

In September, top government officials from the 20 largest economies in the world imperialist system descended on Pittsburgh for the latest G20 summit meeting. Thousands protested—they were met by militarized police state repression and nearly 300 were arrested.



Photo: AP

At G20 summit meeting in Pittsburgh, September 2009.



Photo: Andrew Stern

A new spirit of resistance broke through the stifling atmosphere on campuses, as student protests raged at the University of California in response to a drastic increase in tuition. At UC campuses throughout the state, students occupied buildings, stopped traffic, and organized other forms of protest. Some students went face-to-face with police in riot gear, and there were reports of students being beaten with batons, tasered, and hit with rubber bullets. Protests also spread to SF State University. In the midst of this struggle, big questions were thrown up for debate: What kind of society and what kind of system distorts education in this way? Why did the police attack in this way? What direction should the struggle take?

Students at UC Berkeley, November 2009.



Special to Revolution

Dongping Han at symposium about China's Cultural Revolution at UC Berkeley, November 2009.

In November, a three-day symposium took place at UC Berkeley: "Rediscovering China's Cultural Revolution—Art and Politics, Lived Experience, Legacies of Liberation." The symposium brought together scholars and participants in the Cultural Revolution, who shared their experiences and analyses with the audience. The panelists had different perspectives on the Cultural Revolution, but all brought out from many angles that this was a liberating chapter in human history. This symposium followed the first, groundbreaking symposium with the same title that took place in New York City in 2008.

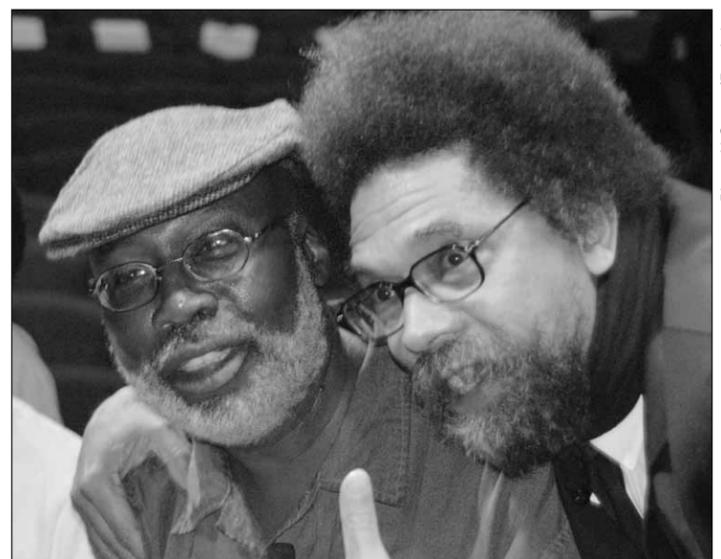


Photo: Li Onesto/Revolution

Carl Dix and Cornel West, Harlem, July 2009.

In July, the Aaron Davis Hall in Harlem was filled to capacity for a riveting exchange between Cornel West, one of America's most provocative public intellectuals, and Carl Dix, longtime revolutionary and founding member of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA. "The Ascendancy of Obama... and the Continued Need for Resistance and Liberation: A Dialogue Between Cornel West and Carl Dix" was sponsored by Revolution Books. West and Dix are both deeply committed to social change—and this was a far-ranging dialogue characterized by both unity and struggle over the nature of the problem and the content of real liberation.