

you can't change the world if you don't know the **Basics**

CONTENTS OF THE BOOK

Basics, from the talks and writings of Bob Avakian

CHAPTER 1: A WORLDWIDE SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION AND OPPRESSION

Supplement: *Reform or Revolution Questions of Orientation, Questions of Morality*

CHAPTER 2: A WHOLE NEW—AND FAR BETTER—WORLD

Supplement: *Three Alternative Worlds*

CHAPTER 3: MAKING REVOLUTION

Supplement: *On the Strategy for Revolution*

CHAPTER 4: UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Supplement: *"A Leap of Faith" and a Leap to Rational Knowledge: Two Very Different Kinds of Leaps, Two Radically Different Worldviews and Methods*

CHAPTER 5: MORALITY, REVOLUTION AND THE GOAL OF COMMUNISM

Supplement: *Beyond the Narrow Horizon of Bourgeois Right*

CHAPTER 6: REVOLUTIONARY RESPONSIBILITY AND LEADERSHIP

Supplement: *The Revolutionary Potential of the Masses and the Responsibility of the Vanguard*

Basics 1:13

No more generations of our youth, here and all around the world, whose life is over, whose fate has been sealed, who have been condemned to an early death or a life of misery and brutality, whom the system has destined for oppression and oblivion even before they are born. I say no more of that.

Revolution: Why It's Necessary, Why It's Possible, What It's All About, a film of a talk by Bob Avakian. Available at revolutiontalk.net and in a DVD set from RCP Publications.

Basics 1:5

It is not uncommon to hear these days, from government officials and others, that only 1 percent of the population is in the U.S. military but that this 1 percent is fighting for the freedom of the other 99 percent. The truth, however, is this: That 1 percent, in the military, is in reality fighting for the other 1 percent: the big capitalist-imperialists who run this country—who control the economy, the political system, the military, the media, and the other key institutions—and who dominate large parts of the world, wreaking havoc and causing great suffering for literally billions of people. It is the “freedom” of these capitalist-imperialists—their freedom to exploit, oppress, and plunder—that this 1 percent in the military is actually killing and sometimes dying for.

Revolution #220, December 19, 2010

What people are saying about **Basics**:

Prisoner in California: I want to urge everybody out there to get their hands on this book and to help get it into the hands of others, not just prisoners, but into the hands of youth who are in danger of becoming prisoners themselves... Help them unlock their potential and give them a sense of purpose that doesn't involve killing each other. Give them an alternative to the criminal lifestyle that doesn't involve conforming to this horrid system. That is what they need, that is what they ache for. They want to rebel, they just have to be introduced to the correct way to do so. Put them on the path to becoming communists...

University student: I bought it expecting to disagree with a lot of it, but even the opening chapters have really been very lucid and provocative, with glaring parallels to the driving ideas behind veganism which I'm much more familiar with... You start reading it and it's like “the emperor has no clothes.”

Basics 3:1

Let's get down to basics: *We need a revolution. Anything else, in the final analysis, is bullshit.*

Now, that doesn't mean we don't unite with people in all sorts of struggles short of revolution. We definitely need to do that. But the proffering of any other solution to these monumental and monstrous problems and outrages is ridiculous, frankly. And we need to be taking the offensive and mobilizing increasing numbers of masses to cut through this shit and bring to the fore what really is the solution to this, and to answer the questions and, yes, the accusations that come forth in response to this, while deepening our scientific basis for being able to do this. And the point is: not only do *we* need to be doing this, but we need to be bringing forward, unleashing and leading, and enabling increasing numbers of the *masses* to do this. They need to be inspired, not just with a general idea of revolution, but with a deepening understanding, a scientific grounding, as to why and how revolution really *is* the answer to all of this.

Making Revolution and Emancipating Humanity – Part 2: “Everything We're Doing Is About Revolution,” Revolution #114, December 30, 2007

Basics 5:14

Religion is the doctrine of submission—blind obedience;
Marxism of rebellion—ever more conscious rebellion.

Communists Are Rebels: A Letter from RCP Chairman Bob Avakian to His Parents on Philosophy, Religion, Morals, and Continuous Revolution, 1980

Basics 4:13

There is not one human nature. There is not some uniform and unchanging way that everybody is and how everybody sees the world. Human nature has different meanings in different times and for different classes and groups in society.

Revolution: Why It's Necessary, Why It's Possible, What It's All About, a film of a talk by Bob Avakian. Available at revolutiontalk.net and in a DVD set from RCP Publications.

Erin Aubry Kaplan, journalist and author: I hope he gets number one Amazon.com. We need to get this kind of word, this kind of conversation out into—it needs to be disseminated, it needs to be in the mainstream more. We got to stop thinking that this kind of stuff just belongs at the very, very fringe of society...

Matthew Shipp, musician: What I really liked about his work is that he approaches things in a non-dogmatic way. And at the same time he recognizes all the failures that have happened in revolution in the past. We have to learn from all the mistakes in the past but that should not close your mind to the fact that something better can emerge in the future.

Nicholas Heyward Sr., father of Nicholas Jr. who was murdered by a NYPD cop in 1994: I love how he speaks the truth

about what's going on and backs it up with facts, and mixes in a little humor. In today's fucked up world, I need what Bob Avakian brings to the situation—the whole world does.

Herb Boyd, professor, journalist, and author: One doesn't need a B.A. or a bachelor's degree to understand or to grasp the essential meaning of the lessons delivered in Bob Avakian's latest book, *Basics*... the writing is clear, the analogies simply conceived to breakdown complex issues, and the content absolutely relevant.

Emory Douglas, Revolutionary Artist, former Minister of Culture, Black Panther Party: A salute to Revolutionary Bob Avakian on his book *Basics*.