

**Socialist Education Project report**  
**CCDS National Convention**  
**August 2020, online**

The CCDS socialist education project held a planning workshop at the 2016 national convention in San Francisco, cosponsored by the Democracy Project. In the four years since then the SEP has met monthly and consistently organized over 40 “Fourth Monday” online Zoom discussions on a broad range of current political topics, featuring a presentation followed by Q&A and discussion. Participation has ranged from 15-75 people, including CCDS members and friends.

The monthly discussions have provided an opportunity for left unity work. Participants have included not only members of CCDS, but also Liberation Road (Freedom Road Socialist Organization), DSA, CPUSA, Left Roots supporters, Organizing Upgrade, Inside/Outside initiative, Green Party, Progressive Democrats, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, United for Peace and Justice, as well as labor organizations.

In 2020, the February program for black history month was organized by the Democracy Project on the life of Jack O’Dell in the struggle against racism. Bill Fletcher facilitated this discussion. Also co-sponsored with Liberation Road were programs during the pandemic entitled, “Elections 2020: Covid 19, the Left and the uprising against racist violence,” and “Race and Mass Incarceration in the time of Covid-19,” as well as “New Political Openings in the time of Covid-19.” Work with LR introduced different participatory formats for presentations and discussion.

The September 2020 SEP program features Pem Davidson Buck, author of the book, “The Punishment Monopoly: Tales of My Ancestors, Dispossession, and the Building of the United States.” She also wrote, “Worked to the Bone: Race, Class, Power and Privilege in Kentucky”

## **I. Publications, books**

During the period 2016-2020, CCDS published five books through Changemaker Press:

- 2017 – “The Russian Revolution & the Soviet Union: Seeds of 21<sup>st</sup> century socialism” (edited by SEP)

- 2018 – “Taking Down White Supremacy: A Reader on Multiracial and Multinational Unity” (edited by SEP)

In addition, SEP made contributions to Dialogue and Initiative, CCDS annual reader:

- 2016 – Dialogue and Initiative: “CCDS, the Left & the Progressive Majority: Past, Present, Future” (edited by D&I Board)
- 2017 – Dialogue and Initiative: “For Jobs, Equality, Democracy and Peace” (edited by D&I Board)
- 2018 – Dialogue and Initiative: “Elections, Issues, Movements, Socialism, Theory” (edited by D&I Board)

**II. Sunday School/powerpoints** – In-depth learning accompanied by a power point presentation. Posted at the Online University of the Left:

- Sand and Blood (posted at the Online University of the Left)
- U.S. constitution (posted at OUL)
- Catastrophic Climate Change, presented by David Schwartzman (posted at OUL)
- Imperialism and Dependency in Latin America (available from SEP)
- Class and Race (available from SEP)
- Next Sunday School is Sept. 20 on China and the new cold war, and Chinese socialism (first of two-part series).

**III. Speakers Bureau** -- for online and in-person presentation. This project is not functioning at this time.