

For socialism and internationalism

The two basic features of capitalism—private ownership of the means of production and the division of the world economy along national lines—block the rational use and development of man's productive forces. None of the problems humanity confronts can be dealt with on a national level.

The problems faced by working people and youth of every country are fundamentally the same. In all countries, the ISSE opposes nationalism, chauvinism, racism and protectionism, which are simply means to divide and weaken the working class. Working people of all countries must join together in a common struggle.

Socialism—the rational and democratic control of the economy to meet social need, not private profit—arises as a historical necessity from the breakdown of capitalism. The ISSE has unshakable confidence in the development of an international socialist movement because socialism corresponds to the objective interests of the working class, the vast majority of humanity.

Socialism can only be achieved by conscious effort. A movement must be built and a struggle waged. We call on students and young people to carry forth this fight and build the ISSE.

Join the fight for socialism! Join the ISSE!

The International Students for Social Equality is the student organization of the Socialist Equality Party (SEP) and the International Committee of the Fourth International (ICFI), the world party of socialist revolution. The ICFI publishes the World Socialist Web Site (www.wsws.org), the most widely read socialist publication in the world.

We urge all students to study the program, history and analysis presented on the World Socialist Web Site. Make the decision to join and build the ISSE and help build a club of the ISSE at your school or university.

Join the **ISSE**

International Students for Social Equality

Mankind has entered the second decade of the 21st century in the midst of the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Despite the integration of world economy and great advances in technology and communications, billions live in hunger and humanity is beset by unending wars.

The claim by the Obama administration and other governments that recovery is around the corner is belied by record unemployment and foreclosures, and the relentless attack on jobs and living standards. After giving trillions of dollars to the banks, the US government—at both the state and federal level—is pushing through deep cuts in education and other social programs.

The financial elite, with the arrogance and sense of entitlement of an aristocracy, has exploited the crisis of its own making to vastly enrich itself, while using mass unemployment as an opportunity to drive down wages across the board.

This war against working people is coupled with war abroad. Continuing on Bush's wars of the Twenty-First Century, Obama has launched a surge in Afghanistan, together with threats against even more countries, including Iran and China.

A socialist program

The crisis that began in 2008 has revealed itself as far more than an economic downturn; it is the failure of an entire social system—capitalism.

The ISSE is an organization of students around the world that insists that chronic social problems can only be solved through a socialist movement of working people. Human progress is blocked by the capitalist system, which subordinates all considerations to the drive for corporate profit and the accumulation of wealth for the few.

The ISSE demands:

- Jobs for all! Billions for education and social programs! The ISSE fights for a reallocation of resources worldwide to provide employment for all those who need it. There is plenty of work to be done, including meeting the basic needs of the population for food and shelter, rebuilding schools, expanding access to health care, and providing cultural institutions accessible to workers and young people.
- End the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan! The ISSE calls for the immediate withdrawal of all US troops and private mercenaries from Iraq, Afghanistan and every other country the US seeks to subjugate. The American war machine must be dismantled, and the vast sums expended upon it used to pay reparations to the societies devastated by American bombs and to help meet pressing social needs at home.
- For social equality! Democracy is incompatible with the levels of social inequality that prevail in the US and throughout the world. The ISSE calls for a program of wealth redistribution, including a sharp increase in taxes on the rich and the expropriation of all wealth amassed through fraud.
- Nationalize the banks and major corporations! The financial aristocracy is the principal block to any solution to the crisis facing billions of people. To break its stranglehold over the world economy, the ISSE calls for the nationalization of the banks and all large corporations under the democratic control of the working population.

For the political independence of the working class

The issues students face including high tuition, debts, the starving of resources for public education are inseparable from the broader questions confronting the working class. None of these problems can be solved on the campuses alone. Students seeking to oppose war and inequality must reach out to workers throughout the country and internationally.

A turn to the working class does not mean an alliance with the trade unions. These organizations, supposedly defenders of the working class, are in fact dominated by well-heeled executives and partners of corporate management. They have collaborated to impose concessions while seeking to keep workers tied to the political establishment. Against the existing trade unions, the ISSE calls for the building of independent rank-and-file workplace, education, and neighborhood committees to unify workers and youth in a common struggle.

Above all, the working class needs its own political party, in opposition to the Democrats and Republicans, the parties of the very rich. The ISSE rejects the position that these parties of the corporate elite can be pushed to the left through protests and demonstrations.

Many young people voted for Obama hoping for change from the Bush administration. These hopes have very rapidly turned to disillusionment and anger as the new administration has only deepened the right-wing policies of its predecessor.

The experience of the Obama Administration demonstrates that there can be no change through the existing institutions. The US is a democracy in name only; behind the facade of elections lies a completely corrupt political system beholden to the financial aristocracy.

The ISSE seeks to build a mass political movement of the working class that will fight for power, establish a workers' government, and reorganize society on a democratic, egalitarian and rational basis.