

# OCCUPY WALL STREET

*The Communist Movement Reborn*



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## *OCCUPY WALL STREET*

When communism collapsed twenty years ago, its progressive supporters and apologists in the West did not put on sackcloth and ashes and beg forgiveness for the catastrophes they had helped create. Instead, they bided their time and waited until circumstances would conspire to give their socialist fantasies new life. That time has apparently come, and all the familiar claims about capitalism and its evil, and socialism and its “justice,” are being trotted out for a second round. The slogans and demands of this new communism may seem farcical to those who remember the past, but the forces behind it, which include the nation’s most powerful unions and some of its biggest philanthropies, make its latest campaign a serious attack on America’s foundations.

This basic truth was looming in the background

on September 17, 2011, when a group calling itself Occupy Wall Street (OWS) staged a demonstration with 5,000 activists near the hub of New York City’s financial district.<sup>1</sup> Their stated purpose was to condemn the “greed” they identified as Wall Street’s hallmark, and to express “opposition to the principle that has come to dominate not only our economic lives but our entire lives: profit over and above all else.”<sup>2</sup>

This statement encapsulates the credo of the Occupiers’ movement. Notable for its ignorance about economics and human nature, it is also informed by the oldest of all socialist myths—that “property is theft.” But as history taught the rest of us, property is in fact the very basis of individual freedom; it is socialism that is theft.<sup>3</sup>

The claim that corporations elevate “profits over people” is a poisonous myth created by Marx, and perpetuated by modern-day radicals like Noam Chomsky and cultural clowns like Michael Moore.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2011/09/wall-st-protesters-say-theyre-settled-in/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://occupywallst.org/article/why/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.fee.org/nff/property-and-freedom-the-inseparable-connection/>

In the real world, capitalists must meet people's needs in order to stay in business and make profits. In the real world, corporations make profits only if they lower costs, which actually increases the wealth of everyone else (other things being equal). In other words, profits serve people—though you wouldn't learn that in the liberal arts department of any major American university. The Occupy Wall Street movement is simply the old communist shell game: the fantasy revived of a world without money, without classes and without government.

The public debut of the Occupy movement was small by modern protest standards but did not remain so for long. President Obama's sympathizers in the media immediately got behind Occupy Wall Street, seeing it as the rough equivalent of Obama's class-warfare re-election strategy and a potential counterweight to the Tea Party movement. In the first forty days of protests, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* together devoted 224 mainly positive articles to the squatters who made up the movement.<sup>4</sup> By early October, news of the "occupations" had gone viral, a lead item on the nightly

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<sup>4</sup> <http://newsbusters.org/blogs/dan-gainor/2011/10/28/postnyt-182000-words-occupy-wall-street-and-counting>



news spreading to cities nationwide.<sup>5</sup>

For all the publicity the Occupy movement has gained, its origins and purposes remain obscure, which is exactly what its organizers desire. Officially, OWS claims to have no identifiable leaders, and even makes a fetish of their absence with unison repetitions of every word its “facilitators” utter—a chilling reminder of the monolithic cultures of totalitarian regimes.

OWS portrays itself as a spontaneous eruption of popular anger by grassroots representatives of the “99%” who are outraged at the way the “1%” have allegedly rigged American society for their own advantage. Spokesmen for the Occupy movement have notably failed to explain how the 1% could possibly accomplish this, particularly since powerful representatives of the 1% such as George Soros are funding their movement.

Despite the blatant deceptions of the Occupy narrative, media pundits and liberal politicians

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<sup>5</sup> <http://en.mercopress.com/2011/10/06/occupy-wall-street-movement-spreads-from-new-york-across-the-us>; <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/10/09/eveningnews/main20117885.shtml>; <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/oct/08/occupy-america-protests-financial-crisis>

eagerly repeated it. *The New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman characterized OWS as part of a worldwide pattern of “spontaneous social protests,”<sup>6</sup> while Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi lauded the movement as “young,” “spontaneous” and “focused.”<sup>7</sup>

Far from being “spontaneous,” however, OWS was orchestrated by a long-established network of radical activists. Among them are operatives from ACORN, left-wing philanthropies and socialist unions. OWS is an exercise in serial mendacity, which is not surprising for a movement that is an assault on a democracy that has created readily accessible avenues for redressing grievances, correcting injustices and transferring power.

Off camera, the OWS strategy was explained by one of its organizers, John McGloin: “First you get large numbers of people to join by showing how reasonable you are. Then when the numbers are big enough, they will feel their oats, get impatient, and start demanding more than you could have imag-

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/12/opinion/theres-something-happening-here.html>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.glennbeck.com/2011/10/07/nancy-pelosi-occupy-wall-street-is-young-spontaneous-focused/>

ined. (Never underestimate mob mentality.) But if you talk about overthrowing governments, capitalism or wholesale changes, most of the 99% will be scared off, and we'll never have the power we need to affect [sic] real change. In order to fight the global corporations I estimate we need a minimum of 15 million Americans on the street. There are not 15 million radical socialist/anarchists in the US. We need people without political agendas, but with anger at corporations.”<sup>8</sup>

### *OWS Founders I: Masters of Deception*

The creator of OWS is a 69-year-old Canadian resident named Kalle Lasn, a longtime left-wing filmmaker, radical environmentalist and lifelong “student of revolution.” Lasn is at war with what he calls “the dog-eat-dog world of capitalism,” condemning “consumerism” as “psychologically corrosive” and the American economy as “a destructive system” that has caused “a terrible degradation of our mental environment.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> <http://biggovernment.com/lstranahan/2011/10/20/occupy-emails-reveal-trojan-horse-strategy-to-hide-real-goals-of-ows/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/individualProfile.asp?indid=2522;>  
<http://www.politicsofwellbeing.com/2011/06/kalle-lasn-founder-of-ad-busters-on.html>



Like all modern radicals, Lasn is above all a nihilist, a destroyer rather than a builder. In 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell, Lasn launched a campaign to “wreck” consumerism by creating the Adbusters Media Foundation.<sup>10</sup> This group set out to be a “global network”—now 95,000 strong—of “culture jammers” and “anarchists.”<sup>11</sup> Through initiatives such as “Buy Nothing Day,” Adbusters encouraged people “stung by consumer culture” to abandon their concerns about money and material possessions. It urged them to sink the economy—in other words, destroy the livelihoods of everyone else.<sup>12</sup>

Adbusters published a *Kick It Over Manifesto*, calling for a “revolution” that will yield “a new economics” not dependent on gross domestic product or any other “fundamentally flawed and incomplete” measure of fiscal health.<sup>13</sup> But of course

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/groupProfile.asp?grpid=7695>;  
[http://activistcash.com/organization\\_overview.cfm/o/36-adbusters](http://activistcash.com/organization_overview.cfm/o/36-adbusters)

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.adbusters.org/>; [http://activistcash.com/organization\\_overview.cfm/o/36-adbusters](http://activistcash.com/organization_overview.cfm/o/36-adbusters)

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd>; <http://www.politicsofwellbeing.com/2011/06/kalle-lasn-founder-of-adbusters-on.html>

<sup>13</sup> <http://kickitover.org/download/23/kick-it-over-manifesto>; [http://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=155883954449300&id=73911783278](http://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=155883954449300&id=73911783278)

there is no new economics and nothing to replace the gross domestic product—at least nothing that utopians like Lasn have been able to devise. The *Kick It Over Manifesto* is merely the same siren song to nowhere that radicals have been sounding so disastrously since 1848.

Adbusters is sustained by six-figure grants from the Glaser Progress and Tides foundations—institutions run by left-wingers willing to fund organizations dedicated to destroying the system that makes their charity possible.<sup>14</sup> Tides is heavily bankrolled by George Soros’s Open Society Institute.

By his own account, Lasn’s inspiration for creating OWS was the so-called “Arab Spring” and its riots, which persuaded him to think that America was likewise “ripe for this type of [mass] rage.”<sup>15</sup> Lasn was confident that “despondency” over such concerns as “climate change” and “corruption in Washington” would lead American youth to join

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<sup>14</sup> Between 2001 and 2011, Adbusters received \$176,500 and \$309,773 from the multimillion-dollar Glaser Progress and Tides foundations.

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.kpho.com/story/15712989/kalle-lasn-the-brains-behind-occupy-wall-street>; <http://kickitover.org/page/20/about-kick-it-over>

a movement for revolutionary change.<sup>16</sup> This was essentially a page taken from Saul Alinsky’s *Rules for Radicals*, where we read, “Remember: once you organize people around something as commonly agreed upon as pollution, then an organized people is on the move. From there it’s a short and natural step to political pollution, to Pentagon pollution.”<sup>17</sup> And, according to people like Lasn, to Wall Street pollution.

While the Arab Spring was turning rapidly into a Muslim Brotherhood Winter, Lasn and his Ad-busters associates were brainstorming ideas for effecting “regime change” in America.<sup>18</sup> On June 9, 2011, Lasn registered the domain name “Occupy-WallStreet.org”<sup>19</sup>—thus giving birth to the movement with which he hoped to “pull the current monster [of capitalism] down.”<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/blogpost/post/occupy-wall-street-an-interview-with-kalle-lasn-the-man-behind-it-all/2011/10/12/gIQAC81xfL\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/blogpost/post/occupy-wall-street-an-interview-with-kalle-lasn-the-man-behind-it-all/2011/10/12/gIQAC81xfL_blog.html)

<sup>17</sup> Saul Alinsky, *Rules for Radicals* (New York: Vintage Books, 1971), p. xxiii. Cited in David Horowitz, *Barack Obama’s Rules for Revolution: The Alinsky Model* (2009), pp. 29–30.

<sup>18</sup> <http://theyee.ca/News/2011/10/07/Kalle-Lasn-Occupy-Wall-Street/>

<sup>19</sup> [http://who.godaddy.com/whois.aspx?k=Dnm2Cy/UAV45yVOJUj8JWkHRjGerJtLT&domain=occupywallstreet.org&prog\\_id=GoDaddy](http://who.godaddy.com/whois.aspx?k=Dnm2Cy/UAV45yVOJUj8JWkHRjGerJtLT&domain=occupywallstreet.org&prog_id=GoDaddy)

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.politicsofwellbeing.com/2011/06/kalle-lasn-founder-of-adbusters-on.html>

In July, Lasn and Adbusters posted an “Occupy Wall Street” call to action, aiming to recruit “redeemers, rebels and radicals” to join a mass protest movement “against the greatest corrupter of our democracy: Wall Street, the financial Gomorrah of America.”<sup>21</sup> The campaign was to be “a fusion of Tahrir,” the square in Cairo where the Egyptian revolt germinated, “with the acampadas of Spain,” referring to Spanish protesters who camped out for extended periods in public spaces. Adbusters exhorted its supporters to prepare to “flood into lower Manhattan” on September 17 and “set up tents, kitchens, peaceful barricades and occupy Wall Street for a few months,” and to do so “with a vengeance.”<sup>22</sup>

According to Lasn, “Tahrir succeeded in large part because the people of Egypt made a straightforward ultimatum—that President Hosni Mubarak must go—over and over again until they won.” More accurately, Tahrir succeeded because Barack Obama put the weight of the United States behind the effort to push Mubarak out. Adbusters instructed its recruits to “incessantly repeat one simple de-

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<sup>21</sup> <http://www.adbusters.org/blogs/adbusters-blog/occupywallstreet.html>

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

mand in a plurality of voices.”<sup>23</sup> But that demand, explained an Adbusters communiqué, would have to be carefully worded so as to conceal its deeper motives: “Strategically speaking, there is a very real danger that if we naively put our cards on the table and rally around the ‘overthrow of capitalism’ or some equally outworn utopian slogan, then our Tahrir moment will quickly fizzle into another inconsequential ultra-lefty spectacle soon forgotten.”<sup>24</sup>

To guard against this possibility, Lasn knew that his organization would need to articulate “a deceptively simple Trojan Horse demand” that was “specific and doable.”<sup>25</sup> Under the slogan “Democracy Not Corporatocracy,” Adbusters demanded that Obama “ordain a Presidential Commission tasked with ending the influence money has over our representatives in Washington.”<sup>26</sup> The demand went unmet, but the leaders were right in presuming that the president would be an ally. Obama had already injected the class-warfare narrative into the

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<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.adbusters.org/blogs/adbusters-blog/occupywallstreet-update.html?page=1>

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.adbusters.org/blogs/adbusters-blog/occupywallstreet.html>



political air as part of his re-election strategy. His speeches were peppered with inflammatory references to the “millionaires and billionaires” and the “corporate jet owners” who allegedly were not paying their “fair share” and were thereby exploiting “working families” and the poor.<sup>27</sup> These were themes that would become central to the message of Occupy Wall Street. From his side, Obama expressed sympathy for the movement, saying that he “understands the frustrations that are being expressed” by the protesters.<sup>28</sup> Speaking in New Hampshire, he told Occupy supporters, “You are the reason I ran for office.”<sup>29</sup>

### *OWS Founders II: Red Wine in New Bottles*

The OWS was built on the groundwork that radical leaders had been laying for decades. One of them was Wade Rathke, a Sixties veteran.<sup>30</sup> Rathke

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<sup>27</sup> [http://townhall.com/columnists/austinhill/2011/09/25/the\\_presidents\\_strange\\_obsession\\_with\\_millionaires\\_and\\_billionaires](http://townhall.com/columnists/austinhill/2011/09/25/the_presidents_strange_obsession_with_millionaires_and_billionaires); <http://blog.heritage.org/2011/06/29/obama-blasts-private-jet-tax-breaks-created-by-his-own-stimulus/>

<sup>28</sup> <http://kleinonline.wnd.com/2011/11/23/obama-occupy-wall-street-‘not-that-different’-from-tea-party-protests/>

<sup>29</sup> Cited in *The Hill*, November 22, 2011.

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/individualProfile.asp?indid=1773>

had worked with the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO), which aimed to “break” the welfare system by recruiting people to overwhelm its rolls and by invading its offices—often violently—to make additional demands that could not be met.<sup>31</sup> In the early 1970s, Rathke founded ACORN, soon to be the largest radical organization in America. ACORN’s specialty was voter fraud, conceived as a strategy to break the electoral system. ACORN activists provided a powerful force behind Barack Obama’s rise to the Senate in 2004 and his election to the White House in 2008.

OWS was in fact the culmination of the “anti-banking jihad” that Rathke launched in March 2011, calling for “days of rage in ten cities around JP Morgan Chase.”<sup>32</sup> Not coincidentally, OWS’s inaugural event on September 17 was also widely referred to as a “Day of Rage”<sup>33</sup> and was conducted in conjunction with an affiliated movement known

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<sup>31</sup> <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/groupProfile.asp?grpId=7633>

<sup>32</sup> <http://kleinonline.wnd.com/2011/09/15/revolution-hitting-u-s-streets-tomorrow-protesters-training-to-ignite-violence-resist-arrest-disrupt-legal-system/>; <http://frontpagemag.com/2011/10/06/occupy-wall-street-jumps-the-shark/>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/the-blaze-reports-from-inside-the-comrades-ranks-occupy-wall-street-day-of-rage/>

as USDayOfRage. The original “Days of Rage” were a series of riots organized by the terrorist group Weatherman in Chicago in 1969.

Twelve days later, another Sixties radical, Frances Fox Piven,<sup>34</sup> spoke to an OWS rally in New York. It was Piven who had come up with the break-the-system strategy that Rathke’s welfare organization adopted. The strategy had actually succeeded, overloading the welfare rolls until it bankrupted the city of New York, and Mayor Rudy Giuliani then put an end to the policies that allowed it to happen. Following New York’s welfare fiasco, Piven escalated her scheme into a strategy to overload other government agencies with impossible demands, in order to create social chaos and economic collapse.

The Community Reinvestment Act—the cornerstone of the 2008 mortgage crisis—was a triumph of the Piven strategy and of ACORN’s political influence in the Democratic Party.<sup>35</sup> But of course radicals like Piven never hold themselves accountable for the damage they cause. At a Sep-

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<sup>34</sup> <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/individualProfile.asp?indid=2505>

<sup>35</sup> <http://frontpagemag.com/2010/10/22/breaking-the-system-the-obama-teams-strategy-for-changing-america/>

tember 29 OWS rally, Piven instead denounced the “greedy” “thieves” and “cannibals” of the financial industry and claimed that America’s budget deficits were so large “because big business and finance has stopped paying taxes.”<sup>36</sup> She continued: “Wall Street is the center of the neo-liberal cancer that has spread across the world.”<sup>37</sup>

Muscle for OWS was provided by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) through a board member and longtime left-wing organizer, Stephen Lerner.<sup>38</sup> The SEIU had been a driving force behind the Seattle riots against the World Trade Organization a dozen years before, and had put \$60 million into Barack Obama’s presidential election campaign.<sup>39</sup> Like the other OWS leaders, Lerner is a dedicated socialist whose declared goal is to “destabilize the folks that are in power and start to rebuild a movement.”<sup>40</sup> At a Left Forum held on March 19, 2011, Lerner speculated enthusiastically that if he and his comrades could orga-

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<sup>36</sup> <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/10/31/organized-ignorance>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsK2WeO7VbQ&feature=youtu.be>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsK2WeO7VbQ&feature=youtube>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/individualProfile.asp?indid=2525>

<sup>39</sup> <http://jewishworldreview.com/michelle/malkin051308.php3>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.wnd.com/?pageId=351141>

nize “half a million” homeowners to stage a mass “mortgage strike,” refusing to pay their mortgages, they could “put banks at the edge of insolvency again” and “literally cause a new financial crisis.”<sup>41</sup> In a similar vein, he urged college graduates to initiate a “debt strike” by refusing to pay their student loans.<sup>42</sup> As with the other OWS radicals, nihilism was the order of the day.

At the Left Forum, Lerner explained, “We are in a transformative stage of what’s happening in capitalism ... building something that really has the capacity to disrupt how the system operates.” Outlining his strategy to “bring down the stock market” and “interfere” with wealthy people’s “ability to be rich,” he paraphrased a famous piece of Alinsky advice: “We have to politically isolate them, economically isolate them, and disrupt them.” Lerner then disclosed that “a bunch of us around the country” had “decided” that JP Morgan Chase “would be a really good company to hate.” As a result, he said, “We are going to roll out over the next couple of months what will hopefully be an exciting cam-

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<sup>41</sup> <http://beck-cliff-notes.blogspot.com/2011/03/glenn-beck-program-march-22-2011.html>

<sup>42</sup> [http://articles.businessinsider.com/2011-03-22/news/30073732\\_1\\_stock-market-seiu-secret-plan](http://articles.businessinsider.com/2011-03-22/news/30073732_1_stock-market-seiu-secret-plan)



paign about JP Morgan Chase that is really about challenging the power of Wall Street.”<sup>43</sup>

Lerner called for “a week” of “civil disobedience” and “direct action” to be carried out “all over the city” of New York in early May. He and his forces would “roll into the JP Morgan shareholder meeting” and then launch “a ten-state mobilization” that would similarly target “bank shareholder meetings around the country.” By waging such “brave and heroic battles challenging the power of the giant corporations,” Lerner hoped “to inspire a much bigger movement about redistributing wealth and power.”<sup>44</sup>

On September 10—just a week before the first Occupy Wall Street event in Manhattan—Lerner announced that demonstrations would be staged “in Seattle, in L.A., in San Francisco, in Chicago, in New York, in Boston.” He emphasized, “We’re not going to convince the other side that we’re right through intellectual argument. We need to create power, and in a way we need to talk about

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<sup>43</sup> <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/individualProfile.asp?indid=2525>

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

how we create a crisis for the super rich.”<sup>45</sup> On November 17, Lerner’s connection to the union movement resulted in the SEIU, the United Federation of Teachers, the Communications Workers of America and other unions endorsing OWS and joining the “March of the 99%.”<sup>46</sup>

Another radical who has helped shape OWS is Lisa Fithian, a 50-year-old “community organizer” who specializes in “direct action” tactics and, in the words of one reporter, “operates in the world of anti-globalism anarchists, antiwar protesters, and union activists.”<sup>47</sup> Fithian became an activist in the 1980s, when she worked with the “Yippie” co-founder Abbie Hoffman at the environmental organization Save the River. She also actively supported the Sandinista communists and protested American aid to the Nicaraguan Contras. Fithian was the national coordinator of a 1987 demonstration aimed at shutting down CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=46320>; <http://www.trevor-loudon.com/2011/10/who's-behind-occupy-wall-street/>

<sup>46</sup> <http://strongforall.org/content/november-17-national-day-action-jobs-and-economic-justice-new-york-leads-way>

<sup>47</sup> <http://old.nationalreview.com/york/york200508290901.asp>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/individualProfile.asp?indid=2521>

In 1993, Fithian joined the AFL-CIO Organizing Institute. Subsequently, she helped lead direct-action protests against multiple industries (nursing, farming, automobile, hospital, hotel, security, janitorial, laundry, newspaper) in cities across the United States. Many of these protests were marked by lawlessness whose aim was to provoke police into arresting hundreds or even thousands of people.<sup>49</sup>

Fithian, like Stephen Lerner, was a key organizer of the violent “anti-globalization” riots in 1999 that caused the shutdown of the World Trade Organization (WTO) meetings in Seattle.<sup>50</sup> Global capitalism, as Fithian herself has since acknowledged, was the target of the protesters.<sup>51</sup> Afterward, Fithian helped establish the Continental Direct Action Network, a confederation of anarchist groups. In 2003, she organized anti-capitalist protests against a WTO conference in Cancun, Mexico, where the talks similarly collapsed.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> <http://organizingforpower.wordpress.com/movement-history/about-lisa/>;  
<http://biggovernment.com/lstranahan/2011/10/10/meet-the-anarchist-leaders-behind-the-leaderless-occupy-movement-part-one-lisa-fithian/>

<sup>50</sup> <http://organizingforpower.wordpress.com/movement-history/about-lisa/>

<sup>51</sup> <http://onlyonetv.com/2011/11/the-occupy-wall-street-show-episode-004-lisa-fithian-facilitator-of-non-violent-social-change/>

<sup>52</sup> <http://organizingforpower.wordpress.com/movement-history/about-lisa/>

Since 2000, Fithian has organized all over the world against such targets as Free Trade Area of the Americas summits, IMF/World Bank meetings, G8 Summits and a World Economic Forum in New York.<sup>53</sup> She currently serves on the national steering committee of United for Peace and Justice,<sup>54</sup> an anti-American organization established by Leslie Cagan, a veteran communist, with the support of the SEIU and other cornerstones of the radical left.<sup>55</sup> Fithian has also provided training and support for ACORN, National People's Action and other radical organizations.<sup>56</sup>

Fithian says that she and others in OWS “who are trying to create a new world ... have to dismantle or transform the old order,” one dominated by “the corporations [and] the big banks [that] have been destroying this country.”<sup>57</sup> In her efforts to “undo all the oppression” whose wellspring is America, she seeks to “create crisis, because cri-

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<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/individualProfile.asp?indid=629>

<sup>56</sup> <http://organizingforpower.wordpress.com/movement-history/about-lisa/>

<sup>57</sup> <http://old.nationalreview.com/york/york200508290901.asp>; <http://big-government.com/lstranahan/2011/10/10/meet-the-anarchist-leaders-behind-the-leaderless-occupy-movement-part-one-lisa-fithian/>

sis is that edge where change is possible.”<sup>58</sup> Armed with these goals, Fithian has emerged as the top street-level organizer of the OWS movement and its various urban chapters.<sup>59</sup> In November, Fithian told an interviewer, “There’s never been a movement like this,” one with such “tremendous potential” to achieve “mass transformation.”<sup>60</sup>

### *Strategy of Deception*

Concealing the strategic roles played by these longtime activists and communist nostalgists, Occupy Wall Street officially insists that it is a “leaderless resistance movement” composed of “people of many colors, genders and political persuasions.”<sup>61</sup> It claims to be populist rather than radical, a collection of ordinary Americans “fighting back against the oppressive power of major banks and multinational corporations over the democratic process,”

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<sup>58</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/16/magazine/them-against-the-world-part-2.html?pagewanted=print&src=pm>

<sup>59</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BARB-aSqYM>

<sup>60</sup> <http://onlyonetv.com/2011/11/the-occupy-wall-street-show-episode-004-lisa-fithian-facilitator-of-non-violent-social-change/>

<sup>61</sup> [http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/organizations/o/occupy\\_wall\\_street/index.html](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/organizations/o/occupy_wall_street/index.html)



and against “the role of Wall Street in creating an economic collapse that has caused the greatest recession in generations.”<sup>62</sup>

Claiming to be “the 99% that will no longer tolerate the greed and corruption of the 1%,” OWS says that its goal is “creating real change from the bottom up.”<sup>63</sup> But the methods it encourages its activists to use in achieving this change—social chaos, lawlessness, violence against citizens and property, and defiance of the representatives of democratic order—belie the benign image. The explosion of anarchy it has fostered is far more corrosive to the democratic process than campaign contributions by Wall Street fat cats—the bulk of which went to Barack Obama in the 2008 election.<sup>64</sup>

While describing itself as a “call for revolution,” the original OWS “Call to Action” put the case for its revolution in the most moderate and reasonable terms it could muster: “We want freedom for all, without regards for identity, because

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<sup>62</sup> <http://occupywallst.org/article/tahrir-square-times-square-protests-erupt-over-150/>

<sup>63</sup> <http://occupywallst.org/>

<sup>64</sup> Charles Gasparino, *Bought and Paid For: The Unholy Alliance Between Barack Obama and Wall Street* (New York: Sentinel, 2010).

we are all people and no other reason should be needed. However, this freedom has largely been taken from the people ....”<sup>65</sup>

But just how has freedom been taken from the people? According to the OWS manifesto, through “money” in the hands of the “haves” (as though wealthy people never earned their wealth).<sup>66</sup> It continues: “Money, it has been said, has taken over politics. In truth, we say, money has always been part of the capitalist system. A system based on the existence of haves and have-nots, where inequality is inherent to the system, will inevitably lead to a situation where the haves find a way to rule, whether by the sword or by the dollar.” A better description of capitalism, however, would be a system based on the existence of cans and can-nots, and giving the former freedom to produce without government restraints.

To create “a revolution of the mind as well as of the body politic,” the manifesto called for “protests to organize and disrupt the system”; “for workers to not only strike, but seize their workplaces col-

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<sup>65</sup> [http://occupywallst.org/article/September\\_Revolution/](http://occupywallst.org/article/September_Revolution/)

<sup>66</sup> This is yet another page from the Alinsky manual. Cf. David Horowitz, *Barack Obama's Rules for Revolution*, pp. 6, 31, 35.

lectively”; and for students and teachers together “to seize the classrooms.”<sup>67</sup>

Given such objectives, there was no way that the protesters inspired by OWS would be anything but radicals who had learned nothing from the socialist disasters of recent memory. Nor was there a way for the organizers to control the message and maintain the appearance of a spontaneous and unorganized movement. No sooner had the movement begun than posters and banners bearing anti-capitalist slogans became ubiquitous at the Occupy rallies that spread across the country: “Smash Capitalism,” “Capitalism Isn’t Working,” “Death to Capitalism,” “Capitalism = Systematic Exploitation,” “F\*\*\* Capitalism,” “Try Socialism,” “Declare War on Banks,” “Turn Workers’ Anger into Communist Revolution,” “This Is the Revolution,” “No War but Class War.”<sup>68</sup>

The immediate target of OWS anger was the banks held to be responsible for the financial crisis. The malpractices of Wall Street banks in securitiz-

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<sup>67</sup> [http://occupywallst.org/article/September\\_Revolution/](http://occupywallst.org/article/September_Revolution/)

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.ringospictures.com/index.php?page=20111013>; <http://www.ringospictures.com/index.php?page=20111002>; <http://www.ringospictures.com/index.php?page=20111001>

ing bad loans was certainly a prime factor in the economic mess. But the failure of one recently deregulated sector of the economy (deregulated by Democrats and Republicans) was hardly an argument for overthrowing the entire system. Particularly since the anger directed at banks overlooked the pivotal role that ACORN and the left had played in creating the crisis.

The left that organized the OWS protests was the same left that had previously promoted the loosening of banking standards during the Clinton administration, and was the driving force behind the Community Reinvestment Act, which pressured the banks into dropping their credit requirements. This abandonment of banking standards created the bad loans that led to the subprime mortgage crisis, and the securitization of those bad loans by the banks that led to the financial meltdown.<sup>69</sup> All this was a direct outcome of the “breaking the system” strategy devised by Piven and Rathke and pushed by ACORN and their congressional allies. The goal was to overwhelm the financial system by flooding its books with loans to people who couldn’t afford to pay them back. When the banks—out of greed,

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<sup>69</sup> <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/viewSubCategory.asp?id=809>

yes—then securitized the bad loans, the system came crashing down.<sup>70</sup>

### *The Issue Is Never the Issue*

A Sixties activist once said, “The issue is never the issue. The issue is always the revolution.”<sup>71</sup> This is the most carefully guarded secret of the left. The plight of the Vietnamese was never the real issue for the Sixties activists who opposed the Vietnam War. When the United States withdrew its forces, the left’s concern for the Vietnamese was over as well. When the communist victors they had helped to power began slaughtering the Vietnamese, the left did not organize protests to defend them. The issue was never the Vietnamese. It was always the revolution. And the revolution is always about the left’s war against America.

The U.S. financial crisis is not the cause of the Occupy Wall Street protests. It is their pretext. The

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<sup>70</sup> See David Horowitz and Liz Blaine, *Breaking the System: Obama’s Strategy for Change* (2010).

<sup>71</sup> Cited in Peter Collier and David Horowitz, *Destructive Generation: Second Thoughts About the Sixties* (1989; San Francisco: Encounter Books, 2006).



OWS movement is not seeking financial reforms that would address the two principal causes of the collapse, by reinstating the Glass-Steagall Act and restricting bank loans to credit-worthy customers. This is not the left's concern. What it wants is revolution, and the revolution it wants is a communist overthrow of the capitalist system.

OWS condemns America as a “ruthless” materialistic society whose chief objective is to “always minimize costs and maximize profits,” as though minimizing costs did not spread the wealth to greater and greater numbers of people. OWS condemns capitalism as a system where “lives are commodities to be bought and sold on the open market,” which actually describes the slave systems that capitalism replaced. OWS contends that under capitalism “the economic transaction has become the dominant way of relating to the culture and artifacts of human civilization,” which is exactly what Marx and other socialists said long ago: that the social nexus had been replaced by a “cash nexus” and communism would fix that.<sup>72</sup>

These residues of communism are the DNA of

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<sup>72</sup> <http://occupywallst.org/article/why/>

OWS. In October 2011, the website BigGovernment.com acquired a vast archive of leaked emails containing messages exchanged by the organizers of OWS. The emails revealed the extensive “involvement of socialists, anarchists, and other radicals,” as well as “heavy union involvement” in the OWS movement. Further, the emails showed that OWS aims to promote extreme levels of economic and governmental destabilization; to create social unrest throughout the democratic world; and to form alliances with other radical causes, including the Islamic jihadists whose goal is the destruction of Israel and the West. A number of the emails discuss how a “Trojan Horse” strategy—as proposed by Kalle Lasn and John McGloin—could be employed to deceive the public about the Occupy movement’s real character and agendas.<sup>73</sup>

### *The Demonstrations*

The organizers of OWS worked hard to portray their movement as being composed of “people

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<sup>73</sup> <http://biggovernment.com/thomasryan/2011/10/14/the-email-archive-of-the-occupywallstreet-movement-anarchists-socialists-jihadists-unions-democrats/>; <http://biggovernment.com/abreitbart/2011/10/14/crowdsource-this-social-list-emails-expose-occupywallstreet-conspiracy-to-destablize-global-markets-governments/#more-350996>

who live next door to you” and have been financially blindsided by the 1% who allegedly control America. But *New York* magazine revealed a very different reality in a story published on October 2, 2011. A poll it had conducted with 100 protesters in Manhattan disclosed that half were in their twenties and 35% were of the opinion that the U.S. government is “no better than, say, Al Qaeda,” while 45% said that capitalism “can’t be saved” and is “inherently immoral.”<sup>74</sup>

In another survey of 200 OWS protesters, 65% said the government has a moral responsibility to guarantee all citizens access to affordable health care, a college education and a secure retirement—regardless of the cost; 77% supported tax hikes on the wealthiest Americans; 52% had participated in political movements before; 98% endorsed breaking the law to achieve their goals; and 31% said they would support violence to promote their agendas. Doug Schoen, the Democratic pollster whose firm conducted the survey, concluded that the OWS activists hold “values that are dangerously out of touch with the broad mass of the American people ... and are bound by a deep commitment to radical

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<sup>74</sup> <http://nymag.com/news/intelligencer/topic/occupy-wall-street-2011-10/>

left-wing policies.”<sup>75</sup>

The protesters’ first large-scale clash with law enforcement took place on October 1, when a horde of demonstrators shut down traffic on the Brooklyn Bridge for two and a half hours. The action resulted in 700 arrests.<sup>76</sup> Seeking arrest was a calculated OWS tactic. The organizers selected in advance those whom they called their “arrestables”: individuals who projected a desired image of “normalcy.”<sup>77</sup> It was all about propaganda, and as real as AstroTurf.

By October 15, likeminded radicals, anarchists and communists were holding rallies in hundreds of cities around the world, a reflection of the fact that this was merely a reappearance of an international left that was already in place and looking for a pretext to galvanize it. In Rome, tens of thousands of protesters gathered to vent their collective rage violently. As Reuters reported, “Hundreds of hooded, masked demonstrators rampaged in some of the

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<sup>75</sup> [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204479504576637082965745362.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_LEADTop](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204479504576637082965745362.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop)

<sup>76</sup> [http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/local/brooklyn/wall\\_st\\_protestors\\_shut\\_down\\_brooklyn\\_yEqcq6EsqgJ1cSy0rXhkzJ](http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/local/brooklyn/wall_st_protestors_shut_down_brooklyn_yEqcq6EsqgJ1cSy0rXhkzJ)

<sup>77</sup> <http://trevorloudon.com/2011/10/who's-behind-occupy-wall-street/>

worst violence seen in the Italian capital in years, setting cars ablaze, breaking bank and shop windows and destroying traffic lights and signposts.”<sup>78</sup> In Chicago that same day, 175 protesters were arrested, as were another 92 in New York.<sup>79</sup> A featured speaker at an Occupy Los Angeles rally found it an occasion to praise the French Revolution for having “made fundamental transformation,” even though “it was bloody.” “Ultimately,” the speaker told the cheering crowd, “the bourgeoisie won’t go without violent means.... Long live revolution! Long live socialism!”<sup>80</sup>

Violence and other forms of criminality soon became commonplace at Occupy Wall Street demonstrations. A cursory Google search brings up news reports of hundreds of separate incidents at OWS sites by late November, including vandalism, extortion, assault, theft, rape, rioting, computer hacking, knife attacks, threatened violence,

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<sup>78</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/10/15/us-protests-idUSTRE79E0FC20111015>

<sup>79</sup> <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chi-occupy-chicago-protesters-relocate-to-grant-park-20111015,0,3664663.story>; [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/16/world/occupy-wall-street-protests-worldwide.html?\\_r=2&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/16/world/occupy-wall-street-protests-worldwide.html?_r=2&hp)

<sup>80</sup> <http://pjmedia.com/tatler/2011/10/11/occupy-l-a-speaker-violence-will-be-necessary-to-achieve-our-goals/>

civil disobedience, the use and trafficking of illegal drugs, public urination and, perhaps most famously, public defecation.<sup>81</sup>

The movement's first homicide was recorded on November 10, when a 25-year-old protester at Occupy Oakland was shot and killed by a man whom other demonstrators described as a "frequent resident" at the camp.<sup>82</sup> This was one of eight deaths that occurred at OWS encampments between late October and early December. The list includes a 35-year-old military veteran who shot himself to death at Occupy Burlington, a man in his 40s who died from a combination of drug abuse and carbon monoxide inside a tent at Occupy Salt Lake City, a man who died of unknown causes inside his tent at Occupy Bloomington, a man in his twenties who was found dead inside a tent at Occupy Oklahoma City and three others who died from drug and alcohol abuse.<sup>83</sup>

Numerous brutal sexual assaults added to the

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<sup>81</sup> <http://biggovernment.com/jjmolte/2011/10/28/occupywallstreet-the-rap-sheet-so-far/>

<sup>82</sup> <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/11/shooting-victim-tied-to-occupy-oakland.html>

<sup>83</sup> <http://www.owsexposed.com/tag/death/>



mayhem. At Occupy Cleveland, a 19-year-old woman was raped while she was inside her tent. At Occupy Baltimore, a woman was raped and robbed by an assailant who subsequently escaped without detection. In New York, an 18-year-old woman was raped by a man who had been working at the protesters' makeshift kitchen at Zuccotti Park, and a female protester was sexually assaulted inside her tent. At Occupy St. Louis, a woman was raped on November 8, and five days later a 23-year-old woman was raped by a 50-year-old man at Occupy Philadelphia. At the Occupy Dallas encampment, a 14-year-old girl was reportedly raped; and in faraway Scotland, a female resident of the Occupy Glasgow camp was sexually assaulted in her tent.<sup>84</sup>

OWS protesters did not confine their criminal activity solely to the Occupy encampment areas; in many cases, they ventured into other neighborhoods to engage in various forms of lawbreaking. In downtown Oakland, California, for instance, protesters demonstrated their contempt for corporations by smashing the window of a Men's Wear-

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<sup>84</sup> <http://biggovernment.com/jjmolte/2011/10/28/occupywallstreet-the-rap-sheet-so-far/>

house clothing store.<sup>85</sup> In Fort Collins, Colorado, a 29-year-old protester was arrested for setting fires that destroyed one condominium complex and severely damaged another.<sup>86</sup> In the District of Columbia, occupiers stormed the Washington Convention Center where the conservative political-advocacy group Americans For Prosperity was holding a dinner, and in the process they pushed a 78-year-old woman down a flight of stairs.<sup>87</sup> Also in DC, a 21-year-old OWSer fired a semiautomatic rifle at the White House, striking the presidential residence with at least one bullet.<sup>88</sup> In Eureka, California, a protester defecated inside a local bank.<sup>89</sup> In New York, demonstrators entered the rest room of a local business, broke the sink, clogged the toilet, and flooded the shop—causing some \$3,000 in damages.<sup>90</sup> In Santa Cruz, California, OWSers dumped

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<sup>85</sup> <http://lonelyconservative.com/2011/11/despite-support-for-occupy-movement-mens-warehouse-trashed-during-oakland-riot/>

<sup>86</sup> <http://www.9news.com/rss/story.aspx?storyid=227984>

<sup>87</sup> <http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2011/11/rampaging-occupiers-attack-78-year-old-woman.php>

<sup>88</sup> <http://bigjournalism.com/jjmnolte/2011/11/16/predictable-new-york-times-buries-white-house-shooters-occupy-connection>

<sup>89</sup> <http://www.breitbart.tv/reporter-to-occupyeureka-who-pooped-in-the-bank/>

<sup>90</sup> [http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/manhattan/occupiers\\_terrorize\\_us\\_eatery\\_o4dKzxi3n03WyJWAJu4AhO](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/manhattan/occupiers_terrorize_us_eatery_o4dKzxi3n03WyJWAJu4AhO)

an estimated 200 pounds of human feces near the county Veterans Memorial Building.<sup>91</sup> In Pennsylvania, a self-identified member of Occupy Philadelphia burglarized a Havertown home.<sup>92</sup> Some Occupy activists have even been investigated for possible ties to terrorist organizations. Chicago OWS leaders Joe Iosbaker and Andy Thayer, for example, recently had their homes raided by the FBI on suspicion that they had provided material support to such groups as Hamas and the F.A.R.C., a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist organization in Colombia. Notably, Iosbaker in the 1990s was a leader of the New Party, a socialist entity to which then-state senator Barack Obama belonged.<sup>93</sup>

Violence was integral not only to the protesters' lives but to their intentions as well. A flyer titled "When Should You Shoot A Cop?" was distributed at Occupy Phoenix. In a typically criminal justification for criminal behavior, the flyer asserted that "far more injustice, violence, torture, theft, and

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<sup>91</sup> <http://www.verumserum.com/?p=33789>

<sup>92</sup> [http://articles.philly.com/2011-11-30/news/30459084\\_1\\_robber-anonymous-tip-line-havertown](http://articles.philly.com/2011-11-30/news/30459084_1_robber-anonymous-tip-line-havertown)

<sup>93</sup> <http://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2011/10/occupy-chicago-leaders-are-under-investigation-by-fbi-for-links-to-terrorism/>; [http://keywiki.org/index.php/Joe\\_Iosbaker](http://keywiki.org/index.php/Joe_Iosbaker); <http://biggovernment.com/tag/andy-thayer/>;

outright murder has been committed in the name of ‘law enforcement’ than has been committed in spite of it.” The flyer spells out the course of action this vision of reality demands: “When those violently victimizing the innocent have badges, become a cop-killer.... The next time you hear of a police officer being killed ‘in the line of duty,’ take a moment to consider the very real possibility that maybe in that case, the ‘law enforcer’ was the bad guy and the ‘cop killer’ was the good guy.”<sup>94</sup>

In late October, officials in Oakland, California, sought to remove members of OWS from the plaza surrounding City Hall to give municipal workers an opportunity to clean up the mounds of garbage and filth that the protesters had deposited there. When many in the crowd ignored repeated instructions to vacate the premises, police were dispatched to clear out the area.<sup>95</sup> A mob of 400 armed with rocks and bottles tried to reoccupy the site by force, provoking clashes with riot police. Some protesters threw paint at the officers’ faces while chanting, “This is why we call you pigs!” Ul-

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<sup>94</sup> <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/alleged-flyer-at-occupy-phoenix-ponders-when-should-you-shoot-a-cop/>; [http://content.clearchannel.com/cc-common/mlib/3359/10/3359\\_1319803260.pdf](http://content.clearchannel.com/cc-common/mlib/3359/10/3359_1319803260.pdf)

<sup>95</sup> <http://frontpagemag.com/2011/10/27/occupy-wall-street-out/print/>

timately, 85 provocateurs were arrested, some subdued by clubs and pepper-spray.<sup>96</sup> But this was just what the OWS organizers were hoping for. In Kalle Lasn's words, "police brutality actually helps the movement," by drawing media attention and making the protesters appear to be victims.<sup>97</sup>

Oakland was again the scene of violence on November 2, when hundreds of OWS demonstrators lit a large bonfire with fifteen-foot flames in the middle of a downtown street, and successfully shut down operations at one of America's busiest ports. A mob smashed the windows of a Wells Fargo bank, chanting, "Banks got bailed out. We got sold out." The protesters also spray-painted obscenities on an exterior wall and blocked the front door of a nearby Citibank.<sup>98</sup> This incident came just two days after Leo Gerard—international president of United Steelworkers, an advisor to President Obama and a board member of several George

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<sup>96</sup> <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/occupy-oakland-protesters-try-to-retake-camp-site-hurl-paint-at-police-while-chanting-this-is-why-we-call-you-pigs/>

<sup>97</sup> [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/blogpost/post/occupy-wall-street-an-interview-with-kalle-lasn-the-man-behind-it-all/2011/10/12/gIQAC81xfL\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/blogpost/post/occupy-wall-street-an-interview-with-kalle-lasn-the-man-behind-it-all/2011/10/12/gIQAC81xfL_blog.html)

<sup>98</sup> <http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2011-11-02/occupy-wall-street-veterans/51046142/1>

Soros–funded political operations–called for even “more militancy.”<sup>99</sup> He told an interviewer, “You’re damn right Wall Street occupiers speak for us.”<sup>100</sup>

### *Following the Money to Familiar Sources*

Two weeks after its launch, OWS retained the Alliance for Global Justice (AGJ) as its fiscal sponsor to manage online donations to the protesters.<sup>101</sup> AGJ was originally established to support the communist dictatorship in Nicaragua, and it continues to underwrite and promote the activities of Marxist movements in Central America. AGJ receives funding from several huge left-wing foundations, including George Soros’s Open Society Institute and Tides.<sup>102</sup>

Another key source of financial support for

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<sup>99</sup> <http://kleinonline.wnd.com/2011/11/04/obama-advisor-calls-for-more-militancy-in-occupy-protests-serves-on-organizations-that-helped-craft-presidents-healthcare-stimulus-laws/>

<sup>100</sup> <http://nation.foxnews.com/occupy-wall-street/2011/11/03/union-chief-we-need-more-militancy-blocking-bridges-occupying-banks>

<sup>101</sup> <http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/business/2011/10/human-blunder-loses-occupy-wall-street-144000/>

<sup>102</sup> <http://frontpagemag.com/2011/11/04/occupy-wall-street-and-soros-fingerprints/print/>



OWS is the online funding site Kickstarter,<sup>103</sup> with additional donations being funneled through We-Pay.<sup>104</sup> Other monies are contributed by visitors to specific OWS occupation websites. By the beginning of November, OWS had raised \$500,000.<sup>105</sup> One of its more famous benefactors was Michael Moore, the filmmaker, who gave \$1,000 (of his \$50 million net worth) to the cause.<sup>106</sup>

OWS deposits its money in two accounts: one at Amalgamated Bank, which bills itself as “the only 100 percent union-owned bank in the United States,” and the other at the People’s Federal Credit Union.<sup>107</sup> In addition, OWS stores its donated supplies (e.g., blankets, sleeping bags, food, medicine and toiletries) in a cavernous space provided at no cost by the United Federation of Teachers, which

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<sup>103</sup> <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/610964639/occupy-wall-street-media>

<sup>104</sup> <http://www.fastcompany.com/1785698/occupy-wall-streets-leadership-trail>

<sup>105</sup> <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/ap-publishes-confusing-piece-about-the-lefts-role-in-occupy-wall-street/>

<sup>106</sup> [http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/manhattan/ny\\_occupy\\_war\\_chest\\_at\\_zlGvDo1AiD48PwCmAPJnRI](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/manhattan/ny_occupy_war_chest_at_zlGvDo1AiD48PwCmAPJnRI); <http://www.celebritynetworth.com/richest-celebrities/directors/michael-moore-net-worth/>

<sup>107</sup> [http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/manhattan/take\\_shower\\_zcNVVy-WQUyJbZlp1OOzuSM](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/manhattan/take_shower_zcNVVy-WQUyJbZlp1OOzuSM); <http://www.amalgamatedbank.com/home/aboutus>

has offices in a building near the Zuccotti Park headquarters of OWS's New York regiment.<sup>108</sup> *The Occupied Wall Street Journal*, an OWS publication, is supported by the Independent Media Center,<sup>109</sup> which is funded by the Tides Foundation.

### *The Socialism of Fools and the OWS Radicals*

The German Marxist August Bebel once said that “anti-Semitism is the socialism of fools,” but anti-Semitism has recently also become the socialism of the radical left. This left is in full-throated support of the terrorist organizations Hezbollah and Hamas, which have promised “death to Israel” and are partners in the “Boycott, Divest, Sanction” campaign to destroy the Jewish state. The Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee announced at the outset of the protests its “solidarity” with Occupy Wall Street, describing Palestinians as “part of the 99% around the world that suffer at the hands of the 1% whose greed and ruthless quest for hegemony have led to unspeak-

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<sup>108</sup> <http://www.uft.org/news-stories/uft-helps-occupy-wall-street>

<sup>109</sup> <http://m.newsbusters.org/blogs/iris-somberg/2011/10/14/36-million-soros-aids-groups-support-promote-occupy-wall-street>

able suffering and endless war.”<sup>110</sup>

OWS anti-Semitism was on display with slogans denouncing “Jewish bankers,” “Wall Street Jews,” “Jewish billionaires” and “Zionist Jews.” Many of its posters featured caricatures of Jewish bankers bearing a striking resemblance to the graphics of Nazi and Arab propaganda campaigns. No OWS leader denounced this Jew-hatred or sought to distance the movement from it.<sup>111</sup> Anti-Semitism has become so much the culture and currency of the left that disagreeing with it would be unthinkable.

One OWS protester, Danny Cline, gained momentary YouTube notoriety when a video was posted showing him abusing an elderly Jew with the taunts: “You’re a bum, Jew,” “Go back to Israel” and “You got the money ... Jewish man.”<sup>112</sup> Another OWS radical stated, “The small ethnic Jewish population in this country, they have a

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<sup>110</sup> <http://www.bdsmovement.net/2011/occupy-wall-street-not-palestine-8163#.TtXGeWC0xWN>

<sup>111</sup> <http://pjmedia.com/tatler/2011/10/13/more-anti-semitism-at-occupy-los-angeles/>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtgtnHLFCWU>; <http://www.breitbart.tv/occupyla-protester-zionist-jews-who-run-banks-should-be-run-out-this-country/>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ol6voYeh5-k>

<sup>112</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3Y9CARUwio>

firm grip on America's media [and] finances.”<sup>113</sup> In Chicago, Hatem Abudayyeh, executive director of the Arab-American Action Network (an organization founded by the radical PLO propagandist and Obama friend Rashid Khalidi), was a featured OWS speaker. In 2009, the FBI had raided Abudayyeh's home on suspicion of his ties to Hamas. Now he led a cheering crowd in chants of “Free Palestine” and told them, “Israel is beginning to be seen as the criminal pariah state that it is.”<sup>114</sup>

At an Occupy L.A. rally, an employee of the Los Angeles Unified School District, Patricia McAllister, told a television reporter, “I think that the Zionist Jews who are running these big banks and our Federal Reserve ... need to be run out of this country.”<sup>115</sup> McAllister was fired when her school district learned of her comments, but she remained unrepentant: “I think that we should be able to [tell] the truth about what the Jews are doing to this nation, the Zionist Jews, how they control the money system, how they control the markets and everything else.... Jews have been run out of

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<sup>113</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiIRQCPJcew>

<sup>114</sup> <http://frontpagemag.com/2011/10/26/the-anti-semites-of-occupy-wall-street/print/>

<sup>115</sup> Ibid.

109 countries throughout history. And we need to run them out of this one.” McAllister made these remarks with an Occupy L.A. spokeswoman standing nearby. The spokeswoman refused to condemn McAllister’s rhetoric, saying it “doesn’t erode our [movement’s] credibility, not one bit.”<sup>116</sup>

In early November, a contingent of protesters at an Occupy Boston rally marched into the lobby of the building that houses the city’s Israeli consulate and held a brief sit-in, chanting, “Hey hey, Ho ho! Israeli apartheid’s got to go!” and “Long live the Intifada!” “Free, free Palestine!” “Viva viva Palestina!” “Not another nickel! Not another dime! No more money for Israel’s crimes!” and “Disarm the police, from Israel to Greece!”<sup>117</sup>

The radical anti-Israel group Jewish Voice for Peace distributed flyers at Chicago OWS that said: “Refuse to Pay Taxes. Destroy Israel.”<sup>118</sup> Another group, the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occu-

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<sup>116</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ch4VcOGv36U>

<sup>117</sup> <http://www.futureofcapitalism.com/2011/11/occupy-boston-occupies-israeli-consulate>

<sup>118</sup> <http://biggovernment.com/rebelpundit/2011/10/14/occupychicago-joins-destroy-israel-anti-war-anti-america-peace-march/>; <http://www.breitbart.tv/protesters-message-at-occupychicago-rally-destroy-israel/>

pation, asserted that “the connections between the struggles of Palestinians and the Occupy movement are unmistakable: the spotlight on privilege and inequality, the mass imprisonment, the police repression, and the people’s steadfastness.”<sup>119</sup>

The socialism of fools is a credo for those who designed the Occupy Wall Street movement. In 2004, Kalle Lasn authored an *Adbusters* article attacking America’s most influential neoconservatives under the title “Why Won’t Anyone Say They Are Jewish?”<sup>120</sup> In a June 2009 article with photo montage, *Adbusters* likened Gaza to the Warsaw ghetto—a Hamas propaganda analogy taken up by the left, aiming to identify Jews with their Nazi murderers.<sup>121</sup>

The OWS leader Lisa Fithian spent several weeks in 2003 working with the International Solidarity Movement, a terrorist support group, in the Palestinian cities of Jenin and Nablus, where she served as a human shield attempting to obstruct Israeli security forces from demolishing the homes

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<sup>119</sup> <http://www.endtheoccupation.org/article.php?id=3134>

<sup>120</sup> <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2011/10/13/occupy-wall-street-kalle-lasn/>

<sup>121</sup> <http://www.adbusters.org/magazine/83/gaza.html>



and tunnels of Palestinian terrorists.<sup>122</sup> At a protest in Texas on May 31, 2010, Fithian accused Israel of “slaughter[ing] Palestinians every single day in Gaza and the Occupied territories,” and called for an end to “the U.S. tax dollars that fund that [Israeli] occupation.” During the same event, demonstrators chanted, “Long live Intifada!” and “Palestine will be free, from the river to the sea!”—a Hamas slogan calling for the obliteration of the Jewish state.<sup>123</sup>

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which is the center of international Jew-hatred, has also lined up behind OWS. The country’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, lauded OWS for having “exposed” the “corrupt foundation” of American society, and gleefully predicted that the movement would “grow so that it will bring down the capitalist system and the West.”<sup>124</sup> The Iranian armed forces’ deputy chief of staff for culture and defense publicity, General Seyed Massoud Jazzayeri, likewise characterized OWS not only as “a revolution

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<sup>122</sup> <http://organizingforpower.wordpress.com/movement-history/about-lisa/>

<sup>123</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWxMbT08VZg>

<sup>124</sup> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/oct/12/iran-us-protests-topple-capitalism?newsfeed=true>

and a comprehensive movement against corruption in the U.S.,” but as a force that “will no doubt end in the downfall of the Western capitalist system.”<sup>125</sup> And a website affiliated with the Iran-created terror group Hezbollah portrayed OWS as a movement that was courageously exposing the “corruption, poverty [and] social inequality in the U.S.”<sup>126</sup>

### *The OWS Network*

Given the fact that its objectives so loudly echo those of the international communist left, it is to be expected that Occupy Wall Street would be supported by the Communist Party USA (CPUSA), and given its anti-Semitism, by the American Nazi Party. Working closely with Occupy Los Angeles are two Southern California communists—the veteran party leader Arturo Cambron and his comrade Mario Brito—who declared at the beginning of the protests that OWS was “an international movement” whose goal was “economic justice” and the elimination of the “income inequality the vast ma-

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<sup>125</sup> <http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/story/2011-10-09/iran-wall-street-protest/50713380/1>; <http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=9007160276>

<sup>126</sup> <http://almoqawama.org/?a=content.id&id=25867>

majority of Americans” view as “a major problem.”<sup>127</sup> In an address to 3,000 attendees at an Occupy Chicago rally, John Bachtell, a spokesman from the CPUSA’s national board, conveyed “greetings and solidarity from the Communist Party” and received a number of loud ovations from the crowd.<sup>128</sup>

Another key OWS ally is the National Lawyers Guild (NLG), from whose ranks came the 200 attorneys who served as volunteer legal observers at OWS events in New York, looking for evidence of overzealous policing.<sup>129</sup> Once the chief legal instrument of the Communist Party USA<sup>130</sup> and a longtime defender of domestic radicals and terrorists, the Lawyers Guild provides representation for the OWS demonstrators who are arrested. The affinity between the two groups is natural given the NLG mission of promoting “basic change in the

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<sup>127</sup> <http://trevorloudon.com/2011/10/communists-lead-occupy-los-angeles-movement-nationwide-takeover-planned/>

<sup>128</sup> <http://www.breitbart.tv/communist-party-leader-gets-huge-ovation-at-occupychicago-rally/>. In addition to official backing from the Communist Party, OWS has been supported by the Revolutionary Communist Party, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, and the Marxist Student Union. OWS has neither declined nor repudiated any of these endorsements.

<sup>129</sup> <http://amlawdaily.typepad.com/amlawdaily/2011/10/meet-occupy-wall-streets-legal-team.html>

<sup>130</sup> <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/groupProfile.asp?grpid=6162>

structure of our political and [capitalist] economic system,” a system, it claims, where “vast disparities in individual and social wealth” render “neither democracy nor social justice ... possible.”<sup>131</sup>

Operatives of the radical organization ACORN (disbanded after a major scandal but still operating under other names) played a major role in organizing the OWS protests nationwide. The Working Families Party (WFP), an ACORN front, helped mobilize the demonstrations in New York.<sup>132</sup> The WFP organizer Nelini Stamp lauds her organization’s effort to bring “revolutionary change” to the “capitalist system” that is “not working for any of us.”<sup>133</sup>

Newer offshoots of ACORN such as the New York Communities for Change (NYCC)—led by a longtime ACORN lobbyist, Jon Kest—have helped organize OWS demonstrations in lower Manhattan. In Pennsylvania, Action United has participated in

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<sup>131</sup> <http://www.nlg.org/about/>; <http://www.nlg.org/about/history/>

<sup>132</sup> <http://frontpagemag.com/2011/10/11/acorn-is-behind-occupy-wall-street/print/>

<sup>133</sup> <http://www.trevorloudon.com/2011/10/video-exposing-how-‘occupy-wall-street’-was-organized-from-day-one-by-seiuacorn-front—the-working-family-party-and-how-they-all-tie-to-the-obama-administration-dnc-democr/>

the Occupy Pittsburgh rallies. In Florida, Organize Now takes part in Occupy Orlando. The Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment helps lead the Occupy Los Angeles protests. And New England United for Justice, headed by former ACORN national president Maude Hurd, has participated in the related “Take Back Boston” rallies in Massachusetts.<sup>134</sup>

News reports indicate that New York Communities for Change hired approximately 100 former ACORN-affiliated staffers, paying some of them \$100 per day to attend and support OWS demonstrations. Further, NYCC recruited dozens of people from New York homeless shelters and paid them \$10 per hour to serve as door-to-door canvassers to collect money for the movement. According to an inside source, top ex-ACORN staffers and current NYCC officials began planning for OWS as early as February 2011: “What people don’t understand is that ACORN is behind this—and that this, what’s happening now, is all part of the ... plans to go after the banks, Chase in particular.”<sup>135</sup>

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<sup>134</sup> <http://frontpagemag.com/2011/10/11/acorn-is-behind-occupy-wall-street/print/>

<sup>135</sup> <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/10/26/exclusive-acorn-playing-behind-scenes-role-in-occupy-movement/>

Another OWS organizer is former ACORN chief executive Bertha Lewis, whose new organization, The Black Institute (TBI), calls its protests “Occupy Black America” and “Occupy The Hood.” TBI and several other ACORN reincarnations together organized an event called “New Bottom Line,” a financial protest aimed at persuading people to move their money out of major banks.<sup>136</sup> The date set for the withdrawal, November 5, was selected because it is known in the British Commonwealth as “Guy Fawkes Day,” named after the man who attempted to blow up Parliament and assassinate King James I in 1605. Fawkes has become an icon of the Occupy demonstrations and the “Anonymous” hacker collective, thus accounting for the large number of stylized Guy Fawkes masks (popularized in the movie *V for Vendetta*) at OWS events.<sup>137</sup>

The October 2011 Movement, based in Washington, D.C., is also an ally of OWS. It calls on the federal government to end all American economic policies “which foster a wealth divide”; to “tax the

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<sup>136</sup> <http://biggovernment.com/jpollak/2011/10/26/exclusive-email-from-lisa-fithian-to-occupywallstreet-confirms-acorn-role-in-occupys-next-assault-on-banks/>

<sup>137</sup> Ibid.



rich and corporations” at especially high rates so as to diminish the “significant disparities of wealth” that exist between the “extremely wealthy” and “the 99%”; to create a single-payer health-care system while expanding social-welfare programs; to devote large sums of money to “creating [public-sector] jobs” while eschewing “spending cuts”; to “end corporate influence over the political process” by banning corporate campaign contributions and establishing a publicly financed campaign system; and to guarantee everyone a “sustainable living wage” and a “publicly-funded” education from preschool through college.<sup>138</sup>

Following the onset of the OWS protests, the left-wing group MoveOn.org announced its plan to launch a protest movement of its own to complement “the amazing work being done by brave Occupy Wall Street protesters,” to “end the big banks’ excessive influence,” and to “Make Wall Street Pay” for its transgressions against “economic justice.”<sup>139</sup>

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<sup>138</sup> <http://october2011.org/issues>; <http://october2011.org/standwiththema-jority>

<sup>139</sup> <http://kleinonline.wnd.com/2011/10/24/soros-army-launches-wall-street-assault-of-its-own-moveon-org-action-campaign-aims-to-rebuilt-u-s-financial-system-2/>

Environmental radicals also joined the OWS movement. Among the most prominent was Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, who calls the United States the world's chief polluter and derides its "materialism" and "hyperindividualism"—i.e., freedom.<sup>140</sup> In October, as the OWS protests were reaching critical mass, he wrote: "For too long, Wall Street has been occupying the offices of our government, and the cloakrooms of our legislatures.... You could even say Wall Street's been occupying our atmosphere, since any attempt to do anything about climate change always run [sic] afoul of the biggest corporations on the planet. So it's a damned good thing the tables have turned."<sup>141</sup>

The list of prominent leftists supporting OWS is extremely long. Among the more noteworthy are the Marxist cop-killer Mumia Abu Jamal, who says that OWS's "central focus" is simply "capitalism, greed writ large";<sup>142</sup> the former Obama "green jobs czar" Van Jones, who calls OWS a "beautiful man-

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<sup>140</sup> <http://www.powells.com/essays/mckibben.html>

<sup>141</sup> <http://thinkprogress.org/romm/2011/10/05/337255/climate-activism-occupy-wall-street-movement/>

<sup>142</sup> <http://www.breitbart.tv/cop-killer-embraced-by-political-left-celebs-endorses-occupy-movement/>

ifestation of moral clarity”;<sup>143</sup> and the billionaire financier George Soros, who says he “can understand [the protesters’] sentiment, frankly.”<sup>144</sup> Bill Ayers—unrepentant terrorist, Hamas enthusiast and former Obama confidant—described the Occupy movement as a “North American Spring.”<sup>145</sup> Ayers lauded the protesters for their “brilliance” and condemned America’s “violent culture.”<sup>146</sup>

### *The OWS and the Union Reds*

The fact that unions, especially the public employees’ unions, have lined up behind Occupy Wall Street reflects the recent subversion of the labor movement by the neo-communists who are behind OWS. During the forty years prior to 1995, the AFL-CIO’s two presidents, George Meany (1955–1979) and Lane Kirkland (1979–1995), were known for their centrist liberalism and anti-

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<sup>143</sup>[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/van-jones/occupy-wall-street-eviction\\_b\\_1009955.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/van-jones/occupy-wall-street-eviction_b_1009955.html)

<sup>144</sup> <http://frontpagemag.com/2011/10/06/occupy-wall-street-jumps-the-shark/print/>

<sup>145</sup> <http://www.suntimes.com/news/washington/8211533-452/bill-ayers-rooting-for-the-protesters.html>

<sup>146</sup> <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/radical-bill-ayers-speaks-to-occupy-chicago-protesters-about-revolution-the-tea-party/>

communism. But when the socialist John Sweeney succeeded Kirkland in 1995, he shifted organized labor's politics dramatically leftward. One of his first orders of business was to repeal an AFL-CIO rule, instituted by Walter Reuther, that had prohibited communists from becoming leaders of its member unions.<sup>147</sup> A parallel development was the ascendancy of Andrew Stern, a Sixties radical, to the presidency of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) in 1996.

The leftward shift of the labor movement spurred a dramatic increase in political activism, which was first manifest in the anti-globalization riots that caused the shutdown of the 1999 World Trade Organization (WTO) meetings in Seattle. The AFL-CIO was instrumental in organizing a massive rally.<sup>148</sup> The United Steelworkers union dispatched 1,400 of its members (including top-level officials like Tom Conway, vice president, and Leo Gerard, the international secretary-treasurer at the time) to participate in the disorders—whose target was, in

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<sup>147</sup> <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/individualProfile.asp?indid=2009>

<sup>148</sup> [http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file\\_id=2142](http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=2142)

effect, international capitalism.<sup>149</sup>

The WTO disturbances foreshadowed some subsequent ugly union assaults on the democratic process. In the state of Wisconsin in 2011, Governor Scott Walker, a Republican, sought to address a projected \$3.6 billion state budget deficit by addressing the stranglehold of government unions such as the SEIU on the state's politicians and finances.<sup>150</sup> In response to Walker's initiative, tens of thousands of union activists and their supporters invaded the seat of government in Madison, intent on obstructing the legislation. Screaming mobs of demonstrators stormed the capitol building and physically occupied it, blocking legislators as they entered to cast their votes.<sup>151</sup>

OWS has gained strong support from the SEIU and other government unions such as AFSCME (the Association of Federal, State, County and Municipal Employees) and the United Federation of Teachers. AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka

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<sup>149</sup> <http://frontpagemag.com/2011/11/11/union-gangsters-leo-gerard/print/>

<sup>150</sup> <http://blog.heritage.org/2011/02/20/video-myths-vs-facts-of-the-wisconsin-union-protest/>; <http://blog.heritage.org/2011/08/08/chart-liberal-groups-dump-more-than-14-million-into-recall-elections/>

<sup>151</sup> [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Df5yT16a\\_og](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Df5yT16a_og)

says, “We support the protesters in their determination ... to call for fundamental change.”<sup>152</sup>

### *Support from the Left-wing Media*

One reason for the success of the smokescreen that hides the anti-democratic intentions of OWS is the support it can count on from network media and the mainstream press, which has largely portrayed it as a spontaneous uprising independent of any powerful, organized or well-financed influences.

*New York Times* reporter Natasha Lennard, who according to Politico.com has “played a pivotal role in the media narrative of Occupy Wall Street,”<sup>153</sup> was part of a panel of radicals brought together to discuss the theory, strategy and tactics of the OWS protests.<sup>154</sup> Lisa Simeone, a National Public Radio host, worked as a spokeswoman for Occupy DC—a chapter of the OWS-affiliated

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<sup>152</sup> <http://www.aflcio.org/mediacenter/prsptm/pr10052011.cfm>

<sup>153</sup> <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1011/66764.html>

<sup>154</sup> <http://biggovernment.com/lstranahan/2011/10/23/whaddaya-think-new-video-reveals-new-york-times-reporter-acting-as-occupywallstreet-organizer/>



October 2011 Movement—in violation of the network’s ethics rules. When questioned by reporters about the matter, Simeone said that because she was a “freelancer” for NPR, she was not obligated to abide by its ethical principles.<sup>155</sup> She added, “Our main focus is that we are against corporatism and militarism.... [W]e are not going to stop acts of civil disobedience....”<sup>156</sup>

In one of many emails contained on a private listserv leaked to BigGovernment.com, MSNBC’s Dylan Ratigan advised OWS protesters on how they ought to craft their press statements. “I love what you’re doing.” he said.<sup>157</sup> In another leaked email, *Rolling Stone*’s Matt Taibbi offered a preview of his article “My Advice to the Wall Street Protesters,” and expressed his “love” and “support” for OWS, while condemning the “unparalleled thievery and corruption” of Wall Street.<sup>158</sup> The racial arsonist

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<sup>155</sup> <http://dailycaller.com/2011/10/19/npr-host-a-spokeswoman-for-occupy-d-c-possible-ethics-violation/>

<sup>156</sup> [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2011-10/06/c\\_131175863.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2011-10/06/c_131175863.htm); Simeone was later fired by NPR.

<sup>157</sup> <http://www.dylanratigan.com/2011/10/03/dylans-weekend-at-occupy-wallstreet/>

<sup>158</sup> <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/my-advice-to-the-occupy-wall-street-protesters-20111012>

and MSNBC host Al Sharpton made a very public appearance at an OWS rally in Atlanta, where he shouted: “It’s time for us to occupy Wall Street, occupy Washington, occupy Alabama.”<sup>159</sup>

### *Barbarism vs. Civilization*

As a way of “normalizing” Occupy Wall Street, its supporters have tried to suggest that it is the opposite side of the coin to the Tea Party demonstrations. President Obama has helped to propagate this view, observing that “in some ways” the OWS demonstrations are “not that different from some of the protests that we saw coming from the Tea Party.”<sup>160</sup> According to Vice President Joe Biden, OWS and the Tea Party have “a lot in common,” in the sense that both “do not think the system is fair.”<sup>161</sup> But the Tea Party demonstrations resulted in almost no arrests, in contrast to the 4,800 that took place in the first two months of OWS.<sup>162</sup> The

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<sup>159</sup> <http://newsbusters.org/blogs/noel-sheppard/2011/10/16/sharpton-people-favoring-voter-ids-want-revoke-voting-rights-act>

<sup>160</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zC73B8QFaYA>

<sup>161</sup> <http://www.politickerny.com/2011/10/24/what-politicians-are-saying-about-occupy-wall-street/#slide3>

<sup>162</sup> <http://twitter.com/#!/occupyarrests>

Tea Parties had no rapes, no deaths, no defecations. No \$13 million bill for police overtime and cleanup afterward.<sup>163</sup> OWS can be said to be the opposite side of the coin to the Tea Party only in the sense that barbarism is the opposite side of the coin to civilization.

Occupy Wall Street is not a spontaneous uprising of the middle class, as its shadowy leaders have tried to portray it. It is but the latest incarnation of a much older movement...a movement by the far left which tried and failed during the Cold War to create a Soviet America, and which during the Sixties tried to bring the “empire” down. It is a destructive movement organized by a new generation of radicals who draw their inspiration from the Marxists and communists who came before them. And, like their predecessors, these radicals have declared war on a system that has produced the freest and most prosperous society the world has ever seen, while promising a utopia that has never existed and never will.

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<sup>163</sup> <http://www.thedaily.com/page/2011/11/24/112411-news-occupy-costs-1-2/>

