



Resisting the G-20 in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH G-20 RESISTANCE PROJECT INFO SESSION



Introduction

- *The leaders of the world's most powerful economies will be descending on Pittsburgh on September 24-25, 2009.*
- *At the September summit, the G-20 leaders plan to discuss a restructuring of the International Monetary Fund and the implementation of a \$1 trillion bailout plan to help capitalism weather the current financial crisis.*
- *In Pittsburgh, we don't plan on allowing the G-20's presence in our town to go un-confronted.*
- *This presentation is offered the Pittsburgh G-20 Resistance Project to give organizers around the country an insight into the on-the-ground organizing happening in Pittsburgh around the G-20 Summit.*



About the Pittsburgh G-20 Resistance Project

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The Pittsburgh G-20 Resistance Project is a space where folks can come together and collaborate on ways to resist the G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh. Our goals are to lay the groundwork, provide an information clearing-house, create & distribute publicity and educational materials; build momentum for the mobilization, engage in local, regional and national outreach; and develop an action framework. We seek to help coordinate efforts among like-minded people in order to create a just and sustainable world.



Points of Unity

We Support:

Work to end all relationships of domination and subjugation, including but not limited to those rooted in patriarchy, racism, classism, homophobia, capitalism, imperialism and the state;

Resistance to the commodification of our shared and living earth

Organization on the principles of decentralization, autonomy, sustainability, mutual aid and respect





Points of Unity (continued)



- *Opposition to the police and prison-industrial complex, and maintaining solidarity with all targets of state repression*
- *The use of a diversity of tactics to directly confront systems of oppression by advocating forms of resistance which maximize respect for life and oppressed peoples' rights, and to construct local alternatives to global capitalism*



How we organize...

The Project holds weekly public meetings, but our work is carried out by semi-autonomous working groups. Participation in each working group is predicated on the assumption that each member supports our Points of Unity

- CURRENT WORKING GROUPS
 - MATERIALS/WEBSITE
 - LOCAL OUTREACH
 - MOBILIZATION OUTREACH AND NETWORKING
 - CORPORATE MEDIA
 - LEGAL
 - ACTION FRAMEWORK
 - MEDICS
 - LOGISTICS



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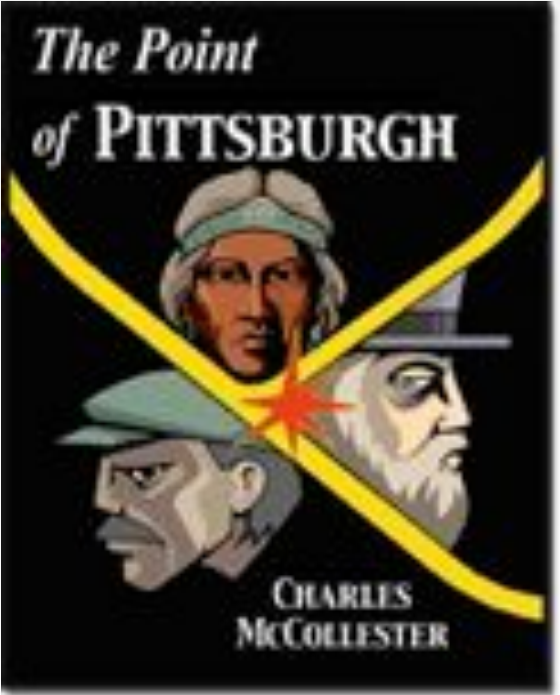
About Pittsburgh





Radical History in Pittsburgh

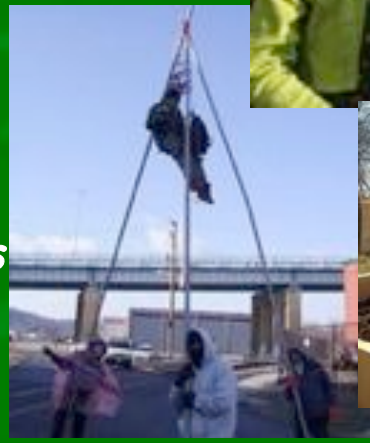
- *Southwest Pennsylvania has a deep and rich history of radical struggle against the oppressive forces of capitalism and the state.*
 - *The Pittsburgh Congress of 1883 is widely credited with founding the American Anarchist Movement.*
 - *During the Homestead Strike of 1892 Strikers fought Pinkertons in one of the bloodiest labor fights in American history.*
 - *Pittsburgh is the birthplace of dozens of national unions including the Steelworkers, the AFL, the CIO, and the AFL-CIO.*
- *The entire region is still reeling from the Steel crisis of the 1970's and 1980's and as a result, many in the rustbelt are searching for alternatives to industrial capitalism.*





Recent Radical History in Pittsburgh

- *The Pittsburgh area has a strong and diverse anarchist Movement*
 - *The Pittsburgh Organizing Group (POG) has been organizing in Pittsburgh for 6+ years*
 - *A newer anarchist group, the Greater Pittsburgh Anarchist Collective (GPAC) has recently formed and operates a social center in Garfield*
 - *There are several 'dual power institution' projects throughout the city including a community farm, a bike cooperative, a radical book store and a books-to-prisoners project*
- *In general, radical projects in Pittsburgh maintain strong and productive relationships with mainstream social justice projects throughout the city*



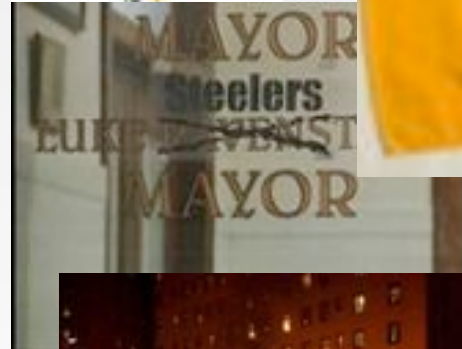


Regional Identity

Many folks in Pittsburgh maintain a strong regional-cultural identity that is deeply rooted in our history.

The southwest Pennsylvania regional dialect, Pittsburghese is easily recognizable and marked by words like yinz (you all), n'at (and that), redd up (clean up), and dropped infinitives.

Many folks in Pittsburgh (even many radicals) are fiercely loyal to Pittsburgh sports teams—notably the Steelers (pronounced 'Stillerz') and the Penguins. The Cleveland Browns are our sworn enemies and oft referred to as 'a bunch of jaggoffs.'





Pittsburgh Geography

PITTSBURGH IS LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE
MONONGAHELA, ALLEGHENY, AND OHIO RIVERS

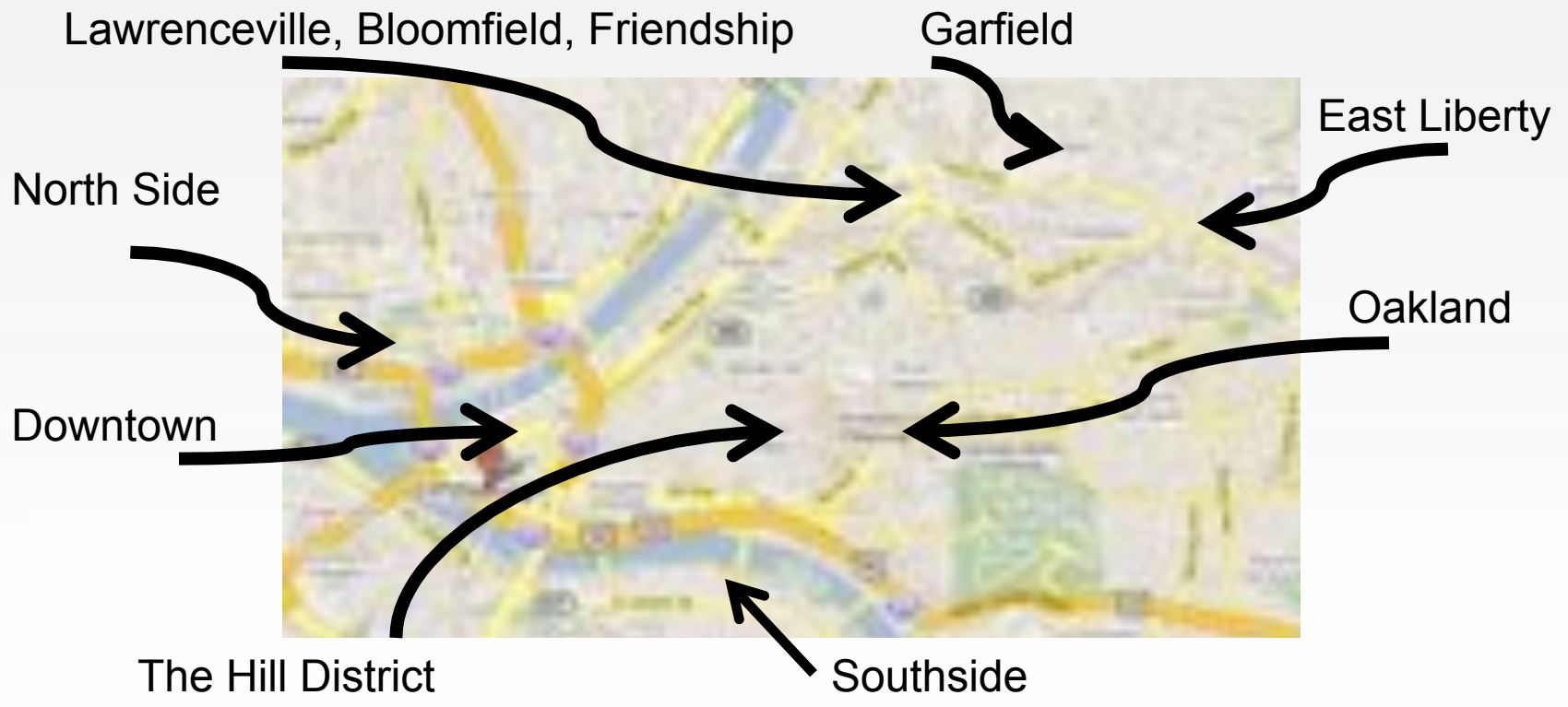


THE G-20 SUMMIT IS BEING HELD AT THE DAVID L. LAWRENCE CONVENTION CENTER IN DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH, OVERLOOKING THE ALLEGHENY RIVER





Neighborhoods





The G-20 in Pittsburgh

BAD FOR PITTSBURGH. BAD FOR THE WORLD



G-20 in Pittsburgh

- *On Thursday, May 28 the White House announced that Barack Obama would be hosting the G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh, PA.*
- *Pittsburgh was apparently picked because of its experience with economic crises, having weathered the brunt of the steel crisis of the 1970's and 1980's.*
- *The Obama administration is apparently seeking to present the 'Pittsburgh Model' as a model for economic recovery.*





The Pittsburgh Model: Capitalism and Crisis

From 1850 until at least 1970, Pittsburgh's economy was built around the steel industry and heavy manufacturing.

Following World War II, as manufacturers stopped investing in high-wage North American production and steel producers began to face strong competition from steel imports from developing countries, the Pittsburgh steel industry began a precipitous decline.

By the late 1970's, faced with a boom of steel imports and antiquated equipment, the North American steel industry descended into a virtual freefall.

Between 1950 and 2000, Pittsburgh's population dropped from 671,659 to 334,563

More than 20% of the population lives below the poverty line, and more than 1,100 Pittsburghers are homeless





The Pittsburgh Model for Economic Recovery



- *The Pittsburgh model for economic redevelopment has been to*
 - *Promote the influx of extractive industries like casinos*
 - *Knock down low income housing to make way for casinos*
 - *Attract artists and the 'creative class' to poor neighborhoods to push out low income folks and people of color*
 - *Replace working class jobs with high-tech industries like robotics*



Hospitals and Universities

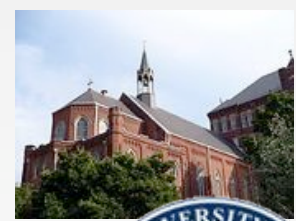


The USX Tower, the iconic home US Steel, now sports the UPMC logo on the top floors of the building.

- Over the past 30 years, stable manufacturing jobs in Pittsburgh’s manufacturing sector have been replaced by service sector jobs in healthcare and higher education.
 - The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) is the largest employer in the state of Pennsylvania with 48,000 employees.
 - Universities are another major local employer. Pittsburgh is home to nearly a dozen major public and private universities including the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, and Duquesne University.

•When we think of jobs in education and healthcare we generally think of high-paying, high-profile jobs like doctors and professors, but the vast majority of healthcare workers are non-professional employees like technicians, maintenance staff, and medical assistants and the vast majority of university employees work in food-service, clerical, and maintenance.

•Non-professional employees in Pittsburgh’s hospitals and universities are largely non-union, work just above poverty levels, and lack the high-end employment benefits that their professional counterparts enjoy.





Resisting the G-20 in Pittsburgh

OUR CALL TO ACTION



PG20RP Action Framework

- *The Action Working Group has laid out a tentative proposal for a three-Day convergence plan*
 - *Wednesday September 23—Eve of the G-20 Action*
 - *Thursday, September 24—Main Day of Action. 2:30 pm March on the G-20*
 - *Friday, September 25—Festival of Resistance*
- *Mobilization Objectives*
 - *Defend our communities*
 - *Occupy and liberate spaces*
 - *Draw ties between global neoliberalism and local struggles*





Logistics and Resources

WE'RE GETTING READY



Local Logistics

- *The PG20RP Logistics Working Group is tasked with finding a convergence space, coordinating housing, providing food and action medical support*
 - *Housing—We will be offering several different types of housing based on our visitors' needs. This will include housing at homes, mass housing, and a creative longer-term housing option.*
 - *Food—We are working to provide at least some limited food for the mobilization. Details are forthcoming*
 - *Convergence Space—We have secured a space for mass meetings. This will not, however be available at times when meetings are not scheduled. We are exploring other spaces to act as info centers and redirect points.*
 - *Medical—The great folks from Seeds of Peace/East Coast Action Medics have agreed to bottom-line this portion of the mobilization. To get involved, contact medics@resistg20.org*



Training

- *Pittsburgh Organizing Group's Tactical Training Initiative has offered to facilitate a series of trainings in preparation for the mobilization.*
- *Trainings being offered*
 - *Participating in a mass Action 101*
 - *Global Political and Economic Frameworks: an Introduction to the G-20 the IMF and Economic Crisis*
 - *Strategic Corporate Research—Special Financial Meltdown Edition*
 - *Lockboxes and Lockdown Devices*
 - *Working with the Media...for Anarchists!*
- *A schedule of local trainings is available at resistg20.org*
- *To schedule one of these workshops in your city, contact pog@mutualaid.org*



Legal

- ***The PG20RP Legal Working Group will be***
 - *Providing appropriate know-your-rights and security culture trainings and materials before the summit.*
 - *Staffing a legal hotline during the mobilization and helping to track arrestees through the system.*
 - *Helping to coordinate mass legal defense after the action.*
 - *Working to bring plaintiffs for likely civil litigation after the action.*
- *The Legal Working Group is working with a great team of local activist attorneys who have agreed to provide legal advice to the PG20RP.*
- *At this point, however, the Legal Working Group cannot commit to bailing out large numbers of arrestees or securing pro-bono legal representation to all arrestees.*



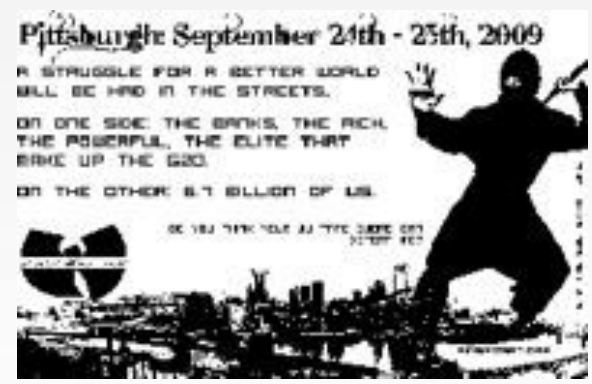
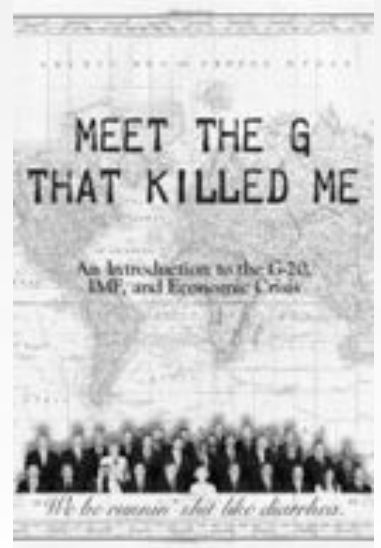
Local Outreach

- THE LOCAL OUTREACH WORKING GROUP OF THE PG2ORP IS UNROLLING A SUMMER-LONG PLAN TO REACH OUT TO OUR NEIGHBORS AND TALK WITH THEM ABOUT THE G-20, ITS IMPACTS AND WHAT TO EXPECT IN SEPTEMBER.
- LOCAL ORGANIZERS HAVE BEEN GOING DOOR-TO-DOOR IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS, DISTRIBUTING LITERATURE AND TALKING TO PEOPLE ABOUT THE G-20





Materials



The PG20RP Materials Working Group is administering the resistg20.org web site and developing flyers, posters and other propaganda to build hype about the G-20. If you've got materials that you'd like posted on our website, contact materials@resistg20.org



Mobilization Outreach

- *The Mobilization Outreach Working Group is meeting with groups across Pittsburgh and across the US about the actions.*
- *If you would like someone from the Mobilization Outreach Working Group to provide an info-session for your organization, contact outreach@resistg20.org*
- *Outreach Info-sessions Planned*
 - *July 10-12 SDS National Conference in Tennessee*
 - *July 17-19 Self Described Anarchist Collective (SDAC) Anarchy Summer Camp in Virginia*
 - *July 20-26 Crimethinc Convergence in Pittsburgh, PA*
 - *August 14-15 Possible Mid Atlantic G20 Organizing Consulta in Frederick, MD*
 - *August 15-16 Anarchist Olympics in San Francisco*
 - *September 5-6 Northeast Anarchist Network G-20 Consulta in Boston, MA*



Get Involved!

- *Help make this mobilization a success. All working groups are currently still open—no experience is necessary but you should be willing to commit to our points of unity.*
 - LOGISTICS@RESISTG20.ORG
 - MATERIALS@RESISTG20.ORG
 - LEGAL@RESISTG20.ORG
 - MEDICS@RESISTG20.ORG
 - ACTION@RESISTG20.ORG
 - LOCAL-OUTREACH@RESISTG20.ORG
 - OUTREACH@RESISTG20.ORG
- *Remember, you don't have to live in Pittsburgh to get involved in a working group!*