Afghan lives and freedom sucked into U.S. quagmire

by Terry Moore

Afghanistan. 30 years of war; a decade of drought; a fraudulent election and government rife with corruption; a murderous Taliban army growing in technical sophistication and strength; eight years of a U.S. occupying army whose purpose has always been U.S. self-interest. This is the reality that is the daily life of Afghans. Yet, Afghan lives are the last thing considered in all the wrangling in the U.S. around the fraud-ridden election, and Gen. Stanley A. McChyra-tal’s much anticipated assessment of the war effort there. Rather, all are concerned with the popularity—or non-popularity—of President Obama, who appearsreluctant to commit more troops. The main concern is damage control.

The Taliban’s purposeful targeting of allied troops from Germany, Canada and Spain has strengthened internal opposition in each of those countries, scaring al lied leaders, fearful only of not being reelected. The face of the U.S. defense department assessment calling for at least 40,000 more U.S. troops and years of commitment to keep from losing the war, President Obama, who appears reluctant to commit more troops, said, “The first question is: Are we doing the right thing?”

The tens of thousands who participated in the reaction Sept. 12 march on Washington, D.C., signaled an ominous new challenge from the far Right. The march was filled with racist attacks: pictures of President Obama as a “witch doctor” with a bone through his nose; signs telling him to “go back to Ke nya” (presumably Obama’s citizenship); Obama as Hitler, as Stalin, as Satan. It conjured up images of the worst in U.S. history, and attempted to negate everything that is revolutionary in that history as well.

Obama’s response has been measured and pragmatic, even to denying that racism is an issue. But this open display of the most vile racism toward him was also directed at the heart of the needed American revolution. It is no accident that on Sept. 12 racist signs and slogans were allowed to appear openly as “Oust the Marxist dictator! They did it in Honduras, we can do it here!” and “We came unarmed—this time!”

The radical right’s bid for power

This rhetoric is the mark of such reactionary and neo-fascist groups as the John Birch Society, the neo-Nazi, the Ku Klux Klan and the LaRouche organization, who all participated. These forces are making a bid for control of the Republican Party—-the march was addressed by a number of “mainstream” Republican politicians, like Sen. Jim DeMint (SC) and Rep. Mike Pence (IN).

These organizers of this movement are highly conscious of what they aim for—state power. To gain it they have even used the Left, as announced on the organizers’ FreedomWorks website: “The Left...[has] beat when it comes to symbolism, activism, and dominating the public debate...We have to remember this is a March on Washington, which should conjure up images of the street protests in other countries. If we want the people to take action, we believe it is imperative that we keep our edge, tailor our message conscious of what they aim for—state power. To gain it they have even used the Left, as announced on the organizers’ FreedomWorks website: “The Left...[has] beat when it comes to symbolism, activism, and dominating the public debate...We have to remember this is a March on Washington, which should conjure up images of the street protests in other countries. If we want the people to take action, we believe it is imperative that we keep our edge, tailor our message

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What does he mean by “the right thing”? The U.S. has never done “the right thing” when it comes to the people of Afghanistan. The exact opposite is the case.

The latest failure of the U.S.’s supposed initial aim in 2001 of “bringing democracy to Afghanistan” was U.S.-sponsored leader Hamid Karzai’s complete disdain for the right of his own people to choose their leaders. Karzai has revealed himself as a gross opportunist, fostered incompetence, cronynomy, and extreme right-wing factions in his own government. He has sold women’s deep desire for freedom and so many other well-grounded aspirations and appointments, and his unyielding —at times even criminal—warlords and drug profiteers to his cabinet. To correct the electoral process to the one-third of the votes cast for Karzai need to be examined for fraud according to European Union election monitors, while the UN Electoral Complaints Commission ordered a recount of ballots in 10% of polling places. That 10% involves 1.35 million of the 5.96 million of the total votes cast or 24% of the total. There were reports of “policing centers;” of people showing up to vote and all the ballots being already marked and cast, of districts where every single ballot was marked for Karzai, or American revolution, the Black masses as vanguard come together with the Black dimension; the Black masses as vanguard come together with the Black dimension, who the often-quoted sentence: ‘Labor cannot eman cipate itself in the white skin where in the black skin

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“Human power is its own end”—Karl Marx
Childcare and Marx'svision of the future

This article was based on a discussion at the Institute for Critical Study of Society in Oakland during an International Women’s Day Celebration on March 8, 2009.

California’s budget crisis occasioned draconian cuts in funding for education and social services, including services for children. Of the $15.5 billion in budget cuts, K-12 schools took the biggest hit, $6 billion; universities $2.8 billion; medical services $1.3 billion; plus another billion from in-home sup- port services and children’s health insurance programs.

The present crisis calls for revisiting Marx on many fronts, but especially what he considered the most fundamental way we reproduce our humanity: the man- woman relation and the social endeavor of raising chil- dren. Children’s education and health care are the heart of development, as children are the labor that produces value. Education and healthcare, whole areas of life, are of concern to capitalism only as an “expense,” which it seeks to minimize. Since the days at the capital-

The desperate need for healthcare reform became even more a reality on Sept. 11, when we lost one of our own. Crystal Lee Sutton died of brain cancer at 68 because her insurance company refused to cover treat- ment.

The inspiration for the 1970 movie Norma Rae, Sutton called her case and thousands like it “an ex- ample of abuse of the working poor…how can it take so long for them to decide when it could be a matter of life and death?” It is almost like, in a way, committing murder.” By the time the insurance company decided to cover her medication, it was too late. She died two months later.

Women in Uganda celebrated a victory in August after intense public protests led to the re-arrest of the police commander, James Peter Aurien, for the self-confessed murder of his wife. Domestic violence is a daily occurrence in Uganda, with 78% of women experienc- ing some form of abuse. In 2008 over 70 women were killed by their spouses, with the number on the rise.

Women’s and human rights organizations in Mexico are fighting the confirmation of Arturo Chávez as the country’s new attorney general, accus- ing him of covering up the mass murders of women and the murder of the women in Celaya in the late 1990s. Mothers of female victims organized a public protest in Chilcuautla City, with Women in Black and other groups staging vigils outside the attorney general’s office.

Women have been the target of violence for nearly two decades in Haiti, despite five years of UN peacekeepers. Kidnapping, criminal violence, gang warfare and armed confrontation have increased the number of reported cases of sexual violence against women and girls. Last year, the number of rapes increased from 3,100 to 1,600. Nicole Magloire, of Haitian Vio- lence Against Women, feels these numbers are due to worse criminality and fewer police.

More than 200 women and men from 17 states travel- ed to Washington in support of Dr. Larry Carhart, one of the few physicians in the U.S. to provide late-term abortions. Federal marshals stopped protecting his clinic despite the right wing’s murder of Dr. George Tiller in May, and a new campaign targeting Carhart by Operation Rescue. Pro-choice demonstra- tors outnumbered anti-choice choicers 3 to 1.

Women who enter the paid workforce receive low- er wages. Women with children earn even less, and女性 workers during pregnancy. Women are largely lumped up of workers—women are among the lowest paid. It is symbolic of what is valued: women’s work when it is external to the market is unnoted and unpaid; as it is brought into the market, it is lower-paid. Childcare workers’ payers hover at minimum wage.

Women who voted for Obama are increas- ingly in the workforce. Before World War II, 25% of mothers with young children worked outside the home, reaching 77% in 2000. U.S. federal policies on unem- ployee in 2008 forced 75% of single mothers to work.

These increased numbers mean fewer adults at home to share in the care of young children or to be in the neighborhood to create a loose network of support for children. In numbers greater than ever, families are depending on paid care for their children.

EDUCATION AS EXPENSE TO BE MINIMIZED?

We see increased commodification of childcare to- day, reality care for children depends on relationships. Yet maintaining profit in the childcare industry, as in any other, depends on cutting labor costs—forcing low wages. This leads to even more of the same—upsetting success- ful relationships. Labor costs are also reduced through higher ratios of children to adults, also preventing nur- sery relationships. Some of the few growing childcare businesses in the 1980s and 1990s were childcare chains. KinderCare, La Petite Academy and others.

There is a value on productivity or profit for capitalism education and care of children are only an expense to be minimized. Marx’s chapter on machinery denounces the “intellectual deso- lation” of workers’ children. Where schools were massed, each child was to be a semblance of education, by counting hours in a “school room” often staffed by illiterate “teachers,” which sub- stituted for actual education.

In many places Marx describes what passed for edu- cation: the classroom setting, the amounting of knowl- edge to a special class of people through examinations, etc. As the opposite of stunting growth, he posse development of the whole human being.

That monstrosity, the disposable working popula- tion held in reserve, in misery, for the changing require- ments of capitalist exploitation, must be replaced by the individual. Available child labor—of different kinds of labor… the partially developed individual, who is the bearer of one specialized social function, must be replaced by a totally developed individual.” (Capital, Vol. I, p. 581).

How is such an individual to develop? The struggle for care and education of our children has always been the struggle of the oppressed, however, when the workers’ movement is at its peak. Public education and labor rules for families and children are part of the battleground of class struggle. Some of the few schools serve as “child care” while parents are at work, on another they are fought for as rights by and for people who nev- er before had access to formal education.

STRUGGLES FOR EDUCATION IN THE U.S.

The first big leap in public education was during post-Civil War Reconstruction, which brought free pub- lic education to the South. The struggle for rights and access to schooling continued in 1903 when Mother Jones led a caravan of striking children from the textile mills of Lexington, Pa., to the home of President Theo- dore Roosevelt in New York, calling for an end to child labor and the fair treatment of children, industrialists who opposed child labor reform laws viewed it as “foul- ish to give certain classes of children an education and an opportunity to rebel against the system” which is determined by God and nature to be of a lower order” (Felix Adler, “Child Labor in the U.S.” in The Great Anti-odox Fair, 29), which praises those who want to stop reproducingマーク

Patriarchal oppression of women occurs interna- tionally in fundamental Jewish and Muslim societies without the influence of the Christian religious right. Joyce doesn’t propose answers about how to stop the patriarchal movement. However, this is a very im- portant book that needs a wider distribution because it exposes the extremes to which the religious right will go to take over society and explain the harmful effects of patriarchy to women and society. —Adele

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Quiverfull: Inside the Christian Patriarchate

by Katherine Joyce


Joyce has written a book about how the religious right is largely based upon a movement to restore patri- archy and how this is harmful to women and society. Meaning “rule of the fathers,” patriar- chy is defined as a society in which mothers are submis- sive to men, and fathers are the sole providers of their families.

Joyce investigates the patriarchy movement’s ex- treme manifestation, “Quiverfull,” where women post- ponement until marriage, and men are trained to view children as possible. Quiverfull women are meant to be an “army of God” (a biblical reference comparing a father’s church to a father’s army). Quiverfull men are trained to police their negative thoughts toward homosexuality and taught that if husbands abuse them it is the wife’s fault.

Some matches are arranged to join prominent fami- lies. But even though this is not successful in the out- side world can have a position of respect as the “lord” and “patriarch” of their home in a Quiverfull community. The main goal of the patriarchy movement is to de- stroy feminism. The movement is especially critical of liberal churches who have adopted as “egalitarian” feminism that allows women to have careers, contra- ception, and equal relationships with men. It says that these churches lead to the destruction of family, of the family, of the family, of the family.

Joyce describes how the movement has established gynecologists and pharmacists who refuse to write or fill prescriptions for contraceptives. She describes move- ments that are trying to get their way among individual states and localities.

INTERNATIONALIZATION OF OPPRESSION

Patriarchy movement arose within main- stream feminism, spreading to other denominations and congregations, sometimes taking them over as it did with the Southern Baptist Convention. This move- ment has been influenced by Quiverfull and has spread a bloc of antiabortion nations. Religious right groups have joined with Mormon leaders and the Vatican to establish the World Congress of Christian Feminists (WCCF) to fight women’s and gay rights internationally. The WCC also works with Muslim groups, although they use the fear of an Islamic nation to encourage and support higher ratios of abortion and gay rights and that will lead to “social anarchy” caused by “individual rights.”

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We might be having a rally soon in front of Sears because we manufacture Craftsman tools for Sears. We manufacture tools for everyone. Most of the people are setup operators and we set up and operate our own machinery. I work on the stamp machine, putting the parts number on. It’s amazing how much support we are getting. There are a lot of us here have never been involved in a strike before. It’s amazing how much support we are getting.

SK Hand Tools strike over healthcare

Chicago—We work for SK Hand Tools, employed by this company almost 23 years. We're on strike now over here and strike with us. Food. We need a lot of support, a lot of people to come up here. Some days they bring food; we take turns. Everybody gets along. We feel very close. Everybody needs dialysis. Once you have surgery, especially a kidney surgery for a hernia, and it cost around $20,000, so he's had to pay for it. There's a guy that, maybe 4 years ago, had surgery and it cost around $20,000, so he had to pay for it. We need to work together, to make the rest of us work three times as fast. It's amazing how much support we are getting. There are a lot of us here have never been involved in a strike before. It's amazing how much support we are getting.

March on Wall Street

Broms NY—After the Wall Street firm Brynwood Partners bought Stella d’Oro Bakery Co. in the Bronx, it tried to break the union by insisting on a contract that would have cut wages by 25% and destroyed many benefits. This provoked an 11-month strike by Local 50 of the Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Union. The new AFL-CIO President, Richard Trumka, was at a forum in New York City on Sept. 21 and recognized the Stella d’Oro workers, but he neglected to announce the rally scheduled for Sept. 25.

Union leaders have given money and published articles in their newspapers but they have failed to mobilize their thousands of members to participate in rallies and boycotts. The finance capital elite which controls our country is at war with the working class but the working class bears the brunt of capitalism’s economic crisis. Companies are downsizing and workers are losing their jobs or are working as part time employees. The social gap between the top and the bottom has widened and avoiding benefit payments. Healthcare benefits are a major issue. One Latina worker said, “It is a good idea to keep health care costs down so we can cut out coverage of our health insurance.” Another Latina worker said, “They would like to give us a five-year contract with a 1% raise. They’re going to make us give them all this money, making all this money from us, but we don’t see it.”

Earlier, a delegation led by Angela Norena, one of the fired housekeepers from Boston, had appealed to Penny Pritzker—of the billionaire Chicago Pritzker family—to reinstate the fired Boston workers. Pritzker refused to answer them.

“We’re very dirty people. We’re black, Latino, Asian and white workers and supporters at the demonstration chant “Si se puede! Yes we can!” Spirits were high. You couldn’t help but feel good about being in a crowd of working people body there. In the words of one black woman worker, “It was a fantastic display of the power of people when they come together.”

—Andy Phillips

East European revolts and the re-creation of Marx's Marxism

Editor's note: November marks 20 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, which crystallized the collapse of the totalitarianism of both the Communist and Fascist sides of Europe. As the East European revolutions and the work of socialist humanist dissidents were both crucial to the development of Marxist-Humanism, let me present brief excerpts from a lecture Raya Dunayevsky gave on her books Marxism and Freedom, Philosophy and Revolution: From Hegel to Sartre, and from Marx to Mao on February 14, 1982, the lecture was titled: "From Revolution to Revolution to Revolutions in Activism," in Thought, in Thought, in Thought. It may sound stratospheric to give a talk called "From Revolution to Revolution to Revolution," when we are witnessing a counter-revolution as brutal as that against the Polish people by their own state-capitalist rulers, propped up by Russia, and, on our own continent, the genocide against the Salvadoran people by a junta Reagan is not only non-joining but train- ing in that genocide. Nevertheless, it is not stratospheric. The truth is that we cannot forget that, for 18 months, the Polish workers, women and youth have been fighting a war not just for an unjust war but combines economics, politics and ideology. Nor can we forget that, before Poland, there was the Italian Revolution. Between them, they opened so many new doors to the transformation of reality that they have given us a different evaluation of the past.

Let us take one single district—Silesia—one of the most active not only in 1890, but in 1970. It was the site of the first general strike in 1848, that first revolution opened its attack on Dec. 11, [1981]. But you cannot kill the idea of freedom; you can only drive it underground. It is precisely that depth, and that concreteness, that both allows us to see a bit of the future, and makes it necessary to the present. To that same district of Silesia when it was not the miners but the workers who were in revolt. Because Marx had discovered a new form of revolt: the General Mass Strike of trade unionists who organized a whole new movement, in 1905, the General Mass Strike. It was that 1905 was not the last of the 19th century, but the first of the 20th century revolutions—with many more to follow.

THE 1960s PRESENTED US with a similar problem. How are the new revolutions of our day—of the youth, Blacks, women, the Third World—related to the Marxist revolution of 1848? Let us see. If you look at this document from below, we felt a compulsion to "translate" Marx's Marxism for our age. It was the period, also, of the sudden appearance of the Berlin Wall and our raising the question: Could there be war between two state-capitalist societies calling themselves Communism? Just as a new chapter on that Sino-Soviet conflict was added to a new edition of Marxism and Freedom, so was another chapter on capitalism, National Socialism, and Fascism. It was clear that the struggle for the eight-hour day had led him to revolutionize the whole question of post-Marx Marxism. And for the first time, we will return from Marx to Hegel—on, however, Marx's new ground of the movement from below as the struggle for the eight-hour day had led him to revolutionize the whole question of post-Marx Marxism. And for the first time, we will return from Marx to Hegel—on, however, Marx's new ground of the movement from below as well as the self-determination of the Idea for its own age—and see how this means taking on the responsibility for the task of our age: the transformation of reality. Permit me, therefore, to quote my conclusion:

"It isn't because we are any 'smarter' that we can see much more than other post-Marx Marxists. Rather, it is because of the maturity of our age...only live human beings can create the revolutionary dialectic forever anew. And these live human beings must do so in theory as well as in practice. It is not a question only of meeting the challenge from practice, but of being able to meet the challenge from the self-development of the Idea, and of deepening theory to the point where it returns to the idea that it was a new universe in permanent change."

It is easy to express our solidarity with Solidarity Movement and the Negro Revolution—where the new voices of the youth, workers, Black revolutionaries in the U.S. as well as in Africa, could be heard. It is very much a question of workers, that this new chapter in history could be considered a "second book" on Marxism-Humanism in the context of an actually developing new revolution from below.

ONE HISTORIC FACT is always having to return to the question of Poland. Marx's day was the 1863 rebellions which were the basis for establishing the First International Workmen's Association in 1864. When that period came to a climax with the 1871 Paris Commune, revolution would again be as the greatest fighters of the Commune. He found further illumination for his Capital in the chapter on the self-determination of labor. To my friends in the International, Civil War, it is obvious that the struggle for the eight-hour day had led him to revolutionize the whole question of post-Marx Marxism. And for the first time, we will return from Marx to Hegel—on, however, Marx's new ground of the movement from below as well as the self-determination of the Idea for its own age—and see how this means taking on the responsibility for the task of our age: the transformation of reality. Permit me, therefore, to quote my conclusion:

East European revolts and the re-creation of Marx's Marxism

East European revolt as seen in the Trilogy of Revolution

Marxism and Freedom, from 1776 until Today

The myth that the Russian totalitarian State is invincible was suddenly and strikingly shattered. On June 17, 1776, the workers in the East German state textile factories put in the hands of the Hip, a new economic theme, the Asiatic Mode of Production; not only a discovery that the Sino-Soviet conflict was the absolute challenge to our age. It is the separation of theory from practice.

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Care is socialized, it risks de-personalizing deep personalations. Traditional women’s work, caring for each other, through our explicitly social relations is specifically human is not the biological imperative of between man and woman “reveals the extent to which care for children is part of the struggle to hold on to our future...will, in the case of every child over a given age, it in the chapter on machinery: “... the education of the people are ongoing learners who want opportunity to valued. 2) More opportunities for professional development included in the standards, and to...demonstrations against the State in Crisis. Meanwhile, the head of Congress declared himself...of Nicaragua and El Salvador haven’t condemned the coup-makers seek to keep themselves in power in November elections. They hope to take advantage of...it is the most violent political repression by any...of the Resistance has already demanded a Constitu- tional Assembly (Elects, no Constitutional Assembly is now another popular slogan adorning the walls of Tegucigalpa). Feminists, teachers, and unionists are starting to unite, while the farmers and peasants have organized themselves into three Confederations and 24 collective and have proposals for comprehensive agrarian reform. Nonetheless, it’s not clear what will draw these causes together in the coming months. For instance, like the farmers and workers, Honduras, how will the interests of farmers and Christian workers’ unions jibe with the demands of women for a free and voluntary motherhood? Can the demands of women for democracy is valid. And that is more than just a slogan written on a wall. —Francesca Gargallo, September 24, 2009

Manuel Zelaya returned unannounced to Tegucigalpa on September 21. The wave of massive enthusiasm triggered by his return was put down with arbitrary jailings, widespread destruction of private homes with families inside, gunsights, 48-hour surveillance of public figures, and by taking in the local embassies without access to Red Cross observation, torture, mass incarceration in stadiums, and water and util- ity cutoffs. At the very moment that three of these children who suffocated from the use of toxic gas. This is the most violent political repression by any Latin American regime in more than 20 years. The coup-makers seek to keep themselves in power in November elections. They hope to take advantage of...it is the most violent political repression by any...of the Resistance has already demanded a Constitu- tional Assembly (Elects, no Constitutional Assembly is now another popular slogan adorning the walls of Tegucigalpa). Feminists, teachers, and unionists are starting to unite, while the farmers and peasants have organized themselves into three Confederations and 24 collective and have proposals for comprehensive agrarian reform. Nonetheless, it’s not clear what will draw these causes together in the coming months. For instance, like the farmers and workers, Honduras, how will the interests of farmers and Christian workers’ unions jibe with the demands of women for a free and voluntary motherhood? Can the demands of women for democracy is valid. And that is more than just a slogan written on a wall. —Francesca Gargallo, September 24, 2009

**ESSAY Childcare & Marx’s vision of future continued from p. 2**

Capitalism, however, dismantles workers’ gains on the basis of changing needs of producing value. Today’s rea- lity proves that we need to abolish capitalism and its state in order to achieve a society in which individuals can see work as a right. Recently, a grassroots group of early childhood teachers and providers in California raised three demands that have won widespread support: 1) Paid leave for all childbirths will not be a decent place for children if this work is not valued. 2) More opportunities for professional develop- ment included in the standards, and to...gards, workers, a unionists, a considera- ble number of feminist women, teachers and indigenous people. Right now, childcare workers have already demanded a larger share in the decision-making process. Coming from all the re- gions of Honduras—from the mountain villages of San Sula, to the agrarian area of Olancho, to the Atlantic coast with populations of Garifuna and Ashaninka—women with the regions with indigenous populations—countless marchesa been on Tegucigalpa over the last two and a half months. The question is: Will they join forces to push for a political reform and social justice. His “sins” were hav- ing raised the minimum wage, signing on with ALBA (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our Americas, an organization led by Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez promotes to reassert core policies and the Latin America—translator), and proposing an official inquiry into whether the Honduran people want to vote for constitutional change during the elections in November 2009.

Since morning broke on June 28, people of all stripes and organizations have grouped be- fore the presidential palace: peasants, street ven- dors, workers, teachers, students, community leaders, laborers, a considerable number of feminist women, teachers and indigenous people. Right now, childcare workers have already demanded a larger share in the decision-making process. Coming from all the re- gions of Honduras—from the mountain villages of San Sula, to the agrarian area of Olancho, to the Atlantic coast with populations of Garifuna and Ashaninka—women with the regions with indigenous populations—countless marchesa been on Tegucigalpa over the last two and a half months. The question is: Will they join forces to push for a political reform and social justice. His “sins” were hav- ing raised the minimum wage, signing on with ALBA (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our Americas, an organization led by Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez promotes to reassert core policies and the Latin America—translator), and proposing an official inquiry into whether the Honduran people want to vote for constitutional change during the elections in November 2009.

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U.S. STRUGGLE FOR HEALTHCARE REFORM

The Mad as Hell Doctors’ national tour in support of healthcare reform stopped here Sept. 25 to support striking workers at SK Hand Tools (see story, page 3). Doctors, nurses and other supporters walked the picket line and held up banners supporting a single-pay- er plan for healthcare reform.

Barbara Matthews, of the Mad as Hell Doctors, said, ‘We’re supporting the worker and organizing the public without any hesitation. We support a single- payer plan where this kind of injustice wouldn’t happen. It would stop the money that goes to insurers into a single agency to pay healthcare providers directly. This would allow free choice because all providers would be covered. There also wouldn’t be the huge overhead we have now with the insurance companies, no huge staffs being paid to deny claims. Healthcare should be a human right, not something for a company to make profits.’

‘The tour support of our picket line was appreciated. As one striking SK worker put it, ‘We’ve been out 30 days but it feels like yesterday. When the boss came by, he didn’t ask us what words or engage in semantic games. They spoke to reality. Lin also accurately implies that anyone who believes this administration is going to deliv- er a bona fide socialized medicine by any name needs to realize it ain’t going to happen. She wrote in Time recently put it, ‘The only guy who ever really ‘called this right’ was Karl Marx.’”

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REPUBLICAN ELECTIONS

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THE GERMAN ELECTION

German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s center-right Christian Democrats may have won the election but the good news about the election results was that the small third parties made significant strides in gaining popularity, which may mean that the two main par- ties will be forced into a coalition and be- ing abandoned by the populace. Perhaps Germany will lead the way for America to experience a future failure of the bi-parti- san system and the emer- gence of grassroots popular parties, which are now ill-funded, un-organized and ill- recognized. That is mainly by design of the establishment, and the electorate’s sheepish following of the donkey and the elephant. Then again, perhaps Germany is not a good example to follow. The most important thing to do is to learn from the German experience and then to make sure that we don’t follow the road we had, wasn’t it the beginning of the Third Reich and the emergence of Nazis? In the Third Reich, the small third parties made Hitler, campaigning for his version of Socialism for Germany”.

Kevin Michaels’ excellent piece on “Kolakowski’s legacy” (Aug.-Sept. N&L) shows the promise of his earlier work. He wrote in Main Currents of Marxism, “Marxism had been the greatest fantasy of the 20th century, the illusory prospect of a society of perfect unity, in which all human aspirations would be fulfilled and all values reconciled.”

Then he continued, “Marxism has been frozen and immobilized for de- cades as the ideological superstructure of a totalitarian political movement, and in consequence has lost touch with intellectual developments and social re- alities. The hope that it could be revived and made fruitful once again proved to be an illusion. As an explanatory system it is dead, nor does it offer any method that can be effectively used to interpret modern life, foresee the future, or culti- vate utopian projection.” Kolakowski further argues that Stalinism is the perversion of Marxism thought, but rather its natural conclusion.

The Fascist-Humanist vision is different. The lines I’ve just quoted remind me of living under capita- lism.
Lt. Ehren Watada’s three-year fight with the Army is over. His resignation has been accepted and he will be discharged in 2010. He is “glad to bring the chapter to a close and move on.” He is 31 and may want a life. As for the Army, it is probably relieved Watada let it off the hook. He was not “answering a higher call” as one military commentator claimed. Watada was following the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and through the military regulations that will protect them. The lieutenant has consistently maintained that the U.S. prosecution of its war in Iraq is illegal. The Army has dodged a bullet in not having to defend in a court of law its attacks on the Iraqi people. I hope Ehren Watada returns some day to fight to right his name and that of many others who also had the courage to do what they believed was right.

Sansei
Oakland, Cal.

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This is an update on new programs initiated by the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, or “Me”) will empower military service members through education of their rights and understanding of their legal and religious regu-

aries that will protect them. We are making contact with members of the for their spiritual and physical well-being. Social work-
ers, mental health professionals and patient representatives to encourage their strug-
gle for justice and understanding. In the name of the core values of respect, equality, understanding, and humanity, the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors will continue to work on behalf of our service members. Members of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors have been working with groups such as the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and the National Education Association, among others. The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors is committed to the full realization of human rights. The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors is a non-profit organization. Our mission is to provide education and support to military service members and veterans who are facing military discharge for reasons of conscience or other grounds.

Wendy Carson
Executive Director, CCCC
405 14th St. #205, Oakland, Cal. 94612

Many veterans returning from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are finding condi-
tions at home so intolerable that they are becoming increasingly des-
perate. This often results in broken fam-
ilies and rising suicides when the jobs they had no longer available because of the economic meltdown and their frustr-
ations spin out of control. We know the right-wing militia groups have stepped up their recruiting efforts among the returning veterans who are disciplined and have many military skills. Disser-
tive people can make desperate decisions, and I see more desperation in the U.S. today than ever before in my life-
time.

Old Veteran
Detroit

DEBATING THE LGBT MARC– FOR EQUALITY OR LIBERATION?

There’s a debate going on about whether or not to support the coming Oct. 10–11 March in Washington for gay rights. Before Obama was elected, many felt we were going to get some rights. But there has been a lot of disappoint-
ment, much confusion, much misinformation. March was called for to be a success there to be a lot of us there. And for it to work to create consumer demand. How do we defend equality—which is what the March was declared to be calling for. Will the March do that? The leaders are talking about non-violent civil disobedience, marches, lobbying. We can do all of that, but what we are working for is important to be clear about. Ultimately, how do we defend equality? Part of my way of seeing what is involved is through the philosophy of Marxism. What is important to me is be-
ing able to live your life meaningfully. A leader from Rojava Sangmouth that Rojava Dunayevskaya discussed in her book

Rosa Luxemburg, Women’s Liberation, and Marx’s Philosophy of Revolution speaks to that. It was from one of Lux-

were gunned down by police, with-
out asking what their attitude was on gay rights. We’ve been involved in the campaigns to free Maria as well as anti-
war marches. One of the things that led to the passage of Prop. 8 was not reaching any conclusion. Some of us are organizing a picket line around the White House. We’ll call for Obama and the Democrats to be held accountable and make it clear we don’t depend on them to hand us our rights on a silver platter.

Marriage rights are important to a lot of people, so I say, fight for that democratic right and also fight for the overthrow of capitalism. Democratic rights are indivisible. We have to fight for all of them.

Member GLN
Chicago

I am with the Gay Liberation Net-
work and what makes us unique is that we’re based on the ideology of solidarism, which means that if we expect other op-
pressed groups to support us, we have to stand clear the other demands. So we get involved with is-

issues like immigration rights, universal healthcare, and we’re against Prop. 8, but the institution of marriage is very sexist and I feel it should be abolished. The patriarchal institution sets up a power dynamic on queer couples, espe-
cially regarding property and child cus-
to...
The leaders of the world's biggest economies met Sept. 24-25 at the G-20 summit in Pittsburgh. As predicted, they have decided to recapitulate what has already completely replaced the state guar- dians of the world economy: market mechanisms, a massive and often brutal police presence, from thousands of demonstrating youth, la- bor and peace activists. Aside from agreeing to peer re- view each country's economic policies, the summit was ba- sically lots of happy talk about having saved the world economy from going over the abyss when one year ago an emergency bailout of $8 trillion in public and private funds threatened an immediate onset of a Great Depression.

What was “saved,” with huge and continuous infla- tion and unemployment, is the finance sector, whose threats by even bigger too-big-to-fail banks again making re- cord profits and fueling yet another speculative bubble threat- ened an immediate onset of a Great Depression. The world’s producers of value, workers, especially in the under industrialized countries, are among the half the world’s population—over three billion people— live on less than $2.50 a day, according to the World Bank, the crisis that was brought about by the collapse of a finance bubble, in turn, could bring global finance to a standstill. The world's producers of value, workers, especially in the under industrialized countries, are among the half the world’s population—over three billion people—live on less than $2.50 a day, according to the World Bank, the crisis that was brought about by the collapse of the speculative bubble that had sustained the world economy for the past 20 years threatened an immediate onset of a Great Depression.

The world’s producers of value, workers, especially the under industrialized countries, are among the half the world’s population—over three billion people—live on less than $2.50 a day, according to the World Bank. The world’s producers of value, workers, especially the under industrialized countries, are among the half the world’s population—over three billion people—live on less than $2.50 a day, according to the World Bank. The world’s producers of value, workers, especially the under industrialized countries, are among the half the world’s population—over three billion people—live on less than $2.50 a day, according to the World Bank.

The Great Recession may be declared over by the lord of finance, but the next investment bubble in the real economy where value is created has come to a stand- still. In place of a sub-prime-mortgage bubble, new eco- nomic activity is now expected from the Chinese economy spending and inventory replacement. Behind the photo ops, tensions among the G-20, the U.S., China, and—China—are fermenting over global trade imbalances. Each economy—except the U.S., whose dollar is the world’s reserve currency—faces structural adjustments aimed at the standard of living of its poor and working people under the impact of such imbalances. For now, the only thread binding back a blow-up over the dollar among state-capitalist finance centers is not very reas- suring: “mutually assured financial destruction.”

The trouble with outside “liberation” is that it is precisely the type of historic leap that their slave masters opposed; a free society is forever to accumulation in the real economy, portend an economic apartheid (“make noise.” The meeting ended with an announce- ment of a new community gang-intervention coalition founded after Stanley Tookie Williams was executed.

Specters haunting G-20

continued from p. 1

The opposition to Obama's school address is said to under- mine the concessions for small items like candy in the prison. In the past, I have been active with a group of California prisons. I know about this because my son is in prison. But the worst is the corruption when it comes to renting space for someone in prison you went out and bought it and they come out and go right back. It is never said that you want.

But a lot of problems in prisons affect both white and Black: the harsh three-strikes-and-you're-out provisions; the lack of medical care. They even charge the prisoners for seeing a doctor. Sometimes, the prisoners face racial discrimination—iron- ic given the history of the American prison system. Today, men of color are still more likely than white men to be incarcerated. First, there is no real attempt at rehabilitation, and second, there is so much corruption. Young men no longer see the justice in serving time, much less “life” time. They come out worse than they went in. I know an intelligent young man who came out and then went back right in for selling drugs. The budget cuts have prevented them from coming out and going right back. The corruption is on so many different levels. It used to be that if you were Black and in prison and wanted to get someone for police blot, you had to pay an African-American lawyer. Do you think this is going to happen. Besides, you can’t even get parole for someone in prison you want. Sometimes, you have to buy it and they come out and go right back. It is never said that you want.

Students protest continue in Haiti in 2009 over cancelled classes. Underneath the G-20 happy talk is anxiety over the world’s producers of value, workers, especially in the under industrialized countries, are among the half the world’s population—over three billion people—live on less than $2.50 a day, according to the World Bank. The world’s producers of value, workers, especially the under industrialized countries, are among the half the world’s population—over three billion people—live on less than $2.50 a day, according to the World Bank. The world’s producers of value, workers, especially the under industrialized countries, are among the half the world’s population—over three billion people—live on less than $2.50 a day, according to the World Bank.
Iranian regime can’t crush mass movement

Once again the determination of Iranian people to shape their history was on display when hundreds of thousands continued their protests on the streets throughout Iran on Sept. 18, thereby transforming the officially sanctioned 20th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution into a day of protest against the enemy at home.

In addition to the chants of “down with the dictator,” the most popular slogan was “dictator, dictator, this is our last message to the green nation of Iran is ready for uprising,” thus challenging the government that unless it resigns, its patience will soon come to an end.

Contrast this self-confidence with the unprecedented insecurity of the existing political regime in its inability to crush the opposition with all the means in its arsenal—political, ideological and military. If so, one would then be able to appreciate that Iran today is the scene of a two-contending-power confrontation. Large-scale repression, a thoroughly depraved state, and the power of mass actions in reaction in that situation has created a whole new reality.

Let’s be clear. For the moment, the existing political regime has tried everything to prevent the re-emergence of the mass movement on the streets: mass arrests and frame-up trials; shutting down of all remaining opposition websites and print media, even canceling all bereavement sanctioned events on the calender, combined with total militarization of society, the hunting down of people chant- ing on the rooftops, and constant barrages of threats. Nothing, absolutely nothing has succeed ed in breaking the spirit of the people.

Quite the contrary, the brief “interlude” between outright street protests was rife with movement: from the ongoing weekly protests of the Mourning Mothers, to sporadic outbreaks of demonstra tions in the streets and the Metro stations, to ac tivism of a different kind—mass political dialogue on the sidewalks, in taxis, at home and at the work place. One reporter, whose name is withheld, is from Iran (http://globalpost.com/print/3636975) that the workplace is in “everybody does nothing except find ways to get around blocked websites and read the day’s news.” Moreover, calls for a political mass general strike are gaining momentum.

Will this signal the beginning of the end of the Islamic regime? More importantly, will this movement for freedom be able to usher in a new society based on new humanist relationships the day after the overthrow of the existing state? Will the insatiable desire of Iranian masses for outright freedom find expression in a philo sophy of liberation that assures its continuous self-development?

—Baha

Social and economic problems grip Spain

The working class of Spain has been hit hard by the European financial crisis. The Spanish homeowners are experiencing the same difficulties as U.S. households—inability to pay the mortgage due to aggressive lending by financial institutions, and massive unemployment. Spain has the leading unemployment of all European nations.

The crisis is seen in higher prices for basic commodities and low quality. Even the daily loaf of bread has been cut back. Since the beginning of the recession in Spain, bread has been in short supply.

The economic crisis is combined with the political crisis of the two leading parties of Spain, Partido Popular (PP) and Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE). They attack each other daily, since legislating the rem edies to ease the crisis is a dead end. Workers are los ing their jobs while government officials are divided on how to get unemployment benefits and how much. Work ers in the streets are shouting, “We do not need 425 Euros. We want jobs.”

The economic crisis has led to the closing of restaurants in Mallorca, scared guardia civil, and arrested workers in the clothing industry. The European Federation prohibits workers from working on holidays, and fire workers in large undertaking, such as in large factories, where up to 150 workers lost their jobs and got no support from their union or the workplace committee.

We need to smash this ridiculous economic struc ture where we bail out the very same industries who are throwing us onto the streets.

—Correspondent in Spain

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Silencing Mexican Voices in Michigan

Detroit—The small group, Centro Obrero, is working the immigration section of the upcoming U.S. Social Forum in Detroit. During the past weeks, we held a meeting at the home of a Mexican family whose status, like many other people, is a dead end: jobless, undocumented, unemployed, and without any chance to make a contact with the government. That means no census, no financial aid forms for students of our genera tion, unemployment, etc.

Recently a neighbor called and asked if I would ac company a woman to the police station to make a missing person report on her teenage daughter, who had not been seen in five days. The woman was frantic and was putting up posters all over the neighborhood, but also wanted the police to help her find her daughter. I went along with her to help translate.

While we were there, we spoke to another person in the lobby waiting to make a complaint. The officer at the desk in the Southwest District (read BARRIO) told me that you are going to speak another language, you have to go outside.” I made a report to the command at the precinct and we will take it from there. This is the direct result of the European Federation policy of subsidizing Spain’s farmers not to cultivate from 2005 to 2009.

The police are carrying out their mission to maintain the society intact. We have no right to demand respect on the job and the right to go to any lengths to seek justice. We have the right to enter into electoral politics and fight for our rights. We will not be moved. We are here to stay. Stay tuned for the outcomes of these battles, big and small. We will not remain silent in the face of official dis respect.

—Elena Herrera

Washington, D.C., murder and hate-crime victim Tony Sanchez, a gay man, was recently killed in Detroit, TRW plant who came to the Mexican headquar ters to share their workplace concerns with the workers of the Detroit United Hotels was fired before we could ask for the manager. The police came and made us leave even without asking what we were doing. We were told by the police that the managers were afraid of the company town which covered thousands of miles to air their grievances nonvi olently. The company has its own police force. We got arrested when we were about to leave the CWHV. The company town is a shuts down. We have a right to make police reports in any language, to ask the manager to stay on the job and the right to go to any lengths to seek justice. We have the right to enter into electoral politics and fight for our rights. We will not be moved. We are here to stay. Stay tuned for the outcomes of these battles, big and small. We will not remain silent in the face of official disrespect.

—Elena Herrera

Uruguay’s legislature became the first in Latin America to legalize adoption by Gays and Lesbians, further solidifying the nation’s reputation for being the most progressive in that region. The measure made possible the adoption by unmarried couples—awards signature by President Tabare Vazquez. Also, Germany’s Constitu tion has ruled that Lesbians and Gays can adopt their partner’s children if they are related to them.

Some notable actions in the U.S.

• A second round of GLBT kiss-ins occurred in mid-August, after actions in July, protesting the arrest of gay couples who publicly displayed affection in Texas and on the grounds of a Mormon temple in Salt Lake City, Utah.

• On Sept. 13, hundreds rallied against the raid of the Eagle, an Atlanta gay bar. Witnesses said no reason was given for the raid and no one was arrested, yet every patron was made to line down on the floor while many of their personal items were seized.

• In the September almost 200 Brooklyn Technical High School students counter-protested members of the Westboro Baptist Church which anti-Gay and anti- Semitic message was to show “what good looks like.” The students drove the Westboro people away 15 minutes before their protest was scheduled to end.


3. Original copies on file at the home of a Mexican family whose status, like many other people, is a dead end: jobless, undocumented, unemployed, and without any chance to make a contact with the government. That means no census, no financial aid forms for students of our generation, unemployment, etc.

4. In the Southwest District (read BARRIO) told me that you are going to speak another language, you have to go outside.” I made a report to the command at the precinct and we will take it from there.

5. We have the right to enter into electoral politics and fight for our rights. We will not be moved. We are here to stay. Stay tuned for the outcomes of these battles, big and small. We will not remain silent in the face of official disrespect.

NEWS & LETTERS COMMITTEES

P.O. Box 3384, Flint, MI 48502

Phone: 312-431-8242

banandl@yahoo.com

P.O. Box 3345, P.O. Box 3384, Flint, MI 48502

Oakland, CA 94609

Methodist Church

Echo Park United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 3345

Tony Randolph Hunter will not get justice. Originally discussed political life in Detroit, and why Mexi can American politics and culture are different.

While we were there, we spoke to another person in the lobby waiting to make a complaint. The officer at the desk in the Southwest District (read BARRIO) told me that you are going to speak another language, you have to go outside.” I made a report to the command at the precinct and we will take it from there. This is the direct result of the European Federation policy of subsidizing Spain’s farmers not to cultivate from 2005 to 2009. At the same time Opel car manufacturing closed its doors in Zaragoza and Audi in Germany. Thousands protested their lost jobs in the streets. Quo, the telecommunications giant of Spain, this year laid off more than 1,500 workers and about 150 workers lost their jobs and got no support from their union or the workplace committee.

We need to smash this ridiculous economic structure where we bail out the very same industries who are throwing us onto the streets.

—Correspondent in Spain
Afghanistan, freedom sucked into U.S. quagmire

By September 1996 the Taliban captured Kabul, made an alliance with the extreme anti-woman funda- mentallyist party known as the Northern Alliance, and the warlord Bou-OOm, who was recently invited by Karzai back into the country and government. The Taliban imposed horrendous conditions, both on the workforce and on women. In 1998 they captured Mazar-i-Sharif and massacred thousands of civilians.

Afghanistan had other chances to become a place where its citizens could enjoy some freedom, but the U.S. ended them all in a war of the U.S. military. One of the key events in July 2002 loya jirga, a traditional political meeting of tribal leaders and representatives. It met to set up the government. The U.S. decreed the forces responsible for count- less brutalities under the former Rabbani government as their war-criminal choice for government. It did it in that way. As loya jirga delegates Omar Zahkhilval and Aideena Niazii tell us: “Men and women mingled openly and comfortably. In tolerant and lively exchanges, we discussed the compatibility of women’s rights with our Islamic traditions. Women played a leading role at these meetings. The one issue that united the delegates above all others was the urgency of reducing the power of warlords and establishing a truly representa- tive government.”

There was a grassroots movement to nominate the former king, Zahir Shah, as head of state as a coun- terbalance to the Taliban. Then the U.S. stepped in and postponed the loya jirga for close to two days while it strong-armed the king into renouncing any role in the proposed government.

After any semblance of democracy was destroyed by the Taliban, the U.S. government stepped into the sphere at the loya jirga changed radically. The gather- ing was now teeming with intelligence agents who opened fire and killed opposition leaders, especially women. Fundamentalists leader branded critics of the warlords as traitors to Islam and circulated a petition denouncing the Women’s Affairs Minister Sima Sa- rmar as ‘Afghanistan’s Salman Rushdie,’ implying she should be murdered as a heretic. Terrorizing their crit- ics, the warlords came out in control of the country.

Another possible new beginning came with the pro- cess of ratifying the Afghan Constitution. That loya jir- ga on Jan. 4, 2004, was touted by the U.S. government and press as a breakthrough for human rights—par- ticularly women’s rights. Nothing could be further from the truth. The U.S. and the Taliban couldn’t make women free, but the Afghan Constitution is so flawed that it created a framework for the strengthening of warlords and further Islamization of the state.

The intimidation, silencing of differing views, un- democratic and sexist nature of the proceedings were made public by a 25-year-old social worker. Malalai Joya took the floor and demanded to know: “Why have you again selected as committee chairman those crimi- nals who have brought disasters to the Afghan people? In my opinion they should be taken to the World Court.”

The assembly of Moeeduddin, Mohibullahi and Moed- didi, tried to throw her out of the room. Abdur Raoul Sayyaf, the Northern Alliance deputy prime minister, gave a 15-minute tirade against Joya, slandering her as a com- munist. In addition, Moedjeddi refused to allow a vote on petition with over 151 signatures from Afghan women demanding her sex and crimi- nalism.” In addition, Moedjeddi refused to allow a vote on petition with over 151 signatures from Afghan women demanding her sex and crimi- nalism.” In addition, Moedjeddi refused to allow a vote on petition with over 151 signatures from Afghan women demanding her sex and crimi- nalism.”

The constitution says that “no law can be contrary to the beliefs and provisions of the sacred religion of Is- lam.” This opened the judiciary to people like the then chief justice, Fazl Hadi Shinwari, who told representa- tives of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom that he accepted the Universal Declaration on Human Rights with three exceptions: “faith, freedom and equality and equality of the sexes. This is the only law,” the chief justice told them, point- ing to the Koran.

The U.S. and its minions did nothing to democra- tize the Afghan Constitution. Rather it was women, ethnic Hazaras, ethnic Uzbeks and others who for years kept and wear their lives in jestory as they tried to make the Constitu- tion a document that represents their aspirations for a better country.

In all the scenarios spun out of the heads of U.S. leaders, none of them consider either the desire or the ability of Afghan people to use the Constitution, the democratic tradition and nation. Yet that is the only solution.

The U.S. is in the middle of its fourth year of the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) who spoke recently in the U.S., put it: “If the troops leave Afghanistan, the war will be over. Years... Years and years of struggle is needed... We will give sacrifices. But we will do that ourselves. Because history has shown that no country can grant peace and security to another country as a gift. That is the re- sponsibility of that country, that people, to gain those values by their resistance and by their sacrifice for their own country.”

And this is part of what Malalai Joya said on the day of the Afghan election: “Democracy will never come to Afghanistan through the ballot of a group of warlords or the cluster bombs dropped by foreign forces. The struggle will be long and difficult, but the values of real democ- racy, human rights and women’s rights will only be won by the Afghan people themselves...”

As we put it in our Editorial in the last issue of News & Letters, “The U.S. and its minions are on the verge of upris- ing in Iran sparked by the stolen election or the mass resistance against the coup in Honduras. As News and Letters Committees has asked since our founding. Are you with the people struggling for a totally new way of life, or with the fabrication that war is good for business?”

“Opposition to war must therefore spell out not only what we are against but what we are for: a world of real democracy, real culture, real peace, real freedom, real security to another country as a gift. That is the re- sponsibility of that country, that people, to gain those values by their resistance and by their sacrifice for their own country.”

Women’s Liberation

The Libertarianism of Revolution: Reaching for the Future

Dunayevskaya

"Challenging, pas- sionate, and deeply learned, Dunayevskaya’s book is an important contribution to the ongoing dialogue on freedom and the need for a new world order. It is a must read for anyone interested in the potential of a new world order, and a powerful call to action for all those who seek a future that is free and equal for all." —Maclean’s

$14.95 plus shipping. To order, see p. 138.

Quebec: Taking Back ‘Les Plaines’

The 250th anniversary of the Sept. 13, 1759, fall of Quebec City to British forces was marked by a massive demonstration of the historically-based Plaines d’Abraham (Plains of Abraham). Over a 24-hour period, over 20,000 people took part in a speak-out about Quebecois and Canadian history and present-day Quebec, “Paroles, un ter- toin” in English.

Each of the over eight-hour cycles, 156 historic docu- ments were read aloud by various people, including well-known personalities. Amongst those documents were the historic Ottawa Treaties of 1763 which ended the French era and the use of their language in Canada, Pierre Laporte’s plea to former Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa to save Montreal and Quebec on “October 1970 FLQ (Front de Liberation du Quebec) Manifesto, read by the Hai- rians of the Sugar Lump who participated in the pro- gramme. This gave Quebec Premier Jean Charest and Quebec City mayor Renee Laubeune a pretext to turn down their invitation to participate and to denounce the event as “separatist.”

Originally, federal officials had planned to stage a costume re-enactment in the city centre with cutely costumed spectators. But after many people objected and threat- ened to protest, those plans were cancelled. Planning offices then claimed that there were threats of violence and that they would not be able to control the crowd. The police decided to use the parade at the 250th anniversary to use the parade at the 250th anniversary of the 1759 fall of Quebec City as a stage to highlight the importance of multiculturalism by using the names of literature tables, kiosks, and discussion groups on historical, political, social and philosophical issues. This is a step in the right direction for Quebec City in the construction of its own identity. The cultural diversity of Quebec City is a result of the large influx of immigrants, especially from English Canada, who came to Quebec in the 19th century. The cultural diversity is a result of the large influx of immigrants, especially from English Canada, who came to Quebec in the 19th century. The cultural diversity is a result of the large influx of immigrants, especially from English Canada, who came to Quebec in the 19th century.

In contrast to that policy, the Quebec of today is an increasingly pluralistic society in the true sense. Re- gaining the Plaines d’Abraham is part of the process of regaining the dignity of our thoughts and ideas, of our history as one of freedom, of real living human beings, and an understanding from which we can perceive and determine our own future.
Protests against climate suicide

Chicago—The urgency of countering climate change was on the minds of the 80 of us who rallied on Aug. 31 for action on the issue. Events like this rally—are connecting more and more people of color and labor, who have long battled pollution whether or not they were recognized as "environmentalists."

However, the connectedness of this movement were visible. Mainstream activists delivered an uninspiring, technocratic message that touted various technologies and included advocating a carbon tax, which would proportionally be heaviest on the poor. Surprisingly, those who were calling for the government plan were also calling for the House plan. One could assume that this was a built-in assumption that if the House plan was not adopted, nothing else would be done. It was also a deliberate ploy to avoid making a choice between the two plans. There is no reason to think that either plan would lead to a single-payer system. The only immediate result would be a system that covered everyone and all medical procedures, including abortion.

Hurricane Katrina, which is the very real wound of low-income people. Speakers did not seem to realize that the more main- stream environmentalists 1sky, which called this rally—they were connecting more and more people of color and labor, who have long battled pollution whether or not they were recognized as "environmentalists."

Healthcare reform

Flint, Mich.—Real objections to the two major health-care plans being debated by the U.S. Congress are lost in the noise from the right wing about "death panels" and "rationing."

The House plan HR 3200, which has three somewhat different versions, and the bill proposed by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, are variations on the same idea. Both bills would require individuals to buy health insurance or be penalized if they don’t. A major difference is that the Senate plan does not have the ability of the House bill which would allow low individuals and employers to buy insurance from a government plan. Both have penalties for not buying insurance: 2.5% of adjusted gross income in the House plan, and a flat charge of $750 to $1,500 in the Senate. In either case, paying the penalty does not mean you will have health insurance, only that you pay the tax.

A family of four with 35-year-old parents earning $30,000 per year would be forced onto Medicaid by the state Department of Environmental Conservation if they could not afford to pay premiums after the tax credit between $2,000 to $3,000, $2,000 for a child and $3,000 per year under either plan.

The 1976 Hyde Amendment has prohibited the use of federal funds for abortion. It is unclear whether abortion would be covered under either plan, since federal funds are not directly involved except through tax credits to help pay premiums. The Hyde Amendment would be repealed by the House Amendment, since more people will be forced onto Medicaid, which does use federal funds. Republican senators from rural states say they would require private health plans to cover abortion only as a special rider that would more explicitly prohibit use of federal funds.

THERE IS A REAL need for healthcare reform. The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies calculated that 47.9 million people in the U.S. are uninsured. The number of uninsured is growing, in part as a result of the loss of relatively well-paying jobs that provided health insurance.

There is a growing movement of community groups, and threatening the wine and tourism industries, with the potential for objections. It is being railroaded through. The affected area includes most of southern New York state and the Finger Lakes. The 1965 summer protests against the over 247 chemicals, 90% of which are toxic, are pumped deep into the groundwater, common occurrences where fracking is practiced.

Because of the EPA’s exemption in the law, gas exploration companies are not required to disclose the list of chemicals nor their amounts or concentrations. The affected area includes much of southern New York State, and has already been taken place in more than a year. Proceedings against the EPA, which would allow the company to have the fuel gas and gas production of the state, could be one day become a "bargain" at your local community college.

The day after our action here, the company stopped paying the 2,800 workers who still employ and their management was to stop the blockade if they wanted to feed their families. Workers rejected this attempt to divide them. After a Sept. 24 roadblock by 250 workers, the Labor Ministry ordered the company to pay the wages owed. Klark declared it would not pay, and called 300 police to storm the factory, shooting tear gas and rubber bullets at occupiers and their supporters raiding out side, including children. They detained 65 people within the few hours and four people, one of the largest march was held in Buenos Aires and roadblocks were set in several other factories. Subway workers held three work stoppages, and protesters took up traffic in Buenos Aires with roadblocks three days later. On July 17, the heads of the CTA labor federation and the food and beverage workers union, Moyano and Daer respectively, who called the Klark strike an "ultraleftist" and in effect supported the repression.

Solidarity actions have also taken place in Brazil and the U.S. On July 16, the North Carolina AFL-CIO announced the heads of the CTA labor federation and the food and beverage workers union, Moyano and Daer respectively, who called the Klark strike an "ultraleftist" and in effect supported the repression.

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We are determined and need all the help we can get. Please visit our website (http://www.nyclean.org).
Labor actions continue across Egypt, including among workers in the textile industry. The largely undercapitalized, re-
privatize the industry, has been attempting to private the industry, which is labor-intensive and undercapitalized, re-
Last month workers at Mahalla al-Kubra's Abul Seba textile facto-
NEO-FASCISM IN UK
On Sept. 11, anti-fascists and local residents battled riot police at a Red Lion Football League (ELDL) in Harrow, northwest London. The ELDL had targetted a new mosque for attack. Similar fighting has taken out in a number of other cities in recent weeks.

In opposing this capitalistic, racist, thug vacuum with attacks on immigrants, Muslims, like the EDL and Combat 18, have moved to fill the vacuum with attacks on immigrants, Muslims, other minorities, women, youth and those seeking freedom, as Marxist-Humanism. This is the vantage point for re-creating the humanist vision of the future, for the independence movement to reject the support of hard-line Islamist parties. But the outgoing government, which granted Aceh limited autonomy. The Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) has promissed, in the mass outpouring for freedom following the stolen election, to reject hard-line Islamist parties. But the outgoing parliament is far from the religious fantasies of the Muslim Brotherhood. But workers' struggles are mak-
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Mexico
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crises, particularly in the U.S., and second in relation to the swine flu problems of this spring. The economy is expected to decrease by some 7% for the year. Almost half of Mexico's population currently live in conditions of poverty.

There has been a continual increase in numbers of the poor during President Calderon's first three years in office, including an estimated poverty rate of 61% in the countryside.

This economic statistic does not speak concretely enough to the reality of widespread poverty and outright misery that affects so many ordinary Mexi-
cans today. Nor does it speak to the developing resistance.

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WORLD VIEW
by Gerry Emmett

Egyptian textile workers' actions spread

STRIKING WORKERS AT MAHALLA AL-KUBRA'S ABOUL SEBA TEXTILE FACTORY.}

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NEWSLETTERS – www.newsandletters.org OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2009

Egyptian textile workers’ actions spread

men? Here are the women!}

The world and life experiences of Egyptian workers are removed from their narrow, capitalistic consciousness of power, as well as from the religious fantasies of the Muslim Brotherhood. But workers’ struggles are mak-

stille struggle against Saddam Hussein’s old-age labor laws which remain on the books of the new “democracy,” or among the combative Iranian workers who are also beginning to form independent union organizations to resist the mass outpouring for freedom following the stolen elections.

In April parliamentary elections, voters in Achet rejected hard-line Islamist parites. But the outgoing parliament is far from the religious fantasies of the Muslim Brotherhood. But workers’ struggles are making themselves felt. For the last year, the state-controlled General Union of Textile Workers (GUTW) has been attempting to organize strikes at most of the major dyes. At Mahalla al-Kubra’s Mi-

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The proposed Colombian base agreement comes after the European Union has now begun to move to end it. Rather, workers withdrew support for the government, which granted Aceh limited autonomy. It would be false to be optimistic that Aceh fell now to such reactionary tendencies. It is to be hoped that the new parliament will reject such an outcome.

Who We Are and What We Stand For

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