the Socialist Party and the Greens. Although the leadership of the CGT trade union confederation did not call for participation in the action, many rank-and-file CGT members participated.

The governing Socialist Party, which paraded as the “opposition” to right-winger Sarkozy, is no opponent of the French ruling class but is in opposition to the class interests of the working class. Workers needs a real communist party to oppose all wings of the ruling class, and have the goal of a communist revolution, the only solution to the austerity-driven poverty and exploitation built into capitalism.✪

France Moving to Open Fascism

A New Racist Ploy

PARIS, September 28 — The phony expression “anti-white racism” has been getting endless media play in France following its use by Jean-François Copé, the general secretary of the right-wing UMP party. Copé is a candidate in the November election to choose a new president for the party. His rival, former Prime Minister François Fillon, hastened to say that anti-white racism is “a reality.”

By using an expression first circulated by Marine Le Pen, the leader of the fascist National Front party, both Copé and Fillon are currying favor with the far-right element in their party. But this is more than just a ploy in an internal party dogfight. First, it shows that the UMP is moving closer to an alliance with the National Front, making an openly fascist government here a real possibility.

Secondly, Socialist Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault has chimed in, saying that “anti-white racism could exist” but that Copé should have been more careful using the expression. Ever since, the media has “debated” whether discussion of “anti-white racism” is politically correct.

The sterility of the media debate contrasts sharply with a comment posted by Mohamed on the *Nouvel Observateur* magazine website. Does “anti-white racism,” he asks, “lead to discrimination at school, unmotivated police ID checks and a hard time finding a

job?” Mohamed says, “Copé is trying to advance racial solidarity (of ‘whites’) to attempt to overshadow class solidarity (of people on the minimum wage) who, in my humble opinion, are more and more aware that they are in the same boat, no matter what color their skin is.”

To understand why the bosses’ politicians and media are whipping up racism, check out the French unemployment figures: over 5 million people are jobless (counting part-timers who want to work full-time) — 16.8% of the active population.

In addition, the Socialist-Green Party governing coalition is about to push approval of the European Budget Pact through the French Parliament, imposing “the golden rule” of no government budget deficit. This will lead to more austerity: higher taxes and fewer government services. It will force the working class to pay for the capitalist economic crisis.

To head off an explosion of class struggle against that oppression, the bosses need to persuade “whites” that their enemies are people of Arab and Middle-Eastern origin (10.2% of the population) and black people from Africa and the Caribbean (3.6%). But communists point to racism as the bosses’ trump card, to reap super-profits from the resulting lower wages and to divide the working class, weakening its ability to fight the bosses’ exploitation.✪

Police State Technology

PARIS, September 16 — As in most Western “democracies,” French capitalists are using new technologies to reinforce the state’s police powers. The latest step is the organization of a Justice Ministry “national platform for court-ordered wiretaps,” to become operational this fall.

This 42-million-euro (53 million USD) centralized computer system will collect, manage and store massive amounts of information: who owns which cell phone, calls made and received, SMSes and e-mails, Internet pages that have been visited, on-line

purchases and GPS information. Presently this information is scattered among 350 different police and gendarme stations and is managed by five or six different private companies.

Work on the new centralized system began in 2006 in utter secrecy. It has been classified “Top Secret — Defense.” The National Commission on IT and Liberty — which normally must be consulted whenever such a system is created — has been shut out. No watchdog agency (even though such things are just window-dressing) has been set up.

The computer programs used to spy on the French will be the same ones that the Amesys company sold to dictator Muammar Khadafy to spy on Libyans. The computers will be housed on the premises of the Thales company, which won the contract to manage the system.

The bosses are establishing this creeping police state to enable them to move swiftly to crush any rebellion against future imperialist wars or against massive unemployment (see adjoining article).✪



LETTERS

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

Obama's Drone Attacks Kill Hundreds of Civilians

Some around the world think of the U.S. as the moral leader among nations. This idea is particularly spread within the borders of the U.S. in the media, schools, and universities. And politicians like Hillary Clinton and Obama proclaim this myth as they glorify "American Exceptionalism."

Hundreds of drone attacks on Pakistan and other places in the Middle East demonstrate that they all lie. Drones are remote-controlled planes that launch missiles and drop bombs half way around the world, with no accountability or immediate danger to the invading U.S. military. The danger, however, to the U.S. population from the fury of the innocent victims and their friends and families is profound.

The LA Times just reported that a study by researchers at Stanford and New York Universities showed that the official U.S. claims of minimal harm to innocent civilians from drone attacks have badly understated the numbers of deaths. The attacks are aimed at killing leaders of Al Qaida and the Taliban, but the study found that among drone casualties only about 2% (!) are leaders of these terrorist groups. Of the other 98%, many are innocent civilians. Yet Obama's top "counterterrorism" adviser, John Brennan, states that civilian casualties are "exceedingly rare."

The study authors find it is very difficult to estimate the total number of civilian deaths, but state that the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (a non-profit British news agency) puts the figure, since 2004, somewhere between 474 and 884, including 176 children. Even this is likely to be an understatement, since Pakistani officials estimate between 2,500 and 3,300 were people killed by drones over that 9-year period — one quarter of the almost 350 attacks ordered by Bush and the vast majority by Obama.

Many in the U.S. think of Obama as the lesser of two evils in the race for the U.S. Presidency. Yet he is the one who has stepped up the drone attacks as a way of extricating combat forces from Afghanistan. There is little doubt that Romney would do exactly the same. That's the kind of choice that elections under capitalism give to the working class. It helps to remember that lesser evil still is evil.

There is, however, a choice in the upcoming election, between voting, on the one hand, and not voting but instead organizing sharper international anti-racist class struggle, on the other. In fact, there is only one way for the world's workers, particularly in the U.S., to extricate our-

selves from this continual escalation of death and destruction in the name of maximum profits.

If we want to save our children, grandchildren, and ourselves, millions more will have to join PLP to build a massive and powerful party that rips this destructive power out of the hands of the small minority of murdering liars and terrorists who control all profits and governments everywhere. Voting doesn't address this imperative, and never could.

Saguaro Rojo

Monstrous Fascist Assault on Immigrant Mother

Anna from El Salvador who I've been visiting in detention for almost a year will soon be transferred to a remote location in Utah or Arizona. She contracted HIV in El Salvador because of a gang rape, a total of 75 assaults. With her life in jeopardy, she immigrated to the U.S., crossing the border with the help and sustenance from a group of men.

Here, she met a man from El Salvador. They have a child. One day, she saw him sexually assaulting his cousin. In stopping him, Anna was struck by a broken bottle. He then cut himself to be deemed as the victim instead of the attacker. He called the police and Anna was charged with domestic violence.

She has not seen her three-year-old son in all this time. Now, having lost her court case for asylum, she will most likely be deported after a year or two more in isolating custody, never to see her son again. Her over-worked attorney neglected to make her HIV illness primary, which might have assured her asylum.

The prosecuting attorney was determined to guarantee her deportation and claimed she was inconsistent, which the judge upheld. Many social workers, and friends from other countries whom Anna met in detention — two of whom have been released on bails exceeding \$9,000 — have returned to visit. They pleaded her case, offered to pay for more lawyer fees and take in Anna and her son in their own homes. Their persistence, internationalism and compassion surpass my own.

Getting CHALLENGE to all these folks regularly will serve to point out that one lawyer or heartfelt support is not enough. We must fight the system that divides our class with cheap labor and terror. The women I have met will not be submissive but need the organization of a communist party — the Progressive Labor Party — to fight the capitalist system that controls the courts as well as the wage-slave conditions in factories around the world.

Bi-Lingual comrade and visitor

How Can Workers Deal with Crime and Criminals?

The article "Bosses' Police Declare War on Working Class" (CHALLENGE, 9/19) does a good job of describing how the police shock and infiltrate working-class communities in order to neutralize potential revolutionaries.

But I think there's a weakness in the article. It doesn't answer the liberals' excuse for this fascist activity: the need to protect workers from criminals.

Hired killers, drug dealers, thieves, pimps, con men and so on form what is called the lumpenproletariat, composed of declassed people. Most members of the lumpenproletariat were originally part of some other social class. Originally, some were even ruling-class people.

Since this group has been declassed, its members have no class consciousness. Their main attitude is me-first individualism. Their victims include their friends and families and the working class in general.

Karl Marx explains in "Capital," chapter 25, section 3 that the lumpenproletariat forms part of the industrial reserve army that is generated by the accumulation of capital. Capitalists need an industrial reserve army to keep wages down and workers demoralized. As a result, there cannot be a real "war on crime" under capitalism, because capitalists need the criminals that the capitalist system produces.

I think CHALLENGE needs to explain how the working class should deal with crime and criminals in the short term, hopefully with some concrete examples. Otherwise, the liberals will persuade workers that they need the police to protect them from the criminals.

A friend

Racist Zionist Lynch Attacks Not Isolated Incidents

The recent murderous racist and fascist lynch attacks by Jewish teens against Arab Palestinian teens are not rare, isolated incidents.

These pogroms have repeatedly occurred, as in the city of Hebron (El Chalil) in the West Bank, where Zionist national guard brutes beat up and caused serious injuries to a nine-year-old Arab Palestinian child. After that incident another young Arab Palestinian was beaten up by Jewish young men in the city of Jerusalem.

Due to Israel's historical and political character, which can be defined as a racist colonialism, young Jewish "Israeli" children from their birth are being exposed to a racist socialization process. Two local

scholars: Yosi Yona and Yehuda Shenhav summed it up in their research book, *Racism in Israel*: "Regarding Israeli society we should not speak about racist phenomena inside the Israeli society, we need to define it that Israeli society IS a racist phenomenon."

This racism is an historical and political process that started with the beginning of the Zionist colonization in Palestine and was intensified by the two major ethnic cleansings that occurred in 1948 and 1967. The crisis of the capitalist system, especially today, makes it harder for the Zionist bosses to bribe Jewish workers with privileges so they need to deflect the workers' anger into racist and nationalist dead-ends.

In addition, just a few months ago racist pogroms occurred against migrant workers' communities from Eritrea and Sudan. Jewish workers from the Arab countries have held racist demonstrations with terrible slogans such as: "Negroes out!"

Even worse are the consistent slaughter attacks made by the Zionist fascist army against the Palestinian workers of the Gaza strip along with their systematic starvation. The only way to put an end once and for all to these atrocities is by working-class unity of Arab and Jewish workers to destroy the capitalist system that produces racism and replacing it with an egalitarian communist society for the working class and by the working class!

Comrade in Palestin

Anti-Racists Confront Nazis

continued from front page

and oppression in the U.S. and around the world. Any hint that extreme racism can function openly and boldly will encourage meeker racists to step up and bolster the ranks of the white supremacists. The result of such a process can only be racist murder and intimidation. We must strike first, and hard.

Despite the overall boldness of the rally, we missed the opportunity to stop the march and beat the Nazis senseless. This time we did not have a sufficient plan and were unprepared to attack (and risk arrests.)

However, this was a learning experience for many of our newer comrades and our friends from the Occupy movement, who turned out in large numbers.

PLP has an impressive history of bold physical confrontations with Nazis and the Klan. In fact, Klan leader Bill Wilkerson publicly declared in the 1980s that PLP was the main barrier they faced in building their movement. We will study the history of the ruling-class support for these Nazis and PL's staunch opposition.

Next time, we will be ready and the Nazis will be lucky to escape with their lives.★



Imperialists' Rivalry for Declining Resources Headed for War

continued from page 8

Vietnam and is a growing source of conflict.

Lastly, oil is being sought in "unconventional" sites, buried in tar sands, shale, or in an "extra heavy" state. Canadian tar sands are estimated to contain 170 trillion barrels of oil, but it is thick and frozen. Its recovery requires open pit mining, which not only destroys the land but contaminates downstream water. It can also be recovered by injecting large amounts of steam, but this uses huge amounts of water and is powered by natural gas, thus causing a great release of greenhouse carbon dioxide. The percentage of unconventional oil is predicted to rise from 3 percent in 2009 to 9 percent in 2035.

Most of the world's mines for such important substances as copper, tin, titanium, and bauxite date from World War II and are on the decline. New reserves are in the arctic and in potentially rebellious areas of Africa and Asia. Afghanistan may contain some of the biggest mineral resources in the world. The biggest uranium deposits are in Niger. Russia and China are fighting over large deposits in Mongolia. Both governments of developed countries and mining corporations are angling to control new mines in these unstable areas.

Seventeen rare earth elements, such as lithium, are necessary for new "green" technologies like electric car batteries, because they are light, magnetic, and strong. Ironically, obtaining them is becoming more difficult and energy intensive. In fact, China had been allowed to almost monopolize production because they did not care about

environmental contamination or worker protection, but the West is now hesitant to allow China's dominance to continue. Utah and Australia will probably become the sites of new mines, at huge monetary and environmental cost.

In addition to trying to guarantee their access to oil and minerals, the wealthy nations are also exploiting the poor to guarantee themselves food. Saudi Arabia has acquired 750,000 acres in Ethiopia; the United Arab Emirates (UAE) controls 700,000 acres of farmland in Sudan. India and China are buying up huge chunks of land in various African countries. Not only is arable land being sought to feed the populations of these wealthy nations, but it is being promoted as a good investment for rich individuals and corporations. About two thirds of all the land being purchased for food is in sub-Saharan Africa. A 2010 World Bank report concluded that most of these projects leave the local population worse off than before.

Finally, Klare discusses the consequences of this competition for resources. Among the oil and mining companies, only the largest will survive as the costs of exploration and exploitation mount. Government-controlled operations will become ever more important, especially in Russia and China. Military means will be used to protect and secure resources, as with the presence of U.S. troops in Nigeria, the Persian Gulf, and Southeast Asia; Chinese forces in Sudan and Zimbabwe; and Russian troops in central Asia.

Although Klare understands that competition for resources has caused wars for centuries and that we are headed for even bigger conflicts, he holds out hope that humanity can avoid catastrophe by competing to adapt to shortages rather

than control the shrinking pie. He hopes that the realization of the depletion of non-renewable resources will spur a focus on new technologies and efficiency by governments and private enterprises.

What we as Marxist analyzers of history know, however, is that capitalist competition demands that profits drive investment and war. As do most liberal societal critics, Klare hopes that common sense and decency will change the economic laws that propel the actions of the capitalist ruling class. He must hope this because he cannot conceive of a mass movement of workers building a better world. He hopes that the magnitude of the resource problem will force the ruling class to dispense with the laws of capitalist competition and exploitation.

Although some puny efforts may be made to develop green technology, no capitalist country can forego its immediate need to produce and sell more than its rivals and control its sources of raw materials and markets. Moreover, the capitalist class is willing to sacrifice the lives of millions of workers, including citizen workers, in order to maintain economic and military superiority.

Only an international communist society — an egalitarian society based on maximizing workers' quality of life, would enable the long-term planning for adaptation to shrinking resources and the development of new modes of production. To create that communist society we must build a mass international movement to destroy the capitalist rulers who, if allowed to survive, will lead us all to a debacle of death and destruction. Be part of that movement by joining and building the Progressive Labor Party around the world. ☐

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

Profits first, worker safety last

NYT, 9/20 — Islamabad, Pakistan — A prominent factory monitoring group heavily financed by industry gave a clean bill of health to a Pakistani apparel plant last month, just weeks before a fire engulfed the premises and killed nearly 300 workers, many of them trapped behind locked exit doors....

The industrial disaster...killed nearly twice as many workers as the landmark Triangle shirtwaist factory fire of 1911 in New York.... [A critic said] "This demonstrates, more clearly than ever, that corporate-funded monitoring systems...cannot and will not protect workers."

....The disaster...revived scrutiny of the procurement policies of the Western companies that have their [goods]...made in factories like Ali Enterprises....

For instance,...Foxconn, which assembles iPhones and iPads for Apple in China, has been heavily criticized for failing to stop child labor, illegal amounts of overtime and dangerous conditions....

A European antisweatshop group criticized the audit process:

"Workers are often told what to tell the auditors....The inspectors are announced, and there is time to do things like open exit doors that other times are locked."

After the Ali Enterprises fire, some surviving workers said they had been warned of a visit by inspectors and coached to lie about their working conditions, under threat of dismissal.

Living on Social Security = poverty

NYT, 9/12 — Living on...the brink of poverty....

is...what anyone who lives solely on Social Security can expect....23 percent of married couples and 46 percent of single people receive 90 percent or more of their income from Social Security....

Women are more likely to live in poverty in retirement than men, across all ethnic and racial groups.

School system transmits inequity

NYT — Chicago's high school graduation rates have been improving but....just 3 percent of black boys in the ninth grade end up earning a degree from a four-year college....

America's education system has become less a ladder of opportunity than a structure to transmit inequity from one generation to the next.

Chinese leaders live lavishly

NYT — In March, Chinese authorities quickly deleted from the blogosphere photos of a fatal Beijing car crash....The car was a Ferrari....

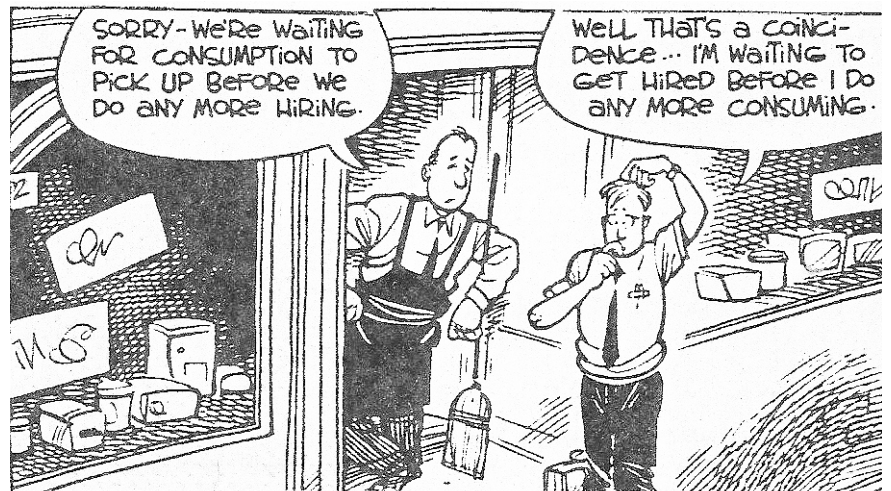
It was the latest in a string of incidents spotlighting the lavish lifestyles of the ["Communist"] Party elite.

Chinese authorities are so sensitive to these stories because they are the tip of the iceberg — an increasingly corrupt system...which allows certain senior officials, their families and "princelings" to become hugely wealthy.

Black/Latino schools benefit least

NYT, 9/20 — More than one in seven black and Latino students attend schools where fewer than 1 percent of their classmates are white....

The overlap between schools with...[such] populations and those with high levels of poverty was significant....The typical black or Latino stu-



dent attends a school where almost two of every three classmates come from low-income families.... Schools with mostly [black and Latino] and poor students were likely to have fewer resources....and less experienced teachers.

Arab Spring doesn't fancy the U.S.

Thom Hartman blog —The Arab Spring turned ugly in Libya and Egypt...as angry crowds stormed U.S. diplomatic buildings killing Christopher Stevens — the U.S. ambassador to Libya — and three other American diplomats....

The U.S. military is deploying two warships, Marines and drones to Libya in response to the attack on the [U.S.] consulate....

Decades of U.S. meddling in Arab nations — propping up kleptocrats [corrupt politicians], conducting military operations, and syphoning off resources leaves U.S. interests in the area vulnerable to these sorts of attacks....

For good life, connect with others

NYT, 9/12 — [A] study shows that relationships are the key to healthy aging, said Dr. Vaillant, who advised cultivating younger friends for their energy and fresh perspective. "You must have somebody outside yourself to be interested in — not hobbies or crossword puzzles or your stock account — but flesh and blood....The only way to stop thinking of your own unique wonderful self is to think of others."

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Indonesia's Bosses Electrocuting Slums' Workers

The city of Jakarta, Indonesia, is one of the largest of the growing number of megaslums around the world. In Jakarta 28 million people live in tightly-packed slum housing consisting of unstable tenements and improvised shelters. Forty percent of the population lives on less than \$2 per day and average wages are only \$113 per month in a city where apartment rents hover around \$500 per month (Reuters, 3/12/12).

Workers in Indonesia now have a new hardship to worry about. Of the estimated 400,000 commuters riding Jakarta's dilapidated public trains during peak hours, many are forced to hop the trains and ride on the roof. This practice, called "train surfing" in Jakarta, is a necessity in a city where wages are too low to cover rising train fares.

The Indonesian government, eager to collect these fares, has long fought train surfing by greasing the roofs of train cars and hanging large concrete balls over the tracks to knock riders off. Now they are embarking on a plan to lower the power lines of the trains to electrocute those that risk a ride to work. This murderous plan is being implemented alongside a 40% fare hike, guaranteeing that millions of workers will be forced to risk their lives to work in Indonesia's sweatshop economy (BBC, 7/27/12).

But Indonesia did not have to be a growing megaslum where workers get poorer every year while millionaires are minted at the rate of 16 a day on the backs of the working class (a figure lauded by capitalists; it indicates the increasing concentration of wealth in the hands of the few at the expense of the growing poverty of the many). Between 1945 and 1965, a coalition nationalist government, pushed along by a massive "communist" party, experimented with some aspects of social democracy that saw rising wages, increased literacy and improved health rates, alongside the development of the public infrastructure.

The Indonesian "Communist" Party (PKI) was once the largest in the capitalist world with a membership of 3 million in 1965. But they made the mistake of thinking that they could ally themselves with "good" capitalists and peacefully evolve into a socialist state without violently taking state power. This delusion would prove fatal when General Suharto, backed by the U.S. CIA, began a murderous campaign against the PKI in 1965.

Between 1965 and 1968, when Suharto officially took power over the country, an estimated 500,000 to 1 million communists and communist sympathizers were systematically murdered by death squads. At the time the New York Times praised the massacre as a "gleam of light in Asia," a "savage transition" that would not have been possible without U.S. aid and the American invasion of Vietnam (NYT, 6/19/66).

The Suharto regime, always the obedient vassal of the U.S., went about turning Indonesia into a third world slum that would be fit for exploitation by Western corporations seeking the lowest wages in the



world. Public programs were gutted or eliminated, the urban infrastructure was allowed to deteriorate and labor organizations were viciously liquidated. Now trains, not renovated since the 1950s, regularly derail; boats and ferries sink; airplanes disappear from radar; shacks are buried in mudslides or destroyed by floods; and the Jakarta slums swell as the city grows (from 1.5 million in 1950 to over 28 million today).

Indonesia is praised by many capitalist economists as a model economy, showing the economic development promised by free markets. Indeed their tiny capitalist class is seeing an unparalleled growth in their personal wealth. Yet for the millions of Indonesian workers, capitalism is a killer.

Journalist Andre Vltchek described the conditions of the Jakarta slums, "One turn off from the main streets and the real Jakarta exposes its wounds: filthy narrow alleys, channels clogged with garbage, makeshift stores selling unhygienic food, children running barefoot; thousands of big and small mosques, but not one decent playground for children. Garbage accumulates at every corner and polluted air penetrates throat and eyes. Little girls are offering themselves for a pittance, while boys are sniffing glue from plastic bags." (Japan Focus, 2/5/08)

This is the victory of capitalism in Indonesia. The bosses have everything, while the workers hope that they don't get electrocuted on their way to work. The lessons from the destruction of the PKI for communists everywhere were hard-learned. There are no "good capitalists" and there can never be any allegiance between the working class

and the capitalist class. The struggle between the working class and the capitalist class is a life-and-death struggle. The fight for communism is not a national struggle as the PKI

thought, but an international struggle against the exploitation of capitalism everywhere.✊

IMPERIALISTS' RIVALRY FOR DECLINING RESOURCES HEADED FOR WAR

In Michael Klare's latest book, *The Race for What's Left*, he discusses the intense investment and competition to find and exploit the world's diminishing supply of oil, gas, minerals, rare earth metals and elements. Just as the international appetite for fuel and materials needed for technological development is bounding ahead, the easily recoverable supplies are rapidly being exhausted.

It is estimated that 13 percent of the undiscovered oil and 30 percent of the gas left on earth is above the Arctic Circle. Five countries have claims to the sea and land of this area: Russia, Canada, the U.S., Norway, Denmark, and Greenland (which is dependent on Denmark).

Because this territory was formerly not thought to be very valuable, precise international boundaries were never drawn. In fact, when the Russians planted their flag beneath the North Pole in 2007, it was less an act of national pride than an attempt to claim that the continental shelf extending north from Russia belongs to them. All the major oil companies-Shell, BP, Exxon, Conoco Phillips, Imperial oil of Canada and

Russian state companies are investing billions to explore for oil in this region.

Military capabilities are being increased by all the involved countries as conflicts over boundaries intensify. The hurdles, in terms of cold, violent storms, and icebergs, are huge. The extreme conditions also will make it impossible to rush rescue or leak-stopping equipment to the site of a spill. Ironically, global warming will extend the drilling period by two months each year and make arctic development easier.

Other new sources of gas and oil are in very deep offshore waters, where drilling techniques have not yet proved feasible or safe. One hundred billion barrels of oil are thought to lie under 1.5 miles (2.41 km) of water and 2.5 miles (4.02 km) of salt off the coast of Brazil. Other very deep oil beds exist off the Atlantic coast of northern Canada, far into the Gulf of Mexico, off the coasts of Venezuela, western Africa and in the South China Sea. The latter is disputed by China, Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, the Philippines, and

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