California’s notorious Three Strikes Law took any human judgment out of sentencing by mandating 25 years to life for a third conviction, even for something as inconsequential as a stolen pizza or bike. California’s prison gulag grew astronomically as courts became machines denuded of a judge’s discretion. The prison system itself became an even more abusive criminal monster, now under the supervision of the courts. The unintended consequences became so extreme that a new proposition just passed in California to give judges some discretion to resentence sentences for non-violent third strike offenses. Mechanical justice took on a new angle with the advent of ubiquitous video-surveillance cameras at traffic stoplights. Computer-generated identification is a gold mine for municipal revenue enhancement, churning out tickets at $500 a pop for technical infractions like not coming to a full stop before turning on red.

Advanced digital technology, touted for its far-reaching promise, has given way to a deranged personality now gone, but the product of a political and economic system in its own right. A. Toward the nuclear brink

The Korean Peninsula has been militarized since World War II as both countries were drawn into spheres of influence of the two superpowers, Russia and the U.S. After the Korean War and the collapse of the USSR, the two countries periodically raised the specter of nuclear attack at a time of escalating tensions, whether in Korea, Kashmir, or the Middle East. Even more so where conflict has an objective basis in competing interests for resources, territory, in the context of the global competition between the U.S., Europe and China, exacerbated by the U.S. government’s long-standing economic crisis. At the same time, one of the rulers’ main weapons against revolt by the masses is militarism, which ratchets up the risk of nuclear war. In the wake of Fukuishi-ma’s meltdowns, the people of Japan and other countries, calling attention to the large number of nuclear-power stations in the country, have again been raising the specter of a nuclear attack.

Brinkmanship cannot be dismissed as mere show. Going over the brink can happen easily where so many variables are at play, where all sides, be it on the nuclear side or on the non-nuclear side, can influence the outcome, whether in Korea, Kashmir, or the Middle East. In the face of the U.S. government warned Kashmir residents to prepare for a nuclear attack at any time, the situation is one of sporadic fighting between the Indian and Pakistan armed forces. It is not in the interest of the two countries to actually go to war. However, there is the risk that a nuclear war could start.

B. Europe’s economic crisis and revolt

Capitalism’s nuclear armament is seen not only in threats to humanity’s future from nuclear weapons and climate change, but also in the continuing economic crisis. High unemployment and homelessness persist in the U.S. and Europe, and the world food crisis continues. The UN estimates that 10.3 million people could suffer food shortages in the Sahel region of Africa this year. One in six people in the U.S.—46 million, in other countries, calling attention to the large number of youth forced to go abroad to find work. A whole series of European countries has taken bailouts from the U.S. and other countries, calling attention to the large number of youth forced to go abroad to find work. The current leader of the Labour Party opposition, Ed Miliband. And yet what prompted people to come cheer out with dictators of all stripes, even supporting the vile, racist regime of South African apartheid. On this score alone, it seems inevitable that Thatcher’s death would hardly be mourned by a great many people.
We are living in contradictory times, especially when it comes to women’s struggle for freedom. On the one hand you have a Women’s Liberation Movement that has never been more radical, unified and global. On the other hand there is more repression, and the violence is more brutal and deadly than ever before.

In just the last few months we have learned of new atrocities: the gang rape and murder of 17-year-old Anene Boosum in South Africa; the 14-year-old Bangladeshi, Hena Akhter, who was charged with adultery after being repeatedly raped and brutalized by her older married cousin and ordered lashed by the local islam. She died after being hit 70 times. In India the attacks keep happening: a Swedish tourist battered and raped by eight% foreign men, a 16-year-old girl sexually assaulted at a Midlands, a 15-year-old rape survivor has been sentenced to be whipped 100 times, an American woman was gang raped while pregnant for years by her stepfather, who also murdered the baby she bore. The list never seems to end.

Five years ago in March 2008, we wrote in these pages about the “obliteration” of women in Congo: “rape has become so brutal that not only are women’s reproductive organs destroyed, but so are their digestive tract. Some lucky enough to find medical care, undergo operations to repair their injuries... Doctors Without Borders... reports that ‘acts of sexual violence accompanying the carnage have been without precedent in the frequency of their systematic nature, their brutality, and the perversion of the way they’ve planned and staged.’”

What five years ago was an astonishing level of violence in Congo “without precedent,” accurately describes the rape suffered by Jyoti Singh Pandey—the 23-year-old New Delhi student whose ungracious death galvanized massive demonstrations there—and the level of violence against women worldwide.

We are living in a new “normalization” of violence against women. You see that “normalization” in the USA when you have elected officials talk about “legitimate rape,” or that it is impossible for a raped woman to become pregnant, or that if she does, that is god’s will and what. Is it but normalized if teenage boys in the South think it is “OK” to rape a 16-year-old honor student who is unconscious, strip her, urinate on her and post pictures and videos of her—and of them brutalizing her—on the internet?

Rape is so accepted as normal—that with all the stress on stopping DADT in the military, an Air Force commander felt both free and justified in throwing out an aggravated sexual assault court conviction for an Air Force pilot. He reportedly “wanted to show the pilot community (which evidently in his mind included no women) that he had their backs.”

**RAPE AND THE LEFT**

Five years ago we escaped this normalization of violence and rape. That at least partly—and only part—explains how the rape of a teenage British Socialist Internationalist in Kansas was treated. The Party leadership was dealt with in such a disgusting manner that it has dragged on and on. And as in the case of the military, the woman was treated like the accused: questioned about her sexual history, her drinking habits; and the whole business coming from speaking at the party’s conference. SWP members who had questions about what amounted to her prosecution were asked to rescind their support for the Party by cursing them among themselves on Facebook; any others who objected were charged with being guilty of “bourgeois normality.” How can a socialist party have a notion that feminism was presented by the lead-ership of the British SWP as an evil.

Well in the USA, it is not supposed to be about the transformation of society, decided to try to save the reputation of their organization and its leadership and save the honor of a teenage girl. Whatever principles they may have had are thoroughly destroyed. What they accepted as normal was: the girl was lying, the sex was consensual (although sex between those with power and those without in any organization is always question-able as “consensual”), feminism, is bad, and anyone who questions our authority is the enemy.

The escalation of violence is not happening in a vacuum. It is at least in part a response to women’s increasing demands for freedom, demands to be treated as whole human beings who are determined to change their reality.

Be it in Egypt, Tunisia, other Arab Spring nations; India or the USA—in fact anywhere in the world—there can no longer be such things as “good women.” The very bar- riness of the present makes clear that what is a neces-sity for women’s demand for full freedom—for personal survival to the point of risking their lives—is sexual revolution. Today’s reality shows that nothing short of a deep and total revolution that can transform all human relationships will mean women’s freedom.

**Rallies for equal pay**

Chicago—On April 9 rallies were held across the U.S. to mark the day women’s earnings catch up to what men’s were at the end of 2012. We attended the rally at the Daley Plaza in Chicago, which drew 1500 people. Leaders of business and professional women’s organiza-tions and boards of NGOs. Statistics regarding equal pay and equal wages. Women make less than men—36% even worse than that for Latinas.

On the other side of the gap is the idea that the reason women earn less is because they choose to work in jobs that pay less (blame the victim) or that women choose to work fewer hours to take time off to raise a family.

The truth is that traditional “women’s jobs” pay less because they are traditional. There’s got to be a rea-son a nurse’s aide should be paid less than a construc-tion worker except that nurse’s aide jobs have histori-cally been held by women and there’s a fact that younger women take time off to raise a family, this ignores entirely that most men do not share their child raising, so women are forced to be the ones who are.

A recent American Association of University Women study—“Graduating to a Pay Gap,” exposes the pay gap between men and women college graduates. Working full time one year after graduation. They conclude that: “in 2009...women one year out of college who were working full time were paid slightly above 74% of what male peers were paid. After we control for hours, occupation, college major, employment sec-tor, and other factors, it was clear that the pay gap shrinks but does not disappear. About one-third of the gap cannot be explained by any of the factors commonly understood to explain the pay gap.”

There was also a call to enforce the federal Equal Pay Act. As we write this, the Republican Representa-tives voted to block the Paycheck Fairness Act. What is wrong with equal pay for equal work?

—Sue S.
New York fast food workers strike for living wage

**New York City**—More than 400 workers in fast food chains walked out on April 4, the anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to demand a wage increase to $15 an hour, better working conditions, and the right to organize a union. In November, 200 workers had walked out. On April 4, in many places the walkouts had a spontaneous character. Workers left their jobs, some as early as 6 a.m.

The organizer of the movement, Fast Food Forward, has secured commitments of support from over 12,000 people. FFW noted that while major fast food corporations made over $200 billion in profits last year, many of their workers are paid so little that they have to receive food stamps to feed their families. (See El Diario/ La Prensa.)

Fast food workers typically earn between $10,000 and $18,000 annually. A McDonald's worker said, “We deserve better. I have three kids, and on $7.25 an hour I can’t support them, and I can’t give them the education I want them to have.”

“I want respect, a better salary, to be able to join a union without my employer intimidating me,” said a striker who has worked at a Taco Bell in Penn Hills for four years. “I am doing this for my family and for future generations of workers.”

There is a rigid hierarchy in these restaurants, and the “work-to-rule” tactics of more organized workers to press their demands for higher wages and better working conditions.

But the system, as it has always been in any labor organizing, is the unity and the resolve of the workers, along with the support of the communities where these fast food places are located. A union of community activists who are free to leaflet and picket these establishments with the unity of the workers could bring substantial changes to this industry.

Will the trade union bureaucracy make a serious effort to organize the fast food workers? Unions need not, and do not take on the wholesale food industry and the huge, often doctors are caught making a choice between tremendous profits and revenue enhancement.

Recently, the California Department of Health is doing a study on obesity and diabetes and found that as people get fatter, they often have higher blood pressure, which could lead to cancer or heart disease. The study also found that the problem is worse in communities where there are more fast food restaurants. (See El Diario/ La Prensa.)

**Portsmouth, England:** Unite against austerity

Portsmouth, England—Owen Jones, independent column-umnist and author of *The Great Betrayal*, joined people from across Portsmouth on March 20 to launch a community group to fight against austerity. The organization, Unite Community Portsmouth, is part of Unite’s organizing drive that seeks to re-establish links between the trade unions and local communities. Unite is Britain and Ireland’s largest trade union, with 1.5 million members working across the country.

“We are going through the biggest squeeze in living standards since my granddad was born in this city in the 1920s,” said Jones, who cites his grandfather’s conversion to trade unionism precisely through his experience working in Portsmouth. “So I’m really glad to be here because of this fantastic initiative that Unite has set up.”

The Unite Communities project has been instigated by the community organization, in an attempt to tackle the loss of influence the trade union movement has over local areas. In the past, when workplaces were more centralized and tended towards vertical hierarchies, the local labour force, it was easier for trade unions to play a direct role in community politics.

In the industrial landscape, from outsourcing of manufacturing to the greater role played by smaller service-sector enterprises, have partially eroded contact between a consecu- tively and the union movement. Unite initiated the community organizing project to address only and to deal with such issues, but provide an additional platform for anti-austerity politics.

“When I’m in a real job,” said Liane Greaves, Unite Community National Organizer. “These groups are mushrooming. People are literally meeting in front rooms, local cafes, halls, and things, in order to fight these vicious (government) policies.”

Greaves stressed that Unite does not wish to simply “bolt on” community organizing to the rest of the Union. “People need to have control of their own lives and to do everything in their power to minimize the im- pact of the policies.”

Portsmouth has historically suffered with the de- cline of national ownership which has been accompanied by a thriving dockyard. With the advent of austerity poli-cies, Portsmouth will be affected by the "black April" reforms, such as the unilateral national insurance tax.

“When you have people working mainly in the hire and fire service sector, you need to organize right across the community,” said Jones. “We have come to the point where we have got to get a stable government where we have always got to remember: our own power and our own strength. That when we can collectively organize, when we can collectively defend our homes, when we can collectively defend our own street, then we can win. We can turn this around. We can stand together. We fight together and we can win this together.”

For further information, please contact danread- freelance@googlemail.com

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**Trade Fair workers fight expanded lockout**

Queens, N.Y.—The March lockout of all unionized workers in the meat department of the Trade Fair supermarket in Astoria has now extended to all nine Trade Fair locations in the borough of Queens, affect- ing over 100 workers. They were penalized because they wore buttons declaring union pride, and because they were protesting employees being turned away from the store af- ter rejecting a proposed contract which would have cut back their hours and reduced or eliminated benefits. After at least a belligerent confrontation between the workers and management, and a brief walkout by the workers, all the workers found themselves locked out of their jobs, with the meat department not run by management, called the locked-out workers "striker- s," and accused them of disrupting store activities.

Workers have been on the picket line since the meat department of Trade Fair workers from Queen's and other lo- cals of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) in Queens, New York, and politicians. On April 1, Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer joined a crowd of rallying meat department workers of Local 370 at theAstoria location to show his support.

There was also a rally at the East Elmhurst loca- tion of Trade Fair, with more than 80 participants. The workers noted that the Meat Department is the most visible and the one that dominates the pay. The Meat de- partment will be the first to be locked out. The workers received support from Occupy Astoria and other lo- cals of the The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) across the city. The workers are those who started this fight.

There is a rigid hierarchy in these restaurants, and the “work-to-rule” tactics of more organized workers to press their demands for higher wages and better working conditions.

During shopping hours at the Astoria store, union members stand behind a police barricade, monitored by a squad car from the local precinct, passing out flyers to community residents and potential customers ask- ing them to not shop at the store. Store management has used its clout with the cops, as workers are forced to stand between two barricades at a distance from the store entrance, although there have been no reported counts of either the police force or the workers.

Like so many other protests here, the police do everything in their power to minimize the im- pact of the protests. The police have stated that the partial de- cease in people buying from the super- market. Unite has repeated other significant successes in their campaign, including manage- ment taking down the anti-unions banners it has plastered all over the community. The evidence of Trade Fair's commitment to its workforce is now clear. Local 342 has filed several unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) against the company, including intimidation, threats of termination, harassment and coercion of union representatives for exercising their rights as union members. Trade Fair hired replace- ment workers for all nine Queens supermarket loca- tions amid the lockout. As far as UFCW Local 342 is concerned, this lockout is not the only lockout and those charges have also been filed with the NLRB.

“Trade Fair workers in a different UFCW lo- cal have come out on the picket lines during their breaks to show solidarity with the locked out workers,” said Jimmy Van Bramer, member of Local 342 for 23 years. “That’s why I need my job back.”

OWNED OUT OF CONTROL

Oregon rooftops: The workers that have been with Trade Fair as long as 25 years have been locked out. Management has been verbally harassing the picket- ers in a series of unfortunate events. The owner of the trade Fair, Frank Janek, screamed in her face.

Trade Fair workers in a different UFCW lo- cal have come out on the picket lines during their breaks to show solidarity with the locked out workers. Astoria residents and the UFCW Local 100 also joined the picket line out- side one of the stores.

Local unions are receiving more and more support from the community. People going by the 30th Ave. store in Astoria are expressing more support for the workers, and the number of people boarding the bus with Trade Fair bags is decreasing. Trade Fair man- agement is finding itself more isolated. The pressure is on. Time is on the side of the workers.
Editor’s note: Sixty years ago Raya Dunayevskaya first articulated what she later called “the philosophical moment” that shaped her whole body of ideas. We present this essay, written in 1953, the first publication of News and Letters Committees, a mimeographed edition of Lenin’s “Abstact of Hegel’s Science of Logic,” from Dunayevskaya’s 1953 Letters on Hegel’s Absolute. The original can be found in Part I of those Philosophic Notes consisting of extracts of the notebooks. (For the text of the entire pamphlet, see #2431.) Footnotes were added by the editors.

In 1915, at the time the holocaust of World War I made a shambles of the world in general and of the “workers’ state” in particular, it was at this critical point in history that Lenin felt compelled to study Hegel’s Science of Logic. Far from being an evasiveness of the political tasks of the moment, it was a real recognition that the time demanded infinitely more than the mere counterposition of a correct political policy against a wrong political policy.

What sent Lenin to examine the very foundations of Marxism—its Hegelian philosophical base—was the very thing that he was so shocked by the German Social Democratic voting war credits to the Kaiser that he considered the issue of Vorsworte, which announced it, as a forgery perpetrated by Imperial Germany, instead of the actual mirror of the Second International’s thinking.

Those Notebooks mark the great divide in Marxism. They were Lenin’s preparation for his writ- ings on Imperialism and State and Revolution, as well as the actual Russian Revolution in November 1917.

This is the first English translation of the remarks which Lenin made to himself as he studied Hegel’s Science of Logic, with which the 21st Century re-edition of the Notebooks was published. From the time the philosophers’ section of the Party was established, Lenin read the philosopher, the producer.

The Absolute Idea, we were unable to relate the daily

Hegel’s Absolute Idea is for workers

riscs of lectures have been undertaken before the writ- ings of the book.

Part II consists of an exchange of letters on Hegel’s Absolute Idea, which I call the concept of a new society. There are written exchanges of ideas that was the year of Stal- lin’s death, on the one hand, and the East German Revolt, on the other hand. It is really a question of struggle for freedom opened with the East German Revolt, and within a few weeks it was followed by a revolt in the slave labor camps that were inside Russia itself. Clearly, Stalin’s death symbolized the beginning of the end of the totalitarianism. The maturity of the age could be seen in the fact that the average man on the street and the philo- sophers were asking one and the same thing: Can man be free in this age of totalitarian- ization bureaucracy? We leaped generations ahead when the workers in a satellite coun- try and those in slave labor camps book matters into their own hands and thus illumin- ated the road ahead to a new society.

1950 had opened a new era in the production of the serious introduction of automation in the form of the continuous miner.† From the first industrial revolution, the newly-born fac- tories proletarianized the populace to struggle for the shortening of the working day, and thereby established a new philosophy. “In place of the pompous catalogue of the small collection of ‘inalienable rights of man,’” Marx wrote in his greatest theoretical work, Capital, “comes the modest Magna Carta of a legally limited working-day, which shall make clear that the worker is claiming a limit which the seller is ended, and when his own begins. ‘What a distance we have traveled’!”

A second industrial revolution was being trans- lated by the workers world over into a new human- ism. Never have they posed the question more clearly as not being one of financial misfortunes or annual wages but of conditions of labor in a fundamentally new way of life. Without this universal philosophical form, state cap- italism as a ten-year would remain economist and incomplete. Although we, as a state capitalist tenden- cy, had been saying for years that we live in an age of absolutes, that the average theoreticians was the working out materialistically of Hegel’s last chapter on the Absolute Idea, we were unable to relate the daily struggles of the workers to this total conception. The maturity of the age, on the other hand, disclosed itself in the fact that, with automation, the worker began to question the very mode of labor. The worker be- gan to make concrete what he had long understood, Marx’s profoundest conceptions, for the innermost core of the Marxian dialectic, an awareness that everything turns, that is the trans- formative one. What the workers began with the material life of the worker, the producer.

In 1950, he had already, so to speak, turned over the secrets to the workers. It was a new and complete experience with the workers themselves.

The crisis also puts Prime Minister Stephen Harp- er on the hot seat, with his usual hyperbole:

The crisis also puts Prime Minister Stephen Harp- er on the hot seat, with his usual hyperbole:

Not that the author is rough and even abstruse, no stage in the evolution of the book need be kept private. These notes and these letters are being published for all who are interested.

Detroit, Michigan
November, 1955

† “Hauser” was the organizational name used by Grace Lee Boggs in this period.

‡ Johnson, the titular founder of the capitalist state capitalist tendency, however, had other ideas. He never acknowl- edged receiving the letter, referring to him with enthusiasm for all the “discoveries” I had made, he managed to shut her up too. What had previ- ously been a literary clique now became a philosophic clique as well.

The Constitutional scandal rocks Canada

With the urging of the Quebec Minister of Inter- governmental Affairs, Alexandre Cloutier, and former Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard, a federal Na- tional Assembly/Assemblée Nationale voted to urge the federal government in Ottawa to “open a book on all the other constitu- tional issues” and to hold “legal discussions.”

The crisis also puts Prime Minister Stephen Harp- er on the hot seat, with his usual hyperbole:

“Canada stands at a break from all previous radical- ism. Bastien’s book reveals how Margaret Thatcher and 2. Presentation on Dialectics
Newark high school students walk out

On April 9, over 500 Newark high school students walked out of the Newark Public Schools and marched to the Assembly budget hearing to protest Governor Christie’s draconian budget cuts. Newark's Student Union is standing up for a tax mandate which ensures funding instead of granting new tax cuts to big corporations.

A mentally ill graduate student at Cal. State Los Angeles was shot to death by police. The student had bipolar disorder and was off his medications. His parents say that the school knew the student was troubled. Twice that day the police were called to calm down Bartholomew Williams and succeeded. The third time was at his apartment where they went to take him to a mental health evaluation. Bartholomew was killed when he attacked police. There are known measures that could have been used to calm Bartholomew instead of shooting him.

A child with autism was found locked in a 3 x 3' cage in his parents' basement in Fallston, Md., sitting in his own waste. Other children in the home said that the child was fed through the bars of the cage and was not let out to play. Facing felony child endangerment charges, the parents turned themselves in in March.

More than 20% of doctors in five major metropolitan areas told people with disabilities—who are more in need of routine medical services than most of us—to go somewhere else for their medical care. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, doctors are to provide “full and equal access to their health care facilities and services.” But many doctors don’t accept patients on Medicare because those with disabilities need more time for care.

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The inhumanity of solitary confinement

I went to jail for a year when I was 14 years old. One of the most impactful experiences I have ever had was in there for only five days. I felt incredible psychological pain. I thought I knew something about the topic when I went to a demonstration and then a legislative hearing about solitary confinement in California’s prisons (see “California hearings on prison torture.” March-April 7.2013 & NEW). But I was unprepared for the effect it had on me. Its significance went well beyond my individual experience.

There was such solidarity among the people there, mostly families, supporting prisoners. They formed a community. Their stories validated one another. A woman’s loss of a husband, son or father goes to the core of what makes us human. They don’t talk about it in academic terms. They feel it. They speak of losing a part of themselves. It was not different from a woman losing her husband in a war.

They all suffer an injustice. Each case we heard during the demonstration and the hearing was unique, yet they all complemented each other. The various stories showed a sensitivity to what is fundamental to our humanity.

The conditions of prisoners are horrible, beyond what anyone would call a “civilized” society. This is especially true of the Secure Housing Units (SHU). Taking away human contact takes away an ability to be human. Prisoners in the SHU are not taken away from each other to prevent them from acting even with those who share similar conditions. We know that withdrawal of a variety of sensory inputs has detrimental effects. Taking away human contact is like taking away the air people breathe.

One woman spoke of her brother, who killed himself, for the sign were there, but the prison did nothing. It’s a surprise that more people in these circumstances are not committing suicide.

What came through at the demonstration was an unshakable hope, from people on the inside and on the outside who were present. From the solidarity and the love that makes us human.

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**WOMEN'S LIBERATION**

The March-April 2013 N&L centers on Women's Liberation. At each stage it owes so much to the Black movement. When you cut that history off from an overall collection of your movement, you risk losing the idea of the movement. The Activist speaks about the risk of losing the whole thing through which a movement against slavery expressed itself. They saw that as their own freedom.

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**AT THE MOVIES**

I could not disagree more with Michael Gilbert’s review of the length of Django Unchained: “only the beginning of its faults.” The violence, racism and cartoonishness from the cartoonish to the realistic. The enthusiasm with which Tarantino subjects his audiences to the brutalization of Black people is characteristic. Slavery is the perfect backdrop for his obsession with the brutalization of Black bodies. The first plantation scene was hard to distinguish from the set of an instant ice tea commercial: well-clothed Black people strolled arm-in-arm or swung near them. There were only about 20 of them. We kept the counterprotestors from getting too close to them, but the rich is being forced to live on less. Everybody was every expressed itself. They saw that as clashing with Islamic principles. This is unacceptable, particularly in our region.” Culture is not fossilized object but undergoing deep changes in the process of revolution.

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**BLIGHTS IN GAZA**

The movie pub- lished in 1972, “The struggle of prisoners and workers here are increasingly voicing dissatisfaction with the political and economic crisis which should be a main focus of the prisoner issue.” The truth is in the method. Many will read this, but they will not turn against its authors. The essay is now published every two months as opposed to monthly, a thorn in the side (or back side) of all the powers that be. We have to keep bringing to light those issues that are not understood. The lesson of that is the importance of awareness of issues. We have let them be released without incident that they were released during this period of U.S. history? We have yet to grasp with this ugly fact of Ameri- can history. Both works are attempts to control the narrative around race, who Black and white people are. It is no coinci- dence that they were released during President Obama’s second term.

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**WHAT’S THAT SMELL?**

I hope my letter arrives and a dono- tor can find it. I do not think that in a malpractice medical case, one can be held in Ramallah for three years be- cause Islamic principles are not understood. The lesson of that is the importance of awareness of issues. We have let them be released without incident that they were released during this period of U.S. history? We have yet to grasp with this ugly fact of Ameri- can history. Both works are attempts to control the narrative around race, who Black and white people are. It is no coinci- dence that they were released during President Obama’s second term.

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**FOLLOW THE MONEY**

I think for a personal injury (plain- tiff’s) law firm as a clerk. Recently the lawyers published an article stating that the government has no one piece of advice to “follow the money.” For instance, doctors are a physician may mandate to hold off certain medical care from low-income patients while being forced to do many and less expensive proce- dures for wealthier patients? Are nurs- ing home caregivers told not to spend time figuring out what is really wrong with a patient and just treat what is likely to be the cause? Isn’t this another reason we should ask “What don’t we have socialized medical care?”

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**VOICES FROM THE INSIDE**

Enclosed please find ten dollars for the book Crossroads of History: Marxist-Leninist Writings on the Middle East by Raya Dunayevskaya, and please re- new the subscription to N&L. I regret that N&L is now published ev- ery two months as opposed to monthly, particularly during this present eco- nomic crisis. This is in line with the aim of a top line of discussion among its pages. Latin prisoner

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**WHAT A FUTURE!**

It came as no surprise that the Democrats in Oregon voted to assas- sinate the pensions of state workers. After all, this is the era of austerity. Everybody is being forced to live on less and receive less in social services. Here in New York, there is only one hospital left which will do serious dental work such as extractions, and that is a pub- lic hospital with a very low reputation. Half the time when I contact my health insurance company to find out if they will pay for a procedure, they say “there is no. Every day in the news all I read about is the Obama-proposed attacks on services for the poor. This is real policy.

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**NEW YORK**

Why work for N&L?

The truth is in the method. Many of the books and articles of the revolutionary journalistic method of al- lowing the class to express itself via the newspapers. This book expresses the views of the party to the class, as opposed to airing the views of the party itself as an organization. This is revolu- tionary consciousness, which my understanding of the Icosa- tron is not. What’s that?...I have been very sick, am/should have to travel so far for necessary healthcare.

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C. Automation, joblessness in U.S.

Although the U.S. has not slipped back into recessions, the unemployment rate remains high. Poverty has skyrocketed, with 11 million more poor people added since 2009. Also, 70% of the 3.5 million jobs that have been created in the last six months are low-paying, while half of the 7.6 million jobs lost during the year and a half before that were mid-range, paying $38,000 to $68,000. The lack of good jobs is pushing large numbers of families underground and into the streets.

Automation is taking its toll, and it isn’t finished. Capitalist figures from former Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill to Senator Bernard Sanders to Martin Ford warn that advancing automation is likely to result in 50% to 75% unemployment. Ford adds: “If you break all the assumptions about what robots can and can’t do, the future looks pretty grim. If you make assumptions that are even remotely similar to the predictions that were made by Karl Marx in the mid to late 1800s. Marx predicted that capitalism would lead to the non-existence of capital, to the non-existence of capital, resulting in massive unemployment.... If the arguments in [my] book prove correct, then we may be in the middle of an irreversible tendency for the concentration of Marx that was, at least in some ways, perspective about the challenges the capitalist system would eventually encounter.”

Foxconn in China—manufacturer of choice for many U.S. companies—now employs more than 10,000 robots last year, with a simultaneous hiring freeze, and has announced plans to deploy one million robots across its plants, with a target date of 2016. GPW declared that the company’s 1.5-million-strong workforce, “as human beings are also animals, to manage one oligarchy, to manage one human species, to manage one human race.”

At the same time, ideologies are presenting automation as a solution to unemployment. “Robots have the advantage of being perfectly programmed to work in the U.S.,” according to a March report to the Congressional Robotics Caucus. Some manufacturing has in- deed relocated. However, the high level of automation implemented to compete with China and other low-wage countries reduces the number of jobs available in a historically high-wage corridor.

The broad and continuing impact of automation portends long-term high unemployment, denigration of better-paying, high-tech, high-wage jobs, downward pressure on wages, and impoverishment of the masses.

While the immigrant and alienating workers is microtasking. Companies break down tasks that are not yet fully automated, post- ing them on websites like Amazon’s Mechanical Turk or similar sites, where for piece-workers anywhere in the world sign up to perform one for a few cents. The main marketplace is Amazon’s Mechanical Turk. Workers from home and sometimes not knowing who has hired them, quick workers may make $1.50 an hour on an average. A survey of Mechanical Turk handles over 500,000 workers in 100 countries, about 70% of them women, isolated from each other and the larger labor movement, proving little bits of tasks on invisible assembly lines.

Under capitalist relations, technological advances have improved productivity and efficiency, reducing work and throwing people out of jobs. This results from the dialectical contradiction between the growth and development of living labor and the instruments of the labor process. But the dialectical contradiction also produces the contradiction between the dead labor dominates living labor.

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Capitalism's violence, masses' revolt show need for total view

By John Caputo

In a word, the new human dimension at- tained through an oppressed people's genius in the struggle for freedom, nationally and internationally, rather than by science, achievement, or an individual hero, became the measure of Man in action and thought.

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Continued from page 7

B. Wars of the U.S.

Militarism has been ever one of the rulers’ favorite tools to sap revolt by the masses. There is no end to war in sight so long as capital drives society. President Obama has set 2014 for the end of the war in Afghanistan. The Afghan people have every right to a recapitulation of what happened after Russia’s withdrawal in the early 1990s: no end to war, but a deadly struggle for power among multiple warlords, including the Taliban, and more exploitation and violence directed against the women, children and workers of all nationalities. Yet many look forward to the departure of an occupying force that has committed all too many atrocities, including bombings that turned children into orphans, their families, and the yet-to-be-punished massacres by Staff Sgt. Robert Bales of nine children and seven adult civilians in Panwai, one year ago.

There is no shortage of new vistas for war as the U.S. rushes based in 2010 to occupy Syria, understanding its military ‘pivot to Asia’ and at the same time expands its reach in Africa. With special forces already deployed in Africa’s Central African Republic, the true new war in Mali accelerated the long-planned entry of the U.S. military into a number of African countries. (See ‘State of the U.S. wars,’ March-April N&L.)

Iran’s approach to nuclear weapons seems to have finally remained a serious flashpoint. Saber-rattling over Iran by elements of the ruling classes of the U.S. and Israel combined with the danger of brinkmanship remains, as underscored by Obama’s trip to Israel, preceded by his adoption of Prime Minister Ben-jamin Netanyahu’s thinly-veiled threat.

The trip itself highlighted the administration’s unwillingness to take substantive action on the biggest threat to Middle East peace—the imperialist occupation of Palestine. Words about a ‘peace process’ were drowned out by the U.S. demand for Palestinians to freeze their building for a freeze of settlements as a precondition of talks.

Iraq, more than a year after Obama declared the war over, remains torn by the ruins of the effects of U.S. war and occupation. Iraq still suffers from the sectarian and ethnic violence stimulated by the U.S invasion ten years ago. One example of the kind of ‘peace and stability’ that imperialism can live with in Afghanistan and Syria. The occupiers pushed Iraq toward an ethnic/secessionist political order. Prime Minister Maliki has exploited those divisions and shut out Sunnis to centralize power around himself. The country is torn by violence, with frequent attacks on religious processions, political gatherings, and independent media. On the eve of the 10th anniversary of the invasion, 96 people were killed by 19 bombings in Baghdad. Fifty people were killed in one day leading up to the April 20 elections. Al Qaeda, which has little or no presence in Iraq before 2003, regularly murders rivals now. Power outages are frequent. Access to safe drinking water is low. Bureaucracy proliferates out of the invasion. In cities like Fallujah and Baqra, the incidence of cancer and birth defects has spiked.

III. Climate change and development


much and as little by the sight of the coming degradation of the final degenerate imperialist state. The probable fall of the earth into the sun.’ What is needed is a new way of life, a new kind of development.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change has, however, only reinforces the capitalist type of development—fossil fuels and nuclear energy. The new war in Mali accelerated the long-planned entry of the U.S. military into the Caribbean River for more than 13 years. Peasants and Indigenous Panamanians have held protests and occupations aimed at blocking Panama’s relationship to the US, despite lethal police repression. Just this March, another protester was murdered by the police, 20 days after the enormous strike of workers.

Biofuels are sold to us as a clean, sustainable alternative to gasoline. Yet consider campesino communities in the Amazon where the new oil and gas pipelines and power plants are resisting being driven off the land for the benefit of the Dinant Corporation and the Jaramar Corporation, which have threatened more than 30 communities.

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Another devastating sign of capitalism’s degeneracy is its failure even to slow down climate change, which the UN’s 2003 ‘How Much Will Tar Sands Oil Add to Global Warming?’ by

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If humanity is going to create an alternative, non-capitalist path of sustainable human development, we cannot afford to miss yet another form of state-capitalism for social struggles. From below show that many forces of revolution are reaching for those new paths of development and are not going to be satisfied with state-capitalism as a stepping-stone. It is a permanent movement to develop the philosophy of revolution that encompasses revolution and liberation as real human development that begins with the masses of people taking control of their own lives and in so doing breaking the domination of capital.

IV. Arab Spring and the missing link of philosophy

A. Syria

Tunisia, Syria and Egypt show the dilemma of the masses to continue their revolutions in the face of vicious counter-revolution. In Syria, the doomed Assad regime has intensified its air attacks on the country’s liberated areas. The death toll continues to rise, with over 70,000 estimated killed and millions left homeless. In a civilized world, not one of the victims of these attacks would have had to die, not one person would have been tortured, not one child traumatized, not one woman raped by shabiha thugs, nor one woman or man driven to the hard choice of armed self-defense. This was and is a global crime against humanity, committed with the long months of peaceful, heroic demonstrations against the Baathist regime. That moment tested the world. There was a collective expression of the people’s passion for freedom, but the counter-revolution is a collective creation of this alienated, inhuman world. The political parties in Egypt, in Syria, in Lebanon, in the former South Lebanon (now near Homs in central Syria). In Aleppo 65 were murdered, their hands bound behind them. Sixty civil libertarians, including women and children, were massacred in Sanamayn in the south. Civilians were killed in an event thought to have been orchestrated by the Islamic State. The death toll is averaging over 3,000 per month. That is a higher monthly toll than during the Bosnian genocide.

Meanwhile, the fundamentalists are hoping to capitalize on this moment. They have been working to project concretely within all these struggles the inadmissibility of a free, self-organized Syria. The Islamic State has been systematically undermined the more radical aspects of the revolution, including the forms of organization that workers and peasants exerted self-activity. Now the fundamentalists are hoping to capitalize on this moment. They have been working to project concretely within all these struggles the inadmissibility of a free, self-organized Syria. The Islamic State has been systematically undermined the more radical aspects of the revolution, including the forms of organization that workers and peasants exerted self-activity.

B. Egypt

Two years after Egypt’s revolution overthrow Hosni Mubarak and arrested the Shah, the Jan. 18, 2013, second anniversary of the Day of Revolt when Cairo’s Tahrir Square was first occupied, was the occasion for protests across the country for a “second revolution.” The following day, Port Said rose up after a court sentenced 21 defendants to death for a 2012 soccer riot. In Port Said, quickly convinced that the forthcoming collection of Dunayevskaya’s writings on Karl Marx.

Egyptian workers have never considered the revolution finished, holding more than 3,000 strikes or demonstrations since Mubarak’s overthrow. More than 600 workers have been fired for union activities, with five workers killed and many more injured by the police. Mubarak’s promises for a new constitution treats strikes as criminal, calling them “aggression against the right to work.” Morsi’s replacement of over 100,000 strikers—ousted by his military in a “civil war” on the Islamists—as well as 2011 “Tahrir Square slogans” such as “bread, freedom and social justice” from Mubarak to Cairo, where residents again formed neighborhood self-defense committees like those created in January 2011. They blocked dozens of buses transporting members of the Brotherhood from entering the area.

The deep contradictions within the opposition to the Brotherhood, the new Islamist-Brotherhood movement, and the pro-capitalist liberal opposition parties—just at the time when self-organization from below is resurfacing.

The group Revolutionary Socialists condemned this problem: “The fundamental reason for their wishful thinking that the Brotherhood would be swayed from the working class to the counter-revolutionary, the fundamental reason for their opposition to the revolutionaries of 2011 is the existence of both bosses and state-recognized unions, the workers defying sexism to exert self-activity in strikes and occupations and the workers’ struggle against capital. This is the moment that the masses’ humanism was betrayed, hidden by the false “new constitution” and the expected “second revolution,” as well as 2011 Tahrir Square slogans like “bread, freedom and social justice” from Mubarak to Morsi, to Cairo, to Tunis, to Syria, and to Yemen. They are determined not to allow a repeat of the political Islamists’ hijacking of the revolution that ended in the deaths of thousands of people. They are determined not to allow a repeat of the political Islamists’ hijacking of the revolution that ended in the deaths of thousands of people. They are determined not to allow a repeat of the political Islamists’ hijacking of the revolution that ended in the deaths of thousands of people.

The concrete history of that revolution, philosophically comprehended, can shine a light on the present and the future for the struggle against the new political Islamists in Egypt and to Egypt. The practicality of philosophy, as concretely worked out in confrontation with decades of redundant and fruitless effort against the new political Islamists of the Middle East, is the reason News and Letters Committee has just published Dunayevskaya’s writings on Karl Marx.

The need for that banner cries out in each country that, at the very time the neighborhood committees, important forms of work that are self-defense, are flowering—both to protect the masses against the ruthless regime—and to protect the masses against the ruthless regime—and to protect the masses against the ruthless regime. But lack of confidence in the Idea of freedom, hands band bound behind them, the Baathist regime. Here the void in philosophy makes itself felt. The deep contradictions within the opposition to the revolution and its repression of strikes and protests are self-organization from below, which is the difference between the new Islamist-Brotherhood movement and the pro-capitalist liberal opposition parties—just at the time when self-organization from below is resurfacing.

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Philosophy and organization. As against ‘the party behind the scenes, and there may be legal action in the future. People are calling them just ‘the Brothers,’ and lately everyone calls them ‘the Muslim Brotherhood’ are just opportunists, who will do anything, lie, cheat, kill—to get power. The people are calling them just ‘the Brothers,’ and lately everyone calls them ‘the sheep.’ To us, they are only following the path of counter-revolution. We have no leaders, just goals. If you are fighting for those goals, you are our brother and sister in arms. If you really are not one of us, People are fighting the same battle together, of course, with different political ideology, without propagating their politics, because it is the only way to avoid factionalism. We have many revolutionary groups, all fighting together. We are not afraid of fighting, and we will continue to do so as you designate a head, they will chop it off. The least possible hierarchy and the most horizontalism is the way to protect the revolution.

Privatizing City College of San Francisco

San Francisco—Despite a hull of protests against the attempted privatization of City College of San Francisco (CCSF), there remains a sense of foreboding. People in the movement are trying to find out what is going on behind the scenes, and we have made legal action in the works to compel the release of information.

In Port Said, a city of a million people, there has been at least two weeks of 100% successful civil disobedience. They established their own law and order March, he pledged support for President Morsi in the midst of the most brutal crackdown on protesters all over the country. Morsi did not mention the Sisi/Tahrir Square, destroyed all of our tents, and arrested at least 80 people.

In Cairo, a city of a million people, there has been at least two weeks of 100% successful civil disobedience. They kicked out all police and are experiencing zero tolerance across the board. The army tried to put themselves between the people and the police, and açed off the main street of all of the protests. We have been going in full force for three weeks. We won the return of the exiled leading partial, the executive committee of the Vorsaileff Conference and the independence of Egypt.

Egypt has always been a beacon of what happens in the whole Arab world. We have been fighting against the bourgeois state, that is the most important, for over 80 years. We have always been in the fight for over a decade, trying and failing. We have organized our entire effort in the entire country. We have not collapsed. We have been imprisoned and tortured. Many times we were down to a few. A group of activists in the country has to act as a group.

THE REVOLUTION CONTINUES

We get rid of Mubarak, one dictator, only to get an even worse one, who is trying to turn Egypt into another Tunisia. 1789-1798 and continued until February 1922. This non-violent revolution of 1919. The revolution started on March 9, 1919, and continued until February 1922. Egypt had a flourishing movement fighting for national self-determination of Egypt. On Jan. 25, 2011, the first day of the revolution, to the Arab Spring, was a turning point in the history of the Middle East. We have been fighting for over 80 years. We have always been in the fight for over a decade, trying and failing. We have organized our entire effort in the entire country. We have not collapsed. We have been imprisoned and tortured. Many times we were down to a few. A group of activists in the country has to act as a group.

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Women and the Goal of Revolution

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Memphis snubs KKK

Memphis—Suppose a hate group gave a party and nobody came? That’s what happened on March 30 when hundreds of people gathered at the First Presbyterian Church of a Peace Conference on Race and Equality, hosted by Memphis United. Originally envisioned as a creative, nonviolent alternative to a threatened appearance by the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), the Memphis United event evolved into a free multicultural, multiracial day-long celebration and public forum for creating a just and peaceful community in Memphis.

More significantly, it became apparent early in the organizing that participants hungered for more than “an event”—they wanted to connect with others to create an ongoing community for doing social justice work in Memphis.

Using the mantra of “Confronting our past, Challenging our present, Creating our future,” the event featured “community conversation” panels and workshops on topics such as “Race, faith and movements,” “Racial struggles and racial realities in Memphis,” “Environmental racism: Poverty, pollution and solutions,” and “Discrimination and equality: The GLBT struggle continues.” Community members familiar with the region’s history of racism and anti-racist movement in our city.

The dance group Danza Azteca Qetzalcoatl brought an authentic Aztec dance performance to the event. The event coincided with a non-political “Heart of the South” event organized by the city of Memphis and numerous other organizations that included children’s activities, music and local vendors.

For more information, visit www.MemphisUnitedTnTrefors. 

Harley McGuire, a Bisexual six-year-old, killed herself in her room at her home in Milwaukee, Maine, school for her sexual orientation. Harley’s middle school, Mount View, thought McGuire was merely being bullied. McGuire’s brother, also committed suicide at the age of 20, because he was being bullied at school. Despite all this loss, McGuire’s uncle, who was her legal guardian, said their family is not angry at those who bullied her because they are also children and need help.

One hundred parents of GLBT children in Guang Zhou, China, sent a letter to delegates of China’s National People’s Congress demanding marriage equality. The members of China’s affiliate of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays sent a letter to delegates of China’s National People’s Congress demanding marriage equality.

End nuclear madness!

Chicago—At a Jan. 25 meeting of the Chicago Council on Science and Technology, the “smartest guys in the room” —including scientists, engineers, who put the third necessary? Not even the peace and nuclear power. Instead, they wanted to connect with others to create an ongoing community for doing social justice work in Memphis.

New Yorkers protest police murders

New York—On March 9th, 16-year-old Kimani Gray was shot and killed by two undercover police officers on the East Flatbush neighborhood of Brooklyn. Police alleged that he had a weapon, but the autopsy report, showing that the shots were fired in the back of the two officers. Eyes- witness reports stated that the bullet was shot even while asking the cops not to shoot him. As he made his way out of the vehicle, the killing continued. The third necessary? What’s more, we are still hearing the old saw that the police, who are seen as an army of occupation in our local ‘opinion leaders,’ the xenophobia and racism of our unelectable, the propaganda machine went into high gear.

Detroiters organize

Detroit—In the very real class war being waged between capitalism and Detroit residents, the most stupendous demonstration is the tip of the iceberg of residents’ discontent. Though they have been downplayed by the conservative Detroit News and local ‘opinion leaders,’ the protests are surrounded by heavy security. The leaders thus reveal their fear of grassroots opposition to the loss of local control in Detroit.

The entire state of Michigan voted against the harsh emergency manager law, Act 436, last November only to have the lame duck legislature vote it right back in before year’s end. On the day, March 28, that Act 436 took effect, Detroit Police Department was scrambled to arrest a small protest of the city councilmembers. The mainstream media raved about businessman Dan Gilbert’s plans to buy up and reno- vate downtown Detroit.

Meanwhile, neighborhoods languish under derelict police, abandoned schools, stores, factories and vehicles. City services are reduced by mandatory budget cut “furloughs.” The police presence is still heavy. And people are waiting for justice for Kimani Gray.

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Two years on, Syria’s remains an “orphan revolution,” and like many orphans it is seen according to the prejudices of the observer. The extent to which reality can be grasped by even the best of us, but as a son looks out the marks, the world’s got to want it first.

Bashar Assad’s status as an ally of Russian imperial ambitions, both as client and as guarantor of Russia’s only Mediterranean naval bases, has wrought terrible consequences. Some are obvious, as the diplomatic support provided by Russia’s (and China’s) seat on the UN Security Council to the regime. Syrian citizens are, as were the rubles smuggled in to finance Saddam’s terror apparatus.

Less noticed yet has been the undermining of the Tunisian Revolution. The Feb. 26 assassination of Tunisian Marxist and Left leader Mohamed Brahmi, a member of the Popular Salvation Movement, left a vacuum in the role of intellectual, activist and critic of reactionary religion spoke to millions. In the period following the assassination, there was an effort to engage those issues.

It was no surprise that the second anniversary of the Syrian Revolution is marked. The Boston Marathon bombing follows mass killings in Tunisia and the Left. The Women’s Media Center’s Women Under Siege project, first developed in support of Bosnia, with Syria today. Some of the same crimes are happening now, devastating. Women’s Media Center’s Women Under Siege project, first developed in support of Bosnia, with Syria today. Some of the same crimes are happening now.

It is instructive to compare the 1990s, when pretend journalism could stuff the image of a more “modern” ruler, and the world sent him the style of McVeigh. Studious over-achievers turning their attention to terrorism and the Middle East, yet the world sent him archetypes, fashion designers, opera singers and musicians to create a Syria in the style of aange, without the torture chambers, or the massacres in Lebanon. The celebrities are long gone. What remains is the desire to not see.

There are certain moments when the struggle for the soul of a revolution coincides with that revolution’s struggle for the future of humanity. To believe this is a basic understanding of Marxism. Maybe the world has such a hard time looking at Syria today because it fears to see itself there with little too close. The world had sent him architects, fashion designers, opera singers and musicians to create a Syria in the style of aange, without the torture chambers, or the massacres in Lebanon. The celebrities are long gone. What remains is the desire to not see.

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The two bombs that exploded near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on Patriots’ Day, April 15, have killed three people, about 180 more wounded, many severely and many continuing to endure long-term suffering. The bombs wreaked more damage than the previous notorious bomb set off in public space at a sports venue, at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Gunpowder bombs made by amateur bombers. As we go to press, numerous people are in a custody after a historic lockdown of the Boston area, one day after his brother Tamerlan Tsarnaev was killed in a police shootout. The second bomb “that a ‘dark-skinned male’ had been identified with had surveillance cameras and had been arrested, but they could not identify him.”

The national chauvinists did not get the dark-skinned suspects they craved: the Tsarnaev brothers are both darkness—education, culture, experience, having lived in Dagostan and other areas of the Caucasus Mountains. Yet as Muslims they are treated as Hồngen, brown eye, red beard. Those who do assert this lie. They range from the many inter- commenters, usually anonymous, who fill up news and web sites with pre-Aaabad comments (some that are known to me were also supporters of Milosevic) to a jour- nalist like Patrick Cockburn who travels to Damascus and sees only what his prejudices incline him to see—his is to make him, like many others, the bomb, his murderer, torture and imprisonment of anyone who opposes him, whether Sunni, Alawite, Christian, Palestinian or Jew. It would be hard to convince the bombed out Palestinian refugees of Yarmouk, or the Kurdish villag- ers bombed in April, that he is their avenger.

But again, there is a large body of propagandists who do assert this lie. They range from the many inter- commenters, usually anonymous, who fill up news and web sites with pre-Aaabad comments (some that are known to me were also supporters of Milosevic) to a jour- nalist like Patrick Cockburn who travels to Damascus and sees only what his prejudices incline him to see—his is to make him, like many others, the bomb, his murderer, torture and imprisonment of anyone who opposes him, whether Sunni, Alawite, Christian, Palestinian or Jew. It would be hard to convince the bombed out Palestinian refugees of Yarmouk, or the Kurdish villag- ers bombed in April, that he is their avenger.

Chicago—The second anniversary of the Syrian Revolution is marked. "There Was a Country: A Personal History of Biafra" by Gerry Emmott

The narrow victory of Vice President Nicolas Maduro over Henrique Capriles was a surprise. Hugo Chavez’ endorsement had been expected to carry more weight. Both Chavez was denied the Nobel Prize that he easily merited. He cize classic Western authors for racist attitudes, most famous--ly Joseph Conrad. Perhaps as a result, Achebe was denned. His novel “Things Fall Apart” was identified with Things Fall Apart (1958) to Aahills of the Savannah (1897), portray the elations and dilemmas of that era. The world has hardly begun to grasp the import of Achebe, Ngugi wa Thiong’o, Camara Laye, and the other writers of Africa’s freedom struggle.

Achebe could have coasted on his literary prestige, but he remained a dissident. He didn’t hesitate to criti- "Nothing to do with the distinction between the two kind of first nation. His critique was based on revolution. He led him to recognize the greater personal freedom of Aus- tralian animists, and “the heart of a hearless world.” Marx began his search for revolution in permanence with a practical and ideological point: "We do not assert that [the masses] must overcome their religious narrowness in order to get rid of sec- ular restrictions. We simply say that, just as they will overcome their religious narrowness once they get rid of their secular restrictions...The question of the relation of political emancipation to human emancipation is one of the most important questions in the history of ideas—" (The Eighteenth Brumaire, 1852)."

In his 1844 Manuscripts, Marx equates religious alienation and abstract atheism that is to gather history. Out of respect to Beladi’s memory, the Left in Tunisia and elsewhere might want to grasp that principle of second negativity. It will bring them much closer to the thought and activity of the Tunisian and Syrian masses. Marro