Miners Strike Over Shockwaves Aren't Palestinian · Raid, Israeli Invasion

Sunday March 26. The coal pact is ratified. It is a sellout. At a North American Coal Company mine in southern Ohio, the midnight shift arrives. But 25,000 UMWA construction workers who historically sign their contracts several days after the miners have not. They are picketing. The company will pay miners a $100 bonus to cross the lines on this first day of scheduled work. They do not cross. One says, "Hell, we lost $5,000 in four months. We ain't crossing these lines for a lousy hundred bucks." Monday all shifts stay out. Monday midnight is the last of the construction workers' pickets with a tentative contract expected Tuesday. But pickets or no, no-one goes in Tuesday. Wednesday they work, still angry about the sellout. The company offers them the right to take Monday and Tuesday as "floating holidays." Only two new floating holidays had been added by the new contract, bringing the total to four. Most of the men refuse the days. "After this fight, we're not letting them take back the two days before we're even back to work." Yes, the contract is ratified, but a contract is not a truce. The battle goes on.

The 110 day miners strike was the most heroic battle of the working class in a long time. They fought the huge steel, oil and power monopolies who make up the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. The miners' defiance of union misleaders and even the federal government set a shockwave through American society. The refrain of the old miners' song, "Which side are you on?" was heard as miners declared their "Most heroic battle of the working class due to the trigger-happy IsraelI police. The raid was a desperate act by the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) planes, heavy artillery, tanks, rocks, army, over 5000 troops, the most modern equipment we have. We are fighting for the defense of our people."

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On April 15, thousands will march in Washington, D.C. in what is shaping up to be the biggest civil rights march of this decade. They are marching against the Bakke decision because it is the thin edge of the biggest attack on Black and other minority people of the decade. Some time in the coming weeks the Supreme Court will be handing down a decision in this case. At issue is the legality of affirmative action, minority quotas, and special government programs that, in a limited way, have cut away at the brutal discrimination against minorities. The Bakke Case is the most prominent of the challenges by school administrations, corporations, and the press to these programs. The Bakke case has also brought forth another opposing wave—the organized force of people of all walks of life and all nationalities to demand: Overturn the Bakke Case; Defend and Expand Minority Admissions.

On March 11, 11 Palestinian commandos launched a daring raid deep into Israel. 34 Israelis and 9 of the Palestinians died, in good part due to the trigger-happy Israeli police. The raid was a desperate act by the 110 day miners strike was the most heroic battle of the working class in a long time. They fought the huge steel, oil and power monopolies who make up the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. The miners' defiance of union misleaders and even the federal government set a shockwave through American society. The refrain of the old miners' song, "Which side are you on?" was heard as miners declared their "Most heroic battle of the working class due to the trigger-happy IsraelI police. The raid was a desperate act by the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) planes, heavy artillery, tanks, rocks, army, over 5000 troops, the most modern equipment we have. We are fighting for the defense of our people."

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On March 15, the cream of the Israeli army, over 5000 troops, the most modern planes, heavy artillery, tanks, rocket-firing ships, etc., all supplied by the US for "defensive use," invaded southern Lebanon. Israeli Prime Minister Menachim Begin said the invasion was launched to "cut off the evil arm of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization)." But the Israelis blasted every village and refugee camp in southern Lebanon and many other places throughout the country. They seized control of hundreds of square miles of Lebanese land. Over a thousand people were killed, only about 200 of them Palestinian liberation fighters, the rest civilians, men, women and children. Among the incidents which showed the hypocrisy of the Israelis' crocodile tears about "free Palestine."
Students Stand Up to Racist Slurs: Academic Attack on Open Admissions

In the past month the campus of City College of New York (CCNY) has been rocked by marches, rallies and confrontations with the administration. Students have been responding with outrage and fighting for their interests. They easily found where Dean Gross stands. As head of the Humanities Department, his view of the student body is that most of the students just lounge around the halls and smoke dope nowadays. He benoms the lowering of "Anglo-Saxon" standards, which presumably has occurred since Open Admissions vastly increased minority attendance at City.

Yet now they have been dealt the final outrage. For what Gross and the Post articles have told the students is that this whole mess is their own fault. City students and the Post implying that City's more prestigious days were due to their economic crisis, and with it comes an increase in attacks on minorities and an intensification of national oppression. Not only does unemployment increase and income fall, for Blacks and other minorities, they are also the first targets for most cutbacks in social services. Thus as the demand for college graduates falls in society, minority students are the first to be affected. The fact that City College has a largely minority student body has made a prime victim of the rulers' crisis.

The upsurge ripped away illusions and fantasies that don't exist. You aren't worrying about high school educations. But a large number have managed to graduate from CCNY, and they have made it a point to get working-class youth for generations. It was in this context of mass struggle that heavy dose of contract year rhetoric started, the school administration, employers and the government all cutting jobs and their mouthpieces like Gross use the banner of equality to wipe out affirmative action programs, the city rulers using the pretext of declining standards to justify more cutbacks in CCNY's budget.

The ruling class is in a political and economic crisis, and with it comes a decrease in attacks on minorities and an intensification of national oppression. Not only does unemployment increase and income fall, for Blacks and other minorities, they are also the first targets for most cutbacks in social services. Thus as the demand for college graduates falls in society, minority students are the first to be affected. The fact that City College has a largely minority student body has made a prime victim of the rulers' crisis.

Meanwhile, thousands of students of all nationalities have been working their way through what is left of City, despite all the obstacles put in their way. With the media's slogan campaign against the worth of a City College education, they have to wonder what the hell their degree will mean if they ever get it.

Nor has the struggle for a decent education been just an individual battle. Many students have seen a school they have fought to get into and improve being ripped to shreds by the city rulers. Now a campaign is mounted to pin the blame for the decline of City on the students themselves! This logic makes sense only to mouthpieces of New York's bosses, like Gross, whose words justify the budget cuts and pave the way for more. This is clearly a racist attack, with angry students confronting Dean Gross over his slanders.

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