

Student's Guide: The State

SUBJECT

The State

TEACHER

Chairman Omali
Yeshitela

READINGS

Lenin: The State
and Revolution

DATE AND TIME

[Select Date]

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THE MOST IMPORTANT POINTS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS SUBJECT

1. The State arises when a society is split into classes--the haves and have-nots--especially when those who have amassed more resources got them at the expense of others.
2. The State is an organ of violence and coercion protecting and serving the interests of a definite class.
3. The State upholds the dominant forces of a given social system, and the class in power.
4. The bourgeois State is differentiated from past states in societies. The bourgeois State was born as an international state tied to the birth of parasitic capitalism on the backs of enslaved Africans and colonized peoples.
5. The capitalist-colonial State protects the capitalist social system and the bourgeoisie; a socialist state protects the socialist social system and the working class.
6. The State involves the establishment of a special force, a public power that appears to stand above society and is always repressive.
7. The State uses the force of arms, creating "special bodies of armed men" [and women] to enforce its mandates and class interests.
8. The State encompasses the police, the military, the courts and prisons.
9. The State forces its subjects to do things they might not want to do—pay taxes or go to prison for something the State has determined is illegal.
10. The State has the coercive power to enforce its mandates.
11. In the U.S. grocery stores are filled with food, something everyone needs to live.
12. If you try to take some of the grocery store's food without paying you will experience the coercive power of the State.
13. The capitalist State keeps the oppressed African working class from taking back the value of the labor and resources stolen and exploited from us by parasitic capitalism.
14. The contradiction between the African working class and the white ruling class is an antagonistic contradiction and irreconcilable.
15. An antagonistic, irreconcilable contradiction is one that is enforced by State violence and can only be overturned by armed revolutionary struggle by the oppressed.
16. To win a true victory the colonized workers must overthrow all remnants of the capitalist-colonial state power—the military, police etc., and replace them with the revolutionary worker's State—the People's Army and defense forces.
17. Democracy is a form of the bourgeois State. Lenin stated: "A democratic republic is the best possible political shell for capitalism."
18. The fact that people can vote or speak at a city council meeting covers over the fact that both political parties in the U.S. represent the interests of the capitalist ruling class.
19. The democratic form of the bourgeois State masks the colonial reality for African people.
20. Capitalism and the capitalist State were born parasitic through the

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	<p>enslavement of African people, the genocide of the Indigenous people and the colonial domination of the majority of the world's peoples.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. All white people, regardless of class sit on the pedestal of the oppression of African and other colonized peoples and enjoy the resulting economic and political benefits. 22. White working people therefore have unity with their own ruling class against African and colonized peoples, and willingly and voluntarily enforce and carry out State violence and terror against African people. 23. Class question is concentrated in the colonial question, no class in the white society to overturn the state. National suicide and solidarity. 24. African people inside the U.S. are colonized subjects, no different than Africans under the Apartheid regime of South Africa. 25. Therefore there are two faces of the U.S. State: the democratic face of the State for white people. 26. And the full force of the violent, coercive colonial state used against African workers. Dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. 27. The democratic form of the bourgeois State serves to obscure the repressive nature of the State towards African and oppressed peoples. 28. Fascism is often defined as the form of the state characterized by the exposure and use of armed force against the citizens and the lack of democratic rights. 29. Counterinsurgency is the military, political, economic and other actions taken by the oppressor nation state against the revolutionary movement and/or guerrilla warfare of the oppressed and colonized people. 30. In the 1960s the Black Revolution was called "the greatest internal threat to U.S. security since the Civil War," by the FBI, and U.S. government. 31. The U.S. launched COINTELPRO, a counterinsurgent force targeting our movement and our people. 32. The US waged a war without terms against African revolutionaries and the masses of our people: Assassinations, imprisonment, slander, provocateurs were used against us. 33. African communities were flooded with deadly drugs and entire communities are swept into prisons. The whole African community was criminalized. 34. Unlike in the white communities highly armed police occupy our communities and our people are shot down and terrorized daily. 35. Counterinsurgency is not the result of bad cops or bad policy. 36. Counterinsurgency is the correct, predictable response of the capitalist imperialist State to a revolutionary threat by the colonized people. 37. Neocolonialism: white power in black face. 38. Neocolonialism is the method of indirect rule of the colonial state in which a nation of people is controlled through using the members of the colonized petty bourgeoisie to carry out the interests and will of the colonial state. 39. The neocolonialists are often more brutal in their repression of the colonized people than the colonial state itself. 40. The working class seizes power through its Party the African People's Socialist Party through violent revolution. The means of production become state property under the leadership of the working class.
READINGS	Lenin: The State and Revolution

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TEACHING TOOLS YOU WILL USE	<p>PowerPoint presentation</p>
QUIZ QUESTIONS STUDENTS MUST ANSWER	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Under what conditions does the State arise in history? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Define the State. b. How was the imperialist bourgeois State born? c. What does the State encompass? d. Give an example of the coercive power of the State. 2. The relationship between the U.S. colonial State and the African working class is an antagonistic relationship. What does that mean? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Can the African working class win our liberation by voting in our own government? Why or why not? b. Give an example of an anti-colonial struggle that came to power but did not destroy the colonial State. What happened? 3. How is democracy a form of the State? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What does that mean about the democratic rights that African workers may have inside the U.S., Europe or Africa? b. Give an example of how democratic rights mask the coercive power of the bourgeois State. 4. Do white people in the U.S., Europe or Africa have the same relationship to the State as African workers? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Explain why. b. Why do white people generally have unity with their own ruling class and State? c. Do ALL white people sit on the pedestal of the oppression of African and oppressed peoples, even poor or homeless white people? 5. What are some examples of white people in the U.S. carrying out the coercive violence of the colonial State? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What does the Chairman mean when he says that the class question is located in the colonial contradiction? b. What is fascism? c. How do colonized peoples experience fascism? 6. What is counterinsurgency? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are some actions and fronts of counterinsurgency? b. What is an example of counterinsurgency used against African people in the U.S? c. What was COINTELPRO? 7. Why does the Chairman say about the infusion of drugs into the African community? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Are African people shot down by bad cops? b. Are millions of African people in prison because they are criminals?

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">8. What is neocolonialism?<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Name an example of neocolonialism in Africa.b. Name an example of neocolonialism in the U.S.c. Neocolonialists come from what class?d. Do neocolonialists have good intentions?9. What is the "withering away of the State and the nation"?<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. When the African working class seizes power in Africa what will be the outcome of that?b. What will happen to the borders in Africa today?c. What is the proletariat?d. Will the proletariat exist when African workers have power?10. What is communism?<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Under what conditions can there be communism?b. Why does the State wither away under communism?c. Why can the struggle for the unite, liberated State of the African working class only be led by the African People's Socialist Party? |
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