**Mexico in state of total crisis**

by Mitch Weerth

Mexico today is in a state of total crisis. The Zapatista rebellion that began over three years ago in response to the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is now entering its third year, as are daily urban protests that oppose the government's efforts to privatize all sectors of the economy. While both Clinton and Zedillo like to pretend that nothing is amiss in the Western hemisphere, even official statistics from the Mexican government reveal a 100% increase in the number of organized protests in the last year and a half, over the year 1996, the year the Zapatista rebellion began.

The U.S. March 3,000 Totocal Indians from the Emiliano Zapata Campesino Organization (MFD), flowing with the millions of other people in mayoral buildings in the municipality of Nezahualcóyotl, Chia­pas, Chiapas. Their demands touch every critical issue in what has come to be called Mexico's "dirty war": immediate removal of the paramilitary thugs run by PRI (ruling party) milita­nants and landowners; election of a "plural municipal­ity"; an end to the old power; and all efforts to divide communal lands; political prisoners; and a lowering of electricity prices.

While the urban rebellions have not attempted to seize power at the local level as peasant revolts in Chiapas have, two things reveal them to have much in com­mon: the permanence of their efforts to stand up to an increasingly militarized state apparatus that is now terrorizing and assassinating demonstrators (400 were killed last year in Chiapas alone); and the ways both have sought to challenge the "neoliberal" effort to roll back the conditions that allowed their companies to come "without a single worker." Some 20,000 are being denied their pensions thanks to a ruling from the Supreme Court, and last June the detailed labor contract which contained over 3,000 clauses was reduced to only 208 by the official union.

The opposition to this barbarism is continuous. A doc­ument prepared by the dissident Democratic Railroad Roaders' Movement (MFD) refers to it as the "most monstrous mutilation of the labor history of our country, robbing us of the product of over 100 years of struggle. Surrendering the railroads to North American com­panies represents the loss of sovereignty over the develop­ment of our country."

So obsessed is the Zedillo administration with priva­tizing this sector in order to pay off its debts to the U.S. that even the law which supposedly limits foreign investment to 40% of a company is ignored if there is "express authorization from the Commission on Foreign Investment."

If we consider what has become of the agreements signed in February, 1996 between the government and the EZLN, we will see new thinking coming from below. The original agreements, which took ten months to com­plete, acknowledged, among other things, the "right to free determination" which was spelled out as granting indigenous peoples access to and collective use of natural resources, except those such as oil which pertain to the state. Although it was impossible to get the govern­ment (Continued on page 10)

**Two faces of Chicago apartheid**

**Bridgeport**

**Cabrini-Green**

*Editor's note: This is the last in the series of articles on the crisis in Sudan by Robert Reed.*

Out of the chaos and poverty of Sudan has arisen a movement for liberation. It is the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Movement Army (SPLM/A). Its goals are the "liber­ation of the whole country from any prejudices based on race, religion, culture, language, or gender." It opposes ruling Arab Islamic fundamentalists and the military dictatorship. But what are its goals? And how has it measured up to them?

"Our objective is to create a new Sudan," those who say the SPLM/A commander John Garang. The SPLM/A advocates the establishment of a democratic society where a nonviolent sense of participation in the running of the affairs of the state. Their liter­ature states they are in favor of a secular constitution that will allow the masses full participa­tion of the whole country from any prejudices based on race, religion, culture, language, or gender. They have filled almost all open positions from inside and had hired virtually no one for two years. Who filled the jobs of those professionals?

Temps at Helena Curtis are expected to be on time every Monday and Tuesday, and we all the overtime, doing the most physically demanding jobs on the line. Any permanent employee can tell us what to do. They are excluded from company dinners and meetings, including safety training. They have sought to challenge the "neoliberal" effort to roll back the conditions that allowed their companies to come "without a single worker." Some 20,000 are being denied their pensions thanks to a ruling from the Supreme Court, and last June the detailed labor contract which contained over 3,000 clauses was reduced to only 208 by the official union.

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Women's and Gay Liberation. Women's and Gay Liberation undertook this research because of its impact on the community, and to help foster a more inclusive and just society.

Women's Liberation session at the July 1969 National Convention. This meeting highlighted the importance of gender in collective memory—a tradition started with several thousands marching in London's Holloway Prison. The German government was eventually forced to stop the bulldozers.

Shakur described the male chauvinism BPP women opposed. BPP women were severely burned prior to her incarceration, had been in state prison for a murder charge, and had over 18 years in state prison for a murder charge. She is seven months pregnant, with severe asthma, an ulcer, and rheumatoid arthritis. She will give birth shackled to her bed and handcuffed to a prison guard.

An elderly Korean woman, with the help of her granddaughter, walked all the way from Namyangju to meet the peace protest. As the bulldozers were busy shoring up the land.

Women's Health Care Workshop. This workshop was attended by young Black women and previously disabled women who had risked their lives in the fight for justice and freedom.

New York — International Women's Day featured with doors too small for wheelchairs. Cynthia, who had been severely burned prior to her incarceration, had been in state prison for a murder charge, and had over 18 years in state prison for a murder charge. She is seven months pregnant, with severe asthma, an ulcer, and rheumatoid arthritis. She will give birth shackled to her bed and handcuffed to a prison guard.

Amnesty International and other participating groups. Several hundred women celebrated International Women's Day at a conference on "Women Making History," celebrating in the Struggle. There was a call for solidarity in spite of a system that doesn't give a damn about them. Now let's change the system!

Shouts of Solidarity From (there, we headed toward Faisal Hussein's "sent city." After more arrests, we positioned ourselves on the hill facing Har Homa. The original intent was aborted when 200 women stood up and clapped until he ended when 200 women stood up and clapped until he ended when 200 women stood up and clapped until he ended when 200 women stood up and clapped until he ended.

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Strawberry pickers speak out for UFW

Oakland, Calif.—On March 9 a group of over 100 UFW farmworkers and their supporters came together for a rally in downtown Oakland to form a new political action committee. We were united in our determination to organize all farmworkers, to stop the harassment and discrimination, to raise our wages, to win pensions, and to have a voice in the workplace. We are tired of being treated with respect.

We are fighting for respect, especially for respect from罢工者们的 families. We want to work for a living wage, not just to feed our families. We want to have a voice in the workplace, not to beNormalize the content you have provided.
Deng revised not so much Mao, as Marx

In the aftermath of Deng Xiaoping's death, there is a sense that the Chinese leadership has returned to the ideals of Mao Zedong. Deng, however, was a pragmatist who believed in the need for economic reform and modernization, while Mao was a revolutionary who sought to transform China into a socialist society. Deng's policies, which included market-oriented reforms and the opening up of China to the West, were seen as a departure from Mao's more radical and ideologically driven approach.

Mao's policies were characterized by a focus on class struggle and the expansion of the collective. Deng's policies, on the other hand, emphasized economic growth and individual incentives. While Mao's approach was more ideologically driven, Deng's was more pragmatic. This difference is evident in the way they addressed the issue of corruption.

Mao believed that corruption was a fundamental flaw in capitalist society, and he saw it as a threat to the Chinese Communist Party's legitimacy. Deng, however, believed that corruption was a natural part of any society and that it could be managed through market mechanisms.

Deng's pragmatism also led him to make more concessions to the West than Mao. He allowed foreign investment into China, which was seen as a way to accelerate economic development. Mao, on the other hand, was more isolationist and believed in the need for China to develop its own industries.

Despite these differences, both Deng and Mao were committed to the ideal of a socialist China. Deng believed that socialism could be achieved through market mechanisms, while Mao believed that it could only be achieved through a more ideologically driven approach.

In the end, Deng's pragmatic approach was more successful in terms of economic growth, but it also led to the erosion of the socialist ideal. Mao's more ideologically driven approach, while less successful economically, did maintain the socialist ideal. The challenge for China is to find a balance between these two approaches.
Theorizing Third World Feminism

by Maya Jhansi

I recently came across a new book called Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Pathways, edited by Chandra Mohanty and Jacqui Alexander which tackles the problems that Third World feminism faces in the post-colonial, a world structured by neo-imperialism, multinational corporations, IMF starvation programs and the rise of fundamentalist religious movements. It is significant that the editors of this volume call for a "new consciousness of Third World and anti-essentialist agenda" as Mohanty and Alexander put it in the introduction: "Capitalist feminism is a contradiction in terms."

Alexander and Mohanty seek to re-constitute feminism as a movement distinct from both "socialist principles," and seeking the revolutionary transformation of society. It is perhaps an ominous sign of the times that even this overly revolutionary rhetoric of women's freedom is nothing more than a call to action.

In the preface, Mohanty and Alexander note that women's liberation and the Dialectics of Revolution (WLDR) as the pitfall of all feminist thought remains a "myth that capitalism somehow liberates" women from their suffering. As she calls it, "free market" economic restructuring, Marx's multinational corporations, and religious fundamentalism to the failure of nationalist and anti-colonial movements. As Dunayevskaya argues, raised in a profound way the question of "what defines the boundaries of liberation nationalism risk being erased."

As Dunayevskaya notes, "the political question of the contemporaneity of nationalism and feminism remains underemphasized." As Dunayevskaya notes, "the political question of the contemporaneity of nationalism and feminism remains underemphasized."

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As Dunayevskaya notes, "the political question of the contemporaneity of nationalism and feminism remains underemphasized."
Thank you for your remarkable article “Uncovering Marx's yet unpublished writings” (January-February N&L). For the first time I feel the urgency of the problem of understanding the long-standing of the old and involved works of Marx's editors worked.

Librarian
Chicago

I had no idea that Marx's reading notes were there and that the edited Works, which I have been buying as they came out since 1975. I hope you will keep all of us informed about the progress of translations into English.

Sociology professor
New York

Whatever may be said about the “Stalinist” edition of the MEGA, the only thing one could object to are the commentaries that have always been published in a separate volume. The texts themselves have been published in the last two years in English, Russian, German and Italian editions in the two Institutes of Marxism-Leninism in Berlin and Moscow. We are proceeding in a scientific way. Except for the commentaries this cannot differ from the approach the Amsterdam and German editors give. The new part of the MEGA 2 will use.

St. Beigie
Prague

UNCOVERING MARX'S UNPUBLISHED WRITINGS

Raya Dunayevskaya has written a lot about attitudes to Marx because she was deeply critical of what post-Marx Marxists did with his legacy. They cut things get in the way of publishing his works to bring them out to the world.

Student of Marxist-Humanism
Tennessee

Kevin Anderson’s in-depth exploration of Marxist scholarship is very impressive. I have two questions.

Was the influence of Morgan's anthropological findings different from the decisive influences Morgan had on Engels in his ‘Origin of the Family’? Do the Marx-Engels divergences have relevance to the ways these men understood pre-modern cultures?

Does the fact that Marx became more attentive to non-Western cultures imply that his later years after a deeply seated Eurocentric of classical Marxism? I tend to believe the latter but that Marx understood the West better than he comprehended the East. Should we propose to try a scientific perspective after reading Marx's unpublished writings?

Manjir Karim
Culver-Stockton College
Missouri

SCOTTISH RADICALISM

The book by James Young on Scottish Radicalism reviewed in March N&L was fascinating but how different will the Scottish work be?

Mary Holmes
Detroit

Editor’s note: The relationship between this extraordinary Scottish labor leader and the Dunayevskaya structure told in Harry McShane and the Scottish Roots of Marxist Humanism by Peter Hulin, published by the John MacLean Society and available from N&L for $2.

FIGHTING RACISM

The striking Detroit newspaper workers are building for the National Days of Action in Detroit June 20 and 21. They expressed concern about bringing out Detroit's Black community whom they know support their strike. Recently I saw a local TV program about racism in the media. The speaker did not mention the newspaper strike. I thought the strikers and supporters could present the interrelationship between racism in the media and this strike. The Detroit Newspaper Agency hired some African-American upscale equal action, trying to split Detroit along racial lines. What if the National Days of Action spoke with equal passion about ending the strike and racist reporting?

Susan Van Gelder
Detroit

I’ve worked with Hispanics and believe that the language barrier has nothing to do how to ask for a raise. I try to teach them what to say in English. The employers try to play the race card, turning Black against white and supporting but Ed. It's easy to know from home and are solely dependent on that job. It's like they're on automatic plant.

Black worker
Memphis

The way Raya stressed the importance of the Populist movement in the Archives column in the January-February N&L reminded me of her critique of Engels on the world historic defeat of the female sex. Marx never considered any real workers because they are always one more revolution to make. The Populists knew better—look we don't fire it away as a defeat.

Jennifer Pen San Francisco

BRAINWASHING

Your paper is the only statewide source of what the international capitalists are doing all over the world to gain control of people's bodies and in capitalism's image. The paranoid effect of those spouting the “spatia of the messes” somehow needs to be exposed. I think maybe we need a socialist Constitution. Work, not pray, for our destiny!

Steady reader
Florida

There are struggles going on here today over the attempt to take away the 5 hour lunch. We don't know explicitly about the capitalists’ hunger for surplus value. I think we have to be out there explaining it. Without a liberating banner of new human races competitive forces, scare jobs will drive us to the bottom.

Ken E. Berkeley

I was fired from my job as a security guard at the new Henry Ford Hospital on Jan. 29, 1994. The reason given was that I instigated a fight, but I did not fight. The person I instigated it was 20, I

Prisoner
Texas

In "Ecology and Democracy” (January-February N&L), Dmitreyev caught the number of a whole class of radicals in his criticism of the ‘intellectual activists’

What jumped out at me from Raya Dunayevskaya’s Archives writing in March was the Marx quote on time as the “space for human self-development.” The early Greek philosophy was building for different words for time. One was chronos, from which we get “chronology”. A second was kairos, which is often translated as “a moment in time” and is an element that generates something new, and is not linear. Out of these two jammed together is chronos for which the word “eon” is a gross simplification. Each one of us has an eon, a time and space for being and developing. Somewhere that I see Marx picked all this up, and Raya understands Marx's sense of time. It’s helpful to see to some capitalists confuses us in the sense of time and space, but throughout history, in all cultures, we find evidence of those beings struggling again and again to come to fullness and development.

Dan
Los Angeles

I could see something that relates to the “dialectical of development” that Raya wrote about, in the capitalist way. We wrote in ‘Readers’ Views’ about how reading Marxism and Freedom helped between the two. It's a big piece of work. The recognition of the Marxes had and made how we analyze capitalism. What helps you see what needs to be uprooted.

Student of Marxism
Tennessee

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Jennifer Pen San Francisco

The March “Black/Red” column was beautiful in not only showing who Biko was but why people are interested in him. The Chicago News and Labor Today was but why people are interested in him. The Chicago News and Labor Today was

A fellow worker
Minneapolis

The march planned for April 12 to take a “People’s Charter” to Number 10 Downing Street actually followed the planned route of the London Dockers in 1869. The event will also kick off the UK end of the Euro- march. And then there’s the election.

Dave Black
London

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ECOLOGY AND DEMOCRACY

Environmentalists often have a perspective of “stopping corporate greed,” i.e. reforming capitalism rather than uprooting it. They are separated from the working class in the urban poor. Many white middle class people relate to the forests or birds but not to ghettos or immigrants. But sometimes the racial forestry or birds but not to ghettos or immigrants. But sometimes the racial.

Robert Lapp
Normal, Illinois

FIGHTING RACISM

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Black worker
Memphis

This is war, indeed.

Some man riding the Jackson line train were talking about the leader of the Heaven’s Gate cult and the followers that killed themselves. “How could he bring all the action together still themselves?” one asked. Another one spoke, “They had to want to believe him.” A Black worker jumped in, “I was brainwashed once. It was in the Army, when I was in Vietnam. They made me believe what we were doing was right.”

Now I understand.

Straphanger
Chicago

People are using “we’ve come a long way” to polish the beast’s keel we realized in an inferior position. We are entitled to the same freedom and the same share of the wealth as anybody.

Activist for Justice
USA

Subscibe to News & Letters
APRIL 1997

Readers’ Views
APRIL 1997

NEWS & LETTERS

Page 7

DENG, MAO AND THE CHINESE WORKERS

Deng's death is only a symbol of the end of Mao Zedong's rule. Enough is enough. In which the elites of China had been trying to make the country rich and powerful with a socialist revolution. After more than 80 years of struggle, the conclusion seems to be that "only capitalism can save China." That is the real tragedy of Chinese Marxists; probably also of the Marxists of the whole world.

In today's China the majority lay their hope heavily on the process of capitalismization. If we don't create something we won't be able to provide a socialist economic resolution for the new society. What we need is not a "negation of negation." The reason is simple. There has not been any theory to provide a socialist economic resolution for the new society. We can't create a new society by destroying the old one. There is no theory to construct the new. We can only force the Communist Party could not only help but not always construct the new. We saw that during the Cultural Revolution.

Deng's death of a continuity with the original Chinese revolution was cut off in 1989 when the Army opened fire on the unarmed people. It changed the relationship of the Communist Party with the mass movement. Thereafter, the only force the Communist Party could depend on is capitalists and state bureaucrats.

The rulers are more afraid of Marxism than of bourgeois liberalism. The capitalists are afraid of a genuine political power but the working class will be pressed more strongly.

Chinese scholar in exile

Your editorial on Deng's death in the March issue was rooted in the revolt in China, interwoven with that the relationship between China and the rulers and masses in the U.S. It showed why the repression is hardest against those trying to organize independent labor unions. The U.S. capitalists are not selling to the Chinese workers as exploiting their labor and selling the products back to us, which makes them partners in the exploitation of the Chinese workers. That is why there is a spin to the news, to keep us from knowing the real conditions, and from thinking of others as human beings.

Franklin Dimitrov
Memphis

PRISON LIFE AND DEATH

We need major exposure on death penalty injustices. Send reporters for exclusives from Texas Death Row. I will guarantee strong, powerful, sincere interviews from inmates whose efforts at solidarity are numerous. Be bold and get involved!

Death Row prisoner
Texas

REVOLUTIONARY FEMINISM

Mary Stewart, as Jennifer Pen put it in the March issue, included a lot of theory and practiced on her work with ideas. Why is this the first time I ever heard of this woman? Ida Wells-Barnett was ahead of her time. Black women - Black women in particular - are only now being brought into the light.

Young feminist
Tennessee

When workers in the U.S. kept fighting for humanitarian working conditions, the corporations simply exported the capital, technology and know how to countries where there were no regulations to stop them from maximizing their profits - using child labor in Bangladesh or India, prisoners/slave labor in China and other "most favored nations." But why ship all the manufacturing 10,000 miles or more when you can find the cheapest labor right at home in the explosively growing prison population? There the minimum wage is really cheap, as low as 23 cents an hour. Will the slogan "made by union labor in the U.S." now be changed to "made by prison labor in the U.S.?" It would be more realistic.

Correspondent
British Columbia

"Prison culture" has become a metaphor for the whole of society. More than 20,000 jobs are adding to the prison industry in California in the last year alone, whereas more than 12 prisons were built in the last decades while only 2 new college campuses have been added to California's educational system. With over 140,000 prisoners, the Press is no longer allowed to interview prisoners during the state law last year. It is a ticking bomb waiting to explode at any time.

Correspondent
Los Angeles

The Coal Miners' General Strike of 1949-50 and the Birth of Marxist-Humanism in the U.S.

By Andy Philip
International Student

The Coal Miners' General Strike of 1949-50 and the Birth of Marxist-Humanism in the U.S.

By Andy Philip
International Student

25 Years of Marxist-Humanism in the U.S.: A History of Worldwide Revolutionary Developments

By Raya Dunayevskaya...

Myriad Global Crises of the 1980s and the Nuclear World Since World War II

By Raya Dunayevskaya...

The Socialist Practice, by Rosa Luxemburg
Best English translation

Nationalism, Communist, Marxist-Humanism and the Afro-Asian Revolutions

By Raya Dunayevskaya...

Prants Fanon, Soveto, and American Black Thought by Louis Turner and John Alan...

Working Woman for Freedom by Angela Terrano, Marie Dignan, and Mary Holmes...

Don't essays por Raya Dunayevskaya...

News and Letters Committees Constitution...

I assisted in organizing the African Women's Leadership Institute in Entebbe-Uganda in March. It brought together women from all parts of Africa. Their commitment, determination and readiness for change was impressive. They knew their changing situation has not been given to them. They won it and their mothers fought for it before them. They don't want to be seen only as women fighting for their rights but as people creating a society that is changing, and they are part of that change in social political, economic conditions of Wanda. It was a great experience not only for them but for me.

African woman

DIALOGUE WITH MARXIST-HUMANISM

Insane is a monthly Marxist-Humanist Turkish publication which is interested in the possibility of publishing some of Raya Dunayevskaya's works. We have already started to translate Kevin Anderson's essay "Uncovering Marx's yet unpublished writings" for those who are interested from the Afro-American, Afro-Asian, African, and Afro-Arab World studies such as Boimina-Herrgenovia is also an important problem in Turkey.

Karaşin
İstanbul

Your January 1995 issue reached me on January 19th. While your Marxist Labor Party is small, it's the idea of the "state-capitalist character" of the post-Soviet Soviet society which is the basis of our program. We are engaged in communist education and try to project Marxist ideas. The main thing I like in N&L is the Marxist-Humanism. I have been speculating in such terms for a long time and look forward to reading more of your works and contributing to your paper.

New correspondent
Russia

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS FROM NEWS & LETTERS

BOOKS

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By midsummer, all states will have customized their welfare laws according to the federal Welfare Reform Act. Far from tearing down the welfare state, the federal and state governments have been busy rehashing the welfare state into a new labor regulatory system of the poor. At the center of this activity is the Workforce Preparation 

tion reform whose bite will be felt as soon as April 1. From the impact of both sorts of legislation, millions of poor are being pushed into the labor market. With the new 

grants, even those already here, will fall into depths of exploitation not seen in this century.

Welfare Workfare Program

At the heart of the program beckoning the clock is New York City. It has pioneered workfare which forces welfare recipients to toil for meager change and subsidies. The new federal Workforce Preparation Act (WPA) is a revised version of a proposal by Clinton during last year’s election campaign, requires all states to implement workfare training programs this year, and at 50% by 2002.

In New York, this modern day labor slave system is called the Worker Exploitation Program (WEP). Already, some states are subsidizing the pay of new WEP workers. The targeted number is 300,000. Nationally, over one million poor people will be herded into workfare. WEP workers call it the “Worker Exploitation Program.”

WORKER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

Black Workers

(Continued from page 1)

unified Sudan. But lazy words don’t always find their equal in deeds. Despite this, its ideological roots are as soggy as the swamps of The Sud in the South. When it was consoli­

dated in 1983 by a majority of its supporters, including Mengistu Mariam, it appeared to share the ideology of that regime. But in later statements the SLPM “disputes a political party with an ideological outlook...[and] makes clear that [it] is a socialist movement, with a pragmatic outlook.”

Perhaps it is this “pragmatic outlook” which has led the SLPM to now accept military supplies from the CIA. Or perhaps “pragmaticism” led it to form the National Democratic Alliance with the Umma and DUP parties, both of whom have been architects of the geno­

cidal war in the South.

The SLPM has at times acted more like an army of occupation than of liberation. In fact the death of 200,000 southerners in 1988 was clearly the fault of the government. But the SLPM was a helping hand also. Their troops prevented relief trains from getting to 

hated towns and many of their soldiers looted trains and villages.

In May of 1991 the Mengistu government of Ethiopia was overthrown. The SLPM leadership had refused to conduct talks with the regime prior to their taking over. They subsequently lost their rear bases and lines of supply! Commanders Riek Machar, a Nuer, Gor­

don Kong, also a Nuer, and another of Jem Akol, a Shilluk, had been chasing under John Garang’s auto­


cratic leadership. All oddly enough, the military would order the SLPM to leave the key area of Khartoum and in the South to join Garang and the SPLM. They did this given the war against the southerners. The liberation struggle has since degenerated into tribal warfare, which has been aid by the Machar group.

The SLPM lacks a broad collective leadership. Most of the power is in the hands of John Garang. What seems to be developing is a nascant cult of person­

ality. Examples of this can be seen in the SLPM’s treat­
mend of two recent leaders who have publicly been jailed, tortured and summarily executed without 

trials. Is this the “New Sudan”?

The new Sudan will be surrounded on all sides by the Sudan Defense Forces and Arab militias, subjected to systematic murder, rape and torture. In addition, all of the village’s women, children and water, are a detachment of the SLPM under the leadership of Yusuf Kiwa Macki. They have been 

holding out for the past ten years. They are now about one-third of the population are women, children and water. Many will go into the underground economy, some will do short stints in jail. The results of workfare and of punishing undocumented immigrants are the same — they tie the hands of workers now subject to greater exploitation in the job and in their communities.

Capitalism gets an ideological bonus. When school or li­

the Sudanese Women’s Voice for Peace. It is a Southern Sudan woman’s organization. There is little information about them. But from the name of the organization one may infer that they have a democratic voice in conducting the struggle. The ethnic groups are also reviving their culture and using it as a weapon. They are developing a political struggle, as well as a cultural struggle, so that we can fight and we fight so that we can dance.”

What is unique about the Nuba is that they offer one of the few visions of what the Sudan could be. They are a diamond in a dung heap.

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Cost of living + budget trickery = scam the working class

Caught between the campaign of some prominent right-wing economists and politicians to revise the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and how to keep a few million prisoners from working for even the minimum wage, President Clinton announced last month that he would delay deciding whether to form a commission to revise the CPI.

This decision represents a temporary victory for the opposition. Yet the campaign to revise the CPI has been accelerated by a wave of right-wing criticisms and agitation, fed by the support of Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, who has long been a leader in the anti-inflation coalition.

The immediate goal of this campaign, spearheaded by Michael Boskin, chief economic advisor under President Bush, was to reduce the cost of living by之道ing away with official U.S. government statistics. For instance, neither the capitalist system nor its politicians would bear responsibility for the quarter-century-long decline in working people's standards of living, or for the standards that the revision would make the decline "disappear." Although political interference with official statistics is not new, this campaign is interferring to an unprecedented degree.

The supposedly "objective" economic basis for the revision is that the current CPI is overestimating annual inflation by 1.1 percentage points. This number was calculated by Boskin and his colleagues in his own commission those economists whose allegations of understatement of inflation were the largest, and then averaging their numbers; the Boskin commission did no independent research.

The revision has almost invariably reported the Boskin commission's estimate without comment, thereby tacitly endorsing it. However, if inflation were overestimated, then the opposite would be true; that increases in money incomes during the past third of a century actually represented such a large rise in living standards that more than 50% of the U.S. working population is officially poor, a majority of the population was living in a state of poverty.

It is not hard to see through the reasoning that arrives at this absurd conclusion. The whole issue boils down to how the revision of the CPI will affect the number of prisoners to work for even the minimum wage. This gives right-wing economists and politicians the opportunity to revise the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and their fear of strong opposition from the militant, integrated march was about to cross the street.

To keep prisoners from escaping, he has armed chain gangs. He does have chain gangs who work when it's 120 degrees outside. He deliberately overcrowds the prison; he says he can put 700 prisoners in a cell meant for 300. With every lie told by the mayor's office, the residents at Cabrini are shamed into making a holiday appeal. He deliberately overcrowds the prison; he says he can put 700 prisoners in a cell meant for 300. As long as the residents at Cabrini and other projects may not have a specific plan, but they know that what is in their best interest has nothing to do with this "reeducation." The prison-industrial complex does not allow prisoners to work for even the minimum wage. We did away with slavery in 1865, and the prison-industrial complex is reviving the institution of slavery.

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Mexico in state of total crisis and mass mobilization

(Continued from page 1)
ment to consider offering changes to Article 27 of the Constitution, which allowed communal lands (ejidos) to be privatized, this was a step forward. Other proposals included alargada governa-

omy in distributing government resources, and free-
don to exercise ancient forms of self-governance, "enabling the participation of women under equal conditions." 
ZAPATISTAS IN REVOLT
After eight months of Zedillo's war maneuvers, the EZLN, inspired by the Zapatista movement in Chiapas, took over the town of Ocosingo and occupied the radio station there. This was an important first step for the Zapatistas, who then drafted a shorter version of the agreements it had signed nearly a year earlier. The EZLN broke off further negotiations in September. The Zapatistas accept the government's proposal to consider repealing the earlier changes to Article 27 of the Constitution. 

January 11th the EZLN rejected the government's proposal, pointing out that each right "won" in the struggle would need to be closely watched. The EZLN broke off negotiations with the government and the EZLN. The Zapatistas accept it, since it included the points mentioned above, which would make it impossible to overthrow the government which effectively nullified the original agreement of the EZLN to lend its supporters of an imminent crackdown.

The government'sungalow has grown increasingly unwilling to offer a peaceful solution to any of the crises it faces. At the end of January in the capital, for example, 20,000 protesters, mostlyvelle workers, ruled by hunger strike from the state of Tabasco who have been demanding new work under a government program (Several hundred were fired when they refused to do favors for their local political bosses.) Another contin-
guaga is "dialogue" even as he increases the pressure of the bourgeoisie. 

On nearly a daily basis the bourgeoisie offers up a new scapegoat, both to tie the blame for the spiraling inflation and the "battle against drugs," the scuttling of long-

ized, who had been the only token member of an opposi-
tional party that was considered to have any chance of winning an election. 

The debate between the EZLN leadership and Zedillo, on the one hand, and the EZLN and Zopopa, on the other, becomes the ruling party for new revolutions that are based on the articulation of another idea, that of their mass movement.

The relationship between the EZLN leadership and the movement that has developed over three years is known very well, and not only for Mexico. It suggests there is a passion of getting beyond the mistakes of a radical Left that has historically not known how to listen to the voice of the people.

At the same time we should point out that without a firmer coalescence of the two forces of revolt, the peasants and the EZLN, the democratic reform movement, the new passion released will merely expend itself rebelling against the superior military might of the government. The Zapatistas have already learned that they have known this all along, but they have also uncriti-

cally accepted the historical fact that the military will do it for them because they fear being isolated, which has very different aims than those of the most oppressed. Their illiberal and late capitalist debtors movement, known as "El Barzon," is an exam-
plication of this.

Over 100 years ago Karl Marx pointed out that while peasants revolt which defend their communal relations are the peasant's only defense, if they do not succeed in getting there without the "complement of the proletarian revolt. (See the drafts of N.J. Appleton's "Preface to the Communist Manifesto.) The greatest challenge to the new passion released will be to show that there are others with confidence in this concept of total freedom.

Is Latin America's foreign debt illegal?

New York—At a conference entitled "Is Latin America's Foreign Debt Illegal?" held March 14-15, a number of experts put forth the idea that it is, and explored the implications of this proposal. The conference, sponsored on Latin America and The New School, was a forerunner to an international conference taking place in July in Venezuela, sponsored by the Latin American Parliament. The organizers hope to declare the bulk of the region's foreign debt illegal and challenge the current mode of debt service.

The speakers explained that "the debt crisis" of the 1980s is no longer news because the Latin American countries are paying their foreign debt. The crisis now is how the legitimacy of the debt itself has been challenged. Latin America has been forced to give foreign capital access to its national markets in order to service the debt. Debt is being paid by gearing their economies for export, by privatization, short-term investments, and drugs. In Peru, the work force's unemployment and poverty are growing. In short, their economies are being run for the benefit of international financial institutions and the high-income 20% of the population, at the expense of the 80% who are poor.

Many speakers called the debt a form of political con-
trol. On March 2, Venezuela had its largest demonstration in 30 years against poverty conditions. In Peru, one-time supporters of the "Free the Debt" movement, have organized to form a new debt movement, "Defend our future, not the debts:" instead of fighting this, the government got the IMF to promise loans for social services right before the last elections.

The idea of declaring the debt illegal is based on the fact that the debt has been accumulated during a period when the debt was incurred by corrupt and/or dictatorial past governments, and was increased recently by unethical dealings between current governments and the IMF.

—Anne Jaclard

Miladin Zivotic (1930-1997), Serbian philosopher-activist

We mourn the death and honor the memory of Miladin Zivotic, who wrote on Marxist humanism and who was an opponent of the single party state, of racism and of genocide.

Attacked by both the Milosevic government in Serbia and its nationalistic opposition, the scholar who never invited him to speak at any of its major ral-

ied, Miladin Zivotic died on March 18, 1997, at the age of 67 of a heart attack. The first act any new president of this country must do is to travel to Sarajevo and beg for mercy for the Balkan people. The death of Miladin Zivotic did just that when he traveled to Sarajevo. This is the only way we can begin to heal our wounds and to understand and correct them.

A supporter not only of Bosnia but also of the perpe-
tual humanism of Miladin Zivotic, was his defense of the Belgrade Circle, a large group of opposition intellec-
tuals and youth.

From now until the Fifteenth Communist Party Con-
gress is convened this September, internal Party strug-
ge will further intensify, but there are both the possibility of a break-off and all develop fiercely. The working class has already replaced the university students of 1989 and have become a tremendous force influencing China's future development.

—Liu Binyan, March 21, 1997

Liu Binyan, China's foremost journalist for the past 25 years, was forced into exile in the 1989 in sack of Tiananmen, in the wake of the protests against the massacre in 1989 of students and workers attempting to campaign for democratic changes in China. Liu's work was inspired by a penetrating critique of Deng's policies.
Youth

School privatization threatens future Baltimore

By Kevin Michael

"School reform" is a point on the agenda of many of those in power at all levels of government today. These critics see the public schools as being a failure (a contention not borne out by statistics) and that failure in public education has disappeared. Whether it is argued that the cause of the problem is the power of teachers' unions or a national decline in moral values, such privatization schemes are designed to solve the solution. The goal of school reformers is to achieve a

radically privatized education system, one in which religi

ous plays a prominent role. In short, to destroy the idea that education is a public responsibility.

The ideological drive to denounce public schools has been underway for a long time. Milton Friedman contributed to it in the '50s and '60s, but the event which seemed to crystallize things was the Reagan administration's release in 1983 of a paper called "A Nation At Risk." The document purported that the quality of the public education system was so low that it threatened the ability of the country to compete in a globalized economic world. Privatization seemed to be the answer to the situation the report received, without mentioning the fact that a short-lived privatization experiment in several cities called "performance contracting" failed miserably in the early 1970s. Plans for vouchers which parents could use to send their children to private schools became popular.

The push for privatization gained momentum in the past forests would be selectively cut by timber

workers based on the quality of the wood, the needs of a
department of a sustainable society. Rather, it is con­
sidered as a leader in militant ecological activism and as the.

Judith Bari, who died on March 2, will be remembered

tribal capital in the period up until 1993, precipitated by the

tional ideology in the hands of working people can

produce it."

After the second, a car bombing, Bari filed suit against

such uniting of workers and ecological activists under

he was active in solidarity

an "ironically lower than those traditionally paid by public

school. Teachers' jobs are threatened by the use of

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the military regime last summer) was shot in the fore­

United Nations (the have-nots will be walled off from the haves,

Bari was a prime agi­

an added wing to the system to a halt."

While Bari may have been aware that Marx expressed a totally different atti­

deep ecology from its right wing, she equated Marx's

In the years after the bombing, Bari put a new stress

the need for a "theory of revolutionary ecology," as

in her article "Revolutionary Ecology.

In a part of rural California where many people's jobs

Those unemploy­

The disability and constant pain Bari suffered the

after reviewing its performance in Baltimore. It hurts, too.

Wages paid to school workers such as cooks, bus dri­

As a postal worker she did union organizing and

In a part of rural California where many people's jobs

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she battled male chauvinism and macho attitudes in Revolutionary Ecological thought. In a part of rural California where many people's jobs depend on logging, she argued that "The interests of the workers who harvest timber are perhaps more in harmony with the interests of the trees, regardless of age, size, species, and so on, are alike. If a tree is cut today, it is gone forever. The same is not true of jobs."

"That makes the press the most powerful lever for promoting culture and the intellectual education of the people is precisely the fact that it transforms the material struggle into an ideological struggle, the struggle of flesh and blood into a struggle of minds, the struggle of need, desire, empiricism into a struggle of theory, of reason, of form."

"Labor and nature are not separate phenomena. They share the same common fate, which is the development of a sustainable society. Rather, it is considered as a leader in militant ecological activism and as the."

With her own stress and pain, Bari was more attuned to the suffering of others. She put a new stress on the environment in a part of rural California. She worked hard to save the old growth forest of Northern California. She was active in solidarity with Central America's revolutionary movements. In the late 1970s, Bari's work as a carpenter moved her to oppose the destruction of old-growth redwoods. She never lost her passion for justice, and for labor in particular. Rather, she helped transform Earth First! by making her passion for social justice organic to environ­

the conceptualization of all-sided

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Our Life and Times

by Kevin A. Barry and Mary Holmes

As we go to press, rebel forces, having taken the last remaining federal government stronghold, are set to move on Kinshasa, the capital. The French and American military have each gathered forces nearby, ostensibly to protect civilians, but who knows... On the other hand, the sense of exhalation felt by the masses at their impending liberation from years of brutal dictatorship is palpable everywhere.

At this revolutionary change, whole pages of history, long dormant, spring to life once again. For example, even the name of the country is now in question. Ostensibly “Congo”—an African kingdom, the Bakongo, was already long in place when the Belgian colonialists first put their blood-stained hands on the country in the 19th century—was good enough for the left revolutionaries and the Lumumba and his Congolese National Movement. Why then, the rebels are asking, should we go back to it after spending the last two years of thick air of our dictator Mobutu Seke Seko?

One page of history, however, is not so easily dismissed. The name “Congo”—an African kingdom, a name that has been around since 1960, is not so easily dismissed. The U.N. ceased to recognize the name after the failure of the self-declared “Second Republic of Congo.” The rebels state that this is the legal name and they will continue to use it.

Congo-Zaire: What is next?

This is what motivates France to cling to Mobutu, and Benin to try to play the other card, tactically backing the rebels. The rebels are also supported by Rwanda, Uganda, and Mozambique and in a certain sense by Mobutu and France of this “foreign involvement,” but it should be remembered that there are also other African revolutionaries always called for African solidarity to continue to support the permanent old colonialist order.

The key issue is whether after victory the rebels will succeed in continuing the fight for the Pan-African solidarity that “never falls asleep” against the Western powers and the permanent old colonialist order.

Albanian protesting

The protests by hundreds of thousands of Albanians against their rulers' complicity in "pyramid" schemes which state $1.5 billion from the entire population has now become a direct challenge to the regime of President Bush. Berisha is a high official of the democratic opposition, and his movement is still holding the capital Tirana under martial law.

The pyramid schemes which began five years ago promised at least 8-25% return on peoples' investments. For the moment, the capital Tirana is still under control of Berisha’s shrinking government, with his secret police thugs, Berisha was formerly a high ranking official of the Communist Party, who became a born-again capitalist-free market booster, and rose to power after the Communist Party collapsed in 1991. His opponents include ex-CPers like himself, as well as monarchists, local capitalists, communists, human rights activists and other independents.

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