

Military Resistance 8C8

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



U.S. Marines carry a member of their unit, who was wounded minutes earlier in a rocket-propelled grenade attack, to a U.S. Army Task Force Pegasus Black Hawk medevac helicopter, in Marjah, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Feb. 13, 2010. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



A wounded U.S. service member is evacuated, in Marjah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Feb. 14, 2010. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



During a medevac mission by the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne's Task Force Pegasus, U.S. Marines carry a wounded comrade onto a Black Hawk helicopter, in Marjah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 7, 2010. The Marine was among two who suffered shrapnel wounds following an IED blast. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



During a medevac mission by the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne's Task Force Pegasus, a U.S. Marine gives a thumbs-up to a wounded comrade after helping load him onto a Black Hawk helicopter, in Marjah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 7, 2010. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



During a medevac mission by the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne's Task Force Pegasus, an army crew member prepares to carry a wounded U.S. Marine off a Black Hawk helicopter, after arriving at a field hospital at Camp Bastion, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 7, 2010. The Marine was among two who suffered shrapnel wounds following an IED blast. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Texas Marine Killed In Helmand

March 12, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 197-10

Lance Cpl. Garrett W. Gamble, 20, of Sugarland, Texas, died March 11 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Foreign Soldier Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

March 12 IJC & AP

A foreign servicemember was killed in an IED strike in southern Afghanistan today.

Miss. Soldier Killed In Afghanistan Battle During 5th Tour Of Duty



March 2, 2010 Holbrook Mohr, The Associated Press

William "Seth" Ricketts wanted to be a soldier ever since he was a little boy, and when terrorists attacked the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, he joined the Army the next day.

Ricketts was on his fifth tour of duty and looking forward to getting home for the birth of his third child when he was killed Saturday in Afghanistan, his father said.

The 27-year-old staff sergeant from the tiny town of Glen, near Corinth in north Mississippi, was fighting with the 82nd Airborne Division when he died in a battle with insurgents near Bala Murghab, Afghanistan, the Department of Defense and his family said.

"He wanted to be in the military since he was 9 years old and had been talking to a recruiter," said his father, Bill Ricketts. "On Sept. 12 he signed up. He came home and said he was going to protect his county and to keep that kind of stuff from happening to his family. He would rather take the fight to their soil."

Ricketts is the father of two boys - 3-year-old Aiden and 10-month-old Cullen. His third child is due this summer, soon after Ricketts was scheduled to come home.

He and his wife, Rosie Jones Ricketts, didn't know if they were having a boy or a girl and had not picked out a name. But the family affectionately calls the child "peanut" as a nickname, Bill Ricketts said.

"The thing he loved most was being with his wife and children," the elder Ricketts said, adding that he also enjoyed hunting and camping and being in nature.

Ricketts was home for the births of his first two children but deployed soon afterward.

Ricketts joined the Army after attending Alcorn Central High School in Glen. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, at Fort Bragg, N.C.

He spent two tours in Iraq, and this was the third in Afghanistan, his father said.

"He was an exemplary soldier and the men that were under him praised his work and his leadership," the soldier's father said.

"He put his men before his own life. That's just who he was."

Ricketts' awards and decorations, too numerous to list here, include the Army Commendation Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the Iraqi Campaign Medal.

"Staff Sgt. William Seth Ricketts was a man with great values, dedication, and love like no other for his family and country," 1st Lt. Christopher Kirchner, Ricketts' platoon leader, said in a news release. "Battle Company will continue to honor his memory on and off the battlefield. You will be truly missed brother, and we love you."

The Mississippi House of Representatives adjourned Monday in Ricketts' honor.

At least 72 soldiers with Mississippi ties have died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to an Associated Press count.

BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: COME ON HOME, NOW



A U.S. Marine from 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment south of Marjah in Afghanistan's Helmand province on Feb. 21, 2010. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)



A U.S. Marine from 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment in a compound in Marjah in Afghanistan's Helmand province Feb. 25, 2010. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)



A soldier of Army National Guard 162 Engineer Company attached with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion of U.S. Marine Corps before going for a rout clearance mission at Camp Leatherneck in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, March 5, 2010. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov



Soldiers with Army National Guard 162 Engineer Company attached with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion of the U.S. Marine Corps after returning from a route clearance mission, at Camp Leatherneck in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, March 10, 2010. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgent Attack Comes Within One Mile Of Presidential Palace: “Few Somalis Trust An Administration That Has Failed To Deliver Even A Semblance Of Services Or Security More Than A Year After It Took Power”

3.11.10 By MOHAMED OLAD HASSAN (AP) & March 12 (Reuters)

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Heavy fighting between Somali insurgents and pro-government troops has killed at least 43 people over two days, as African Union peacekeepers [translation: U.S. government backed occupation troops] used tanks to help the beleaguered government beat back an insurgent attack, officials said Thursday.

President Sheikh Ahmed Sharif's administration controls little more than a few streets in the capital, leaving it to aid agencies to provide basic essentials for millions of people.

Militants attacking from the north on Wednesday reached to within a mile (2 kilometers) of the presidential place in the heart of the capital, Mogadishu, before African Union peacekeepers [translation: U.S. government backed occupation troops] in tanks reinforced government troops, residents said.

"Al Shabaab fighters arrived this morning at Aden Ade junction near the palace and fired mortars at the palace, prompting heavier shells," resident Abdi Abdullahi told Reuters.

The government is supported by around 5,300 African Union peacekeepers [translation: U.S. government backed occupation troops], whose tanks and armored vehicles help them to outgun the insurgents.

The insurgents favor mobile hit-and-run attacks, using snipers and mortar fire to make it hard for the government's poorly trained and irregularly paid soldiers to hold their position.

The peacekeepers [translation: U.S. government backed occupation troops] used tanks to help government forces when the insurgents got within a mile of the presidential palace, said resident Omar Salad. Other residents confirmed his account.

We have forced our enemy to taste the pain of our weapons," said a spokesman for the Islamist al-Shabab militia, Sheik Ali Mohamud Rage.

The government hopes to break the stalemate with an upcoming offensive, but its launch has been delayed by problems that include inadequate equipment and training.

Even if the government push succeeds, few Somalis trust an administration that has failed to deliver even a semblance of services or security more than a year after it took power.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

TROOP NEWS

“Spc Marc Hall Needs Our Help” “Army Spc Marc Hall Was Jailed On December 12, 2009 On The Pretext Of An Angry Song About “Stop-Loss” He Produced”



Iraq Veterans Against The War

After filing an official complaint over inadequate mental health services at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, Army SPC Marc Hall was jailed on December 12, 2009 on the pretext of an angry song about “Stop-loss” he produced in July 2009.

The Army has recently shipped SPC Hall to Kuwait where he remains jailed awaiting a virtually secret trial.

Marc needs our help if he is going to have adequate legal representation and mental health support in Kuwait.

IVAW is partnering with Courage to Resist to raise awareness and funds for Marc Hall.

Please donate now: <https://co.clickandpledge.com/sp/d1/default.aspx?wid=30624>



**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**Hope for change doesn't cut it when you're still losing buddies.
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”
-- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787**

**Firearms are second only to the Constitution in importance; they are the peoples' liberty's teeth.
-- George Washington**

**The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”
-- Lenin; What Is To Be Done**

**A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.
-- Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution**

**“The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy”
-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt**

**It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it.
-- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers**

Behind Bars



Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: March 08, 2010
Subject: Behind Bars

Behind Bars

"I commend the Iraqi government and Iraqi Security Forces for providing security at 50,000 voting booths at more than 8,000 polling stations across Iraq," Obama said. "We mourn the tragic loss of life today, and honor the courage and resilience of the Iraqi people who once again defied threats to advance their democracy."

Hannah Allan
McClatchy Newspapers
March 7, 2010

In the first 48 hours of the Iraq War,
beginning on March 19, 2003,
Baghdad was hit by 800 American
Cruise Missiles, destroying everything
that makes life in Baghdad livable.
Quote from: "Bombing Civilians."
Edited by Yuki Tanaka and
Marilyn B. Young
The New Press 2009 (page 171)

"The greatest purveyor of violence in
the world today is my own government."
Martin Luther King Jr.
April 4, 1967

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of
Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work,
contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head.
The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a
so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen
of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

**“How Many Individual Articles
From Pravda Were Reprinted By
Us, And How Many Small
Brochures, Very Close And
Comprehensible To The Soldiers!”
“And All These Were Swiftly
Distributed Along The Front”**

“A Red-Hot Revolutionary Medium Is A High Conductor Of Ideas”

“We are not charlatans,” said Lenin immediately after his arrival.

“We must base ourselves only upon the consciousness of the masses. Even if it is necessary to remain in a minority, be it so ...

“We must not be afraid to be a minority ... We will carry on the work of criticism in order to free the masses from deceit. Our line will prove right. All the oppressed will come to us. They have no other way out.”

[Excerpt from: The History of the Russian Revolution, Volume Two: The Attempted Counter-Revolution, Chapter 36, By Leon Trotsky,

UPON a close examination, the means and implements of the Bolshevik agitation seem not only completely out of proportion to the political influence of Bolshevism, but simply amazing in their insignificance.

Up to the July [1917] days the party had 41 publications counting weeklies and monthlies, with a total circulation, counting everything, of 320,000.

After the July raids the circulation dwindled by half. At the end of August the central organ of the Party was printing 50,000 copies. In the days when the party was winning over the Petrograd and Moscow soviets, the cash in the treasury of the Central Committee amounted to only 30,000 paper rubles.

The intelligentsia hardly came into the Bolshevik party at all.

A broad layer of so-called “old Bolsheviks,” from among the students who had associated themselves with the revolution of 1905, had since turned into extraordinarily successful engineers, physicians, government officials, and they now unceremoniously showed the party the hostile aspect of their backs.

Even in Petrograd there was felt at every step a lack of journalists, speakers, agitators; and the provinces were wholly deprived of what few they had had. “There are no leaders; there are no politically literate people who can explain to the masses what the Bolsheviks want!” – this cry came from hundreds of remote corners, and especially from the front.

How was it that with this weak apparatus and this negligible circulation of the party press, the ideas and slogans of Bolshevism were able to take possession of the people?

The explanation is very simple: those slogans which correspond to the keen demands of a class and an epoch create thousands of channels for themselves.

A red-hot revolutionary medium is a high conductor of ideas.

The Bolshevik papers were read aloud, were read all to pieces.

The most important articles were learned by heart, recited, copied, and wherever possible reprinted.

“Our staff printing plant,” says the soldier, Pereiko, “performed a great service for the revolution.

“How many individual articles from Pravda were reprinted by us, and how many small brochures, very close and comprehensible to the soldiers!

“And all these were swiftly distributed along the front with the help of air mails, bicycles and motorcycles ...”

At the same time the bourgeois press, although’ supplied to the front free of cost in millions of copies, hardly found a reader.

The heavy bales remained unopened.

This boycott of the “patriotic” press at times assumed a demonstrative form.

Representatives of the 18th Siberian division passed a resolution asking the bourgeois parties to stop sending literature, inasmuch as it was “fruitlessly used to boil the hot water for tea.”

The Bolshevik press was very differently employed.

Hence the coefficient of its useful – or if you prefer, harmful – effectiveness was incomparably higher.

The usual explanation of the success of Bolshevism reduced itself to a remark upon “the simplicity of its slogans,” which fell in with the desires of the masses. In this there is a certain element of truth.

The wholeness of the Bolshevik policy was due to the fact that, in contrast to the “democratic parties,” the Bolsheviks were free from unexpressed or semi-expressed gospels reducing themselves in the last analysis to a defense of private property. However, that distinction alone does not exhaust the matter.

While on the right the “democracy” was competing with the Bolsheviks, on the left too there were the anarchists, the Maximalists, the Left Social Revolutionaries, trying to crowd them out. But these groups too – none of them ever emerged from its impotent state.

What distinguished Bolshevism was that it subordinated the subjective goal, the defense of the interests of the popular masses, to the laws of revolution as an objectively conditioned process.

The scientific discovery of these laws, and first of all those which govern the movement of popular masses, constituted the basis of the Bolshevik strategy.

The toilers are guided their struggle not only by their demands, not only by their needs, but by their life experiences.

Bolshevism had absolutely no taint of any aristocratic scorn for the independent experience of the masses.

On the contrary, the Bolsheviks took this for their point of departure and built upon it.

That was one of their great points of superiority.

Revolutions are always verbose, and the Bolsheviks did not escape from this law.

But whereas the agitation of the Mensheviks and Social Revolutionaries was scattered, self-contradictory and oftenest of all evasive, the agitation of the Bolsheviks was distinguished by its concentrated and well thought-out character.

The Compromisers talked themselves out of difficulties; the Bolsheviks went to meet them.

A continual analysis of the objective situation, a testing of slogans upon facts, a serious attitude to the enemy even when he was none too serious, gave special strength and power of conviction to the Bolshevik agitation.

The party press did not exaggerate success, did not distort the correlation of forces, did not try to win by shouting.

The school of Lenin was a school of revolutionary realism.

The data supplied by the Bolshevik press of 1917 are proving, in the light of historic criticism and the documents of the epoch, incomparably more correct than the data supplied by all the other newspapers.

This correctness was a result of the revolutionary strength of the Bolsheviks, but at the same time it reinforced their strength.

The renunciation of this tradition has subsequently become one of the most malignant features of epigonism.

“We are not charlatans,” said Lenin immediately after his arrival.

“We must base ourselves only upon the consciousness of the masses. Even if it is necessary to remain in a minority, be it so ...

“We must not be afraid to be a minority ... We will carry on the work of criticism in order to free the masses from deceit. Our line will prove right. All the oppressed will come to us. They have no other way out.”

Here we have the Bolshevik policy, comprehensible from beginning to end as the direct opposite of demagoguism and adventurism.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> **And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)**

Happy Anniversary: March 12, 1912 Women Warriors Win Bread And Roses



IWW organizer Elizabeth Gurley Flynn addresses a strike rally

Carl Bunin Peace History March 12-18

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) won the Lawrence, Massachusetts, "Bread & Roses" textile strike after 32,000 workers (mostly young female immigrants who spoke twenty-five different languages) stayed out for nine weeks.

They were striking for better pay, a 54-hour workweek and safer working conditions: the equipment was dangerous and the air quality caused lung disease in nearly one-third of the workers before the age of twenty-five.



Bread & Roses victory parade

“Bread and Roses,” by James Oppenheimer

**As we go marching, marching, in the beauty of the day,
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lots gray
Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses
For the people hear us singing: bread and roses, bread and roses.**

**As we go marching, marching, we battle, too, for men,
For they are women’s children and we march with them again.
Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes;
Hearts starve as well bodies; give us bread but give us roses.**

**As we go marching, marching, unnumbered women dead
Go crying through our singing their ancient call for bread.
Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirits knew;
Yes, it is bread we fight for, but we fight for roses, too.**

**As we go marching, marching, we bring the greater days;
The rising of the women means the rising of the race.
No more the drudge and idler, 10 that toil where one reposes,
But a sharing of life’s glories: bread and roses, bread and roses.**

January 18, 2002 By ELIZABETH SCHULTE, Socialist Worker

JAMES OPPENHEIMER wrote the song "Bread and Roses" for striking textile workers in Lawrence, Mass.

He took the title from the banners of strikers, who demanded not just decent treatment at work, but the right to dignity and a better quality of life.

The textile bosses in Lawrence had hired women and children because they thought they could pay poverty wages and never face resistance. And they employed immigrants--who spoke more than 25 different languages--with the aim of keeping workers from uniting and fighting back.

But the bosses were wrong on both counts. More than 20,000 Lawrence workers struck against a 30-cent pay cut in January 1912.

Many workers were lured to Lawrence by advertisements in their home cities--throughout the Balkans and the Mediterranean--showing happy textile workers carrying bags of money home from their jobs. Instead, the new immigrants were greeted with miserable labor at poverty wages.

The strike came as a surprise to bosses, considering that the workers were largely unorganized. Because of its craft orientation and its policy of ignoring immigrant and women workers, the American Federation of Labor (AFL) had few locals in the textile industry.

AFL leaders actually opposed the Lawrence strike and by the end of the struggle had sided with the bosses -- denouncing strikers as anarchists and saboteurs. In contrast, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), or Wobblies, saw the Lawrence battle as a key struggle in their strategy of organizing all workers into "One Big Union."

ALTHOUGH THE IWW had been organizing in Lawrence since 1905, at times working with the more conservative AFL unions, they accelerated their campaign when one of the largest mills, Atlantic Cotton, struck against speedups in 1911. The Wobblies sent in some of their best organizers--J.P. Thompson, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Big Bill Haywood, Arturo Giovannitti and Joe Ettor, whose ability to speak six languages was a tremendous asset.

But the backbone of the struggle was the workers of Lawrence themselves. In January 1912, Massachusetts passed labor reform legislation that limited women and children from working more than 54 hours a week. In Lawrence, the typical workweek was 56 hours. But because the law didn't have a provision preserving the two hours' pay, bosses instead decided to use the measure to cut wages.

Local 20, the Italian branch of the IWW, called a meeting on January 10 to discuss what action to take on payday. Some 1,000 workers showed up and voted to call workers on strike as soon as they received the checks.

On January 12, strikers poured out of the mills, some of them forming flying squads to go into factories to bring out other workers. Mill owners ordered their goons to attack workers, hosing them down with freezing water in the subzero

January weather. But workers resisted, going into the factories and smashing machinery and windows.

The governor used this as an excuse to call out the National Guard, which joined police on the streets in intimidating workers.

In the course of the struggle, Lawrence workers devised several new and effective strike tactics. One was the mass picket. Instead of small picket lines, Lawrence strikers organized all their forces to block workplaces.

In the face of thousands of workers surrounding a factory, neither the bosses' scabs nor the police could do a thing.

And as they marched, sang and chanted in the thousands, workers built solidarity and a sense of their own power.

Building solidarity among the different immigrant groups--the largest were Italians, Poles, Russians, Syrians and Lithuanians--was critical to the strike's victory.

Questions in the struggle were debated and decisions made in weekly mass meetings attended by thousands of strikers. After each meeting, workers sang the workers' anthem from the Paris Commune, "The Internationale."

Day-to-day decisions were made by a strike committee, which was made up of elected representatives from each of the different language groups.

THE ROLE of women -- wives of strikers and strikers themselves -- was key to the strike's success, and the IWW did everything it could to foster their participation. The Wobblies organized special meetings for women and encouraged them to take on leadership positions.

"The women worked in the mills for lower pay and in addition had all the housework and the care of the children," wrote Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. "The old-world attitude of man as the 'lord and master' was strong. We resolutely set out to combat these notions. The women wanted to picket. We knew that to leave them at home alone, isolated from the strike activity, prey to worry...was dangerous for the strike."

Women proved to be some of the fiercest fighters.

On one occasion, a group of Italian women found a police officer alone on a bridge. They had taken his gun, club and badge and were in the process of removing his pants before throwing him into the water when he was rescued by the cavalry.

"The IWW has been accused of putting the women in the front," wrote Flynn.

"The truth is, the IWW does not keep them in the back, and they go to the front."

So it is no surprise that several women were elected strike committee delegates.

Concrete provisions were made to provide for workers' families. Strikers ran six commissaries and 11 soup kitchens.

And when the Lawrence schools taught strikers' children that their parents were "un-American" for striking, the IWW's Haywood organized meetings for the kids.

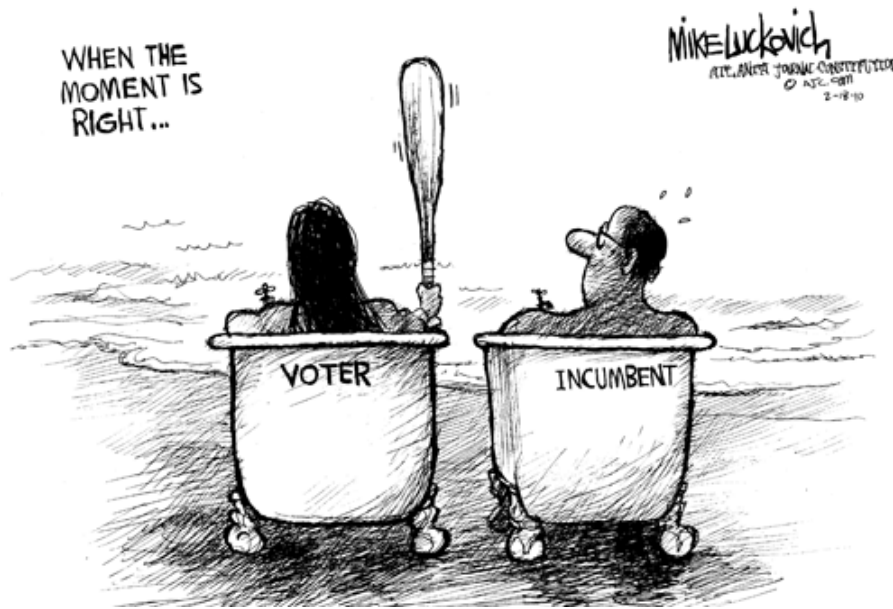
When the growing threat of violence from police and company goons made strikers fear for their children's safety, the workers devised a brilliant plan. Strike supporters in other parts of the country--mostly from New York City--were called on to house and care for the children for the strike's duration. When supporters gathered to meet the Lawrence children at Grand Central Station, it became a huge labor rally.

The strikers forced the mill bosses to settle in March--and won most of their demands. They got pay increases on a sliding scale, with the lowest-paid workers getting 25 percent raises; time and a quarter for overtime; and a guarantee that no striker would be discriminated against.

The victory encouraged a wave of strikes in several New England cities. For example, as soon as Wobblies arrived in Lowell, Mass., mill owners offered workers a 5 percent raise.

The history of this amazing struggle--especially its spirit of solidarity among men and women and between different immigrant groups--remains an inspiration today.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS

**Class War Greece:
“These Are Clear Warnings Of An
Oncoming Storm” “The Loan
Sharks Of The International
Financial Markets Remain Thirsty
For Blood”**

**“The Government Has Taken
Resources And Badly Needed Social
Spending Away From Working
People”**

**“Greece Has Been Turned Into A
Laboratory, Where The Possible Future
Developments For Spain, Portugal, Italy
And Eventually All Of Europe Are Being
Tested”**

During the session when parliament voted on the measures, the building was surrounded by tens of thousands of angry workers.

AS HAS happened in a number of cases across Europe, a social democratic government elected on the promise of defending workers has in reality adapted harsh neoliberal programs that the right wouldn't dare to attempt.

March 11, 2010 By Antonis Davenellos, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

Antonis Davenellos, a member of International Workers Left (DEA) in Athens, describes the brewing protests as the government imposes harsh austerity measures.

GREECE'S SOCIAL democratic government announced "extra measures" on March 3 aimed at reducing the government deficit and raising money, mainly to service the public debt.

For working people, the measures were a shock: a freeze on pensions for the second year in a row, salary cuts for public employees that will also transfer immediately to the private sector, a freeze on hiring in the public sector, plus tax increases--including a sales tax hike that will raise the price of basic products like food, gas, etc.--which will further cut into the living standards of Greek workers.

What happened in Greece to lead to such dramatic measures?

The Greek government--both when it was led by PASOK in the decade leading up to 2004, and when the right-wing New Democracy ran it 2004 to 2009--allowed corporations to withhold taxes owed to the state and contributions owed to workers' pension funds.

Over the last five years, corporate profits were inflated due to this tax evasion to the tune of 2.7 billion Euros and to sales tax withholdings of 11 billion euros.

During the same period, unpaid contributions to pension funds reached 12 billion euros.

This corporate plundering had disastrous consequences on public finances.

The situation got dramatically worse with the outbreak of the economic crisis in the past two years, and a government intervention to support the banks and businesses.

Under right-wing former Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis, government backing for the banks totaled 28 billion euros--a colossal amount for an economy the size of Greece.

This is the bill that workers are being asked to pay by the PASOK government--under the threat of national bankruptcy.

The announcement of the new austerity measures provoked a storm of reactions.

The previously scheduled public-sector strike on March 5 was joined by a host of other workers.

Large demonstrations took place in many major cities across the country.

During the session when parliament voted on the measures, the building was surrounded by tens of thousands of angry workers.

During the clashes that followed, riot police attacked demonstrators with excessive use of chemicals.

They didn't even hesitate to pepper spray an 88-year-old resistance fighter, a living legend of the fight against the Nazis, who was at the head of the protest as a leading member of SYRIZA, a broad coalition of the radical left.

The picture of the unconscious veteran fighter on the ground sent a shocking message to the whole country and forced the government and police to issue a public apology.

THERE IS certain to be mass workers' resistance to the measures.

The social democratic leadership of the unions won't succeed in containing it--though it has been trying systematically to do so.

The private-sector General Confederation of Greek Workers (GSEE) has already been forced to reverse its decision and call for its members to join public-sector employees in a general strike on March 11 that is expected to shake the whole country.

The chairman of GSEE, a leading member of PASOK, attempted to address strikers in front of the parliament building on March 5. His speech was cut short after he was jeered and pelted with eggs and yogurt by the angry crowd.

There is already a serious reaction taking place inside PASOK. Costas Skandalidis, a previous secretary of PASOK, declared that the measures pushed by the current prime minister, Georgios Papandreou, are "outside the political framework and ideology of PASOK."

In parliament, Christos Papoutsis, leader of the PASOK deputies in parliament, criticized the Papandreou government, demanding concrete measures to promote economic development.

Inside PASKE, the PASOK organization within the unions, each meeting has become an open confrontation between supporters of austerity measures and those prepared to fight against them.

We've seen this scenario play out before in Greece: In 1985 to 1987, the social democratic government of Andreas Papandreou (father of the current prime minister) also decided on a harsh "stabilization" program. PASOK split, with a large section of its trade unionists moved to the left, followed by a couple years full of bitter strike confrontations that forced finally Papandreou into retreat.

Again in 2001, the social democratic government of Prime Minister Konstantinos Simitis was determined to push through a severe cutback of the public pension system. It provoked an unprecedented general strike--with the participation of PASOK trade unionists--that paralyzed the country and forced Simitis into a disorderly retreat.

Today, the harshness of the measures is such that even in the mainstream press, there is a growing skepticism that PASOK will be able to survive as a party. But the situation inside the party or within PASOK's social base is only part of the growing headaches of the government and the ruling class.

An even more troubling threat to them is the new labor militancy spreading by the day and focused on resistance to these austerity measures.

As this article was being written, the National Printing Office is still being occupied by workers, preventing the publication of the new measures in the government newspaper (the final step in legislation becoming a law).

Left-wing activists from SYRIZA or the Communist Party have occupied a number of government buildings, headquarters of pension funds and the offices of the European Union in Greece.

Most importantly, there are even more frequent labor actions against layoffs.

These are clear warnings of an oncoming storm.

Whether there will be a "workers' December"--an uprising like the youth explosion in December 2008 against a police murder--is the subject of discussion by a substantial section of the left.

AS HAS happened in a number of cases across Europe, a social democratic government elected on the promise of defending workers has in reality adapted harsh neoliberal programs that the right wouldn't dare to attempt.

In the case of Greece, though, there is reason for optimism, because usually, this sort of attack doesn't lead to stability, and they are rarely successful.

As a result, the eyes of all Europe--where other governments are preparing similar austerity plans--are literally fixed on the streets and workplaces of Athens.

Greece has been turned into a laboratory, where the possible future developments for Spain, Portugal, Italy and eventually all of Europe are being tested.

Papandreou defends as "absolutely necessary" the extreme neoliberal measures he has proposed in order to secure the backing of the EU big powers and appease the forces of the financial markets that provide loans to the country.

In his most recent meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, he received only vague promises of support. At his meeting with French President Nicolas Sarkozy--who sees that French capitalism could soon be facing similar problems--Papandreou got a bit warmer reception, but still just promises.

Meanwhile, the loan sharks of the international financial markets remain thirsty for blood.

After the announcement of the extra austerity measures, the Greek government asked to borrow 5 billion euros by issuing new bonds. Loan offers exceeded the asking amount by more than three times, but with a predatory interest rate of 6.37 percent.

The big banks proved once again that the politics of the public debt are nothing other than a sure way of safe and easy profits for them.

They are indifferent to the cruel way in which the government has taken resources and badly needed social spending away from working people.

Greek workers and youth have to stand up against the government measures. In the process, they will also have to deal with broader issues--how should we deal with debt, what to do about deficits, how we can defend our basic needs in the face of such an open attack of capitalist greed.

The answer to these questions requires the growth of an anti-capitalist left with greater strength and clearer politics. The organization International Workers Left carries out this struggle from the ranks of SYRIZA.

The growth of this left and the extent to which it connected with the social base of the social democracy--which today is rebelling against its party in greater numbers--will determine the future of the country.

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