



## The Marxist Education Project (MEP)

**E**ight men, six of them from the United States, now own more wealth than the poorest half of the world's population; leaving more than 3.5 billion men, women and children surviving in conditions of poverty, destitution, and joblessness—realities that are simply the inevitable result of the ordinary workings of the capitalist global market premised on the private ownership and control of all that exists. The richest 1% own more than all the rest of us on this planet and this gap between the haves and have-nots is only growing.

The rise to power over humanity's common socially produced wealth and our natural habitat by a self-aggrandizing global financial rentier capitalist class has brought not only our own *life engendering life activities* to a crisis but all of nature on our shared planet. Their destructive use of our common habitat threatens life as we know it, and the degradation of the human being into an object, seen by them as nothing more than a cost of production, which, like anything else, should be bought as cheaply as possible in order to maximize profits.

For decades now family resources have been eroding, debt to financiers and rentiers for present necessities growing, and workers compete for ever fewer jobs, all leading to insecurity and antagonisms among sectors of the working class. Right-wing tendencies have been organizing and growing throughout the world, and now in the US an overt and coordinated racist, sexist, anti-immigrant, anti-LGBTQI and xenophobic right-wing campaign has established itself at the highest levels of all branches of national government. This campaign is intended to turn the frustration of white working class men about their circumstances into anger against their fellow brothers and sisters. All the while legislation and policies are being enacted that will further deteriorate the conditions for the working class as a whole and insure that any progressive and socialist ideas are stopped before they can take root within society's imagination as an alternative. This class-conscious campaign coordinated by those who own and control society's wealth and centers of power is designed to insure their continued ruling position within society and over the state while keeping the majority politically powerless and even disenfranchised. They are the actions of a desperate decaying class that has outlived their historical capacity to advance human development and civilization. The rub of it all, one that the working class has yet to absorb, is that the appropriators of the wealth of society are actually and objectively dependent on us and not we on them. We hold within us collectively, while working alongside nature, all the laboring skills and species knowledge necessary to reproduce all wealth and satisfy all our needs. We, the collective working classes of our various nations can together begin the process of transitioning to sustainable ways of living in our natural world and bring an end to all forms of personal abuse and the exploitation endemic to class society.

In this first quarter of the 21st Century it has become clear that we as a species have a great challenge and responsibility—to bring together all our different needs and knowledge into an organized and diverse political force that can not only impede the prerogatives of a degenerating imperialist capitalism but also start to put in place means for transitioning to different ways of producing while in doing so we take into account all the needs of nature.

**The Marxist Education Project (MEP)** has been formed as a place to study, and to work to consciously identify what questions we must address and together answer, each bringing to the discussion our diverse locations and experiences within society as a whole. We are confronting great possibilities and great challenges which require we socially and politically find common ground while embracing not only our own but also each others different needs as our own into one organized emancipatory voice that represents the needs and aspirations of all humanity with social and political programs to begin the remediation of ourselves and our relations to each other and nature.

# STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

*I. The Marxist Education Project was founded for the purposes of advancing Marxist culture and conscious political practice.*

We, the organizers of the MEP, see the human species threatened by the menace of out-lived capitalism and its intrinsic plagues of war, economic crisis, racial and sexual discrimination, inequity, ignorance, poverty, hunger, and escalating rates of mental illness and disease.

At this stage of world capitalist/imperialist development we see that a few hold as their private property the conditions necessary for human reproduction. The capitalist class dictates and proudly proclaims that the only thing sacred is the right to amass ever more profit in their insatiable drive to own all that exists, accumulate ever more capital and amass ever greater private wealth. They do so without any concern for the well being of the working classes, employed and unemployed, and their dependents as well as for the natural world from which all life is derived and upon which all life depends. Because of these realities we see the task of revolutionary Marxism to arm the producing masses of the world with the consciousness to re-capture their human capacities as social beings and transform the world into an environment in which we are engaged in our common endeavors as subjects of our conditions of life.

We see education as essential to the process of building a counter-hegemonic social movement; one that is capable of unifying our diverse communities and struggles into a social force that can challenge and impede the capitalists' interests and start transitioning our modes of life into insuring the well-being of each and the conditions of life for all of nature. To contribute our part to advancing conscious political practice within our movement-building struggles the MEP has two basic educational premises:

(1) The scientific presentation of historical dialectical materialism contained in *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy* by Karl Marx; and

(2) The history and lessons of revolutionary struggles since the emergence of capitalist class hegemony over social reproduction; most particularly the lessons of the Russian Revolution, a turning point in working class history led by self-conscious Marxists, which opened the 20th century's revolutionary process and still informs the struggles of today.

These two basic premises serve to insure that our educational program provides a place where critical learning and discussion of proven and demonstrated accomplishments of Marxist science can take place. We do not mean that everything Marx said was right or that everything the Bolshevik party said or did was correct. We are simply not agnostic with respect to the scientific basis of Marxist thought and the accomplishments of conscious revolutionary practice.

II. While we are the beneficiaries of socialist ideas from many countries, we situate our principle international responsibility in clarifying and unifying the struggle against our own capitalist/imperialist class. The primary theoretical task we see for U.S. Marxists is to grasp the underlying dynamics of the development of capitalism in the U.S. and the formation of the working class, not as U.S. exceptionalism, but as our particular development within the general development of world capitalism. We propose this task in order to address the burning question: why hasn't the U.S. working class developed a mass independent political organization?

III. The need for a unified revolutionary formation/party is so great that the question of its program, tempo and form of organization must be a centerpiece of discussion and debate. We want the MEP to be a place to advance this dialogue among all our movements for social justice and against all forms of inequality and discrimination. We support action where there is common agreement, particularly in solidarity with workers' struggles at home and internationally, on the principle that a blow against one is a blow to all.

IV. We agree with Marx that because we are the species that can know ourselves as nature we are



*West Virginia teachers take action*

responsible for all of nature. Since it is evident now more than ever that globalized capitalism cannot insure the further development of a healthy and socialized humanity and is depleting the basis of life itself, it is necessary that the producing masses and their supporters come to embrace this responsibility and move humanity into new ways of living harmonious with our nature and all of nature. The need today in the U.S. for developing a social force armed with transitional revolutionary programs, strategies and tactics that are rooted in understanding social development and the lessons of our historical struggles, is greater than ever; as is coordinated informed international solidarity that can provide support to each and all struggles against capitalist/imperialist aggression and exploitation.

Therefore, we see the two basic educational premises further supported by providing programs, classes, cultural events, taskforces, debates and discussions that focus on these core areas of study and discussion:

- (1) Science and Method
- (2) Culture: The Domain of Oppression and Resistance
- (3) Pedagogy, Learning & Transforming  
Consciousness: Education in Movement Building
- (4) The American Question: Development of Capitalism in the US and the Formation of the US Working Class: Obstacles to Class Consciousness
- (6) Nature, Technology and Labor
- (6) Prospects for Socialist Movement Building, Transitional Programs and International Solidarity

- (7) Lessons and Legacies of Revolutionary Struggles
- (8) Nature of the Period: Globalized Capitalist Imperialism; Uneven and Combined Development: What is to be Done?

The Marxist Educational Project welcomes all workers, students and anyone who finds our classes and activities valuable for their lives and work. No one will be excluded on the basis of prior thought or practice; on the contrary, we welcome controversy and debate. Anyone interfering with the rights of others to pursue their own course of growth within the MEP programs will be prevented from doing so.



*The French working class: May, 1968  
10 million workers and students strike*

# WORKERS OF NEW YORK UNITE TO STUDY CAPITAL

Send an email to [info@marxedproject.org](mailto:info@marxedproject.org) letting us know about a group you are working with, a group you would like to form, or any other questions you have about initiating, continuing, or combining *Capital* study groups.

THE MEP: SCIENCE, HISTORY, CULTURE, THEORY IN OPPOSITION TO CAPITALISM

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