

'People's revolution' in US

By GAUTAM PINGLE

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The protest campaign "Occupy Wall Street" which has been spreading across the US has now become movement, thanks to the power of micro blogging networks. The protesters are rallying against what they see as social inequities resulting from the failure of the financial system. Their inspiration comes from the Arab Spring protests that swept through Africa and the Middle East this year. From mid-September, crowds have taken up residence in a park in New York's financial district, calling for 20,000 people to flood the area for a "few months."

The movement is described as a protest of 99 per cent of the public against the machinations of one per cent of people who own 50 per cent of US wealth and determine the lives of the rest of population. As the Wall Street symbolizes the power of the wealthy one per cent, the campaigners want to neutralize the powerful one per cent people's activities through protests. The movement calls for various forms of peaceful and nonviolent protests aimed at highlighting the distress of millions of Americans who have been thrown out of their homes and jobs for no fault of theirs.

The mainline press, which has ignored the movement for weeks, is now reacting to the events slowly after police brutality reports. The movement, guided by the social media, began to find a resonance and support in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and other cities. In New York, for example, the number of protesters rose from 200 last week to an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 at the weekend's march. On Saturday, in Los Angeles, hundreds of protesters marched on the City Hall with the intention of starting a similar encampment. In Boston, protesters have already started camping out in Dewey Square, near the city's financial district.

It is interesting to know who these protestors and their demands are . They seem to be all working class and middle class people who have been affected directly or whose families have suffered in the 2008 financial crisis and thereafter. They are fed up with lack of gainful employment and loss of wealth in terms of their homes, savings etc. They are people who in better times would have been the foundation of American society with their work ethics, saving habits and responsible citizenship. They are a new generation of Americans confronted with "no jobs, no future" but enormous debt. Their demands include: An end to poverty, health-profiteering, American imperialism, war, etc.

The protesters said in their messages: "On September 21st, 2011, we stood in solidarity with Madrid, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Madison, Toronto, London, Athens, Sydney, Stuttgart, Tokyo, Milan, Amsterdam, Algiers, Tel Aviv, Portland and Chicago. Soon we will stand with Phoenix, Montreal, Cleveland and Atlanta. We're still here. We are growing. We intend to stay

until we see movements toward real change in our country and the world. “You have fought all the wars. You have worked for all the bosses. You have wandered over all the countries. Have you harvested the fruits of your labours, the price of your victories? Does the past comfort you? Does the present smile on you? Does the future promise you anything? Have you found a piece of land where you can live like a human being and die like a human being? On these questions, on this argument, and on this theme, the struggle for existence, the people will speak. Join us. “We speak as one. All of our decisions, from our choice to march on Wall Street to our decision to continue occupying Liberty Square, were decided through a consensus based process by the group, for the group.”

This type of movement cannot be ignored or wished away. They are not the creation of a person or persons but of the events that preceded the present situation. They seem spontaneous and with the new social media can link up with hundreds of thousand of others. The governments all over the world find it difficult to pin them down as they tend largely to be without recognizable leaders and the leadership is rather direct and simple and needs very little training. That such a phenomenon should take place in the epicenter of the United States and its powerful financial system is extraordinary.

Ten years ago, on 9/11, foreign enemies of the United States attacked this centre with the intention of destroying the United States. This September 17th, thousands of American patriots are demonstrating in the same place to make America a fairer place to live and work in.

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DR GAUTAM PINGLE
DIRECTOR
CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF INDIA
BELLA VISTA
RAJ BHAVAN ROAD
HYDERABAD 500082
TEL:+91-40-6653 3000, 3081
+91-40-2331 0907 (D)
FAX:+91-40-66534356/ 23313882
E-MAIL: gpingle@asci.org.in
gautam.pingle@gmail.com