

the rabble rouser:

# Occupy edition

International version — a publication of [rabble.ca](http://rabble.ca)



From Wall Street in New York to hundreds of cities and towns around the world, a movement is underway to reclaim the commons and to challenge corporate power. This special rabble-rouser is [rabble.ca](http://rabble.ca)'s contribution to this new and overdue public dialogue.

## A Message From Occupied Wall Street

(Day Five) - [OccupyWallSt.org](http://OccupyWallSt.org)

*Note: Our use of the one demand is a rhetorical device. This is NOT an official list of demands.*

On September 21st, 2011, Troy Davis, an innocent man, was murdered by the state of Georgia. Troy Davis was one of the 99 percent. Ending capital punishment is our one demand.

On September 21st, 2011, the richest 400 Americans owned more wealth than half of the country's population. Ending wealth inequality is our one demand.

On September 21st, 2011, four of our members were arrested on baseless charges. Ending police intimidation is our one demand.

On September 21st, 2011, we determined that Yahoo lied about [occupywallst.org](http://occupywallst.org) being in spam filters. Ending corporate censorship is our one demand.

On September 21st, 2011, roughly eighty percent of Americans thought the country was on the wrong track. Ending the modern gilded age is our one demand.

On September 21st, 2011, roughly 15% of Americans approved of the job Congress was doing. Ending political corruption is our one demand.

On September 21st, 2011, roughly one sixth of Americans did not have work. Ending joblessness is our one demand.

On September 21st, 2011, roughly one sixth of America lived in poverty. Ending poverty is our one demand.

On September 21st, 2011, roughly fifty million Americans were without health insurance. Ending health-profiteering is our one demand.

On September 21st, 2011, America had military bases in around one hundred and thirty out of one hundred and sixty-five countries. Ending American imperialism is our one demand.

On September 21st, 2011, America was at war with the world. Ending war is our one demand.



photo: [Velcrow Ripper](http://VelcrowRipper)  
[OccupyLove.org](http://OccupyLove.org)

To the people of the world,

We, the New York City General Assembly occupying Wall Street in Liberty Square, urge you to assert your power.

Exercise your right to peaceably assemble; occupy public space; create a process to address the problems we face, and generate solutions accessible to everyone.

To all communities that take action and form groups in the spirit of direct democracy, we offer support, documentation, and all of the resources at our disposal.

Join us and make your voices heard!

excerpted from: [Declaration of the Occupation of New York City](#), accepted by the NYC General Assembly ([nycga.cc](http://nycga.cc)) on September 29, 2011

[rabble.ca/occupy](http://rabble.ca/occupy) <> [www.occupytogether.org](http://www.occupytogether.org) (worldwide)

“Wall Street is oozing corruption and criminality and its unrestrained political power — in the form of crony capitalism and ownership of political institutions — is destroying financial security for everyone else”

— Glenn Greenwald: [Salon.com](http://Salon.com), Sept 28

## Mainstream media dismissive

Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter/author Chris Hedges was interviewed on CBC (Oct 6, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation). Here's a clip:

**Chris Hedges:** ... We are on the cusp perhaps of another major banking crisis in Europe, defaults in Greece followed by Spain, Portugal. There's been no restrictions, no regulations on Wall Street: they've looted the US treasury, they've played all the games that they were playing before, and we're about to pay for it all over again.

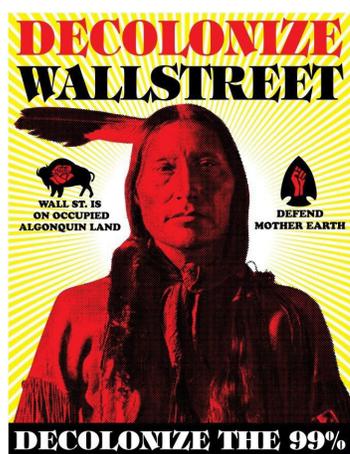
**CBC host:** Listen, don't take this the wrong way, but you sound like a left wing nut bar.

## Keeping the Occupy integrity

Will this movement develop into conscious socialist opposition to the economic foundations of the present order, turning to the working class as the only force that can bring about revolutionary change? Or will it be brought under the control of the existing parties and institutions in the US, above all, the Democratic Party, and become a further means of accommodating the population to its own oppression?

Great numbers of young people in particular are hostile to what exists, but through no fault of their own, their knowledge of history, the social process, and the role of various political parties and tendencies is limited. Experience will provide the most critical education, but one of the first things that many will learn is that not all “friends” of the current protest are friends at all.

—from The Nation, ISO seek to channel Wall Street protests back to the Democratic Party by David Walsh: [www.wsws.org](http://www.wsws.org), Oct 7



from [disoccupy.wordpress.com](http://disoccupy.wordpress.com):

Let's begin by approaching the name of the first encampment, Occupy Wall Street, by stating what we feel should be obvious: every city on the continent is occupied indigenous land. Wall Street was built on Algonquian land, and has been occupied ever since. After African slaves built Wall Street for European settlers, it was home to the slave market, and eventually became an African burial ground for up to 20,000 bodies. Since its arrival on this continent, capitalism has always been a system of exploitation based on race. ... This blog seeks to aggregate radical critiques about Occupy around the continent (including Canada, of course). We've begun posting links to some of the most relevant existing analysis from people of color who have been disenfranchised from this movement, but we're also seeking your links and/or direct entries to [this blog](#).



Movement media ([funded through crowd-sourcing](#)) | photo: Ben Powless

## Occupy Wall Street — asking the big economic questions

The realization that something is deeply wrong in the economy is palpable: inequality, constant crisis management, poverty. It's a very long list of everything we never wanted in an economic system.

As protesters mobilize, there is an outpouring of relief and even glee that folks are daring to ask tough questions of our economy. It's exciting to think outside of the box. ...

But as an economist I got to wondering: How might people in this movement understand why we are in this mess, and what it is that needs to change to get out of it? ... — by Ellen Russell: [rabble.ca](http://rabble.ca), Oct 6

>> [read the rest online](#) for one take on what's wrong and what to do

**GLOBAL OCTOBER 15 DAY OF ACTION**  
[OccupyTogether.org](http://OccupyTogether.org) -- 1,150 communities worldwide in some stage of planning, and 85 ongoing occupations as of Oct 9

## Noooo, Canada

Don't you DARE turn these bright rainbows of limitless possibility into another dreary downpour of boring grey raindrops on Bay Street on October 15th! Keep your cheerless sniffs and sneers, your cringe-inducing and silencing accusations to yourselves. ... Let's carpe fucking diem on this one, eh? The way this world is going, many of us may not get another chance. ...

Like many others, I am tremendously energized by the events on Wall Street, ... by the idea that a popular movement can swell and add people to its ranks who have not been activists, who do not usually demonstrate, who do not easily use the language of class war, capitalism and oppression.

... There is activism that beckons, that dances, that encourages and that inspires. And that's a hell of a lot more fun than wrapping yourself in anger and beating up on your comrades.

— Aalya Ahmad: [rabble.ca](http://rabble.ca), Oct 4