

RAY O' LIGHT NEWSLETTER

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An "Off Year Election" for the Peoples of the World

The 2014 U.S. Elections

by RAY LIGHT

We are coming to the close of the 2014 election season in the USA. In line with the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, billions of dollars of "dark money," PAC and Super Pac funds, and other untraceable corporate cash have been spent over the past year and more to try to convince the workers and the oppressed in particular that there is a choice between the candidates of the Republicans and Democrats, the "two major parties," and that one of them represents *our* interests. Nevertheless, there is little at stake for the working class

and the 99% of us in the outcome. There is also little at stake for the rest of the international working class and oppressed peoples around the world. Essentially, when the "Republicrats" win, we lose.

As we have explained over a number of years, the Republican and Democratic Parties, especially at the federal level, actually function in collaboration and cooperation with each other to defend and promote the rule of the financial oligarchy over the people of the USA and in defense of the U.S. Empire. The reality of "Republicrat political rule" helps explain why no Wall Street financiers have even been criminally charged, never mind convicted and jailed, for the rampant illegal acts which hastened, precipitated and aggravated the economic crisis of 2008.

In fact, over the past six years, Wall Street has recovered and the Wall Street criminals have been making record profits thanks to massive subsidies from the U.S. government – the Bush and Obama bailouts, the ongoing "quantitative easing" and other props for the

(contd. on p. 2)



The Kurdish National Question: Key to the Liberation of the Middle East

Introduction: The Kurdish national territory extends across the borders of Iraq, Syria, Iran and Turkey. In all these reactionary states the Kurdish people have been dominated and oppressed in large part because their nationality was divided and deprived of sovereign territory. The Iraqi Kurdish people have functioned as a semi-autonomous government for years, fueled by revenue from their oil rich land. In this light and under the war conditions in Iraq, U.S. imperialism has been able to reach an understanding with a de facto reactionary Kurdish regime there. Meanwhile, the Kurdish people under the Turkish state have long been on the cutting

edge of the anti-imperialist and revolutionary struggle there. Today in Syria, as in Turkey, the Kurdish people are taking the anti-imperialist road, especially against ISIS. As comrade Stalin, the great Leninist leader on the national question taught, "The unquestionably revolutionary character of the vast majority of national movements is as relative and peculiar as is the possible reactionary character of certain particular national movements ... support must be given to such national movements as tend to weaken, to overthrow imperialism, and not to strengthen and preserve it ... the national question can be solved only in connection with and on the basis of the proletarian revolution." (Excerpts from pp. 75-77, The Foundations of Leninism, 1924)

(contd. on p. 4)

Do you know who said it??

[Letter to Mr. Stalin]

"On behalf of the people of the United States, I want to express to the Red Army, on its twenty-fifth anniversary, our profound admiration for its magnificent achievements unsurpassed in all history ..."

Hint: This was not a statement by a radical leftist politician and/or a so-called "apologist" of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union.

–Still stumped? See page 7 for the mystery answer.

Also included in this issue:

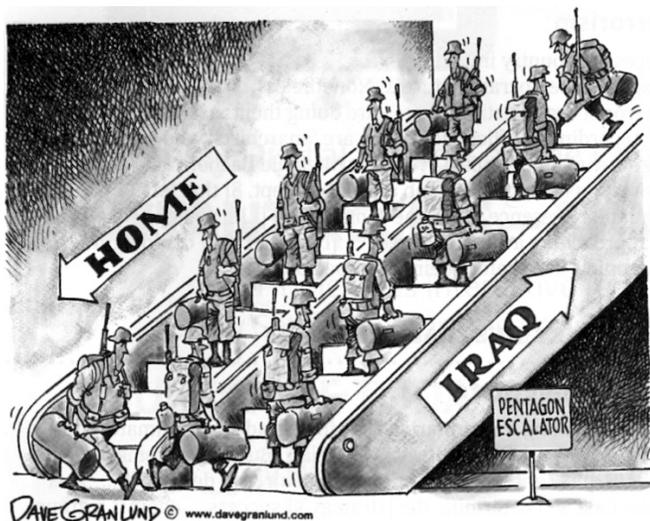
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stock market, and so on. This is in accordance with the ruling class thesis (jointly peddled by Obama and the Democrats as well as Bush and the Republicans) that their corporations and financial institutions were and are “too big to fail.”

Meanwhile, the masses of the U.S. population are still suffering “economic depression” conditions, including massive unemployment and underemployment, shrinking wages and rapidly growing impoverishment. Just a few days ago, the Chairwoman of the Federal Reserve, Janet Yellen, reached into an area rarely if ever addressed by the Fed to warn that *the huge and growing inequality of wealth in the USA* has become a serious source of long term weakness for the U.S. economy.

Interconnected with the economic needs of the U.S. ruling class *domestically*, has been the resurgence of U.S. imperialist war and aggression all over the Middle East. With the help of the “mysterious” ISIS, created by the U.S. CIA, Israeli Mossad and British intelligence, and especially its beheading of several Western journalists, the U.S. population, having not yet forsaken its hopes for salvation through allegiance to the U.S. Empire, has once again turned to support of the continuing aggressive military presence of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East. Most dramatically, a year ago, with overwhelming popular opposition to U.S. intervention in Syria, Obama, with the help of Vladimir Putin, barely escaped the likely rejection by Congress of his appeal to militarily intervene in Syria. And Obama seemed to be winding down the brutal U.S. war in Iraq. Today, thanks to mass media manipulation regarding “ISIS terrorism,” there is bipartisan, majority support for such intervention.



Thus, U.S. imperialist war, along with Wall Street *domestic* criminality, has not been a significant issue addressed in the 2014 campaign.

Key Features of the 2014 Election

The so-called “two party system,” mostly providing the choice between two corporate flunkys, has been

strengthened at least in the near term, including the 2014 election, by the unlimited corporate funds that can now legally be funneled into the election process, since the U.S. Supreme Court “Citizens United” decision. One clear result, as observed by the British imperialist weekly, *The Economist* (10-25-14) is that, “Ever-fewer races for the House of Representatives are closely fought, leaving four-fifths of that body’s 435 members with little to fear on polling day.” *The Economist* added that, “In 2014 Republicans have put up no challenger in 37 House races, while Democrats are ceding 32 districts without a fight.”

Meanwhile, there are 77 single-party House races turning safe districts into blue-on-blue and red-on-red fights. In the 2014 election cycle, this has mainly impacted the Republican Party. For the Tea Party, uneasily connected to the Republican Party, represents the desperation of the formerly prosperous U.S. middle class and offers these folks a fascist path as the way out of the economic crisis. The Tea Party is indeed distinct and separate from the “Republicrats,” the mainstream Republicans and Democrats that have jointly served the interests of the U.S. monopoly capitalist and imperialist ruling class over many decades.

–Eric Cantor’s Primary Defeat From the Right–

In one of the biggest political upsets in at least a generation, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA), seven term incumbent and the heir apparent to House Speaker John Boehner, was badly beaten in his Republican primary back in June by Tea Party candidate Dave Brat, a political unknown. Brat, a college professor, sounded a populist, anti-Washington, anti-corporate note that included recognizing something few *on the left* other than the Revolutionary Organization of Labor (ROL,USA) have acknowledged, namely, the influx of undocumented workers into the USA has had a downward pressure on wages, especially on the Black, Latino and white working poor. However, Brat and the Tea Party promote the opposite conclusion from ROL,USA.

In order to lift the wages and working conditions of all, we call for unity between the rest of the working poor in the USA and the new immigrant workers (as well as calling on all the working poor in the USA to support the national liberation movements against U.S.-led imperialism of the peoples in Latin America, the Philippines, etc. where most of the immigrants come from). On the other hand, Brat and the Tea Party promote *immigrant-bashing*, dividing the entire sector of the working poor and placing them in an even more difficult situation. Brat’s combination of anti-corporate rhetoric and alleged concern for the white working class coupled with his immigrant-bashing is reminiscent of the fascism of the Nazis, the National Socialists, in Germany in the 1930’s during the last great depression. If the Tea Party movement makes Brat’s defeat of Eric Cantor, a blueprint for its electoral activity in the future, it could

(2014 U.S. Elections continued)

have devastating repercussions for the workers and oppressed in the USA and elsewhere.

-Will it still be Kansas if Republican Senator Pat Roberts loses?-

In Kansas, it has been 80 years since an independent politician has made a stir. And about the same amount of time since a Democrat has been elected to the U.S. Senate. Now Greg Orman, a wealthy entrepreneur, an avowed centrist who claims he voted for Obama in 2008 and Romney in 2012, is threatening to win a U.S. Senate seat as an Independent against Pat Roberts, the state's senior senator and a major Republican fixture.

Roberts fought off a Tea Party challenger in the August primary. But to accommodate the Tea Party, he has tacked hard to the right in recent years. For example, *The Economist* observed, "Kansans, who like limited government for other people, were startled when Mr. Roberts voted against a farm bill and tried to block funds for a research center in Kansas that he had sought for a decade." ("Stormin' Orman," 9-13-14) Meanwhile, in early September, the Democratic challenger withdrew from the race, leaving Orman to face Roberts *mano a mano* in the Republican Party stronghold. In this context a group of about 70 former Kansas legislators, organized as "Traditional Republicans for Common Sense," recently endorsed Orman. The most interesting and hopeful feature of this race is that Orman is running his independent campaign *against two-party politics*. And his anti-"Republicrat" message has resonated with the people of Kansas.

-North Carolina May Get the Best Senator Money can Buy-

The most expensive race in 2014 is the over \$100 million dollars spent in North Carolina between the two corporate Senate candidates, Democratic incumbent Kay Hagan and Republican challenger Tom Tillis. Over the past six years, Hagan has failed to keep her word to Firefighters and other union workers. Not surprising for a former banker, daughter-in-law of a general in the U.S. military, and niece of a Florida Governor and Senator. Furthermore, *The Economist (ibid.)* reports that her husband's company received a \$250 thousand grant under the 2009 stimulus act, for which Senator Hagan voted. Nevertheless, many unions, affiliated with the National AFL-CIO, are once again providing much of the manpower to politicians such as Hagan. They are afraid of Tillis' tea party politics, including hostility to public education in North Carolina, and of the Republicans winning the majority in the U. S. Senate. The Firefighters, however, are one union that has largely refused to be scared or shamed into supporting Hagan. Their position is that sooner or later we in the labor movement have to hold these lying politicians accountable. Even if it hurts our situation in the short run, we have to teach

the politicians that their backstabbing of the working class will cost them.

The Firefighters position is a step forward from the dead end "lesser of two evils" theory which most of the misleadership of the organized labor movement has saddled itself with and more importantly has saddled the working class membership of their unions with. Led by AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and the conservative leadership of most of the largest union affiliates and their predecessors going back over at least six decades, the U.S. labor movement has functioned as the hired help of the Democratic Party, loyally doing the nitty gritty grassroots work with no real voice in the decision-making and the deal-making. The monopoly capitalist and imperialist ruling class forces leading both the Democratic and Republican Parties reserve these positions for themselves. The AFL-CIO chieftains have led the rank and file workers to sacrifice themselves and their sons and daughters as cannon fodder for the U.S. military machine waging war against the workers and oppressed peoples all over the rest of the world. The treachery of "the labor lieutenants of the capitalist class" has rendered them among the most valuable social props of the U.S. Empire. Their betrayal of the workers of the rest of the world is commensurate with their betrayal of the workers in the USA, including their own members.

The apparent success of Greg Orman in Kansas up till now helps expose the political cowardice of the AFL-CIO bureaucrats, the NAACP leadership and others who claim to represent the masses of the 99% but refuse to break politically with the Democratic Party and "the two party" corporate con game. Unlike these social-democrats, the Tea Party forces are not afraid to break with the mainstream Republicans. Representing the desperation of the increasingly ruined middle class of the U.S. Empire in decline, the Tea Party is clearly the current wild card in U.S. bourgeois elections.

CONCLUSION: Unfortunately, the 2014 election season has offered no way forward for the workers and oppressed of the USA. We are no closer to smashing "Republicrat Rule," the collaboration of the mainstream Democrats and mainstream Republicans, through which the U.S. monopoly capitalist and imperialist ruling class exercises political dictatorship over the working people of the USA.

In the coming months, the masses of increasingly impoverished workers, including among the Afro-American people and the vast immigrant working class population, in opposition to the right reformism of the AFL-CIO bureaucrats, the NAACP leadership, the Latino NGOers, etc., need to more militantly fight for their rights, including voting rights and in the political arena. The task of the proletarian vanguard in the USA is to help give this motion organization and direction. Clearly, we too have to enter the bourgeois political arena in a bold and new way.

(Kurdish National Question continued)

We are pleased to reprint the following outstanding October 14th statement by the Chairman of the International League of Peoples' Struggles (ILPS), Professor JOSE MARIA SISON. Comrade Sison underscores the need for proletarian revolutionaries

and anti-imperialists around the world to support the heroic resistance of the Syrian Kurdish people in Rojava against ISIS and its open and covert supporters, including the Turkish Regime and U.S. imperialism.

— the editor

Support the Kurdish People's Resistance against ISIS, Condemn US and Turkey for creating and using ISIS

by Professor JOSE MARIA SISON

We, the International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS), salute the heroic resistance of the Kurdish people and their army in Rojava, the YPG/YPJ – People's Protection Units – against the criminal gangs of the so-called Islamic State (ISIS) in Kobane, one of the self-governing cantons of West Kurdistan (Rojava) in Syria.

We call on all the more than 300 ILPS member-organizations in 38 countries around the globe to take initiative and express their solidarity and support to the Kurdish people's resistance in Kobane and the whole of Rojava, or join the demonstrations being organized by the Kurdish liberation movement in different parts of the world.

The ILPS condemns the super-terrorist US for creating the ISIS monster that has rampaged through parts of Syria and Iraq, committing hideous crimes against the people in areas that they have overrun. We condemn Turkey for collaborating with the US in creating, arming and coddling this horde of terrorists.

ISIS and similar extremist Islamist terrorist groups like the Al Qaeda and Al-Nuusra have been created by the US as part of its over-all scheme to remake the Middle-East, by carrying out regime change in such countries as Libya and Syria that have dared to assert their national sovereignty against imperialist plunder and war. For its part, the Turkish government is using ISIS to attack the Kurdish liberation struggle led by the PKK.

ISIS terrorists have been trained by US Special Forces in secret NATO bases inside Turkey and Jordan. For the last year and a half, the US has been developing what the world has now come to know as ISIS. Turkey has allowed safe passage through its borders of jihadists from different parts of the world to join ISIS, and has facilitated the transport of wounded ISIS terrorists to be treated in hospitals in the Turkish province of Urfa and other cities in Turkey.

The US is remaking the Middle-East in order to consolidate its hegemony in this oil-rich region. It is using the ISIS in the same manner as it has used Neo-Nazi gangs in the Ukraine to stir up trouble and force regime change, toppling the duly-elected president, and replacing him with a pro-Western president and a

fascist military junta as part of US-NATO strategy to encircle and pressure Russia.

In the wake of the hideous crimes of the ISIS, including the massacre of Shiites and Christians, and the beheading of Western journalists, the US has pretended to adopt a policy of opposing ISIS and carrying out bombing raids against ISIS. In fact, the US is still thereby using the ISIS as the pretext to violate the national sovereignty of Syria.

The US war planes are actually bombing food granaries and buildings in Syria which are away from ISIS positions. They are now in a position to attack the forces of the Syrian government. Turkey has also exposed its real dirty agenda to attack the Kurdish liberation struggle by bombing PKK forces in Oramar (Daglica) near the border with Iraq, relieving ISIS from the successful counter-attacks of the Kurdish fighters and allowing the ISIS to block humanitarian aid from Iraqi Kurdistan.

The Kurdish resistance forces in Kobane have said that they can defeat the ISIS without any need for foreign intervention such as that falsely offered by the US and Turkey. All they need from Iraqi Kurdistan are sufficient weapons and ammunition against the tanks and vehicles mounted with big guns of the ISIS terrorists.

The terrible crimes being perpetrated by the ISIS and the support given them by the US and Turkey have aroused the anger of freedom-loving people throughout the world. At the same time, the heroic resistance of the YPG/YPJ – the People's Protection Units – composed of Kurdish men and women, has inspired the people of the world to rally in support of the Kurdish liberation struggle.

The acknowledged leader of the Kurdish liberation struggle, Abdullah Ocalan, has called on the entire Kurdish nation to mobilize in support of the resistance in Kobane. Kurds throughout the world have responded by organizing demonstrations in many countries calling for international support.

We must show our solidarity to the Kurdish people in their hour of need and give them all-out support until victory.

Ebola and the Sham U.S. Healthcare System

by CASEY COLE

On September 30th, 2014 the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) announced that a patient in the US had been diagnosed with the Ebola virus that had already caused thousands of deaths in West Africa. Thomas Eric Duncan was the first person diagnosed with Ebola in the USA and he subsequently died from the disease. Duncan, a Liberian national, had recently returned to the US to be with his family.

When Duncan was admitted to Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital, he complained of “dizziness, a headache ... and reported severe pain.” When asked to rate his level of pain, he claimed it was an eight on a scale of 10. Duncan was given Tylenol, prescribed an antibiotic, and sent home despite having a fever of 103 degrees – a note that included an exclamation point in his hospital record.¹

Despite having recently returned from West Africa and being grievously ill, why was Duncan turned away? Regardless of a potential Ebola epidemic in the US, why

¹*Ebola Patient First Sent Home from ER with 103-Degree Fever*, Associated Press, October 10, 2014

was a man in that degree of pain and with a dangerously high fever simply given a Tylenol and sent home? Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price provides some insight: “If you don’t have insurance, you’re not going to get treated. That’s the elephant in the room.”²

Duncan was not a US citizen and had recently quit his job for an overseas subsidiary of FedEx in order to reunite with his family. He had no opportunity to acquire health insurance and was thus refused health care, despite the so-called reforms instituted under the Affordable Care Act. The only reason we heard about Thomas Eric Duncan was because of the media sensationalism surrounding the Ebola outbreak. With a health care system that remains a for-profit venture in a vicious capitalist society, those unable to pay for care are still turned away. And the vulnerability of the people of the United States to the outbreak of an Ebola epidemic is far greater because of this private profit-driven health care chaos.

²*Texas hospital responds to questions over treatment of Ebola patient Thomas Eric Duncan*, Washington Post, October 9, 2014



Honduras Under U.S. Domination

Oppose Land Stealing and Forced Migration!

by ROSE BROWN

One aspect of the U.S.-Mexico “border crisis” of refugee children not highlighted in the Wall Street-controlled mass media was the increased number of Garifuna immigrants from Honduras in this period – predominately mothers and some fathers with their children who have flooded the U.S. border in pursuit of “a better life” in the USA.

The Garifuna people are descendents of free African slaves and indigenous Americans who were persecuted because of their refusal to submit to enslavement and exploitation by British and French colonialists in past centuries. They ended up settling on the Atlantic coast of Central America where they made their livelihood mainly from the land and the sea for many generations. Their communities have been oppressed and discriminated against for decades.

Since the U.S.-supported military coup in Honduras in 2009 under the Obama Regime* when President Manuel Zelaya was ousted and eventually replaced by U.S.-backed President Pepe Lobo, the Garifuna population of Honduras has played an active role in the resistance to the U.S.-Honduran dictatorship. There have been concerted efforts of the Honduran government and multi-national corporations to drive the Garifuna population off of their land both to undermine the popular anti-imperialist resistance and in order to develop hotels, etc. and develop “Model Cities” under tight government-monopoly-capitalist control.

In this recent period, paid human traffickers (“coyotes”) spread the lie in the Honduran Garifuna communities that the U.S. government under Obama was welcoming migrant children into the USA. – The BIG LIE was that all the families had to do was reach the U.S.-Mexico border and they would be given the welcome mat. Faced with high unemployment and growing poverty resulting from the government-corporate stealing of their land, a section of the community was duped by these lies and took up the dangerous and costly trek to the U.S.-Mexico border in search of relief from the difficult conditions they were facing.

What a rude awakening! At the U.S. border, Immigration and Customs Enforcement(ICE) officials immediately arrested and detained the Garifuna families. Then ICE officials tried to get the adult migrants to sign papers (in English only) that would result in their

giving up their children for adoption in the USA. When the Garifuna adults collectively refused to sign those papers, ICE officials told them they would be released in the U.S. if they paid bail and signed a paper of “voluntary departure.” Many Garifuna migrants signed the “voluntary departure” papers ignorant of the consequences, and were given a date to appear in Immigration Court and released to stay with friends and family in New York City, Boston, etc. At the immigration court hearing in New York City and Boston, the Garifuna mothers who had crossed the border with their children were placed in modern day shackles – electronic ankle bracelets that track their every move! – and released back into their new communities with the threat of deportation over their heads – and no permission to work to support their families.

The U.S. imperialist state which was built on land stolen from the indigenous peoples and built on African slave labor and the exploitation of Chinese, Japanese and European immigrant labor, still includes most of Central America as part of its Empire. The forced exodus of Garifuna communities from Honduras helps prop up the brutal U.S.-Honduran dictatorship today and exposes the brutality of the U.S. imperialist state which has treated these Garifuna migrants as modern day slaves.

The U.S. government’s brutal treatment of the Garifuna immigrants (adults and children) in this period underscores the correctness of Ray Light’s conclusion to his 9/14 article, “The Refugee Children of Central America, the Obama Regime, and Our Revolutionary Responsibilities”: **“The Central American refugee children cry out for the dismantling and destruction of the U.S. Empire and for a socialist world.”**



Garifuna children from Honduras on route to U.S.

*See *Ray O'Light Newsletter* #58, “The Honduran Coup, the Obama Regime and the Problems of the Revolution in Latin America,” January-February 2010

Long Live the Great October Socialist Revolution!

Excerpted from:

Let the Railsplitter Awake*

by PABLO NERUDA, 1948

Let the serious and honest proletarian revolutionaries of today drink deeply of the wisdom of our great communist poet of Latin America and the world, Pablo Neruda:

*“Soviet Union, if we could gather up
all the blood spilled in your struggles,
all you gave as a mother to the world
so that freedom, dying, might live,
we would have a new ocean
larger than any other
deeper than any other
vibrant as all rivers
active as the fire of Araucanian volcanoes.
Sink your hand into this sea,
man of every nation,
then withdraw and drown in it
all that has forgotten, outraged,
lied and stained,
all that joined the hundred small curs
of the Western dump-heap
and insulted your blood,
Mother of free men!”*

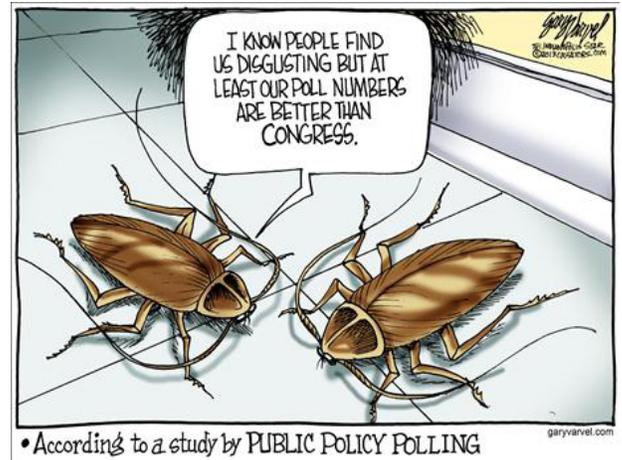
*Ray O' Light Newsletter #46, November-December 2007, "The Revolutionary Significance of the Great October Socialist Revolution on its 90th Anniversary"

**Still stumped?! See answer below
to front page mystery quotation.**

Answer: On February 22, 1943 in the immediate aftermath of the world historic victory of the Soviet Red Army and people over a massive Nazi Army at Stalingrad, U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt wrote these words to Soviet leader, Joseph Stalin. Roosevelt had already been elected to an unprecedented three terms as U.S. President and would go on to be elected to a fourth almost two years later. So if anyone could claim to be speaking "on behalf of the people of the United States," FDR was the person. Two and a half weeks earlier, on February 4th, Roosevelt congratulated Stalin "on the brilliant victory at Stalingrad under your Supreme Command." Roosevelt continued, "The one hundred and sixty-two days of epic battle, which has forever honored your name, which all Americans are celebrating today, will remain one of the proudest chapters in this war of the peoples united against Nazism." [Correspondence between Roosevelt and Stalin as cited in *Northstar Compass*, Volume 4, 40-41, 2014.]

By the fiftieth anniversary of the defeat of Nazism and fascism in World War II, the people of the USA were being taught "the Big Lie" that the USA and its troops were the main heroes in that titanic battleground of World War II and the Soviet Union was hardly mentioned!





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*“The great appear great to us
Only because we are on our knees:
Let us rise.”*

— Camille Desmoulins

Revolutionary Organization of Labor (ROL), USA is a revolutionary working class organization that fights for working class power and the elimination of all human exploitation. **Ray O’ Light Newsletter** is the regular publication of ROL, USA. We believe, with comrade Lenin, that the working class “... needs the truth and there is nothing so harmful to its cause as plausible, respectable petty bourgeois lies.” In the spirit of Karl Marx who taught that “our theory is not a dogma but a guide to action,” we welcome your comments.

Comradely,
Ray Light, Editor

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