A MARXIST WORLD VIEW FOR TODAY
FIRE THIS TIME MOVEMENT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
2014 FALL FORUM SERIES

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Marx and Engels, the Founders of Scientific Socialist Thought
October 17: Herbert Marcuse made a big impact on hundreds of thousands of antiwar activists and the leftist movement of the 1960’s by declaring war against the culture of consumption and alienation of the masses, especially in the modern industrial Capitalist system. The question that many activists and scholars are asking is if any of the good and important ideas that Marcuse discussed in his book, “One Dimensional Man” are still relevant today. Marcuse, as a philosopher, sociologist and political activist suggested many visions and strategies by rejecting Capitalism and Communism in favour of a “Third Way”.

Among many questions, we need to ask ourselves what we have understood then and today from this book and Marcuse’s ideas. What are their usefulness and relevancy today?

November 7: It could be said with utmost certainty that the Russian Revolution of 1917 changed the course of history decisively for humankind throughout the world. No other revolution has ever been the subject of so much discussion and controversy. Those who love and support the Russian Revolution appreciate the impact and influence of it on the entire intellectual development and advancement of billions of people. Those who are against it and resent it dismiss the Russian Revolution as the biggest parasite in history.

However, the question remains why this revolution, after 97 years is still so important to be discussed. Why did it happen? Who did it? Who lead it? What was the ideology? What was the theory? Was it a coup d’état? Was it democratic? Was it by majority or minority? Why was it socialist in character? What happened to it? What do we understand of it today? Is it relevant today? And of course, why we are discussing it?
November 21: The Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our Americas (ALBA) was originally formed in 2004 as an alternative to the imperialist imposed trade agreement: Free Trade Area of America (FTAA). Today, ALBA has nine member countries. The fundamental goal of ALBA was and has been the collaboration and cooperation of Latin American countries for the fair distribution of wealth, as well as social and economic integration between its members. Join us to discuss why ALBA was an important move and a necessity for Latin America? What have been its successes and challenges? What role is ALBA playing in Latin America and in the world against imperialist economical domination?

December 5: Today after more than two centuries of capitalist careless and criminal mismanagement of production and market, the earth and the environment have disintegrated and deteriorated from pollution and poison. We know we are reaching the point of no return for earth’s inhabitants. As a result, climate change has become a serious challenge to humanity’s sustainability and survival. Join us to discuss the causes of climate change, environmental degradation and why capitalism is destroying our earth for greed and profit. What’s at stake? And how can we fight back to prevent environmental catastrophe?

December 19: With the collapse of the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries from 1989-1991 and all of those countries shifting from a socialist planned economy to capitalism, the public perception has since been that what once necessitated imperialist aggression, the so-called “communist threat”, has been eliminated and there has been no need to continue the Cold War policies. The course of events, wars and occupations in Yugoslavia, in the Middle East and Africa, and more recently in Ukraine seem to prove otherwise. Now especially with the expansion of NATO against Russia, we are witnessing the development of a new cold war, Cold War II. Now the public is questioning what is the foundation of this new cold war? Who is doing it and why?
Humans today face threats from war, economic crises, starvation, poverty, and crime: all created by the drive of capitalists and imperialist powers to maximize their profits at the expense of the people of the world. To oppose each of these crimes against humanity, we must focus all of our work and action to build a foundation to advance the interest of an overall struggle of working and oppressed people against international capital, its tools of dividing the working class, and its local oppressive institutions. The fundamental principle of the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice is to promote in action the unity and active solidarity of all poor and working people, locally and internationally. We must recognize that this principle is meaningless without active struggle, because the pursuit of this principle goes sharply against the interest of the ruling capitalist class and they will use whatever means they have at their disposal to keep us divided and hostile amongst ourselves.

Fire This Time is a revolutionary socialist movement for dismantling capitalism and imperialism with a mass majority of working and oppressed people to create a world without oppression and exploitation. We are a politically based action organization committed to building the social and political power of poor and working people in BC, Canada and internationally. We believe the only way to effectively challenge the capitalist and imperialist states and governments and their corporate agenda is through the organization of masses of people in motion in workplaces, communities and in the streets. We are dedicated to mobilizing and unifying poor and working people against the all forms of capitalist governments and their anti-poor, anti-working class legislation and policies. We are committed to organizing with working and poor people from the most attacked and exploited communities in Canada and beyond: communities of colour, immigrants, refugees, “illegals”, low-wage workers, people with disabilities, queer people, indigenous communities, unemployed people and low-income families. We oppose all forms of oppression and exploitation: from sexism to racism, from homophobia to colonialism and all other institutions, thought, beliefs, actions and behaviors that humiliate and demean people to bring hostility and division amongst us.

Our movement must be integrated in the wider revolutionary context of international struggle against capitalism and imperialism; although we are mainly engaged in local politics, in essence the scope of our work is internationalist. Supporting the struggles of oppressed people abroad weakens the hegemony and power of the capitalist class in other lands and consequently weakens their rule at home, therefore aiding the battles of oppressed people in Canada against their own government. In addition, the practice of international solidarity solidifies the co-operation essential in building a world movement for social justice. We must expand on this both implicitly and explicitly to make the connections relevant to people’s daily domestic struggle, to overcome geographic division, and to make it clear that when we engage in struggle we do not struggle alone but alongside millions of working and poor people around the world. Within capitalist and imperialist global domination there is no local struggle that does not have an international character. Every international is local and every local is international.

The Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice will support and engage with other progressive and revolutionary movements and struggles whether for immediate or long-term demands, locally, nationally and internationally. Our main goal is to end poverty and injustice through education, participation, agitation and direct action. We seek to reach a collective level of mass consciousness that allows oppressed people to think socially and act politically to achieve social justice locally and internationally by any means necessary.