

African People's Socialist Party

14-Point Platform Study Guide

Overview:

The 14-Point Working Platform of the African People's Socialist Party, "What we want – What we believe" was adopted at the First Congress of the African People's Socialist Party, September 6, 1981, nine years after the Party's founding.

The Party's Platform, which appears in every issue of *The Burning Spear* newspaper, provides a basic, on-the-ground understanding of the Party's theory of African Internationalism as it applies to the practical conditions facing African workers inside the U.S. and around the world.

By studying the 14 points of the Platform, every Party member and cadre is equipped to determine the Party's position on almost every issue that plagues African people everywhere.

A thorough knowledge of the 14 points enables us to communicate the Party's line to groups and individuals in presentations and street organizing or in leaflets and positions papers.

The 14 points are the most basic and effective political education course for all who want to understand the theory and practice of African Internationalism and take action in the organized movement to liberate Africa and African people everywhere.

This study is for everyone: contacts, mass organization members and rank and file Party organizers, as well as for our allies fighting for national liberation or standing in solidarity with our struggle for African liberation.

The study and review of the 14 points is essential for all veterans and leaders of the Party and always produces many new understandings and political clarity.

The African People's Socialist Party urges every leader, cadre and rank and file member to memorize the 14-Point Platform, internalize its understandings and use it daily as we organize thousands and thousands of Africans to take up the struggle to liberate our Africa and our people!



Point 1:

We want peace, dignity and the right to build a prosperous life through our own labor and in our own interests.

We believe that the U.S. North American government and society were founded on the genocide of the Native people, the theft of their land and the forcible dispersal, enslavement and colonization of millions of African people. We believe that the present condition of existence for African people within current U.S. borders is colonialism, a condition of existence where a whole people is oppressively dominated by a foreign and alien state power for the purpose of economic exploitation and political advantage. We believe further that this colonial domination is the primary basis of the problems of African people within the U.S. and that we shall know neither peace, prosperity, nor human dignity until this colonialist domination is overthrown and the power over our lives rests in our own hands.

Quiz:

1. African people in the U.S. and around the world live under:
 - a. Feudalism
 - b. Colonialism
 - c. Racism
 - d. Socialism
2. The U.S. government and society were founded on:
 - a. Genocide and slavery
 - b. Thriftiness and hard work
 - c. Friendship and peace
 - d. Discovery and adventure
3. African people came to the U.S. and other places:
 - a. To play on a basketball team
 - b. Looking for a better life
 - c. Because we were tired of Africa
 - d. Because we were kidnapped, enslaved and colonized
4. We want:
 - a. A better job
 - b. A prosperous life through our own labor and in our interest
 - c. Another black president
 - d. A fixed-rate mortgage



Point 2:

We want the rights to economic development and creative and productive employment which promote the needs and well-being of our entire people.

We believe that colonialism is a blood-sucking system which causes all economic development to benefit the colonialist ruling class state and society at the expense of our colonized people. We also believe that the massive, habitual unemployment and underemployment of our people benefit the U.S. colonialist ruling class and capitalist system and that a struggle by African people for jobs must be combined with a struggle for socialism and independent economic development.

Quiz:

1. What is colonialism?
 - a. A life insurance company
 - b. Something that only happens in Africa or Asia
 - c. Another word for racism
 - d. A blood-sucking system that enriches the State and society at the expense of African people

2. Africans in the U.S. are habitually unemployed and underemployed because:
 - a. We are independently wealthy
 - b. The U.S. colonialist ruling class benefits from our lack of jobs
 - c. We have other things to do
 - d. All the jobs are being exported to India

3. When we struggle for jobs we must also:
 - a. Struggle for socialism and independent economic development
 - b. Make sure to join the union
 - c. Register at the unemployment office
 - d. Fight for minimum wage

Point 3:

We want an end to all local, state, federal and other taxation of black people by the U.S. government and any of its agencies.

We believe that such taxation is illegitimate, that black people have no real or meaningful authority within the U.S. government, and that U.S. taxation of



African people is therefore taxation without representation. We believe that in the absence of such real or meaningful authority we have nothing to say about how such monies are used, and that therefore the taxes taken from black people are often used against us and other oppressed and exploited people within the U.S. and around the world.

We believe that the use of taxes extracted from the African population to build more prisons to stuff us in and to hire more police to kill us with is criminal, as is the use of these taxes to hire soldiers to intimidate and plunder peoples oppressed by the same system internationally. We also believe African people must refuse to pay taxes to a government which uses such taxes to prop up and support brutal dictators around the world who keep their own peoples oppressed and living in squalor in order to maintain U.S. and western imperialist economic and political domination.

Quiz:

1. African people do not owe taxes to the U.S. government because:
 - a. We don't make enough money to pay taxes
 - b. We don't like the IRS
 - c. It's taxation without representation: we have no authority in the U.S. government to say how the monies are used
 - d. We are tax exempt
2. We do not support what the U.S. government does with our taxes inside this country such as:
 - a. The government uses our taxes to build prisons to stuff us in and hire more police to kill us with
 - b. Gives kickbacks to politicians
 - c. Pays for the U.S. president's children's education
 - d. Pays for the U.S. president's wife's new designer dress
3. We do not support what the U.S. government does with our taxes around the world such as:
 - a. Funds dictators to oppress colonized people around the world
 - b. Hires soldiers to bomb and plunder oppressed peoples around the world
 - c. Maintains U.S. imperialist economic and political domination around the world
 - d. All of the above



Point 4:

We want the right to free speech and political association, a guarantee of the right to work for the betterment and emancipation of black people without fear of political imprisonment and the loss of life, limb and livelihood.

We believe that the liberation of African people throughout the world will come primarily as a result of our own efforts. We believe it is our duty to our mothers and fathers, our children and ourselves to organize ourselves to overcome our oppression. We believe that the rights to organize and speak out against our oppression are basic human rights and that the U.S. government must discontinue its attempts to smash these rights and must discontinue criminal attacks on those African patriots who work for the betterment and emancipation of our people.

Quiz:

1. It is our duty to:
 - a. Fight for African liberation
 - b. Organize to overcome our oppression
 - c. Fight against the oppression of our parents, children and people
 - d. All of the above

2. It is our basic human right to:
 - a. Speak out against our oppression
 - b. Drive an SUV
 - c. Go to the grocery store
 - d. None of the above

3. We have a right to struggle for our liberation without:
 - a. Having to get a permit
 - b. Having to go to school
 - c. Fear of political imprisonment and the loss of life, limb and livelihood
 - d. All of the above



Point 5:

We want the right to international political and economic association with Africans and all other peoples anywhere on the face of the Earth.

We believe that all black people are African people and are a part of a single national entity. We believe that the genuine freedom of African people everywhere is irreversibly linked to the creation of an independent, united and socialist Africa. We believe the struggle of African people within the U.S. represents the U.S. front of the worldwide movement of African people for African liberation, political independence and socialist democracy. We believe that the worldwide struggle for African liberation is in unity with the struggles being waged by the majority of the peoples of the world to end the oppression of nations by nations and to create a new world, within which the toiling masses will end the system of workers and bosses and slaves and masters and will own and benefit from the means and products of our labor and will have political authority over our own lives. We believe that the natural, objective friends of our struggle for African liberation, independence and socialist democracy are all the toiling masses of the world—the people of the Middle East, the Asian and Latin American peasants and workers, the democratic forces throughout Eastern and Western Europe and the U.S. and the truly socialist states of the world, and that we must therefore have the absolute right to free political and economic international association.

Quiz:

1. All black people wherever we are located in the world are:
 - a. One African people
 - b. Negro people
 - c. Kenyans
 - d. Cameroonians
2. Genuine freedom for African people is linked to:
 - a. An independent Africa
 - b. A united Africa
 - c. A socialist Africa
 - d. All of the above.
3. African people inside the U.S. represent:
 - a. The European Front of the African Liberation Movement
 - b. The Brazilian Front of the African Liberation Movement
 - a. The U.S. Front of the African Liberation Movement
 - b. The African Front of the African Liberation Movement



4. The natural, objective friends of our struggle are:
 - a. The KKK
 - b. Animal rights activists
 - c. Preachers
 - d. All the oppressed and toiling masses of the world

Point 6:

We want the immediate and unconditional release of all black people who are presently locked down in U.S. prisons.

We believe that all the African men and women who are locked down in the U.S. concentration camps commonly known as prisons are there due to decisions, laws and circumstances which were created by aliens and foreigners for their own benefit and as a means of genocidal colonialist control. We believe that these decisions, laws and circumstances were created and are enforced without our consent and are therefore illegitimate. We believe that the African men and women who are locked down in these concentration camps are victims of U.S. colonialist ruling class justice which maintains our enslavement and terrorizes our people, and that they should therefore be released immediately to the just representatives of our struggle for liberation, independence and socialist democracy.

Quiz:

1. U.S. prisons that are packed with African people:
 - a. Were created due to decisions and laws of aliens and foreigners
 - b. Are a means of genocidal colonial control
 - c. Are concentration camps
 - d. All of the above
2. All African men and women in prisons:
 - a. Should be released immediately to representatives of our movement for liberation and independence
 - b. Should be given parole
 - c. Should get more visitors
 - d. Should get better food



Point 7:

We want complete amnesty for all African political prisoners and prisoners of war from U.S. prisons or their immediate release to any friendly country, which will accept them and give them political asylum.

We believe that U.S. prisons are also used as the illegitimate tool for torturing, murdering and holding captive those courageous daughters and sons of Africa who through their patriotic deeds or spoken or written words in support of the cause of our liberation have become political prisoners and prisoners of war. We believe, along with the majority of the peoples of the world, that it is the duty of the colonized and enslaved to resist slavery and colonialism and to fight for socialism and those who do so are patriots and heroines and heroes and should be held in the highest esteem.

Quiz:

1. Who are political prisoners?
 - a. Those locked up for being a member of the Democratic party
 - b. Courageous daughters and sons of Africa held captive for fighting for African liberation
 - c. Those given early release
 - d. None of the above

2. What is the duty of colonized African people?
 - a. To pledge allegiance to the American flag
 - b. To go to church every Sunday
 - c. To get a better job
 - d. To resist slavery and colonialism and fight for socialism

Point 8:

We want the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. police from our oppressed and exploited communities.

We believe that the various U.S. police agencies which occupy our communities are arms of the U.S. colonialist state which is responsible for keeping our people enslaved and terrorized. We believe that the U.S. police agencies do not serve us, but instead represent the first line of U.S. defense against the just struggle of our people for peace, dignity and socialist democracy. Therefore, we believe the U.S. police is an illegitimate standing army, a colonial army in the African community and must withdraw immediately from our community to be replaced by our liberation forces whose struggles in defense of our



community and against our oppression demonstrate their loyalty and their willingness to serve in its interest.

Quiz:

1. We believe that the problem with the police is:
 - a. The few “bad apples” who make the whole force look bad
 - b. The police have a hard job trying to catch the bad guys
 - c. The police need more training in race relations
 - d. The police are an arm of the U.S. colonialist State keeping Africans enslaved and terrorized

2. The police:
 - a. Are an illegitimate standing army
 - b. Are a colonial army
 - c. Must immediately withdraw from our community
 - d. All of the above

3. The police must be replaced with:
 - a. Our own liberation forces serving in the interest of the African community
 - b. The Boy Scouts
 - c. The Guardian Angels
 - d. The SWAT team

Point 9:

We want an end to the political and social oppression and economic exploitation of African women.

We believe in the absolute, unequivocal, political, social and economic equality of African women and men. We believe that a fundamental test of the progressive or revolutionary character of any organization, party, movement or society is its commitment, confirmed in practice to the destruction of the special oppression of women and the elevation of women to the rightful place as equal partners and leaders in the forward motion of the development of human society and as leaders, makers and shapers of human history.

Quiz:

1. The equality of African women and men must be:
 - a. Absolute political, social and economic equality



- b. Equality only on Mother's Day
- c. Equality only when there is a babysitter
- d. All of the above

2. African women must:

- a. Play the primary role in raising children
- b. Be elevated to equal partners and leaders in the development of human society
- c. Always take minutes
- d. Cook all the food

Point 10:

We want the right to build and African People's Liberation Army.

We believe that true freedom, although often taken away, cannot be given to a people. We believe that African people are our own liberators, and that we have a right and obligation to build an African People's Liberation Army to defend our political gains, our freedom fighters and communities, and to win our actual freedom from our oppressive slave masters. We believe that neither meaningful freedom nor guaranteed political and social gains, nor genuine liberation are possible without the assuring existence of an African People's Liberation Army. We believe further that the only legitimate wars are wars of national liberation and wars to oppose imperialist aggression, and that therefore the only legitimate military forces for black people to serve with are military forces which defend liberty and repel imperialist aggression. Such a force would be the African People's Liberation Army.

Quiz:

1. We believe that:

- a. The NAACP will liberate us
- b. Obama will liberate us
- c. African people are our own liberators
- d. All of the above

2. We have a right and an obligation to:

- a. Vote in U.S. elections
- b. Read any book we want
- c. Build an African People's Liberation Army
- d. None of the above



3. We need an African People's Liberation Army:
 - a. To defend our political gains
 - b. To defend our freedom fighters and communities
 - c. To win our freedom from our oppressors
 - d. All of the above

4. We believe the only legitimate military force is:
 - a. The U.S. Marines
 - b. The National Guard
 - c. The Salvation Army
 - d. The African People's Liberation Army

Point 11:

We want the U.S. and the international European ruling class and states to pay Africa and African people for the centuries of genocide, oppression, and enslavement of our people.

We believe that U.S. and European civilization were born from, and are presently maintained by, the horrendous theft of human and material resources from Africa and its people. We also believe that this theft of human and material resources is responsible for the present underpopulation and underdevelopment of Africa and her people and the political servitude, material impoverishment, and cultural discontinuity and disintegration of African people throughout the world. We believe that Africa and African people are due reparations, just economic compensation, billions of dollars which must be paid to the Organization of African Unity or any other legitimate international organization of African people, for equitable distribution for the development of Africa. We also believe that reparations must be distributed to the various independent African states dispersed throughout the world, and to the legitimate representatives of African people forcibly dispersed throughout the world who have not yet won liberation.

Quiz:

1. U.S. and European civilization were born from:
 - a. The discovery of electricity
 - b. Theft of human and material resources from Africa
 - c. Racist ideas in the minds of white people

2. The U.S. and European ruling class owe Africa and African people:
 - a. Reparations



- b. Affirmative Action
 - c. Higher wages
3. Reparations, just economic compensation, must be paid to:
- a. The NAACP
 - b. The Democratic Black Caucus
 - c. Legitimate representatives of African people forcibly dispersed throughout the world

Point 12:

We want an end to the vicious, self-serving U.S. and Western European political, economic, and military interference in the affairs of Africa and African people throughout the world.

We believe that African people in Africa and elsewhere have a right and responsibility to solve our own problems, free from the unwanted, and self-serving interference of U.S. and Western imperialists. We believe that the U.S. and Western imperialist interference in the affairs of our people is designed to maintain the continuation of the theft of our human and material resources and our oppression and impoverishment.

We believe that African people must be free to organize and struggle for an end to colonialism and neo-colonialism without interference from U.S. and Western imperialism which supports neo-colonialism and colonialism in Africa, the U.S. and elsewhere, and which has deposed progressive and revolutionary African leaders and replaced them with neo-colonialist stooges.

Quiz:

1. U.S. and Western interference in the affairs of African people is designed to:
- a. Provide humanitarian aid to Africa
 - b. Maintain the theft, oppression and impoverishment of African people
 - c. Promote democracy and free enterprise
2. Who has the right and responsibility to solve the problems faced by African people?
- a. The U.S. Government
 - b. China
 - c. Russia
 - d. Bono and Angelina Jolie



- e. African people
3. How has U.S. and Western imperialism responded to progressive and revolutionary African leaders historically?
- a. By deposing them and replacing them with neocolonial stooges
 - b. By supporting them with funds and weapons
 - c. Through an isolationist position: not intervening at all

Point 13:

We want an end to U.S. colonial domination of African people within the U.S.

We believe that the primary struggle of African people within the U.S. during this period is to throw off the alien U.S. colonial domination which is responsible for virtually every hardship imposed on black people by this government that is identifiable as a “black problem.”

We believe that our problems with education — from our inability to control our own schools and determine the education of our own children, to the inferior and racist quality of the education we do receive — are caused by colonialism.

We believe that our problems with health care — from the absence of black controlled and operated health clinics and institutions throughout our communities to the hazardous health conditions imposed on us by poverty and callous government decisions — are caused by colonialism.

We believe that our problems with housing — from the unavailability of decent and adequate housing for the majority of our people, to the dilapidated and vermin-infested housing we are forced to live in — are caused by colonialism.

We believe that our problems with food and clothing — from the terrible quality and quantity which are imposed on us by blood-sucking merchants, to our inability to produce and distribute them for and among ourselves — are caused by colonialism, where our whole people is dominated and oppressed by a foreign and alien state power for the purpose of economic exploitation and political advantage.

Quiz:

1. Problems with education faced by the black community, including the inability to control our own schools and the inferior quality of the education – are caused by:
- a. Bad teachers



- b. Racist lawmakers
 - c. Underfunding
 - d. Colonialism
2. Healthcare disparities faced by the black community are caused by:
- a. Obamacare
 - b. Medical malpractice
 - c. Insurance companies
 - d. Colonialism
3. The unavailability of decent housing for the majority of African people is caused by:
- a. The high cost of rent
 - b. Subprime mortgage crisis
 - c. Predatory loans
 - d. Colonialism
4. Problems associated with food and clothing faced by African people are caused by:
- a. Bad dieting
 - b. Overpriced food
 - c. Fast food restaurants
 - d. Colonialism
5. What is colonialism?
- a. A system where our whole people is dominated and oppressed by a foreign and alien state power for the purpose of economic exploitation and political advantage
 - b. A system in which white people dislike black people on the basis of skin color
 - c. A system of white male supremacist capitalist patriarchy
 - d. A problem within capitalism that must be reformed through nonviolent protest

Point 14:

We want the total liberation and unification of Africa under an all-African socialist government.

We believe that “the total liberation and unification of Africa under an All-African socialist government must be the primary objective of all Black revolutionaries throughout the world. It is an objective which, when



achieved, will bring about the fulfillment of the aspirations of Africans and people of African descent everywhere. It will at the same time advance the triumph of the international socialist revolution, and the onward progress toward communism, under which every society is ordered on the principle of — from each according to his (her) ability, to each according to his (her) needs.”
— Kwame Nkrumah

Quiz:

1. The primary objective of all black revolutionaries throughout the world is:
 - a. The creation of a New African nation in the Black Belt south
 - b. A multi-national workers' state
 - c. The liberation and unification of Africa under an all-African socialist government
 - d. To build a United Socialist States of America (USSA)
 - e. To create multiple independent African states within the currently existing borders

2. The establishment of an all-African socialist government will advance the triumph of the international socialist revolution and the onward progress toward:
 - a. Anarchy
 - b. Black supremacy
 - c. Utopia
 - d. Communism

3. Communism is a global system under which every society is ordered on the principle of:
 - a. Every man for himself
 - b. From each according to ability, to each according to needs
 - c. Teach a man to fish and he'll eat for a lifetime
 - d. Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth

