

# Don't Vote: Revolt!

Voting is Just Willing Obedience

***Educate! Agitate! Organize! Fight Back!***

*"If voting mattered, they wouldn't let you do it," retired director of the  
National Education Association Political Action Committee.*

*"There's not much sense in voting when your enemies own the voting machines,"  
coordinator of Florida NEA organizing project.*

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Power. That's what voting is supposed to be about. But real power for the vast majority of people in the world lies in our ability to control our work places and communities. Voting has nothing to do with that. We're just allowed to choose which group of billionaires will oppress us every few years.

Where does power come from? Pulling a lever? Voting does nothing to change the reason for war, racism, inequality, greed, and hatred: the relentless drive for profits that is capitalism.

We are not allowed to vote where it might matter, like at work or at school. San Diego State students learned this lesson when they voted down the recent tuition hike. University president Weber overturned the vote and instituted new fees, attacking the students who arrived on campus with the least capital. Southern California grocery workers vastly outnumbered the grocery owners and managers. The workers couldn't vote for decent working conditions, fair pay, or health benefits. Instead, the bosses used their close ties with elected officials to crush the grocery strike, and set up future attacks on everyone's health benefits.

Even organized voters cannot out-bribe billionaires who pull the strings on elected officials. More than \$1 billion is going to be spent on this presidential election. No union, no league of voters, can outspend even one billionaire like Bill Gates—now using his money to wreck public schools—or the high-tech spy agencies in North County San Diego who trained the torturers at Abu Gharib, or the strip club owners who bribe San Diego politicians. Our votes are vastly outweighed by cash, capital.

There is no discernible difference between Kerry and Bush. They are both multi-millionaire Yale grads, both members of the secretive and racist Skull and Bones. They agree on the need to foist a perpetual war on the poor and working people of the world—imperialist oil wars. They are both already war criminals.

Both parties now work to stop particular people from voting. The Democrats seek to prevent Ralph Nader from being on the ballot, while Republicans want to halt black voters.

Urging people to vote, without urging mass direct action, just assists in organizing social decay, perpetual war and racism, and gives credence to what is really the **rule of the rich**.

***This Isn't OUR Government; it is THEIR Government. We Need to Forge Real Power***

Instead of voting, workers, students, soldiers, and sailors can join together and resist, in the streets, in the schools, on the job and in the military. **We can refuse.** We can drive military recruiters and spy agencies off campuses, decline to administer or take high-racist high-stakes tests, strike and march against imperialist war, start integrated freedom schools where we can actually learn something important, and deepen our resistance. We can sustain an organization over time, get more powerful. A vote just drifts away in the air. We are teachers, professors, students, and workers who seek to build a caring community of resistance, and to get rid of capitalism. You are welcome to join us.

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