

Hope

Hope in this age of bankrupt capitalism comes with **the return of the language of class conflict and rebellion**, language that has been purged from the lexicon of the liberal class, language that defines this new movement.

This does not mean we have to agree with Karl Marx, who advocated violence and whose worship of the state as a utopian mechanism led to another form of enslavement of the working class, but we have to learn again to *speak in the vocabulary* Marx employed.

We have to grasp that corporations are not concerned with the common good.

They exploit, pollute, impoverish, repress, *kill and lie* to make money:

- They throw poor families out of homes
- Let the uninsured die
- Wage useless wars to make profits
- Poison and pollute the ecosystem
- Slash social assistance programs
- Gut public education
- Trash the global economy
- Plunder the U.S. Treasury
- Crush all popular movements that seek justice for working men and women
- Worship money and power.



Occupy...

'Occupy...' is carried out by ordinary men and women who sleep at night on concrete, get soaked in rainstorms, eat donated food and have nothing as weapons but their dignity, resilience and courage.

It is they, and they alone, who hold out the possibility of salvation. And if we join them we might have a chance.

Compromise has proven ineffectual. The choice is stark, but clear.

Either 'Occupy', or continue on down the current **murderous blind alley** at *breakneck speed*. There is no other choice.

YOU choose!



Chris Hedges writes regularly for *Truthdig.com*. This pamphlet is a shorter version of his October 2011 article "**A Movement Too Big to Fail**" For the full article:
http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/a_movement_too_big_to_fail_20111017/

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Occupy is

- Asking us to use our bodies / voices, often at personal risk, to *fight back*.
- In defiance of the corporate state
- The creation of a real community instead of a managed or virtual one
- An affirmation of our dignity
- A movement allowing us to become free and independent human beings



Occupy is not

- Interested in formal positions of power
- An ideology
- Lead by anybody
- Seeking office
- Trying to get people to vote
- Well-funded by others
- Defined by this pamphlet

What kind of nation* is it that...

- Spends far more to kill enemy combatants and Afghan and Iraqi civilians than it does to help its own citizens who live below the poverty line?
- Permits corporations to hold sick children hostage while their parents frantically bankrupt themselves to save their sons and daughters?
- Tosses its mentally ill onto urban heating grates?
- Abandons its unemployed while it loots its treasury on behalf of speculators?
- Ignores due process to torture and assassinate its own citizens?
- Refuses to halt the destruction of the ecosystem by the fossil fuel industry, dooming our children and children's children?



You

Me

Victory!

* The crisis in the USA may be more apparent and severe than in Canada- but the *structural* problems are the same.

Martin Luther King

King was killed in 1968 when in Memphis to support a strike by sanitation workers.

By then he had begun to say that his **dream**, the one that the corporate state has frozen into a few safe clichés from his 1963 speech in Washington, had turned into a **nightmare**.

King called at the end of his life for massive federal funds to rebuild inner cities, what he called "a radical redistribution of economic and political power," a complete restructuring of "the architecture of American society."

He grasped that the inequities of capitalism had become the instrument by which the poor would always remain poor.

"Call it democracy, or call it democratic socialism," King said, "but there must be a better distribution of wealth within this country for all of God's children."

On the eve of King's murder he was preparing to **organize a poor people's march on Washington, D.C.**, designed to cause "major, massive dislocations," a nonviolent demand by the poor, including the white underclass, for a system of economic equality.

It would be 43 years before his vision was realized by an eclectic group of protesters who gathered before the gates of Wall Street.

The Death of the Liberal Class

The nation's death march began with President Ronald Reagan, and Liberals such as Bill Clinton who, for corporate money:

- accelerated the dismantling of our manufacturing base
- gutted our regulatory agencies
- Destroyed our social service programs
- Empowered speculators who have trashed our economy.

The liberal class, which at once was betrayed and betrayed itself, *has no role left to play* in the battle *between* us and corporate dominance.

All hope lies now with those in the street.

Russell Jacoby writes: "The left once:

- Dismissed the market as exploitative; it now honors the market as rational and humane
- Disdained mass culture as exploitative; now it celebrates it as rebellious.
- Honored independent intellectuals as courageous; now it sneers at them as elitist.
- Rejected pluralism as superficial; now it worships it as profound.

We are witnessing not simply a defeat of the left, but its conversion and perhaps *inversion*."