

# THE OCCUPIED WALL STREET JOURNAL

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ISSUE 2

## The Most Important Thing in the World

**I**f there is one thing I know, it's that the 1% loves a crisis.

When people are panicked and desperate and no one seems to know what to do, that is the ideal time to push through their wish-list of pro-corporate policies: privatizing education and social security, slashing public services, getting rid of the last constraints on corporate power. Amidst the economic crisis, this is happening the world over.

There is only one thing that can block this tactic, and fortunately, it's a very big thing: the 99%. And that 99% is taking to the streets from Madison to Madrid to say "No. We will not pay for your crisis."

That slogan began in Italy in 2008. It ricocheted to Greece and France and Ireland and finally it has made its way to the square mile where the crisis began.

"Why are they protesting?" ask the baffled pundits on TV. Meanwhile, the rest of the world asks: "What took you so long?" "We've been wondering when you were going to show up." And most of all: "Welcome."

**AUTHOR NAOMI KLEIN SPEAKS TO THE OCCUPIERS**

Many people have drawn parallels between Occupy Wall Street and the so-called anti-globalization protests that came to world attention in Seattle in 1999. That was the last time a global, youth-led, decentralized movement took direct aim at corporate power. And I am proud to have been part of what we called "the movement of movements."

But there are important differences too. For instance, we chose summits as our targets: the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, the G8. Summits are transient by their nature, they only last a week. That made us transient too. We'd appear, grab world headlines, then disappear. And in the frenzy of hyper patriotism and militarism that followed the 9/11 attacks, it was easy to sweep us away completely, at least in North America.

Occupy Wall Street, on the other hand, has chosen a fixed target. And you have put no end date on your presence here. This is wise. Only when you stay put can you grow roots. This is crucial. It is a fact of the information age that too many

movements spring up like beautiful flowers but quickly die off. It's because they don't have roots. And they don't have long term plans for how they are going to sustain themselves. So when storms come, they get washed away.

Being horizontal and deeply democratic is wonderful. These principles are compatible with the hard work of building structures and institutions that are sturdy enough to weather the storms ahead. I have great faith that this will happen.

Something else this movement is doing right: You have committed yourselves to non-violence. You have refused to give the media the images of broken windows and street fights it craves so desperately. And that tremendous discipline has meant that, again and again, the story has been the disgraceful and unprovoked police brutality. Which we just saw more of Wednesday night. Meanwhile, support for this movement grows and grows. More wisdom.

But the biggest difference a decade makes is that in 1999, we were taking on capitalism at the peak of a frenzied economic boom. Unemployment was low, stock portfolios were bulging. The media was drunk on easy money. Back then it was all about start-ups, not shut downs.

We pointed out that the deregulation behind the frenzy came at a price. It was damaging to labor standards. It was damaging to environmental standards. Corporations were becoming more powerful than governments and that was damaging to our democracies. But to be honest with you, while the good times rolled, taking on an economic system based on greed was a tough sell, at least in rich countries.

Ten years later, it seems as if there aren't any more rich countries. Just a whole lot of rich people. People who got rich looting the public wealth and exhausting natural resources around the world.

The point is, today everyone can see that the system is deeply unjust and careening out of control. Unfettered greed has trashed the global economy. And it is trashing the natural world as well. We are overfishing our oceans, polluting our water with fracking and deepwater drilling, turning to the dirtiest forms



**NEW YORK TURNS OUT TO OCCUPY WALL STREET:** Labor unions and student walkouts brought tens of thousands to Foley Square on Oct. 5. After dusk, crowds filled lower Manhattan around Zuccotti Park, re-named Liberty Square by the occupation. Despite high spirits among the protesters and no incidents of violence or vandalism, NYPD officers arrested numerous people. Pepper spray and batons were also deployed. PHOTO: Jen Ross

To The Sept. 17 Occupiers,

\$\$\$\$\$\$ **MONEYMAN** \$\$\$\$\$\$

**HEY MONEYMAN** the crowd is outside.  
The past, the future and the now is outside.  
The teachers and cooks and the drop-outs too.  
Word on the street is they looking for you...

**HEY MONEYMAN** they saying whats the score?  
And how much blood have you spilled on the  
butcher shop floor? Those numbers keep running  
but what they running into? The crowd is outside  
and they asking of you...

**HEY MONEYMAN MONEYMAN** the mayors' on the  
phone. He says he wants to know if all those people  
went home. Those momma's and poppa's and  
students and cooks. Those teachers and preachers,  
one second I'll look...

**HEY MONEYMAN MONEYMAN** the tents are still up, the  
songs are still singing and the coffee's in cups. The  
nights due to fall and the sun's going down but its  
still a whole mess of good folks hanging round...  
They eyes are wide and their voices are loud. Its  
white and black and colorless proud. The signs are  
big and the smiles are bright. By heaven I reckon  
its gone be one hell of a night!

**HEY MONEYMAN POOR MONEYMAN** you should slip  
out the back. Cuz the forces of greed are under  
attack. No bombs or bullets or rocks or guns. Just  
hashtag's and voices at the tops of their lungs! And  
Moneyman Moneyman I wont need a ride. But if  
you need me...

You can find me outside.

BY WASALU 'LUPE FIASCO' JACO

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## THIS REBELLION WILL NOT STOP

**T**he lords of finance in the skyscrapers surrounding Zuccotti Park, who toy with money and lives, who make the political class, the press, and the judiciary jump at their demands, who destroy the ecosystem for profit and drain the U.S. Treasury to gamble and speculate, took little notice at first activists on the street below them three weeks ago.

The elites consider everyone outside their sphere marginal or invisible. What significance could a young woman named Ketchup, who worked in a Chicago theater cooperative and paid her bills as a waitress, have for the powerful? What could she and those in Zuccotti Park do to them? What threat can the weak pose to the strong? Those who worship money believe their buckets of cash, like the \$4.6 million J.P. Morgan Chase gave last week to the New York City Police Foundation, can buy them perpetual power and security. Masters all, kneeling before the idols of the marketplace, blinded by their self-importance, impervious to human suffering, bloated from unchecked greed and privilege, they were about to be taught the folly of hubris.

Even now, three weeks later, the elites and their mouthpieces in the press continue to puzzle over what we want. Where is the list of demands? Why don't they present us with specific goals? Why can't they articulate what they need?

The goal to us is very, very clear. It can be articulated in one word—REBELLION. We have not

come to work within the system. We are not pleading with the Congress for electoral reform. We have found another way to be heard and exercise power. We have no faith in the political system or the two major political parties. And we know the corporate press will not amplify our voices which is why we have a press of our own. We know the economy serves the oligarchs. We know that to survive this protest we will have to build non-hierarchical communal systems that care for everyone.

These are goals the power elite cannot comprehend. They cannot envision a day when they will not be in charge of our lives. The elites believe, and seek to make us believe, that globalization and unfettered capitalism are natural law, some kind of permanent and eternal dynamic that can never be altered. What the elites fail to realize is that rebellion will not stop until the cor-

porate state is extinguished. It will not stop until the corporate abuse of the poor, the working class, the elderly, the sick, children, those being slaughtered in our imperial wars and tortured in our imperial stops. It will not stop until foreclosures and bank repossessions stop. It will not stop until students no longer have to go into massive debt to be educated, and families no longer have to plunge into bankruptcy to pay medical bills. It will not stop until the corporate destruction of the ecosystem stops, and our relationships with each other and the planet are radically reconfigured.

And that is why the elites, and the rotted and degenerate system of corporate power they sustain, are in serious trouble. That is why they keep asking what the demands are. They don't know what is happening. They are deaf, dumb and blind.

BY CHRIS HEDGES



**UNAFRAID:** Despite 700+ arrests on the Brooklyn Bridge on Oct. 1, crowds surged in the following days. PHOTO: Adrian Kinloch

Continued on back page



# OCCUPY TOGETHER



## What Liberty Square Means The Progress of Revolutions

A year ago, New Yorkers watched in horror as voters in the progressive heartland of Wisconsin replaced progressive standard-bearer Russ Feingold with a Tea Party mega-millionaire, and the state's capitol came under the control of self-described Tea Party Republicans. Months later, the impact of that electoral change became clear. Governor Scott Walker unleashed attacks on the right to organize, to engage in collective bargaining, to access health care, food, shelter, a quality education and even on the right to vote.

Walker and his cohorts were elected because hundreds of thousands of young people and poor people alienated by the failures of the political system chose not to vote. They'd voted in 2008 in record numbers. Huge numbers. But in 2010, after the Obama administration and congressional Democrats failed to end the wars or to deliver a new deal for America's poor and young people, the turnout was just not there for Wisconsin Democrats. And so

Walker took power, and took more power, and took ever more power away from regular people.

Recent politics have been predominantly a struggle between the far-right and Democrats. Some went so far as to say that Wisconsinites deserved what they got. But the state that birthed the Progressive Party is not the state most riddled with Tea Party supporters; it is the state where people stood up to them first and hardest.

The corporate funders of the Tea Party movement may harken back to the Revolutionary era, yet what they call for is not revolution, but reaction. They want to go back in time. When they speak of the time of the Founding Fathers, they often mean the time before the end of slavery, before labor unions were legalized, before women were considered people under law, before the civil rights era, before the environmental movement. In fact, many of them seem to want to go back to the time before the Boston Tea

Party itself, to the days when only the propertied elite could vote.

What makes Occupy Wall Street, which in caricature has been depicted as the left's answer to the contemporary Tea Party movement, different from its far-right "counterpart"?

### FROM THE LIBERTY TREE TO LIBERTY SQUARE

As workers walk Wall Street every day, they traverse an African burial ground, passing over many layers of history without a thought. Let us add, in the twenty-first century, another layer.

Liberty Square is the twenty-first century Liberty Tree. If you want to understand what is happening there, imagine: Under the Liberty Tree that stood in Boston Common, early in the first American Revolution, any and all could come to air their grievances and hammer out solutions collectively, and it was there the promise of American democracy first took root. We are

reclaiming a democratic practice in Liberty Square.

The fomenters of the American Revolution included people of many classes, and many more ethnicities, genders, and races than our high school history books tell. Working-class radicals worked the Boston docks, among them Crispus Attucks. There were artisans like Paul and Rachel Revere, lawyers and agitators like John and Sam Adams. The Liberty Tree was a place where all these people — many who would not have ordinarily associated with one another — could gather and unite in common cause.

The biggest act of sabotage against a multinational corporation in American history began with a gathering at the Liberty Tree. That act was the Boston Tea Party.

### IMPASSIONED & PROGRESSIVE

We in the occupation at Wall Street have been compared by news media to the contemporary Tea Party movement. Is this because

they seem to be impassioned and we also are impassioned? Is it because they use the rhetoric of revolution? Is passion and conviction now the domain of the Tea Party? They've appropriated it? And anyone who also speaks of the American Revolution with passion must worry about being associated with them? Some fear the nonviolent direct action being taken at Liberty Square. They are afraid of being too impolite, too disruptive, as they ask for progress — they are afraid of appearing as fringe fanatics like the Tea Party.

Many of us in Liberty Square also hearken to the efforts of the revolutionaries of 1776. It seems both sides are eager to employ the language of revolution. What makes us fundamentally different from the new Tea Party movement is that our revolution descends from a multitude of revolutions: the abolitionist movement, the workers' rights movement, the women's movement, the civil rights movement, the feminist and queer libera-

tion movements, the environmental movement. We take great pride in the advancements of this country under all the movements for equal social, racial, gender and economic rights since this country was first founded.

We love our country for its progress on these fronts. We believe in seeing more progress on these fronts. The Tea Party can only look back. We move with the flow of history, looking forward.

By REBECCA MANSKI WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM B.R. MANSKI AND RIZZO



## Meeting for the first time, again

In the three weeks that the Financial District has been occupied, many members of the black community, especially older ones, questioned the value of joining a movement they perceived belonged primarily to privileged white youth.

"We've been doing this for so long on our own, why would we need white kids to make it legitimate," voiced Aaron, a black protestor in his late 50s. "It's more genuine when it's in our own communities, with our own people."

But at the 30,000-strong rally at Foley Square and the march to Liberty Square on Wednesday, there was a visible shift.

"The makeup of this march has really

changed—there are a lot of older black folk who joined today," said Michael, a student at NYU.

After decades fighting against economic and social injustice in their own communities, it seemed natural perhaps that many blacks would greet Occupy Wall Street with skepticism and some distance.

"We have been here before. We have had rallies and protests, meetings and boycotts—for some of us it is second nature," Brooklyn-based activist Calef Cousar told the *Amsterdam News*. "If you live in the inner city, the effects of this corporate greed are omnipresent. You see it in the gentrification, in the hostile police pres-

ence, in the increased living expense. Protesting on Wall Street comes behind a long history of us protesting on Main Street."

What's different as of Wednesday, however, when a sea of multi-colored faces overflowed out of Foley Square, is the eagerness of many blacks to put divisions behind them and to stand in solidarity with an occupation whose principles are their own.

"It's a class/caste war," said a young black protestor named Steve. "Everyone is feeling the same pressure regardless of race."

The document composed by the New York City General Assembly's People of Color working group puts it best: "Let's

be real. The economic crisis did not begin with the collapse of the Lehman Brothers in 2008. Indeed, people of color and poor people have been in a state of crisis since the founding of this country, and for indigenous communities, since before the founding of the nation," it reads. "We are actively working to unite the diverse voices of all communities."

That appears to be happening, and along with a new sense of unity, a transformative movement is emerging.

By AMITY PAYE



### 17 DEC / TUNISIA

The self-immolation of 26-year-old produce vendor Mohammed Bouazizi in Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia, sparks a wave of protests against police violence and the decades-long autocratic rule of President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali. Four weeks later, Ben Ali is forced out of power and flees the country.

### 25 JAN / EGYPT

Using person-to-person contact, social networking and citizen-made media, people of Cairo organize a mass protest on Police Day, demanding an end to harassment, repression and torture. What follows is an 18-day national uprising against President Hosni Mubarak's dictatorial government. It is symbolized by the occupation of Tahrir Square, but has its roots in years of labor, media and human rights organizing. Hundreds of thousands of Egyptians join after the regime blocks internet traffic and sends thugs to attack protesters. Workers strike throughout the country. On Feb. 11, the Mubarak government falls. The success inspires an Arab Spring of pro-democracy action from Yemen to Bahrain to Syria.



### 17 FEB / WISCONSIN & OHIO

Wisconsinites protesting Gov. Scott Walker's austerity budget and his attack on collective bargaining carry Egyptian flags and signs, drawing a parallel between their struggles. In the weeks-long protest, hundreds of thousands of people occupy the state capitol; hundreds of students are arrested. In Columbus, Ohio, nearly 4,000 protest against similar attacks on the public sector and workers' rights.

500,000 protestors take to London's streets in the March for the Alternative, coordinated by the Trades Union Congress. Teachers and public sector workers hold massive strikes.

### 26 MAR / LONDON



Protests against austerity and unemployment erupt in 58 Spanish cities, beginning the 15-M Movement. In Madrid, more than 1,000 indignados camp in the central square, Puerta Del Sol; 300,000 supporters gather for weeks of mass assemblies to demand a greater say in the political process. Embracing participatory democracy, they reject traditional parties and the rule of finance capital.

### 15 MAY / SPAIN

### 25 MAY / GREECE

Yearlong protests against a series of government measures, enacted in 2010 as a condition for a bailout from the European Union, take a new turn as thousands of people take to the streets. These are the biggest protests in Greece since the 1970s. In Athens, thousands of people occupy Syntagma Square as a new set of measures is announced by the government. In other cities, they hold mass assemblies. Speaking out against the economic crisis, one protester tells a reporter: "I don't want to leave Syntagma Square; they just don't know it."

### 6 AUG / ENGLAND





# No list of demands

We are speaking to each other, and listening.  
This occupation is first about participation.

Tens of thousands of New Yorkers streamed into Foley Square on Wednesday—labor unions rolled out, students walked out. The occupation of Wall Street grew to resemble the city we live in.

What race, age, religion, occupation did we represent? None of them. All of them.

Barricaded in by steel pens, surrounded by a thousand cops and NYPD helicopters above, we saw our power reflected in their need to control us. But just as this is our movement, it is our narrative too.

The exhausted political machines and their PR slicks are already seeking leaders to elevate, messages to claim, talking points to move on. They, more than anyone, will attempt to seize and shape this moment. They are racing to reach the front of the line.

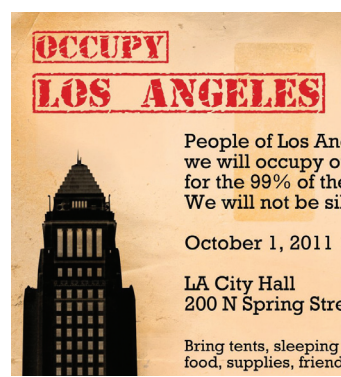
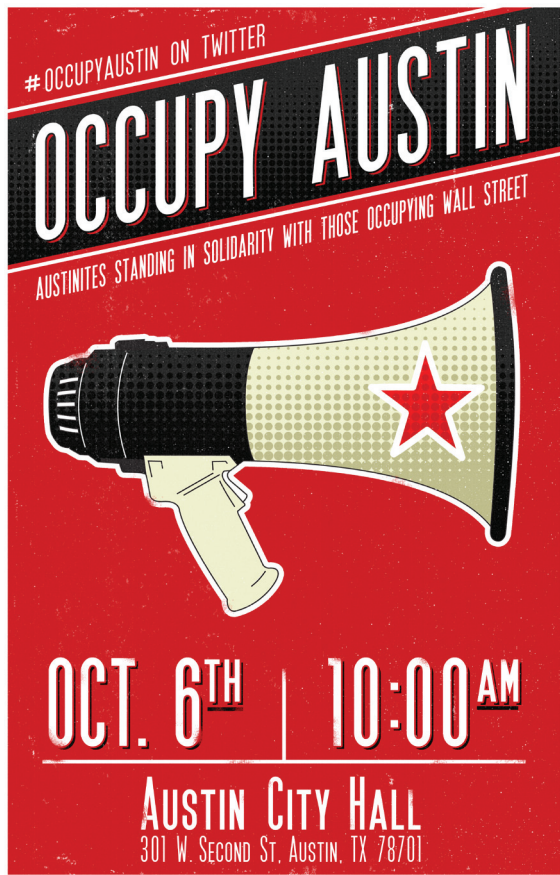
But how can they run out in front of something that is in front of them? They cannot.

For Wall Street and Washington, the demand is not on them to give us something that isn't theirs to give. It's ours. It's on us. We aren't going anywhere. We just got here.



PHOTO: Peter Carroll

For one week in **SEATTLE**, occupiers have been holding a public park at 4th Avenue and Pine Street through rain and 40 degree nights. S.P.D. officers on Wednesday ordered the removal of all tents and took away twenty occupiers who refused. Undeterred, the camp of about three hundred has steadily grown since.



In **LOS ANGELES** more than two hundred have for a week occupied the lawn in front of City Hall. On Wednesday, encouraged by half a dozen local council members who showed solidarity with the group, citizens of the city convened a formal public assembly and approved their use of tents for the duration. In a show of extraordinary 'mutual respect,' there have been exactly zero arrests as of the time this paper went to press.

The Federal Reserve Bank of **SAN FRANCISCO** is surrounded on three sides by hundreds of occupiers who have been encamped at the site for nearly a week. Thousands are marching regularly with occupations set to begin in neighboring Berkeley on Oct. 8, and two days later in Oakland.



In the birthplace an earlier revolution, a new one has sprung. On Thursday in **PHILADELPHIA**, thousands assembled at Dilworth Plaza across from City Hall. The city offered a permit for the occupation "in perpetuity"; their General Assembly was split on the decision.

In downtown **BOSTON**, hundreds of protesters are occupying Dewey Square, in plain sight of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and a towering Bank of America headquarters. Their General Assembly—in the best tradition of thinking globally, acting locally—has forged relationships with youth organizations working to reduce violence, develop jobs, and promote environmental justice in the city.

This is just a small slice of the occupations sweeping across the country. Hundreds of planning meetings have been scheduled — from Birmingham to Kalamazoo to Frankfurt to Cape Town to São Paulo, on every continent except Antarctica.

From New York to everywhere: we're with you, you're with us.

## GET READY.

—REPORTS FROM INTREPID, HEARTFELT, TRULY PATRIOTIC OCCUPIERS EVERYWHERE

# High schools, campuses walk-out to OCCUPY

**P**atience Roberts wants a better future for her family. So on Oct. 5, she marched with her son, Saamad Nimo, a sophomore at Newark Central High School, and joined thousands of student demonstrators amassed in solidarity with Occupy Wall Street.

"I'm black and I'm poor," said Nimo. "I plan to go to college — that's only if there's any money available."

Roberts and Nimo, along with droves of university and high school students from the tri-state area, rallied in Foley Square on Wednesday as part of a nation-wide student walkout. There, they merged with tens of thousands of union members, political organizers and New Yorkers from all walks to demand the transformation of an economic system that isn't serving them.

Sam D'Arcangelo, a senior at Eugene Lang College at The New School, was one of many voicing his support on Wednesday for Occupy Wall Street.

"Student involvement is important because we are the ones with the most at stake in this economy

right now," he said. "With the job market the way it is, a lot of us who are about to graduate, like myself, are looking at very few prospects."

Faculty support of the walkout was also widespread as teachers and administrators from The New School, New York University, Cooper Union and others joined students in Washington Square Park before marching to Foley Square.

At The New School alone, 137 faculty members and employees endorsed the march in an email that was circulated through the university.

Lupe Parino, a freshman at Beacon High School on West 61st Street in Manhattan, said her teachers encouraged students to participate. "They told us if we wanted to, we could meet them after school and go with them," she said.

After hearing speeches in Foley Square and marching on to Liberty Square, some students took the opportunity to make signs and introduce newcomers to the area while others headed two blocks south to demonstrate on Wall Street. "Hopefully the legislature will



hear us and understand that we are the ones who vote them in and not the corporations," said Eugene Chen from CUNY Law School. "And while they get their money from the corporations, ultimately they are accountable to the people."

Eric Fuentes, a senior at Landmark High School on 14th Street in Manhattan, said he "woke up two years ago." Following the throngs of protestors Wednesday with his skateboard and sign in hand, he said it was time the country woke up too.

"We need a better economy for the world. Not just for America, not just for a certain kind of people, but for everybody."

BY MILES KOHRMAN

## 23 SEPT / DAY 7

- Less than 24 hours after the execution of Troy Davis by the state of Georgia, hundreds of New Yorkers rally in Union Square to demonstrate outrage. Battling police barricades, protestors march down Broadway and join forces with Occupy Wall Street in Liberty Park. The mass action marks an important linkage among activist groups and offers a glimpse of a people's solidarity movement taking form.



Street attempt to march across the they are blocked by police who

- Thousands from Occupy Wall Brooklyn Bridge. Partway across, record 700 arrests on the roadway.

- In California, more than 12,000 a hunger strike protesting conditions prisoners enter the second week of in state penitentiaries — the largest prisoner strike in U.S. history. Organizers say the strike is in solidarity with the Wall Street occupation and others starting across the U.S.

## 4 OCT / DAY 18

- Demonstrations and sit-ins spread to dozens of cities across the country with protesters camped out in Los Angeles near City Hall, assembled before the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago and marching through downtown Boston. Marches in Memphis, Burlington, Minneapolis, Baltimore and parts of Texas take shape as protesters state they will sleep in the streets and occupy parks for as long as it takes until their voices are heard. Using social networks, protesters announce they are ready to mobilize large groups for mass actions within hours.

## 3 OCT / DAY 17

- JPMorgan Chase announces a \$4.6 million donation to the New York City Police Foundation. The gift is the largest in the history of the foundation, raising questions about corporate interests using law enforcement to intensify their crackdown on protestors. A day later, the New York attorney general files a lawsuit against the Bank of New York Mellon, accusing it of cheating state and other pension funds nationwide of foreign exchange fees over the last decade totaling some \$2 billion.

## 5 OCT / DAY 19

- 30,000 protestors comprised of transit, communication, teacher, health care, labor and other unions join a student walkout and residents from across New York City at a rally in Foley Park outside City Hall. Following a march to Liberty Square in solidarity with Occupy Wall Street, a few hundred demonstrators gather at the corner of Broadway and Wall Street, attempting to gain access; they topple some steel barricades and are met by police batons and pepper spray. Amid a number of arrests, one supervisor is seen wildly swinging his baton striking numerous people indiscriminately. Three journalists are injured in the process. While departmental regulations authorize the use of pepper spray against a crowd posing physical threats to police officers, they also require that an ambulance be dispatched after such an incident, which did not occur. Extensive video footage showed no demonstrator attacks against police, and no officer injuries were reported.



## 1 OCT / DAY 15

ment austerity mea-bailout by the European ple calling themselves trate across the country. nce 1973. In Athens round of austerity t. Inspired by the Spanish k of the effects of rter, "Everyone is in yet."

ss London neighborhoods ntry, rebel days after k Duggan. Spurred by h, it is the largest uprising die, at least 16 are injured



# \* PRINCIPLES OF SOLIDARITY \*

The following Principles of Solidarity have been adopted by the GA as "a living document" that will be revised through the democratic process of the N.Y.C. General Assembly.

On September 17, 2011, people from all across the United States of America and the world came to protest the blatant injustices of our times perpetuated by the economic and political elites. On the 17th we as individuals rose up against political disenfranchisement and social and economic injustice. We spoke out, resisted, and successfully occupied Wall Street. Today, we proudly remain in Liberty Square constituting ourselves as autonomous political beings engaged in non-violent civil disobedience and building solidarity based on mutual respect, acceptance, and love. It is from these reclaimed grounds that we say to all Americans and to the world: Enough! How many crises does it take? We are the 99% and we have moved to reclaim our mortgaged future.

Through a direct democratic process, we have come together as individuals and crafted these principles of solidarity, which are points of unity that include, but are not limited to:

- Engaging in direct and transparent participatory democracy;
- Exercising personal and collective responsibility;
- Recognizing individuals' inherent privilege and the influence it has on all interactions;
- Empowering one another against all forms of oppression;
- Redefining how labor is valued;
- The sanctity of individual privacy;
- The belief that education is human right; and
- Endeavoring to practice and support wide application of open source.
- We are daring to imagine a new socio-political and economic alternative that offers greater possibility of equality. We are consolidating the other proposed principles of solidarity, after which demands will follow.

## PROTEST AND PRAGMATISM

What's one way for Occupy Wall Street participants to avoid problems with the police as well as their Financial District neighbors? To police themselves.

Lifelong New York resident Brendan Burke, 41, was asked early in the occupation to help, and he saw a need. "There was chaos in here, and this is the media center, so security here is about protecting the equipment and being a line of defense against disruption of the media center," he said. "Then there's policing people, de-escalation style – not brutalization, not putting hands on people, not being like cops."

Burke, tall, bald and with a strapping physique, said attention in the crowded square gets quickly drawn to those who are drunk or starting any kind of trouble; the scrutiny usually causes disrupters to either calm down or leave.

A policeman outside the square, speaking anonymously, said that most of the occupants have been well-behaved during the three-week encampment, though one man had to be taken off by ambulance for a reported drug overdose. "People are taxing the system," he said, making it difficult to get emergency vehicles to the scene. "He's lucky there was an EMT here," he said as he pointed at an Occupy Wall Street volunteer medic, "or he would've died."

Bobby Cooper, who has been camping in Liberty since September 26, is another volunteer helping to maintain order. The 30-year-old sculptor, who has provided security at large warehouse parties in Brooklyn, said he's been involved in sanitation, medical response, donation handling and what he jokingly called "city planning" issues at Liberty.

On a recent morning, Cooper was preparing to mark off a corridor through the jumble of air mattresses and tarps using colored tape, to accommodate visitors and commuters who traverse the park to get to work. He was concerned some people wouldn't move from their places, but said he wouldn't force them if they refused. The best strategy: "to keep the place so organized and neat and tidy that those who aren't into being organized and tidy don't feel comfortable here."

Perhaps it's ironic: here are protestors, often characterized as anti-authority, who are surrounded by the NYPD, yet who have created their own version of the police.

"We're revolutionary, but at the same time we have common sense," said Burke. "If we're just revolutionary, if we're just anarchists, the cops will sweep the park."

BY DAN GLASS

DESIGN

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Anna Gold  
Elizabeth Henley

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## Organized Labor Stands Up

Labor organizers and unions across New York City and the United States have endorsed the occupation at Wall Street, promising continued support and backing of the movement of the 99%. The following are excerpts from their letters of solidarity:

### TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION LOCAL 100

"The Transport Workers Union Local 100 applauds the courage of the young people on Wall Street who are dramatically demonstrating for what our position has been for some time: the shared sacrifice preached by government officials looks awfully like a one-way street. Workers and ordinary citizens are putting up all the sacrifice, and the financiers who imploded our economy are getting away scot-free, increasing their holdings and bonuses. Young people face a bleak future with high unemployment, and minimum wage jobs. Public sector workers face mayors and governors who demand massive wage and benefits givebacks, or face thousands of layoffs. That's not bargaining. That's blackmail. We support the Wall Street protesters and their goal to reduce inequality and support every American's right to a decent job, health care, and retirement security."

### RETAIL, WHOLESALE AND DEPARTMENT STORE UNION

"Occupy Wall Street has brought into sharp focus a reality that cannot be denied: corporate greed is responsible for harming the lives of millions of working people and unemployed people. A small group of firms, banks, and corporations now hold trillions worth of our collective wealth and assets. That money should be invested in job creation on a massive scale and used to rebuild countless lives damaged by the recklessness that caused the recession. After hearing the top 1% lie for so long, the courageous men and women occupying Wall Street are speaking the truth known by the unheard 99%. That's why their message resonates so widely. They offer a clear perspective that rarely generates this kind of attention but that millions of regular people, not just activists and unionists, share: Wall Street should not control our economy, our democracy, or our lives."

### NATIONAL NURSES UNITED

"National Nurses United, the nation's largest registered nurse labor union representing 170,000 direct care RNs, stands in support of and in solidarity with the ongoing Occupy Wall Street protests and rallies. We applaud the commitment, savvy and sacrifice exhibited by the multitude of students, union members, clergy, and many others from all walks of life who have come together to loudly and clearly place the blame for the nation's pain where it belongs. Wall Street caused the financial crisis and we share your demand that Wall Street pay us back. As nurses, our motto in this fight is simple. "Heal America. Make Wall Street Pay!"

### INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

The General Defense Committee of the IWW stands in solidarity with our brave brothers and sisters at Occupy Wall Street. We denounce and detest the intimidation, harassment, and brutality exhibited by the New York Police. The actions of the police lay bare the true nature of Wall Street and Capitalism. We call on all those that still retain a sense of humanity to show their support of the working class by refusing to engage in the brutal silencing of dissent. The only individuals who remain unaffected by the volatility of capitalism, globalization, and the stock market are those who are getting richer from furthering the disparity of all workers through calculated economic calamity. We support all of our brave fellow workers on the front lines of this occupation throughout the United States, and those like it across the world. We recognize that the true occupying forces are the wealthy ruling classes, their institutions, and the States that legitimize their power. The police and military forces that protect their masters' wealth and power are just as guilty as their masters. Only by uniting and standing together as a class can we take back our streets and our workplaces."

### AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO (AFSCME)

"A clear message is now being sent to Wall Street: Priority # 1 should be rebuilding Main Street, not fueling the power of corporate CEOs and their marionette politicians. We stand in solidarity with those protesting Wall Street's greed. The economy that has wrecked so many lives, obliterated jobs, and left millions of Americans homeless and hopeless is the fault of banks that gamble with our future. Their reckless pursuit of profits, at the expense of working families' pursuit of the American Dream, must come to an end."

### LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA

"The most valuable asset in America isn't Wall Street, it is working people. Yet in America today, millions of working people are jobless and are losing their homes, their hopes and their dreams. Meanwhile, corporations are making record profits and the most profitable among them pay no taxes, shifting more wealth from the working and middle class to the rich... Wall Street caused our economic crisis, and yet corporations are attempting to force working people to pay for it. The only way to turn back the assault is to strengthen unions and build movements, such as Occupy Wall Street."

### AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION

"These young people are speaking for the vast majority of Americans who are frustrated by the bankers and brokers who have profited on the backs of hard working people... Transit riders have paid with record fare increases and service cuts. How dare they demand that we coddle the rich while poor people are losing their benefits and millions are becoming poor? ATU locals around the country plan to ramp up support by participating in similar Occupy events across the country."

### UNITED STEELWORKERS

"The United Steelworkers union, North America's largest industrial union with 1.2 million active and retired members, stands in solidarity with and strongly supports Occupy Wall Street. The brave men and women, many of them young people without jobs, who have been demonstrating around-the-clock for three weeks in New York City, are speaking out for the many in our world. We are fed up with the corporate greed, corruption and arrogance that have inflicted pain on far too many for far too long. Our union has been standing up and fighting these captains of finance who promote Wall Street over Main Street. We know firsthand the devastation caused by a global economy where workers, their families, the environment and our futures are sacrificed so that a privileged few can make more money on everyone's labor but their own."



FOLEY SQUARE, OCT. 5. PHOTO: Jen Ross

# 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO NOW

## 1 OCCUPY!

- Bring instruments, food, blankets, bedding, rain gear, and your friends.

## 2 SPREAD THE WORD

- Download, print, display, and share flyers: [nycga.net/resources/media](http://nycga.net/resources/media)
- Twitter: #occupywallstreet #occupytogether  
Facebook: OccupyWallSt.

## 3 DONATE

- Visit [nycga.net/donate](http://nycga.net/donate)
- Make a tax-deductible donation to the New York City General Assembly.
- You can also mail a check or money order to: Alliance for Global Justice, 1247 "E" Street, SE Washington, DC, 20003. Please indicate "Occupy Wall Street" in the memo line. Or call 202 544 9355 to make a telephone donation.
- On Twitter: #needsoftheoccupiers
- If you are in the area come by and drop off: prepared food, non perishable food (vegan and gluten free so anyone can eat it), sweatshirts, sweatpants, socks.
- You can mail packages to us:  
UPS Store, 118A Fulton St. #205 New York, NY, 10038

## 4 FOLLOW THE OCCUPATION

- [nycga.net](http://nycga.net)
- [occupywallst.org](http://occupywallst.org)
- [takethesquare.net](http://takethesquare.net)
- [occupytogether.org](http://occupytogether.org)
- [wearethe99percent.tumblr.com](http://wearethe99percent.tumblr.com)
- Follow on Twitter: @occupywallstnyc, @nycsep17, @occupywallst

## 5 EDUCATE YOURSELF

- [historyisaweapon.com](http://historyisaweapon.com)

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of energy on the planet, like the Alberta tar sands. The atmosphere cannot absorb the amount of carbon we are putting into it, creating dangerous warming. The new normal is serial disasters: economic and ecological.

These are the facts on the ground. They are so blatant, so obvious, that it is a lot easier to connect with the public than it was in 1999, and to build the movement quickly.

We all know, or at least sense, that the world is upside down: we act as if there is no end to what is actually finite – fossil fuels and the atmospheric space to absorb their emissions. And we act as if there are strict and immovable limits to what is actually bountiful – the financial resources to build the kind of society we need.

The task of our time is to turn this around: to challenge this false scarcity. To insist that we can afford to build a decent, inclusive society – while at the same time, respect the real limits to what the earth can take.

What climate change means is that we have to do this on a deadline. This time our movement cannot get distracted, divided, burned out or swept away by events. This time we have to succeed. And I'm not talking about regulating the banks and increasing taxes on the rich, though that's important.

I am talking about changing the underlying values that govern our society. That is hard to fit into a

single media-friendly demand, and it's also hard to figure out how to do it. But it is no less urgent for being difficult.

That is what I see happening in this square. In the way you are feeding each other, keeping each other warm, sharing information freely and providing health care, meditation classes and empowerment training. My favorite sign here says "I care about you." In a culture that trains people to avoid each other's gaze, to say, "Let them die," that is a deeply radical statement.

We have picked a fight with the most powerful economic and political forces on the planet. That's frightening. And as this movement grows from strength to strength, it will get more frightening. Always be aware that there will be a temptation to shift to smaller targets—like, say, the person next to you. Don't give into the temptation. This time, let's treat each other as if we plan to work side by side in struggle for many, many years to come. Because the task before will demand nothing less.

Let's treat this beautiful movement as if it is the most important thing in the world. Because it is. It really is.

BY NAOMI KLEIN

from a speech delivered Oct. 6 in Liberty Square