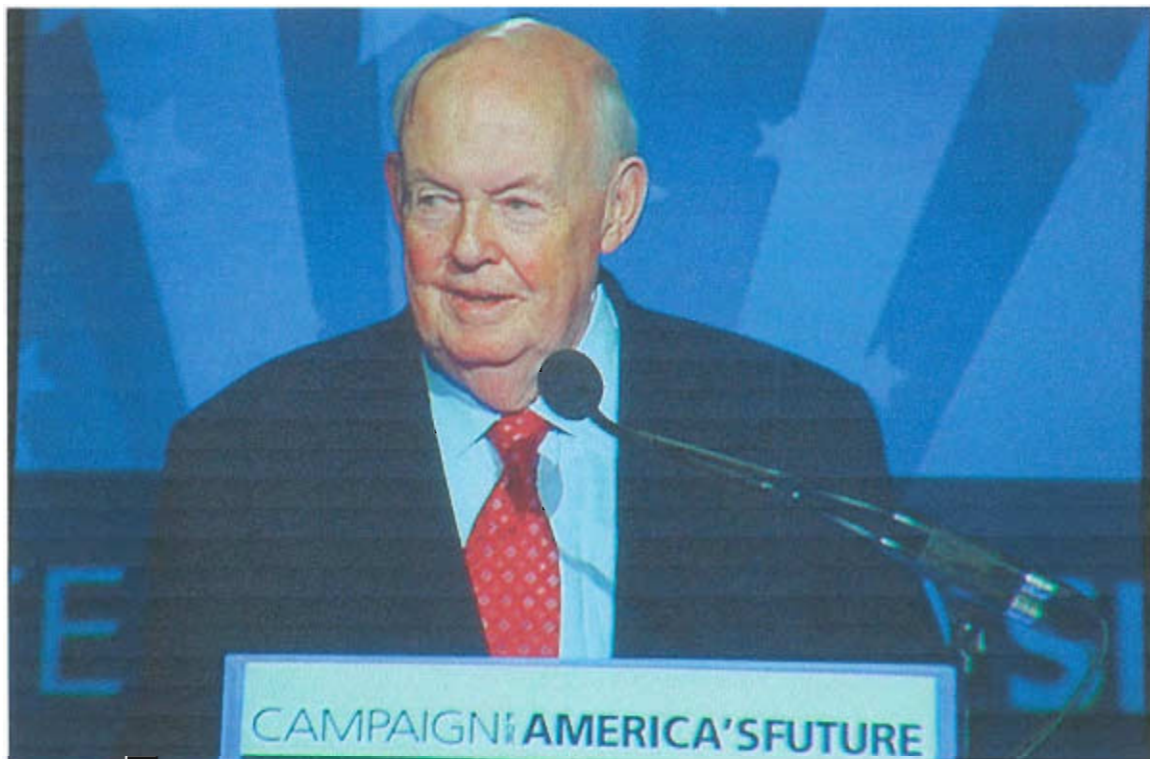


Obama's "Progressive" Backers: Who They Are and What They Want

By Robert Chandler
Author of *Shadow World*



AFL-CIO President John Sweeney

Robert L. Borosage, a co-director of the Campaign for America's Future, challenged the assembled progressives, socialists, Marxists, and other radicals on the left to seize the moment at the "America's Future Now!" conference on June 1-3, 2009, in Washington, D.C. Noting that the stars were aligned for progressive change in America for the first time since the 1960s, Borosage told the conferees that "we're not likely to see this opportunity again."

Although Borosage said that the Congress does not yet have a true "progressive" majority, he expressed a belief that the stage has been set for bold reforms that will return social justice to America's working families. Borosage was adamant that progressives must protect Obama's back: "The mainstream press wants to know if Obama has the support of progressives, or of the compromises on detention, the escalation in Afghanistan, the banking bailout, and more signal rising tension. Do we support the president or are we pushing him? There is one clear answer to this choice. Yes!"

"We helped take back the White House," Borosage boasted, adding that progressives need to back and assist the Obama Administration in its efforts to produce "transformational change." To do this, Borosage said, progressives need to build a citizens movement that focuses on bottom-up, not top-down changes. He said that progressives must organize aggressively to support President Obama's plans to end dependence on foreign oil, fight global warming, protect and create American jobs, reform health care, ensure retirement security, make the nation's colleges and universities affordable for all Americans, and resolve the politics of immigration.

"We cannot allow a minority, bolstered by corporate lobbies and money, to stand in the way," co-directors of the Campaign for America's Future Robert Borosage and Roger Hickey emphasized.¹ Progressives must help the Obama Administration overcome the obstacles that lie before them, both within and outside of Washington. "Progressives," Borosage and Hickey stressed, "must have an independent grassroots movement" of "strategy and sheer muscle to move the obstructions, and the excuses for inaction, out of the way."

The June 1-3 "America's Future Now!" conclave in Washington, D.C., offered a range of panels designed to exchange views on how best to cover Obama's back in such areas as "Tax Reforms Vital to Rebuild America," "Affordable Health Care for All," "Employee Free Choice Act," "Progressives Rising in Congress," and "Global Warming: The Future Challenges Present."

These exchanges provide the raw material for use by an interlocking directorate of progressives-socialists-Marxists tucked away in the shadows of today's politics that focus on integrating non-governmental organizations and what we call "Union Power,"

a coalition of powerful labor unions such as the AFL-CIO. They mainly use the pro-Obama media as tools to support and advance Obama's planned "transformational change." The America's Survival, Inc. report, "Saving the World FOR Socialism: How Soviet Dupe and Communist Fellow Traveler Curtis MacDougall Trained Today's 'Progressive' Journalists," explains how a college textbook called "Interpretative Reporting" by journalism educator and professor Curtis MacDougall groomed generations of "progressive" or liberal journalists to be sympathetic to the Marxist view.

The leadership of this movement includes the Campaign for America's Future, Institute for Policy Studies, Congressional Progressive Caucus, *The Nation*, Economic Policy Institute and the labor unions.

The stakes are high -- President Obama's "change" machine is operating at high speed to increase government control over the daily lives and activities of every American, using their tax dollars to accomplish this insidious goal.

Despite claims that the "honeymoon is over" and that Obama's favorable ratings in the polls are falling, this "progressive" movement is well-funded and very powerful and must be considered to have the political edge, especially because of the Democratic Party majorities in Congress. Their rhetoric, such as "Affordable Health Care For All," has popular appeal.

The Progressives

The leaders at the "America's Future Now!" conference in June were very careful to refer to themselves as "progressives," not "liberals" and certainly not "Marxists." But this is indeed a new form of Marxism. The twentieth century version of Marxism that centered on the state owning the means of production died with the Soviet Union. About a year before the Soviet Union was disassembled, a discussant at a November 1990 seminar hosted by the Transnational Institute, the overseas arm of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C, reminded the radicals that:

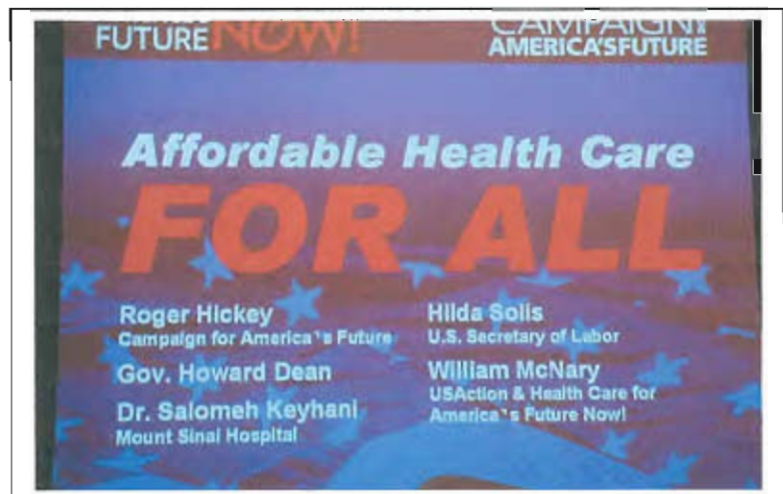
"In criticizing socialism as practiced in the Soviet Union, people should be careful not to throw out the socialist baby with the Stalinist bathwater....The Marxist analytical framework remains valid, but Marxists have to carefully examine what has already been lost and what can be kept in the Marxist tradition... A new theory of the state under socialism has to be devised... There is no pessimism among those who work in the social movements, the South and the North alike. It is among these people where we can find the most creative passion for social justice, the imaginative power for hope, for new socialist values."

The birth of a “New” Marxism for self-styled “progressives” has served as the preferred cover for what is happening to America. By folding themselves into the non-governmental organizations and the government itself, the radical left has embraced the Marxism born after the death of Marxism-Leninism in 1991 and has successfully been repackaged. They also abandoned violent revolution, preferring to follow the model developed by Italian Communist Antonio Gramsci of infiltrating the cultural institutions such as the media, churches and schools.

The use of “progressive” as a cover for those on the radical left actually began with American communists in the 1930s and 1940s. Since the Soviet Union was allied with Britain and the United States against Nazi Germany, American Communists referred to themselves as “progressives” opposed to the “fascists.”

Today’s “progressive” movement was in rehearsal during the 1990s when the left used the anti-globalization movement as cover for assembling coalitions and staging street protests. These protests were

designed to redefine a “new” socialism and Marxism, while being careful to avoid “throwing out the socialist baby with the Stalinist bathwater.”



The anti-globalization movement was kicked off in Chiapas, Mexico, on January 1, 1994, to protest the North American Free Trade Agreement, when armed Indian protestors emerged from the southern jungle in a dramatic development to challenge Mexico’s rule. The Mexican government was swarmed by hordes of socialist and Marxist organizations from Europe and North America urging them to give in to the indigenous peoples’ demands. This was an international scam that featured “Subcomandante Marcos,” the revolt’s leader on horseback and with a balaclava covering his face, who in reality was a Cuban-trained Mexican Marxist and professor from Mexico City, Rafael Sebastian Guillen.

Next on the agenda was the “Battle for Seattle” in late 1999, when 50,000 leftist college students and unionists marched arm-in-arm against the transnational capitalism represented by the World Trade Organization meeting. Secretly planned in San

Francisco by a full menu of radical leftists, including Communists, the violent protest in Seattle successfully prevented the global economic ministers from meeting and holding discussions. Subsequent protests, sometimes very violent, occurred in Europe and North America. These were the birth pangs of the New Marxism, defined after the fall of the Soviet Union. Later, the anti-Iraq war protests were blended into the anti-capitalist causes.

Many meetings were held by the international left to define the New Marxism based on the premise that “the problem with Karl Marx was that he was not Marxist enough.” This proposition was used to make the point that he only focused on workers when there were many others who also were exploited by the capitalist system, including women, racial minorities, and many other social and economic victims of so-called “neoliberalism” or the free market philosophy.

This point was used to promote what the radical left calls, in their words, “Marxist renewal and re-emergence” by expanding the “victims” of capitalism. Added to the “workers” list from the twentieth century usage was a wide range of allegedly exploited individuals, including women, homosexuals, minorities, indigenous persons, disabled persons, and even animals.

The redefined Marxism avoided “throwing out the socialist baby with the Stalinist bathwater” by embracing many new issue areas, such as global warming, and reaching far beyond the single-issue “worker exploitation” of the twentieth century. Just about anyone or anything that had a complaint about the free market and international trade could find traction by adding themselves to “Born Again Marxism.”

The Campaign for America’s Future, President Obama’s non-government planning center for rallying public support for his governmental “progressive” program, is the umbrella for this Marxist movement in the U.S. today. It serves as the mouthpiece for six political, citizen movement organizations. This six-member interlocking directorate holds significant political clout and is designed specifically to protect President Obama’s back. It includes the Campaign for America’s Future, Institute for Policy Studies, Congressional Progressive Caucus, *The Nation* (magazine), Economic Policy Institute, and the “Union Power” coalition.

Campaign for America’s Future

Robert Borosage, a former director of the Institute for Policy Studies and coordinator with the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and Roger Hickey, a co-founder of the Economic Policy Institute, created the Campaign for America’s Future in 1996.

Three years later they co-founded the Campaign's sister organization, the Institute for America's Future. The Campaign for America's Future, which has received funding from George Soros, focuses its efforts on several "progressive" issues and projects: adopt the Employee Free Choice Act, which would benefit from federal legislation to deny secret voting for the formation of unions; create a national energy initiative that would provide for clean, affordable energy alternatives and creation of millions of "green jobs;" develop comprehensive health care reform to cover all Americans and immigrants; provide direct federal loans and grants for higher education; fix the problems plaguing America's broken immigration system; invest a greater amount of direct federal dollars in public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, levees, school buildings, and other underfunded projects; create economic policies that benefit the many, including protecting Social Security and holding companies accountable for tax-free universal 401 (k) investment accounts to help Americans save; and build a tax system that is fundamentally fair to all, including tax cuts for the middle class and increased taxes on capital gains and on those making more than \$250,000 per year, plus other measures targeting the wealthy and corporations.



Pro-Castro Rep. Barbara Lee, honored as a "Progressive Champion," is shown with socialist Senator Bernie Sanders at the conference.

Robert Borosage told *The Huffington Post* in April 2009 that ". . . what Obama has been missing has been an independent, obstreperous citizens' movement demanding fundamental reform."²

Entitled "America's Future Now!," the Campaign for America's Future attendees were told that "we helped take back the White House" and "we helped elect the most progressive president" and "Barack Obama will reform the economy for decades to come. He gets it! We need to build a new economy on a new foundation."

The assembled progressives-socialists-Marxists also were told that:

- "Although we have Democratic majorities in the Senate and House, we do not have progressive majorities yet."

- “We must organize aggressively to support President Obama. To do so, we need ideas from those who want change, and we need their tireless efforts to put them into place.”
- We need “transformational change” that will end dependence on foreign oil, fight global warming and create ten million green energy jobs.
- We need to “protect American jobs.”

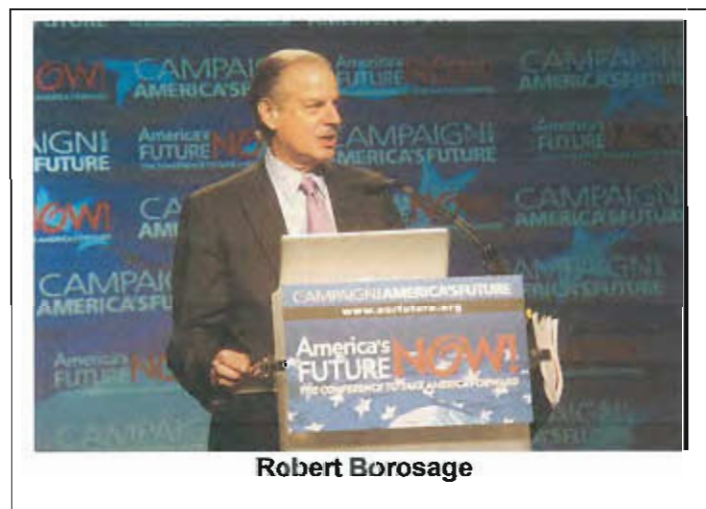
All of these nice-sounding ideas and proposals, of course, are designed to mask the real agenda – imposing a foreign ideology, Marxism, on the American people.

Borosage played a tape of then-candidate Obama’s remarks at the Campaign for America’s Future 2006 and 2007 “Take Back America” conferences, including one clip that had him saying: “It’s going to be because of you that we will take our country back.”³ In 2008, because of a mysteriously timed meltdown in the financial system, which occurred when Obama was actually losing in most public opinion polls, they are now in charge.

To be certain, creating a new citizen’s movement to support the Obama transformation program was the unstated real purpose of the June 2009 conference. The “America’s Future Now!” agenda addressed President Obama’s agenda. It was designed to trigger a citizens movement involving community leaders and organizers, union members, and radical left activists at the center of Obama’s movement demanding socialist “change.”

Institute for Policy Studies (IPS)

The Campaign for America’s Future is a recognized member of the broader socialist and Marxist radical left in the United States and especially has a warm relationship with the Institute for Policy Studies. Robert Borosage has a very close connection with this premier “think tank of the left.” Roger Hickey, also a co-director of the Campaign of America’s Future, is also connected with the Institute for Policy Studies through the Economic Policy Institute. In addition, both men enjoy close relationships with members



of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, *The Nation*, and organized labor that deliver political dollars, muscle, and clout to the Obama Administration. Connections are also

maintained with the Democratic Socialists of America and Communist Party USA, each of which provided propaganda and representatives at the June 2009 "America's Future Now!" conference.

The Institute for Policy Studies was founded in 1963 by Samuel Rubin (1901-1978), a Communist and Russian émigré. Rubin's daughter Cora Weiss has headed the Samuel Rubin Foundation since her father's death, and she continues to serve as the "grandmother of IPS" by acting as a primary financier of the Institute. Her husband, Peter Weiss, served as Chairman of the IPS Board of Trustees, and he has long been a member of the National Lawyers Guild (cited as a Communist front). Robert L. Borosage, another National Lawyers Guild member, served as Director of the Institute for Policy Studies from 1979 to 1988. Borosage has been an active participant in facilitating the activities of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Borosage is a member of the IPS Board of Trustees and is busy building a political, grassroots citizen's movement in the community organizing tradition of Saul Alinsky that will serve as a powerful battering-ram to support President Obama's initiatives to re-make America.

Roger Hickey, also a co-founder of the Campaign for America's Future, is linked with the Institute for Policy Studies, often collaborating on their common left-wing agenda through the Economic Policy Institute that he helped found, and where he now serves as vice president and director of communications. Noted for examining economics from the viewpoint of "working Americans," the Economic Policy Institute hosted Manuel Perez Rocha from the Institute for Policy Studies and Mexican Action Network on Free Trade in June 2009 for a discussion about financial deregulation, the North American Free Trade Agreement, and other "neoliberal" economic policies they are opposed to.

"All of the economic reforms the president [Obama] has promoted . . . are under siege," Robert Borosage and Katrina vanden Heuvel wrote in a June 2009 issue of *The Nation*. "Without a grassroots uprising that challenges business as usual in Washington, we aren't likely to get the change we were promised, much less the change we need."⁴

They are very clear about the need for a bottom-up support effort on behalf of the Obama Administration. In the opening chapter of the *Mandate for Change*, the IPS bible to "reinvigorate government and rethink/rework the role of markets and civil society," Borosage and vanden Heuvel wrote that "...progressives will have to assume a greater role in monitoring and tracking the opposition, even as we mobilize activists in targeted districts across the country. In doing this, we can help define the Obama agenda, even as we supply muscle and energy to help pass it."⁵ The IPS *Mandate for Change* offers

domestic and international policies in forty-seven chapters that cover a range of issues relevant to twenty-first century “Born Again Marxism.”

The Progressive Caucus, a third partner of the pro-Obama citizens movement, was founded in 1991 as a way to enable members of Congress to pool their ideas and efforts in support of progressive, socialist, and Marxist initiatives. The former Representative and now Senator Bernie Sanders (Socialist-Vermont) founded the Caucus while an active member of the Democratic Socialists of America, a quasi-Marxist organization. Robert L. Borosage, who has had a long relationship with the Congressional Progressive Caucus, worked through the “Progressive Challenge” initiative of the Institute for Policy Studies, whose task was to coordinate some 200 community action groups from across the country at Caucus meetings. The Caucus objective is to assure that the left-wing members of Congress are producing mutually-reinforcing propaganda on key progressive-socialist-Marxist issues with the other activist centers of the citizens movement.⁶

The Progressive Caucus explains its “fairness plan” as embodying “national priorities that are consistent with the values, needs, and aspirations of all of the American people—not just the powerful and privileged.” Its “Progressive Promise” is said to be rooted in four core principles:

- “Fighting for economic justice and security for all.”
- “Protecting and preserving our civil rights and civil liberties.”
- “Promoting global peace and security.”
- “Environmental protection and energy independence.”⁷

Today, the Congressional Progressive Caucus lists the Campaign for America’s Future, Institute for Policy Studies, Economic Policy Institute, and *The Nation*, plus numerous other radical left activists (progressives and socialists and Marxists) in its “Links & Resources.”⁸ Eight members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, or about ten percent, actively supported the Campaign for America’s Future June 2009 conference “America Future Now!” by participating in various panels and the awards program.

The Progressive Caucus, claiming to be “80 Strong and Growing,” called for a “robust” public health care option – a government health care plan – on June 8, 2009. It said, “The Congressional Progressive Caucus stands united behind President Obama’s call to provide high quality, affordability, and accessibility to healthcare choices for all Americans. . . . This public plan would provide a guarantee of coverage, affordable, high-quality and accessible healthcare, and lower costs—regardless of income, health status, employment, or gender.”⁹

One panel discussion at the conference —“Progressives Rising in Congress: The New Progressive Caucus”—was addressed by Representatives Raul Grijalva and Donna Edwards. The Members of the House directly supporting the Campaign for America’s Future program included Donna F. Edwards, Barbara Lee, Barney Frank, Jerrold Nadler, Raul Grijalva, Jan Schakowsky, and Keith Ellison. Senator Bernie Sanders also was a participant. Lee and AFL-CIO President John Sweeney were honored as “Progressive Champions” at the event.

Lee, the chairwoman of the 42-member Congressional Black Caucus, is perhaps best known for casting the lone vote in the House against U.S. military action to remove the Taliban regime in Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks. The Taliban had harbored the al-Qaeda terrorists responsible for 9/11.

In her book, *Renegade for Peace & Justice*, Lee declares her support for “a world vision of peace” and a Cabinet-level Department of Peace. She favors big cuts in the Pentagon budget and reliance on the United Nations in foreign affairs. Regarding President Obama, whom she served as a presidential campaign adviser, Lee writes in her book that “I liked his message of fundamental change, which was as close to a revolutionary message as we have had in decades.” She served as Obama’s Western Regional co-chair during the campaign “and I participated in rallies, phone banking, and behind-the-scenes advising on issues and politics.”

In her book, she also declares her support for Communist Cuba, saying, “On many occasions I have taken people to Cuba to educate them about the realities of Cuban society so that they can make judgments for themselves whether the negative propaganda about Cuba that we consume in the United States is justified.” She attacked the Bush Administration for deposing Jean Bertrand Aristide, the Marxist proponent of “Liberation Theology” who once ruled Haiti.¹⁰

The Nation Magazine

The Nation is linked to the power center of the “America’s Future Now!” conference by virtue of its editor and publisher, Katrina vanden Heuvel, serving as a Board member of the Institute for America’s Future, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute for Policy Studies, and a designated resource by the Congressional Progressive Caucus and Economic Policy Institute. Moreover, Robert Borosage of the Campaign for America’s Future is a contributing editor and editorial board member at *The Nation*. Like many other left-wing news organizations, *The Nation* magazine lost as much as \$500,000 annually by the mid-1990s. Victor Navasky, then editor and publisher, adopted a common course on the Left: he found investors willing to subsidize the magazine’s Marxist views. This has turned into not-so-subtle pay-to-publish arrangements. Donors expect to get their backs scratched for the dollars put

up. *The Nation* seems to have degenerated into a public relations mouthpiece for what has been called the Democratic Shadow Party directed by George Soros, whose donations “all but guarantee the magazine’s subservience,” one blog notes.¹¹

The Nation's apparent public relations arrangement with George Soros shines some light on the magazine’s role of having Katrina vanden Heuvel on the Board of Trustees of the Institute for Policy Studies and Institute for America’s Future, while Robert Borosage plays an oversight role as a member of *The Nation's* editorial board and serving as a contributing editor. This relationship also explains the co-authored opening chapter to the IPS 2009 *Mandate for Change*, which contains numerous domestic and international policies for the Obama Administration. Meanwhile, *The Nation* serves as a public relations link for the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and the Economic Policy Institute crunches numbers necessary to support the citizens movement by the big Labor unions in supporting Obama’s transformation of America.

Economic Policy Institute (EPI)

The Economic Policy Institute was created in 1986 with the specific purpose of broadening economic policy discussions to focus sharply on issues affecting the lives and livelihoods of low- and middle-income workers. The EPI’s work embraces a wide-range of economic issues affecting workers and their families, including trends in wages, income, and prices; economic development strategies pursued in the states; trade, global finance, and global competitiveness; and comparative economic performance. EPI examines “. . . issues through a ‘living standards’ lens by analyzing the impact of policies and initiatives on the American public.” Institute researchers are responsible for numerous books, studies, issue briefs, and popular education materials, as well as numerous other publications. Its analysts are also called upon to testify before Congress and state and local legislatures. Most of EPI’s funding from 2005 to 2007 came from foundation grants (53 percent) and labor unions (29 percent).¹²



The EPI Board of Directors numbers thirty-one, ten of whom serve in the most senior positions of major labor unions and associated organizations, such as the International Association of Machinists & Allied Workers (IAMAW); Communications

Workers of America (CWA); Industrial Areas Foundation; United Auto Workers (UAW); American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); UNITE HERE; Service Employees International Union (SEIU); and AFL-CIO. In addition, EPI board member Representative Linda T. Sanchez also serves on the Congressional Progressive Caucus and formerly served on the Caucus with now-Obama Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis. Other Board members are drawn from academe, including the Universities of Michigan, Texas, California, and Howard University. EPI board member Robert Kuttner of *The American Prospect* is also a strong supporter of the progressive-socialist-Marxist movement.

The connection between the Economic Policy Institute and Labor Unions is more than counting noses of its Board of Directors. The EPI has emerged from relative obscurity to reflect a significant “think tank on the Left” for economic justice and worker power. The Institute is a key member of the six-pointed interlocking directorate that is protecting Obama’s back and feeding the fires of the citizens movement in support of his socialist program for America.

In the view of EPI, for example, U.S. labor laws need to be reformed significantly to restore the rights of workers to form and join unions. This is an essential step, EPI argues, to stop “the recent unprecedented growth of inequality in household income” and to satisfy “the urgent need to give workers more bargaining power to counter national and global trends.” To that end, EPI President Lawrence Mishel and two other Nobel laureates were behind a full page ad in the *Washington Post* on February 25, 2009, in which nearly forty prominent economists signed a statement that was seen as being an “essential step toward rebuilding a solid middle class.” The statement on behalf of the “Employee Free Choice Act” (addressed in the next section on “Union Power”) made the following key points: “A rising tide lifts all boats when labor and management bargain on relatively equal terms. . . . In recent decades, most bargaining power has resided with management. The current recession will further weaken the ability of workers to bargain individually. More than ever, workers will need to act together. The Employee Free Choice Act is not a panacea, but it would restore some balance to our labor markets. As economists, we believe this is a critically important step in rebuilding our economy and strengthening our democracy by enhancing the voice of working people in the workplace.”¹³

The Economic Policy Institute’s distinct left-wing tilt reflects little more than economic propaganda to be placed into the hands of union leaders. But it serves an important place in the six-pointed interlocking directorate of the left supporting President Obama’s efforts to re-make America.

The Economic Policy Institute is all about supporting the Campaign for America’s Future, Institute for Policy Studies, Congressional Progressive Caucus, *The Nation*, and

the labor unions in fostering President Obama's effort to transform America from a free-market economy based on political-economic liberty to socialism.

Union Power

Presidential candidate Barack Obama distributed a Labor Day 2008 video message to union households, saying that "It's time we had a president who will stand up for working men and women by building an economy that rewards not just wealth, but work and the workers who create it."¹⁴ Unsurprisingly, the "workers movement" got the message and responded.

The American Rights at Work is a small advocacy group focused on advancing the freedom of workers to organize unions and bargain collectively with employers. It co-hosted a discussion session and moderated a panel on the Employee Free Choice Act, also known as "card check," at the "America's Future Now!" conference. Former Congressman David Bonior is the Chair of the Board of Directors, and he helps to guide the advocacy group through the procedures and politics of the Congress. The fight over taking away workers rights to secret voting, or casting an open for all-to-see vote by checking a box on a card, possibly with intimidation implied, is "the biggest labor fight in decades."

At the same time, the "card check" option is an important aspect of the larger progressive-socialist-Marxist movement. According to the American Rights at Work, by getting more people in unions, worker power will be increased. This "Union Power" is supposed to help motivate Congress to pass legislation on an extensive menu of improvements for the middle-class.

For the American Rights at Work activist center, the Employee Free Choice Act is all about holding employers hostage to giving workers a no secret vote option over whether to unionize, while also taking away employers' rights to negotiate contracts that make sense for their companies and their employees.

Contemporary union power was built by passing the Obama-for-President campaign collection basket that tapped the AFL-CIO for a stunning \$250 million and another \$60.7 million from the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). In addition, the AFL-CIO knocked on the doors of ten million union households, made 70 million telephone calls, distributed 20 million leaflets at work sites, and mailed 25 million pieces of Obama support propaganda. Andy Stern, President of SEIU, claimed that his union knocked on 1.87 million doors, made 4.4 million phone calls, and sent more than 2.5 million pieces of mail supporting Obama.¹⁵ Big labor also provided \$200 million for Obama's fellow Democrats. The United Auto Workers donated more than \$23 million to

the Democratic Party between 2000 and 2008, more than \$4 million to Barack Obama in 2008.¹⁶

For a thankful President Obama, payback began early in his Administration. In March, he told the AFL-CIO executive board of more than fifty unions via video address that “we need to level the playing field for workers and unions that represent their interests.” He added: “I want you to know that you will always have a seat at the table.”¹⁷

The dream of putting more political clout in the hands of union leaders was coming true. One of Obama’s first acts was to elevate National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) member Wilma B. Liebman to chair the Board; formerly she had been a lawyer for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. In April, President Obama appointed two SEIU representatives to the five-member NLRB, which oversees the implementation of laws governing relations between unions and employers. The new President also issued executive orders favoring labor unions by reversing rules issued by the Bush Administration. SEIU’s Secretary-Treasurer put it well: “President Obama has made it clear from Day One that we will not be able to rebuild our economy stronger than it was without a greater voice, and greater prosperity, for American workers.”¹⁸

President Obama’s payback to labor was the nomination of Representative Hilda L. Solis as Secretary of Labor. A congresswoman from California, Solis was a radical left member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, the socialist-Marxist wing of the Democratic Party. Her appointment as Labor Secretary assured a close connection with the six-member citizens mobilization group led by Robert Borosage at the Campaign for America’s Future.



Ms. Solis’s gold standard credentials with the big labor unions and the far left go back nearly two decades.¹⁹ In 1996, for instance, Solis sent a representative to a Communist Party event. On another occasion, she sent a member of her office in Los Angeles to represent her at a forum on worker’s rights hosted by the Socialist

International (the Democratic Socialists of America, is the U.S. affiliate), which “. . . bills itself as ‘the worldwide organization of social democratic, socialist, and labor parties.’”²⁰

Secretary Solis has been closely associated with organized labor since her earliest days in politics. Following a stint in Washington, D.C., during the Carter Administration in the 1980s, Solis returned to California where she was elected to the state legislature in 1992 and senate two years later. These early campaigns for elective office were strongly backed by such radical Left groups as EMILY’s List, the Sierra Club, and the League of Conservation Voters.

Labor unions bought Solis’s loyalty in California from the beginning of her political career. In her successful primary campaign for the U.S. Congress, unions donated money and provided 260 volunteers to make telephone calls and knocked on doors—“I wouldn’t be here, were it not for my friends in the labor movement,” Solis said in her victory speech.²¹

Solis served four terms in Congress, and she never forgot labor’s key role in her success. She holds a lifetime 97 percent rating from the AFL-CIO (100 percent in 2007), as well as 100 percent ratings from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). Labor took care of “their girl,” with \$903,550 in campaign contributions from building, trade, industrial, public sector, and transportation unions. As AFL-CIO President John Sweeney is quoted as saying “we’re thrilled at the prospect of having Rep. Hilda Solis as our nation’s next labor secretary.”²²

Solis’s fellow members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus were delighted to have her solid voting record with the labor movement on their blended progressive-socialist-Marxist forum. She could always be counted on to promote vigorously labor’s legislative agenda. She was a co-sponsor of labor’s No. 1 priority—the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) or “card check” that would enable union organizers to intimidate workers into forming unions.²³ Under the EFCA rules, workers’ secret voting rights would be voided. Instead, workers would be asked to openly and publicly check a box whether to unionize, perhaps with a 325-pound “Louie the Lip” standing nearby to ensure they followed directions. Such implicit or direct coercion would eliminate the employer’s current right to appeal workers’ choices, which is now permitted when pressures on his employees to unionize are believed to be present.

Secretary of Labor Solis today enjoys control over a department with approximately a \$53 billion budget and some 17,000 employees.²⁴ Solis is also President Obama’s point person for “payback” to the labor unions for their astounding generosity in terms of donations and person-support during the presidential campaign in 2007 and 2008. Secondly, Secretary Solis is the point

person for the so-called citizens movement represented at the “America’s Future Now!” conference and designed to help implement Obama’s plans for a socialist transformation of America.

One top official of the AFL-CIO and speaker at the conference has been outspoken about her vision for America. However, Karen Nussbaum, the executive director of Working America, the community affiliate of the AFL-CIO, refused to talk to Cliff Kincaid, President of America’s Survival, Inc. about her participation in an illegal 1970 trip to Communist Cuba organized by Weather Underground terrorist Bernardine Dohrn. Kincaid asked about her visit to Cuba after Nussbaum spoke on a panel on how to create a progressive majority. Nussbaum was apparently stunned by the fact that someone had uncovered an aspect of her background that has been carefully omitted from her official biography. She refused to answer and walked away. Obviously embarrassed, she also pretended that she didn’t hear the follow-up questions about her trip as a young radical to the communist-controlled island.

But according to one account of her trip, she declared that she "learned about revolution in Cuba" and praised Castro for providing "free health and educational care to every person in society..." She also declared, "I was part of the Black Panther Support Committee" and said she was a member of the "Draft resistance movement" opposing the Vietnam War.

Nussbaum's "Working America" AFL-CIO affiliate claims to represent "10 million union men and women and millions of workers without the benefit of a workplace union..." Nussbaum was Director of the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor under President Clinton and is a contributor to *The Huffington Post*. Her trip to Cuba was sponsored by the Venceremos Brigade, a group run by the Cuban intelligence service, the DGI, which included several members of the communist terrorist Weather Underground. Young people on the trips were indoctrinated in the communist philosophy and given training in terrorism. "We were in Cuba for a couple of months," she acknowledged in a 2003 interview.

Asked during that interview "What was Cuba like in 1970?," Nussbaum said the dictatorship was "thrilling, you know. It was a society that was combating racism, that had provided free health and educational care to every person in society, that had reduced income inequality more dramatically than any place else on earth, that had created literacy in an illiterate country by having middle schoolers going out and teaching adults. It was very, very exciting. So, that was terrific-and to understand what struggle was like." In discussing the Venceremos Brigade, Nussbaum told the interviewer that it was "a way to demonstrate solidarity with Cubans and against the U.S. policy..." Asked for more details, she explained, "There were all kinds of political activists. There were a lot of Weathermen who were in the Brigade, who were the left

split off from the SDS and a huge array of young leftists who were there and so we talked politics all the time."

The SDS and the Weathermen were the predecessors of the Weather Underground organization, the group which bombed police stations and killed police officers in the U.S. Two leaders of the Weather Underground, Bill Ayers and Bernardine Dohrn, are political associates of President Obama and helped launch his political career in Chicago.

Nussbaum was only one of many union officials at the event. In fact, twelve senior members of unions or their affiliates served as moderators, panel hosts, speakers, and award spokespersons for the conference, including Leo Gerard of the United Steelworkers, Thea Lee of the AFL-CIO, and Anna Burger of the SEIU. Jobs With Justice, the National Education Association, and the United Steelworkers served as "conference partners;" fifteen unions and union advocates served as "conference supporters," and six contributed to the conference by buying advertisements presented in the conference support materials.

Under the headline "Signature Battle," the "America's Future Now!" conference held a Union Power panel on *Affordable Health Care for All*. Moderated by Roger Hickey of the Economic Policy Institute, the speakers included Governor Howard Dean, M.D., Dr. Salomeh Keyhani, M.D., and William McNary, USAction, plus Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis, a "special guest."

President Obama's step forward to provide quality and affordable health care for all Americans was in keeping with "our progressive values," declared moderator Roger Hickey. He also articulated the motto that would characterize the Left's support of "health Care for All Now"—"*Don't let the special interests cut the heart out of the healthcare plan.*"

Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis pledged to work hard to increase the number of people entering the health care industry. She envisioned distribution of grants to ensure the underserved areas receive the dollars needed for health care.

Governor Howard Dean was adamant in stating that "healthcare without a single payer government option is not really healthcare." He also asserted "the private sector does not function very well in healthcare." Dr. Salomeh Keyhani was more balanced, saying that a public option -- the government-plan -- would get the country "closer to better healthcare."

William McNary, a community organizer from Chicago, is president of USAction, and he serves on the steering committee for "Health Care for America Now!" He is a

friend of President Barack Obama and is the co-director of Citizen Action Illinois, a grassroots community organizing network that includes ACORN, the Center for Community Change, USAction, and many others. He emphasized that winning requires high quality, affordable, and guaranteed health care for all Americans. He urged those present to lobby members of Congress on June 25 when his network would encourage people in communities across the country to stand up to private companies that put “profit before people.”

McNary, a close friend of the President, has a long history of association with socialist and communist groups.²⁵

Operating under the slogan, “Don’t let them cut the heart out of the Obama health plan,” the six-member interlocking directorate guided by the Campaign for America’s Future is leading the fight “to force private insurers to compete with a robust public plan option.”²⁶ The Health Care for America Now was assembled to bring community organizers, union workers, and others to Washington, D.C., to lobby Members of Congress on the need for a government health care option. On June 24 this “independent grassroots movement” held an interfaith prayer meeting, a “grassroots” reception, and a “Lighting the Night Healthcare Equality” event.

The next morning began with lobby training for community and union member lobbyists, followed by a large rally near Capitol Hill at mid-day that featured several left-wing speakers. The “Health Care for America Now” rally on June 25 included community leaders from more than forty states who had been flown into Washington for meetings with key members of Congress. Among the “grassroots” lobbyists were selected small business owners, representative from rural crisis, “faith” leaders, and health care providers.



More than a thousand persons from areas nearby Washington, D.C., were also included. Their organizations included labor unions, community organizations, and grass roots activists. The idea of the lobby-the-Hill assault was to show the breadth of the “Health Care for America Now” influence effort.

In an Internet-based memo for grassroots volunteers, the Campaign for America’s Future stressed the need “to take concrete action to move Members of

Congress who will influence the outcome of this legislative fight.” Another “key goal” was defined as creating “an experience that engages and energizes local leaders and activists to go back to their states with the commitment and urgency to escalate the fight for health care in Congressional districts in the coming months.”²⁷

Hundreds of people from “progressive” (and socialist-Marxist) groups rushed to Washington, D.C., for the June 25 lobby assault against Congress. Many of the participants were grassroots true believers. Others were from “partnership organizations,” including ACORN, Americans United for Change, Campaign for Community Change, Children’s Defense Fund Council, MoveOn.org, Northeast Federation of Community Organizations, and other supporters of a robust socialized government health care program. Partnerships in the “Union Power” coalition included the AFL-CIO; American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); Communications Workers of America; United Auto Workers; Service Employees International Union (SEIU); National Education Association; American Federation of Teachers; and United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW); and others.²⁸

After President Obama said that he would consider options to impose new taxes on Americans who are *not* union members, thousands of unionists joined the June 25 rally hosted by Health Care for America Now on Capitol Hill.

Chuck Loveless, Legislative Director for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), for instance, said that “it’s extremely important that insurance companies have to compete with a government plan option. And if the government plan option is not in the mix, we’re not gonna get the kind of reform that we want to see.”²⁹ The “reform” Loveless envisions, however, is a stealth move to tumble most private insurance subscribers into the proposed government program over time.

Not only is the creation of a government health care system a priority for the labor unions, but the National Council of La Raza, an open borders advocacy group, is demanding those health benefits for illegal aliens. A 2007 Pew Hispanic Center report found that 59 percent of illegal aliens had no form of health care insurance.³⁰

The group of institutions coordinated by the Campaign for America’s Future might be an obvious answer, though not the only one. After all, President Obama’s primary experience is serving as a community organizer, while steeped in progressive, socialist, and Marxist radicalism.

As detailed in “The Global New Left” section of my book *Shadow World*, progressive-socialist-Marxist Radical Left organizations have been

subverting the American political and economic system for decades.³¹ This is the network primarily responsible for delivering Barack Obama to the White House. For the left, including the six-member citizens movement solidified at the “America’s Future Now!” conference, now is the time for consolidation of their electoral victory, which is to be followed by a transformation of America to a system of socialism and secularism that will extend into the future for decades.

The key is to build an active national citizens movement that will keep the pressure on the Administration and Congress for “change.” The Obama revolution is a bottom-up revolution. In developing a strategy to complete the recasting of America’s political and economic scene, President Obama and his radical left acolytes have turned to the great oracle of community organizing, Saul D. Alinsky, in developing an effective national level community mobilization movement.

Saul Alinsky was very clear that revolution must be preceded by a “popular reformation” or a citizen’s movement. According to Alinsky, “a reformation means that masses of our people have reached the point of disillusionment with past ways and values. They don’t know what will work but they do know that the prevailing system is self-defeating, frustrating, and hopeless. They won’t act for change but won’t strongly oppose those who do. The time is then ripe for revolution.”³²

Robert Borosage paraphrased a comment by President Obama at the “America’s Future Now!” conference when the President asked his supporters to “keep the people’s pressure on me. I need to do what needs to be done.” Curiously, Saul Alinsky said in his book *Rules for Radicals* that “radicals should keep in mind Franklin D. Roosevelt’s response to a reform delegation: ‘Okay, you’ve convinced me. Now go on out and bring the pressure on me!’” Alinsky added that “action comes from keeping the heat on.”³³

Citizen participation, Alinsky emphasized, served as the “animating spirit and force in a society.” He also explained that “an organizer . . . does not have a fixed truth—truth to him is relative and changing, *everything* to him is relative and changing. He is a political relativist.”³⁴ Moreover, Alinsky added, “. . . people react strictly on the basis of their own experience.” When that experience is based on the futility of changing existing conditions, people often

Is Cutting Military Spending 25% Irresponsible?

- Size of Pentagon Budget
 - \$624 billion in 2008; 4.3% of GDP
 - 25% cut = \$480 billion; 3.3% of GDP
 - 2000 military budget = 3.0% of GDP
 - \$480 billion budget is:
 - 30% larger than GDP of Sweden (9 million people)
 - 5 times more than 2008 federal spending on education, training, and research

A slide show at the conference advocated a 25 percent cut in military spending

become hostile, defensive, or withdraw. It often takes an outsider to help people organize so that they have the power to make changes: “. . . then, when confronted with the questions of change, they begin to think and ask questions about how to make changes.”³⁵

The “America’s Future Now!” conference in Washington, D.C., on June 1-3 was designed to support Barack Obama’s campaign promise to bring “change.” The national citizen’s movement offered by the six-member interlocking directorate – Campaign for America’s Future, Institute for Policy Studies, Congressional Progressive Caucus, *The Nation*, Economic Policy Institute, and “Union Power” -- is intended to enable the “change” promised by the president. That “change” includes major cuts to the national defense budget, as Rep. Barney Frank appeared on one panel to argue for termination of weapons systems such as the F-22. Another panelist urged an overall 25 percent reduction in the national defense budget.

“Change comes from power, and power comes from organization,” Saul Alinsky explained. “Power and organization are one in the same.” The Campaign for America’s Future leads the six non-government institutions that have the power, including the street muscle from organized labor, to impose their socialist vision.

In the final analysis, the “America Future Now!” conference was designed to give major supporters of the President’s agenda an opportunity to develop an umbrella organization that harmonizes the community progressive-socialist-Marxist interests supporting President Obama. Alinsky said that “revolution has always advanced with an ideological spear. . . .”³⁶ As demonstrated at the June 2009 “Health Care for America Now” panel, the new citizen’s movement is a practical tool for pressuring the Congress and President Obama.

Saul Alinsky’s contemporaneous followers in the Campaign for America’s Future, Institute for Policy Studies, Congressional Progressive Caucus, *The Nation*, Economic Policy Institute, and “Union Power” are pressuring but also protecting the President and facilitating the socialist transformation of America. This is Obama’s “ideological spear” of “change.”

The political strength of the progressive-socialist-Marxist movement rests on a strong foundation of organized labor. This movement would be greatly strengthened by passage of the Employee Free Choice Act. Since passage of the act will “empower” workers and their unions, they will gain the political muscle to move the Congress further to the left. As organized labor becomes even more of the backbone of the progressive movement, the unions will hold the keys to the Congress and the White House.

South Africa offers a lesson. In that country, which had long been under communist assault, an alliance between the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the Communist Party has now taken power through democratic means. This form of “Union Power” helped Jacob Zuma become president and these groups are now exercising the real power behind and over the government. The leader of COSATU was quite clear in saying that “we are the policymakers, and the government implements. The government doesn’t lead anymore.”³⁷ The unions are staging strikes and demonstrations and demanding government control over the mining industry.

Is the United States immune to this kind of interference? American labor unions played an instrumental role in placing Barack Obama in the White House. Winning the Employee Free Choice Act will grow “Union Power” to greater heights and over time should move the House and Senate to the left to satisfy its thirst for progressive-socialist-Marxist transformative power.

When the White House didn’t immediately rule out a tax on workers’ health insurance benefits through their jobs, the “Union Power” movement objected and produced an EPI study opposed to the idea.

Gerald W, McEntee, president of the American Federation of the State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), promptly said that his 1.6 million members “are not going to take that.”³⁸ This is an illustration of how they intend to wield their power, even with a friendly president in office.



Karen Nussbaum of the AFL-CIO

Obama and the unions agree, however, that capitalism, or the free market, has to be fundamentally restructured to satisfy the planned transformation of America. Tax increases on most Americans will be levied through a variety of ways, including a cap-and-trade energy plan and government health care. Some will call it social democracy. Others will call it Marxism and “lost liberty.”

Robert Chandler, author of *Shadow World*, is a strategist who has worked for the United States Air Force and several U.S. Government agencies. He is a retired Air Force Colonel and Vietnam veteran who holds a Ph.D. in political science from George Washington University. *Shadow World* is available from America’s Survival, Inc.

Endnotes

- ¹ Campaign for America's Future, America's Future Now! Conference, "Making Sense: A Progressive Guide to 8 Initiatives that Will Shape America's Future 2009" (Washington, D.C.: June 1-3, 2009), p. 1.
- ² Robert L. Borosage, "Obama's Grade at 100? What About *Our* Grade?," *The Huffington Post* (April 29, 2009).
- ³ As quoted by Dana Milbank, "Liberals May Be Looking for a Take-Back," *Washington Post* (June 4, 2009), p. A2.
- ⁴ Robert L. Borosage and Katrina vanden Heuvel, "Exacting Change," *The Nation* (June 15, 2009).
- ⁵ Robert L. Borosage and Katrina vanden Heuvel, "Progressives and the Incoming Administration" in Chester W. Hartman, ed., *Mandate for Change: Policies and Leadership for 2009 and Beyond* (New York: Lexington Books, 2009), pp. xi, 5.
- ⁶ "Progressive Caucus (Democratic)," <http://www.DiscoverTheNetworks.org> (accessed June 10, 2009).
- ⁷ U.S., Congress, Congressional Progressive Caucus, "About CPC," <http://www.cpc.grijalva.house.gov>.
- ⁸ U.S., Congress, Congressional Progressive Caucus, "Links & Resources," <http://www.cpc.grijalva.house.gov> (accessed June 10, 2009).
- ⁹ U.S., Congress, Congressional Progressive Caucus, "80 Strong and Growing: Open to New and Different Ideas" (June 8, 2009), <http://www.cpc.grijalva.house.gov>.
- ¹⁰ See http://www.usasurvival.org/docs/barbara_lee_rpt.pdf
- ¹¹ *The Nation*, <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org>, and Moonbat Central, <http://www.discoverthenetworks/moonbatcentral/2005.05>.
- ¹² Economic Policy Institute, "About the Economic Policy Institute" (Washington, D.C.: <http://www.epi.org>, 2009).
- ¹³ Economic Policy Institute, as quoted in "Labor Policy" (Washington, D.C.: <http://www.epi.org>, 2009).
- ¹⁴ W. James Antle III, *A Piece of Action: Labor Expects Much From the Next Congress, New Administration* (Washington, D.C.: Capital Research Center, December 2008), p. 1.
- ¹⁵ *Ibid.*, and Michelle Malkin, "Big Labor's Investment in Obama Pays Off," *Townhall.com* (May 13, 2009).
- ¹⁶ Newt Gingrich, "Once, Would Have Called It a Scandal," Letter (Washington, D.C.: HumanEventsOnline.com, June 10, 2009).
- ¹⁷ As quoted by "In From the Cold?," *The Economist* (March 14, 2009), p. 65.
- ¹⁸ S. A. Miller, "Unions Benefit From President's Early Decisions," *Washington Times* (May 5, 2009), pp. B1, B2.
- ¹⁹ <http://newzeal.blogspot.com/2008/12/obama-file-58-hilda-solis-obamas.html>
- ²⁰ John Perazzo, "A Leftist in Labor" (Los Angeles: FrontPageMagazine.com, February 17, 2009).
- ²¹ Philip Klein, "Labor's Girl: Hilda Solis's Long Struggle for Unions," (Washington, D.C.: Capital Research Center, February 2009), p. 1.
- ²² *Ibid.*, p. 2.
- ²³ *Ibid.*, p. 3.
- ²⁴ Sam Hananel, "Solis Confirmed as Labor Secretary," *Washington Times* (February 25, 2009), p. A7.
- ²⁵ Trevor Loudon, "Obama File 26: 'William McNary, Yet Another Obama Radical?'" (Christchurch, New Zealand: <http://www.NewZeal.Blogspot.com>, September 2, 2008).
- ²⁶ Roger Hickey, Campaign for America's Future, "Public Health Plan Option Under Attack!," E-mail (<http://www.OurFuture.org>, June 25, 2009).
- ²⁷ Roger Hickey, Campaign for America's Future, "Urgent Call to Save Obama Health Plan," E-mail ([OurFuture.org](http://www.OurFuture.org), June 23, 2009).
- ²⁸ *Ibid.*
- ²⁹ Jillian Bandes, "Unions to Get Dues from Obamacare," *Townhall.com* (June 26, 2009).
- ³⁰ "La Raza Demands Obama's Health Care Reform Plan Cover Illegal Aliens," *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, FAIR Legislative Update (<http://www.fairus.org>, June 22, 2009).

³¹ Robert Chandler, *Shadow World: Resurgent Russia, the Global New Left, and Radical Islam* (Washington, D.C.: Regnery, 2008).

³² *Ibid.*, p. xxii.

³³ *Ibid.*, p. xxiii.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, pp 10-11.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 87, 105.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

³⁷ "Payback Time?," *The Economist* (June 13, 2009), p. 50.

³⁸ As quoted by David Espo, "Obama Called Flexible on Health Reforms," *Washington Times* (June 28, 2009), p. A4.

"The work of a scholar who has fought the Cold War."
—Congressman Steve King

SHADOW WORLD

RESURGENT RUSSIA, THE GLOBAL
NEW LEFT, AND RADICAL ISLAM

ROBERT CHANDLER

GLOBAL POLITICAL-MILITARY STRATEGIST

In this new report, *Barack Obama's "Progressive" Backers: Who They Are and What They Want*, Robert Chandler provides an on-the-scene and eyewitness account of what transpired at the recent Campaign for America's Future "progressive" conference. He reports that:

- The radical left believes that, with the election of Barack Obama as President, its time has come.
- The "progressive" movement intends to support AND pressure Obama, who encourages their involvement, knowing that it provides cover for moving the administration further left.
- A "New Marxism" has been developed which expands the class of exploited persons beyond workers and uses new issues, such as global warming.
- Most "progressives" follow the Antonio Gramsci communist model of infiltrating cultural institutions rather than overthrowing the system.
- Six pro-Obama activist groups or coalitions are leading the socialist agenda. The most important is Big Labor.
- Labor unions such as the AFL-CIO were major funders of the Obama campaign and are providing the street muscle for the Obama Administration.
- Obama's Labor Secretary Hilda Solis is a mouthpiece for organized labor with strong ties to the far-left.