Republic of Wal-Mart

by Franklin Dmitryev

Keeping the world on its pre-industrial ecological rock is the thrust of the 1,100-page energy bill crafted behind closed doors by a group of Congressionals Republicans in Washington.

While the bill has been shredded in relicence since its covert inception in Vice-President Dick Cheney's energy task force, its general direction was never in doubt: production and more production, first of all production of energy from oil and gas, at the expense of human health, the environment, the integrity of science, and conditions of life and labor.

It is the upshot of Bush administration environmental policy. The billions in favors offered to the oil and gas industries do not alter the energy bill's basic character as massive state intervention in the economy designed to perpetuate the total dependence of the U.S. on fossil fuels and nuclear energy for years to come.

Those industries would receive a yearly $5 billion in tax breaks and subsidies, expedited permits for oil and gas extraction on public lands, and exemptions from some environmental regulations. The bill also encourages uranium mining using toxic chemicals—alarming Native American nations, who have suffered the brunt of uranium mining's poisons.

Limits would be removed from mergers and acquisitions of electric utilities, setting the stage for a new era of Enron-type plunder. Incredibly, the latest excuse for pushing the Bush-Cheney energy bill was the August, U.S.-Canada blackouts—just as an earlier excuse was the 2001 California energy crisis engineered by Enron and others.

In an attempt to greenwash the bill, a few crumbs were tossed to renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, but the main "renewable" item is expansion of reality, its production uses fossil fuels and its use as fuel in cars generates smog, so this is nothing more than a mammoth subsidy for agrileogical giants like Archer Daniels Midland, which was enough to reel in Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle.

The biggest scam of all is Bush's talk of "hydrogen economy," conjuring images of clean cars burning hydrogen and emitting nothing but water. In fact, producing, storing and using hydrogen is energy-intensive, and the whole point of Bush and his oil and auto lobbies was to protect against Exxon's role in global warming.

(Continued on page 3)

U.S.'s imperial roots

by John Alan

President George W. Bush made a brief state visit to the Philippines to reward its president, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, for her support of the U.S. war on terror. Bush told his hosts that the U.S. had "liberated the Philippines from colonial rule." This claim is not just a revision of history but an outright falsification of the history of the Filipino struggle for freedom.

The American presence in the Philippines, during the administration of President William McKinley, American factories are making more than the American people can use; American soil is producing more than they can consume. The alibi of Wal-Mart, which is totally non-union in the U.S., was that these were merely employees hired by third-party contractors. The company routinely uses written off by Wal-Mart executives as just another cost the U.S., was that these were merely employees hired by third-party contractors. The company routinely uses

(Continued on page 3)

Women in Iraq struggle for freedom

by Yasar Mohammed

It means a lot to me to be here, close to the place where the World Trade Center was, where thousands of innocent civilians died. Our hearts go out to all the families of the victims. We know what they feel like. A few months ago, tens of thousands of Iraqis lost their lives for reasons still unclear, except that the U.S. government wants to prove it is the sole superpower by a new era every year. State terror- rorism and non-state ter- rorism are equally bad.

When the war on Iraq happened, we were living in exile knowing that we had to go back to work for a brighter future. We said, finally, the dictatorship of Saddam is gone, the fascist Bush regime is out of the way, no more genocides of ethnicities, no more nationalist wars where young people were killed by the hundreds of thousands. And I went back to help the women.

When I arrived in Baghdad, every public building was under siege. Streets looked as if they had undergone many wars, not only one. And the most tragic part was that the capable women whom I had left a few years before, were now mostly under veil and unable to demand their rights. The women of women at the University of Baghdad, we called for state militants, people who want governmental power to impose their beliefs on all of society, especially on women.

Women in Iraq lived under much better conditions by progressive movements before Saddam seized the power. Our hearts go out to all the families of the victims. We know what they feel like. A few months ago, tens of thousands of Iraqis lost their lives for reasons still unclear, except that the U.S. government wants to prove it is the sole superpower by a new era every year. State terror- rorism and non-state ter- rorism are equally bad.

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Women in Iraq struggle for freedom

(Continued from page 1)

feeling the threat of honor killing, and we began a newspaper, "Al Mouawad" (Equality). It is the first voice for equality and for equal responsibility between men and women and a secular constitution not based on Islamic Sharia. Our demand is not only for the legal right to have an abortion under Islamic Sharia, it is not possible to have equality with men. A woman must be able to decide on the death of her own, divorced, men have all the rights, none for women. Women inherit only half of what their fathers or brothers do. Equality in civil matters is only worth half a man's, and women cannot travel as they wish because our intellectuals are considered infidels, they tell them to use voice to his wife. If the constitution is based on Sharia, then there will be no rights for women. Other women's priority is demanding jobs for women without marriage. Because of the war, they lost jobs, and religious differences. Women are raped, and some are burned alive. When we asked for legal protection, they told us they were not female enough. They have no contemporary education, and social affairs in the CPA, and told them they were not female enough. They have been attacked by the CPA, the government, and the CPA. And we need a new government that represents it, not one based on ethnic and religious differences. We need a new government that represents it, not one based on ethnic and religious differences.

Critical relativists say the women of Iraq are used to being treated this way, and they are enough for them, but of course it's not for the women in the U.S. This attitude is partly racist.

I am a member of the Worker Communist Party, and we are working to create a popular revolutionary front to fight against all of the political parties that are against us. We are creating a new government that represents women, a government that represents workers, and a government that represents Iraqis. A government that represents the people of Iraq, not just the Sunnis or the Shia or the Kurds. We need to see the immediate replacement of the U.S. troops with a popular revolutionary front to fight against all political parties that stand against us. We need to see the immediate replacement of the U.S. troops with a popular revolutionary front to fight against all political parties that stand against us.

We are fighting for a free council that represents the people of Iraq, not just the Sunnis or the Shia or the Kurds. We need to see the immediate replacement of the U.S. troops with a popular revolutionary front to fight against all political parties that stand against us.

...
Everyone got into making a lot of noise and really loudly. We advertised to the folks take this. I think we especially enjoyed it in front of the store because while we didn’t have a permit to march and we had to stay within the parking lot, chucking that we couldn’t do anything about us taking over the place for a while.

Two strikers, a man and a woman, had come up to the Bay Area to participate in the march, help with our solidarity movement up here, and speak to the crowd. Union activists from different industries participated, a lot of anti-war youth came out for it, and some grocery workers from the area.

The strikers pointed out how crucial this strike—which started Oct. 11 at Vons and Oct. 12 at Ralph’s in Oakland—was for the the entire country. You just can’t say it’s just about these three companies, nor even just about California. Everything that we’re doing is to speak to a woman from Ralph’s who said she views the strike “more like a revolution than a strike” because of how important it is.

She added, “Why do you think more than 95% voted to strike? Because by our calculations a family of five will pay $400 a week for health care with what they are offering. They want to Wal-Mart, they’ve been around the block, this industry. One is of the last few places to get a lot of education, if someone or who hasn’t been around the block, can make $17 an hour. It is really in about Americans losing the grocery industry to Wal-Mart, who pay pathetic wages and saddle you with this healthcare crisis.”

-Mitch Weerth

WORKSHOP TALKS

(Continued from page 1)

California, a few hundred supporters came out for a very lively march here on Saturday, Nov. 22. We marched down College Avenue to the Safeway store at 51st Street. When we got to the store the crowd grew bigger, and we massed in front of the doors, blocking the foot traffic in and out of the store, and blocking the entrance to the parking lot, chanting "Boycott Safeway, Boycott Safeway!"

WAGES FALL, RODENTS RUN WILD

In Mexico, the government gives people a little extra money if they don’t earn a lot, a "salary credit." If you earn a little more than the minimum giving you the salary credit. Our salary never went up but they took 10% out of our salary credit. The production incentives went down but the work went up. I hated that.

We also began seeing more rodents in the company cafeterias and the food was rotten. We reported it to the union, but they never did anything for us. The only time a representative came to the factory would be Friday, to get her check. Whenever she decided to organize ourselves, independently of the union, the first thing we did was to look for a new cafeteria. Out of the approximately 1,000 workers, only 10 ate in the cafeteria. We knew this action would have repercussions, this was the first time that—do I try to fire anyone, they were firing everyone. This action gave us a successful model to follow so that when we do something, we would be necessary.

We returned from vacation in January, 2000, they fired five of us. They said we were responsible for the protest, and that they didn’t want leaders. That’s why we have all these self-fired leaders, right? But not leaders who move with the people. The next day co-workers who were going to work out of town, wanted our help.

Organize Memphis community hospital!

Memphis, Tenn.—We need justice. We nurses have been under fire from the Regional Medical Center (Mem) management, fired and other forms of harassment, for the early part of this year (see "Tenn. nurses organize," News & Letters, vol. 35, no. 4). We are working in a hostile work environment, and afraid of job security. The management is trying to make us think we are just money hungry. Not one of us has asked for money. At the same time, we know we have a duty to organize.

We have already had two strikes, one lasting a year. After we won women the right to leave five minutes before lunch and work the entire shift, the union boss told us we need more breaks. We need more breaks, we need more breaks.

We won the right to leave five minutes before lunch and five minutes before the end of the day, and also to have a few less work responsibilities. It gives me a lot of satisfaction to see my friends benefiting from the struggle that we’ve been through.

-Josefinah Hernandez

From Strike to Inside Struggle

When they set the riot police on us, we told ourselves that we should use the power of that new generation to fight back. We organized ourselves and decided to organize ourselves.

We decided to organize ourselves so that people could fight from the inside. We wanted to have some control over who could come back to the factory. In Mexico that is historic, because a leader never returns to the workplace. But we returned. Then for nine months we were in a legal fight, and we came with the support of the public.

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Organize Memphis community hospital!
Lessons of Grenada for today

Trinidad did call itself New Beginning, he evaded the task of philosophically restating Marxism for one's own age, on the grounds of all the new human conditions of the Third World. Instead, he shifted the whole responsibility for that to the shoulders of the proletariat, at "proletarianization". It has been the responsibility of the political practice from which has shown itself to be a form of theory by raising all the new points of departure, and which demands that the theoreticians meet that challenge.

Rennie does say that, instead of the elitist party, the New Beginning Movement prefers not to declare itself to be the Party. But is it just a question of form of organisation against another form of organisation? Has he kept us shackled? Isn’t it the key to the present question of the New Beginning Movement that the value is not merely among the leadership but within the masses who think their own thought? The new relationship of practice to theory is noted there, that workers do things for which they think they are.

The aim is to discover a whole new structure of theory and practice. The only one did the 1970’s revolution not achieve that aim, but in Grenada the duality of theory and practice has been brought home starkly through the counter-revolution of Russia in a nuclear world actually touches the very question of the masses.

In opposing the American imperialist invasion, and demanding the evacuation of all foreign troops from Grenada, the Grenadians took the position that there was a battle of ideas on the decisive question of Marx's work on the Paris Commune and the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and the revolts in the early 1970s—from 1776, 1789—and on the Hegelian dialectic from then to 1928. It is this which we traced through the actual revolts of the early 1950s as we greeted the three new paths to socialism—how can one nevertheless conclude that when it comes to the concrete situation in the Caribbean ("in the Caribbean Revolution.

The two events that have dominated the attention of the Left are the collapse of the countries of Eastern Europe and the Haitian revolution. The former destroyed the illusion of socialist "development" and the latter showed that even in a Third World setting there is no real meaning to the phrase "socialism" when it is taken as a synonym for "development" and "progress.

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He said that was no altogether different kind of riveting and that my experience wouldn't apply. If I wanted to learn, he could send me to the school, where they would pay me an eight-hour day. He got the job, but he had a laboring job open, it only paid eighty-seven cents an hour. The man promised I might later get something better. That paid seven cents an hour. I waited for the fellow from Tennessee... He said that was a 'real job,' riveting. "And I just came in from the field."

I asked him if he had said that he had experience or if they made people sign up. He said no.

I just kinda mad and went back to the man at the desk. He said he was busy and that he had given me the last available job.(3)

Denby's story reveals the persistence and depth of the racism even at the most impersonal level. This points a direction for overcoming it: dialogue between white and Black workers that all with a stake in systemic racism strive so hard to prevent.

However he recognized the foundation for his own thinking and activities in Dunayevskaya's view of the central role of the Black masses in America, and in her concept, based on her study of Hegel's Absolute Idea, that theory and practice are inseparable. In 1955 Denby published an essay about the Johnson-Forest Tendency who felt that workers did not see any relation to their own lives.

He found that despite what was said, prejudice against African Americans persisted in the radical parties. He also became disillusioned with the guardist philosophy, that "an absolute and inalienable idea is within the masses and lead the masses to revolution."

A LIFE OF STRUGGLES

Indignant Heart: A Black Worker's Journal by Charles Denby

The range of his columns included stories about wildcat strikes, how the union bureaucracy participated in the subjection of workers, the relation between automation and unemployment in the Black community, especially in the Civil Rights Movement. He wrote on the crucial dimension of race in America's freedom struggles and on the importance of the Black auto production workers. He said he imagined I was writing some sort of political tract, perhaps a self-examination, a reevaluation of his own experiences as an African-American auto worker and his family. He insisted that there be no racism forces upon us all. In Marxist-Humanist thought for modern struggles.

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I was glad to find, on my daily "net" search, the article by Huo Lin in your November issue, on "Strikes for Health." Though I'm not a true Marxist, I am glad to find that a worker is struggling for some justice.

My initial response to the signs of socioeconomic inequality—the statistics, political trends, changes in neighborhoods and so on—was to expect either the free market system to work it out on its own, or the government to figure out how to stem the tide of violence. But it hit home when I lost my job. I also had a lot of time to look around and see what was going on. I was taken aback by the free market system it was so much money available for a project. So I hear "if the marketing is good, we may have a chance." Well, those are just words. But the cost of living, and the cost of making their voices heard where they need to be heard. I'm reaching out to find others working near O'Hare Airport.

As individual workers we have to figure out how we can do something about what's happening in America. Here in California, I'm an unemployed non-profit organizer that just got two corporate types from the dictionary, McDonald's claimed it infringed on their trademark, but bilingual language is more democratic than any other language is.

The economy is really bad these days. For decades everyone has known what was wrong. As individuals we have to figure out how we can do something about what's happening in America. Here in California, I'm an unemployed non-profit organizer that just got two corporate types from the dictionary, McDonald's claimed it infringed on their trademark, but bilingual language is more democratic than any other language is.
THE BLACK DIMENSION AND THE NEEDED AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The importance of Raya Dunayevskaya’s Political Letter on American Civilization in the November issue is that she is talking about the today-ness and one-worldedness of history—living history. It’s not just a question of not discussing the same struggle as that of the Black people. There are places in Latin America where the majority are Black, as in the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica and Brazil. Many people refer to Latin America as only those countries where Spanish is spoken, but that is not correct. In other areas the majority are descendants of native people or mixed with different races. But the struggles are the same as those of the Black people in Africa and the U.S.

Dominican American

I was introduced to N&L by a long-time friend and saw the excerpts you published on revolutionary struggle. Struggles and ideas from your new publication on Dialectics of Black Freedom over the war in Iraq, I have been urging people here to approach their members of Parliament to express their views and ask them to support the following two points: 1) Bluntly say to Blair: (Blair page 3) it is time to bring the troops home. The House of Commons has been misled of the occupation of Iraq. The breach of international law it represents does not look well for the future. We need to reopen the question of war and achieve its speedy conclusion.

Patrick Duffy

ANGOLA 3 VICTORY

The Angola 3 was a victory with regard to the civil law front of their struggle on Oct. 20, when the Supreme Court denied Louisiana’s attempt to dismiss their challenge to continued solitary confinement in Louisiana State Penitentiary.

Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox are demanding that they be returned to the general prison population after almost 32 years of life in a small cell for all but one hour a day, depriving them of human contact and personal privacy. Theirs is believed to be the longest solitary confinement in U.S. history. Robert King Wilkerson, the third plaintiff in 2001 when a state judge overturned his conviction, Woodfox and Wallace, however, are still on lockdown. A legal team is pushing their cases forward in both the civil and criminal courts. The fact is that the Louisiana is representing the Angola 3 in the civil matter. Their attorney says a trial date will probably be set for sometime early next year. “We’re going to win,” he said.

Beth Shaw

Chicago

SelecteD PUblications from NEWS & LETTERS

BOOKS

- The Power of Negativity: Selected writings on the Dialectics of Hegel and Marx by Raya Dunayevskaya...
  $24.95

- Marxism and Freedom, from 1776 until Today by Raya Dunayevskaya...
  $24.95

- Philosophy and Revolution: From Hegel to Marx by Raya Dunayevskaya...
  From 30th anniversary issue, 2001...
  $20 until April ($24.95 after)

- Rosa Luxemburg, Women’s Liberation, and Marx’s Philosophy of Revolution by Raya Dunayevskaya...
  1991 edition. New author’s introduction. Foreword by Adrienne Rich...
  $12.95

  $15.95

- The Marxist-Humanist Theory of State-Capitalism: Selected Writings by Raya Dunayevskaya...
  $8.50

- The Philosophic Moment of Marxist-Humanism: Two Historic-Philosophic Writings by Raya Dunayevskaya...
  Contains “Presentation on Dialectics of Organization and Philosophy of June 1, 1987” and “1987 ‘Letters on Absolutism’”...
  $3 paperback, $10 hardcover

By CHARLES DENBY

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  1989 edition includes Afterword by Raya Dunayevskaya...
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- Lenin, Hegel, and Western Marxism: A Critical Study by Kevin Anderson...
  First full-length treatment of Lenin’s studies of Hegel...
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PAMPHLETS

- 40th anniversary edition of American Civilization on Trial: Black Masses as Vanguard...

- Dialectics of Black Freedom Struggles: Race, Philosophy & the Needed American Revolution Special...
  Both for $15, including postage.

AMERICA'S ANTI-TERROR LAW

In massive attack that will change the face of South Africa forever, the new Anti-Terror Act (PROCONDEMATA, for short) will, among other things, make illegal strikes and demonstrations "terrorist" and open unions and workers to civil suits by monopoly capital. It will usher in the rule of decree by the President and amounts to the permanent state of emergency in SA in the interests of imperialism. We have made a special appeal to the international left to come out publicly against this attack on the working class. To date, their silence has been deafening!

Anti-War Coalition

Sail Bight, South Africa

ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT AND BUSH’S PYRRHIC VICTORY

What kind of victory is it other than Pyrrhic when every day brings reports of more U.S. soldiers killed since Bush declared the war over, using his photos-op on the USS Lincoln to make it dramatic? And when his military commanders are now casually predicting we will be in Iraq until 2006? Pro-Con Democracy

Protestor California

I was shocked when I heard Daniel Schorr’s commentary on NPR that the Senate could vote “unrecorded” in the $87 billion Iraq war appropriation. Have I been on the wrong planet? I never knew they could do that. What else have they hidden their votes on? How can we get it changed? The only “bright spot”, if you will call it that, is the fact that all but six senators chickened out of having a complete record of it that is shows they do fear public opinion on funding the war.

Clarence citizen

Detroit

In view of the widespread concerns...
October 22 Coalition controversy

CHICAGO—About 150 to 200 people came to the October 22 rally and march against police brutality at the Federal Plaza this year. There has been a history of debate and tension surrounding the question of police brutality against gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people and whether people within those communities should be allowed to speak.

In a previous year’s rally, a speaker from the Black Hebrew Israelites was allowed to denounce homosexuality from the stage. The Revolutionary Communist Party, which is a big influence within the October 22 Coalition, has only recently reconsidered its view that gay people are products of capitalist decadence. This year the Coalition filed an unscheduled trans-speecher who challenged the rally—which is not only untrue, but it retreats from what has been most and most important about past October 22 rallies.

It was explained to her that transgenders isn’t a “gay issue,” since many trans people are straight. And people who would be at the pride parade probably know that already, but a lot of people at the October 22 rally probably don’t.

Rally organizers admitted there was a problem with other people going over their time limits, but they said that there was “nothing they could do.” However, a reasonable standard, as the political content of their speech was not criticizing the White House, as is with Jennie’s speech. It is unfortunate that these kinds of signals, this is a battle to the bitter end.

Memphis homeowner’s airport nightmare

MEMPHIS, TENN.—My family moved near the Memphis International Airport in 1976. It was a beautiful neighborhood with a 500-acre park with a golf course across the street. The neighborhood was destroyed by the airport.

Now we have no neighbors in sight. There is a seven-foot barbed wire fence erected in 1988, almost surrounding the whole area. We agree we have to the front. There is a huge tracking device for planes less than 2,000 feet from our house. When it is operating it roars loudly and the vibration is awful.

In 1986 the airport announced a proposed noise compatibility program that the noise exposure around the airport was unacceptable for people living in the area. The airport announced a proposed buyout. The property value dropped dramatically.

In 1987 a Noise Compatibility Program was set up according to the noise exposure and the airport was set to accept those who were affected.

In 1990. We filed a motion asking that the Ten­

dred Couns But we have been told that the airport was not willing to pay what the neighbors were offered.

In 1997 we were allowed to take the settlement or to opt out and represent the other neighbors. Then the 12,500 homeowners were offered 8 to $4200. Plaintiffs were given the escrow money that had been raised by our group. Then the lead counsel for the plaintiffs was appointed as DA. for Shelby County. Then we were told by the remaining counsel that the previous lead counsel had taken escrow money that had been raised by our group.

In 1999, we were told whole class of representatives people could be spread to youth and others at the rally and afterward.

Once again this year, the national October 22 Coali­
tion issued statements. The people here didn’t see until the last minute, didn’t mention LGBT people. In past years, when it sometimes has, it has been as a result of struggles with our own out­

doluntary Communist Party’s historically anti-gay politics, by members of the Chicago Anti­Bashing Network, and other groups. Our campaign was also given time.

We attended a discussion on the topic at a follow-up meeting of the October 22 Coalition. Some people there claimed that Jennie didn’t address the issue of police brutality.

they were only condemning some properties, and paying for them, but not all the affected ones. It was discrim­

inatory.

Counsel for the plaintiffs eventually refused to re­

dress us and dropped our name from the list of named plaintiffs. The judges continued to hear the case. The action was automated in 1993 and set for trial in 1994. Then the judge announced that there would be no trial.

While the court decided to order us to leave, the city of Memphis continued to fight on their own.

It has been 16 years and we’ve recently received a Joint Motion from the Class Counsel and the Memphis­

Shoe Co. Let’s not forget to close our case.

They wanted us to sign a release and agree never to collect personal or property damages for what was done in the past or will be done in the future. We refused.

—Mattie Lindsey

American Civilization on Trial: Black Masses As Vanguard

by Raya Dunayevskaya, with appendix by Charles Denby, and To the People of the United States of America by Karl Marx

The classic American Civilization on Trial, first published in 1958, presents the idea of black masses in motion as the touchstone of the development of the American historical process—from the unfree uninitiated revolu­

Of Time and Emergence

While honored Scholars seminar about the Black Masses as Vanguard, America’s Civil War, and the sociopolitical implications of Coca-Cola and porcelain action as signifiers of post-modern identity, we begin with a question. How do we comprehend the total experience of the needed revolution? We see that the necessary transformation is an essential struggle that has been going on for a century.

Laying about history is part of Bush’s lies about the pre­

Dialectics of Black Freedom Struggles:

Race, Philosophy, and the Needed American Revolution

by John Alan, with an appendix by Raya Dunayevskaya on “Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Granada”

we know from American history that the movement is a whole. The idea of freedom has to be worked out and deepened from within the non-integrated society that means taking on all political-theoretic-philosophic ten­

dencies and class-related aspirations for full freedom and self-determi­

nation. We can’t stop to stop­

tion to the racist society, but to work out what we are for in terms of the power of the idea of freedom. Black Freedom Struggles includes chapters on Black oppression to imperialist war, today’s Black labor struggles, and the role of the prison-industrial complex, as well as Marxist-Humanist discussions of major historical figures like Frantz Fanon, C.L.R. James, and Maurice Bishop.

—Sam Friedman

Pre-publication price, both for $15, including postage To order, see page 7

DECEMBER 2003

BLACK/RED VIEW

(Continued from page 1)
The U.S. government finds itself in an increasingly difficult position in Iraq. Most of its efforts to date seem to be proceeding according to plan. Physical reconstruction, political reorganization, and the provision of security are all facing serious difficulties from within. Most worrisome for Washington is the relative inactivity of the Iraqi population, which may suggest that the U.S. is losing its ability to create a stable and democratic state. The failure to establish a strong government and the persistence of violence and lawlessness have led to widespread disaffection among the Iraqi people. The U.S. military occupation has been costly in terms of lives lost and property destroyed, and it has been met with resistance by the Iraqi people. The situation in Iraq is complex and multifaceted, and it remains to be seen whether the U.S. can achieve its objectives in the region.

**GENERAL STRIKE IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

On Nov. 11, more than 20 mass organizations in the Dominican Republic called a 24-hour general strike. The strike shut down businesses, the transportation system, and other essential services. The strike was called to protest the government's policies, which many believe are hurting the poor and marginalized sections of the population. The government has been accused of implementing austerity measures that are causing hardship for many. The strike was supported by a wide range of organizations, including labor unions, student groups, and peasant organizations. It is hoped that the strike will force the government to address the demands of the protesters and to make changes to its policies.

**GREENS VS. VIOLENCE**

In the Dominican Republic, the government has been accused of using violence to suppress dissent. The police have been criticized for their use of force against protesters, and there have been reports of human rights abuses. The government has also been accused of using the judiciary to silence critics and to stifle opposition. These tactics have been met with widespread condemnation, and the government is under pressure to change its approach.

**MEXICA-HUMANIST WRITINGS & DODGE STONE**

The U.S. military intervention in Mexico has resulted in the collapse of the drug cartels and the state's local drug trade, but it has also led to increased cartel activity in neighboring countries. The collapse of the drug trade has led to a drop in the price of drugs, which has made them more accessible to users. This has led to an increase in drug-related crime and violence. The situation is complex and multifaceted, and it remains to be seen whether the U.S. can achieve its objectives in the region.
company cronies behind hydrogen is to ensure that was earlier proposed by Clinton's EPA. "Clear Skies"—to allow increased toxic emissions, especially from power plants and refineries. Having promised to keep pursuing enforcement actions, the Bush-Cheney administration and Congress, usually acting in concert, quietly implemented—ignoring the law. Be that as it may, much of the Bush energy policy will be pedaled as if it were a viable alternative to the many deregulation moves either started or continued under the GE than under the lying name of "Healthy Forests" bill opening 20 million acres of public lands, including national forests, to timber harvests and mining and other practices. Secretary Gale Norton stopped listing of endangered species, and never mentioned that few Forest Service projects to cut wildfire risk were proceeding. The deceitful name "Healthy Forests" is a perfect example of the way that Bush has tried to turn its campaign rhetoric into state-capitalism. Where its results are too much, they are misrepresented or silenced. In the case of "bush-friendly" air quality, the Bush White House has already been documented by the scientists who were fired during the first year of the new head of EPA, the Interior Dept. chose to abbiamo without interference. Achehnese are forced to sing the national anthem loud­ly. It is impossible to tell the story of this senseless war that few Forest Service projects to cut wildfire risk.
My life as a warehouse worker

by Brown Douglas

I work at a warehouse here in Memphis. Many people don't know that Memphis is known as the "distribution capital of the world." Half of all the tiles, the 250 million or so, in the United States are produced in this country. Tiles are produced in Memphis and shipped all over the world. We are doing six days a week for over 10 hours a day, and they aren't bought off merely for wanting to make ends meet. We are doing it because they fire you right on the spot. It's cheaper to just give it to someone else to do it than to keep you around. The whole warehouse is full of boxes on pallets and rows and rows of boxes, packing them, shipping them all over the world are found everywhere. Someone told me that little by little, the Latinos are disappearing from the site because of the employment agency's audit process, and how they are choosing to hire their own workers "decent." The whole thing makes me think about how capital is making it so that people have to leave their homes and countries to find work, but when they get there they are constantly kicked out of the workplace for being "decent." Every day how capitalism needs human labor to fulfill all its needs, but at every step proves itself to have an overall inhuman dimension.
Suicide bombings devastate Istanbul

by Kevin A. Barry

In November, Istanbul was the site of four horrendous suicide bombings in the course of five days. On Nov. 19, a bomb inside a public bus blew out two Istanbul synagogues filled with people. One blast tore apart the facade of the Neve Shalom synagogue, which is located in a neighborhood inhabited by Muslims. Christians, Greeks and Jews. Twenty-five people (14 Muslims) were killed, and over 300 were wounded.

Five days later, two truck bombs exploded outside the British Consulate and the headquarters of the British HSBC Bank in one of the city's busiest pedestrian districts. The blasts were timed within five minutes of each other.

One driver blew up his truck in front of the HSBC Bank during heavy traffic. The other drove into the British Consulate's gate. Chunks of debris and glass rained over a 100-foot radius, killing 23. Among the 138 injured, including the British consul Roger Short, were killed. More than 500 were wounded. Most victims were pedestrians.

The "Great Eastern Islamic Radicals Front" and the London protest march

London—Over 100,000 people marched on Nov 20 to protest the war on Iraq, the occupation of Afghanistan, and the ongoing war in Iraq. Although the turnout was smaller than the million-strong pre-war mobilization in February, it also took place on a weekday afternoon and consisted mainly of people living in London. The organized Left, as well as the Muslim American community there in force as usual, but were very much a minority among the array of people who turned out: university students, striking schoolteachers, trade unionists, professionals, senior citizens and ethnic organizations.

Unfortunately, on what was supposed to be the day the protesters stole the fire of the "George and Tony show," Al Qaeda suicide bombers in Istanbul attacked the British Consulate and the HSBC bank, killing 26 and injuring hundreds. Not surprisingly, this atrocity provided the cue for Bush and Prime Minister Blair to come out of "hiding" to stress the importance of standing "firm" and "united" in the "war on terrorism.

But as the war in Iraq had nothing to do with fighting Al Qaeda and fundamentalism anyway, those words are not likely to sway anti-war opinion. The huge numbers of people in Britain who voiced confusion and skepticism before it started, now know that the government claims about weapons of mass destruction were fake and they are back on the streets.

If the anti-war movement is to grow further, however, it will have to achieve more than large set-piece mobilizations around a single-issue ("End the Occupation, Troops Out Now"). The Left urgently needs to take the lead in the general mobilizations. Section Left and the women's movement can win their struggles for freedom—from Saddam and Bush/Blair.

David Black

Who We Are and What We Stand For

News and Letters Committees is an organization of Marxist-Humanists that since its birth has stood for the abolition of capitalism and for a private property form as in the U.S., and in the international arena, historically appeared in state-capitalist regimes calling themselves Communist as in the former Soviet Union and China. It is the development of new human relations since Marx first called a new Humanism.

News & Letters was founded in July 1936 as a forum for strikes against Automation and the Montgomery Bus Boycott against seg- regation. In 1977, News & Letters made a move from print to the Internet. Such moves were created so that the voices of revolt from below could be unheard from thearticulation of the philosophy of liberation.

Marcos

Presentation on the Dialectics of Organization and Philosophy in The Philo- sophic Development of the Leninist Commu- nists (1969), and donated new supplement- ary volumes to The Raya Dunayevskaya Collection—News and Letters Committees aims at developing and concretizing this body of ideas for ourselves.

In opposing this capitalist, racist, oligarchic and bureaucratic state, we have organized ourselves into a committee of organization rather than into a council. Participate in all class and freedom strug- gles, including struggles of our Constitu- tion states: "It is our aim... to promote the firmer unity of our people. And we will seek to participate in all class and freedom strug- gles, including struggles of our Constitu- tion states: "It is our aim... to promote the firmer unity of our people. And we will seek to participate in all class and freedom strug- gles, including struggles of our Constitu- tion states: "It is our aim... to promote the firmer unity of our people. And we will seek to participate in all class and freedom strug- gles, including struggles of our Constitu- tion states: "It is our aim... to promote the firmer unity of our people. 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