

# THE OCCUPIED WALL STREET JOURNAL

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## 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

*Continued on back page*



# OCT. 15

**11 a.m. — March on Banks @ Liberty Square**

**1 p.m. — Student Meet-Up @ Washington Square**

**5 p.m. — TAKE TIMES SQUARE — [nycga.net](http://nycga.net)**

**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...  
Their 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

## 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 know the electoral politics is a farce. 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 black sites, 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





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 capital 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. Something 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 hearken 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

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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

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

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-

BY AMITY PAYE

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.

A man in a military helmet and uniform is holding two protest signs. The top sign reads "2ND TIME I'VE FOUGHT FOR MY COUNTRY" and the bottom sign reads "1ST TIME I'VE KNOWN MY ENEMY" with a peace symbol.



# \* 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.”

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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](https://twitter.com/occupywallstreet) [#occupytogether](https://twitter.com/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](https://twitter.com/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)
- [wearthe99percent.tumblr.com](http://wearthe99percent.tumblr.com)
- Follow on Twitter: [@occupywallstnyc](https://twitter.com/occupywallstnyc), [@nycsep17](https://twitter.com/nycsep17), [@occupywallst](https://twitter.com/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 boundless – 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*