

## **REVOLUTION BOOKS / LIBROS REVOLUCION**

146 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street, NY 10001 (between 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> Aves)

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Dear Professor,

This is an invitation to order your textbooks through Revolution Books. This contributes both to saving Revolution Books and at the same time exposes your students to a world of radical discourse and critical engagement. For those of you who have ordered from us we'd like to take this time to say thank you and hope you continue to support our store in this way, and if you know other professors who would want to do this, by all means let them know. For those new professors, some of whom we've met with briefly in the last few months, please read on and go to our website [www.revolutionbooksnyc.org](http://www.revolutionbooksnyc.org) for what has been going on and what is coming up.

The future of Revolution Books is in peril at a time when it is needed more than ever... Look at the world today: Hunger faces over a billion people daily. War continues to ravage the Middle East, with little opposition. Black and Latino youth in the U.S. are incarcerated at a rate unprecedented—hundreds of thousands of lives destroyed. The ecological future of the planet itself is in jeopardy.

Yet there isn't an atmosphere and culture of defiance, resistance, and revolution. Critical thinking and radical discourse are suffocated. Revolution Books has been stepping up to puncture this—emerging over the past year as a center of radical and revolutionary ferment. Just a few examples: last January when Israel was pounding Gaza, our store organized a town hall meeting calling this out for the mass murder that it was which drew 650 people; a couple of months later another town hall meeting on torture which drew hundreds; and then on July 14<sup>th</sup>, under the title "The Ascendancy of Obama, and the Continued Need for Resistance and Liberation", our store organized a dialogue between Cornel West and Carl Dix—which brought out over 800 people at Aaron Davis Hall, many of them under 25.

People from all over the world come to the store to find the books and deep engagement with each other about the possibility of a radically different world. When controversial issues arise, when no one else will provide a forum, Revolution Books does—in the store and at venues beyond its four walls. At town hall meetings, forums, open mics, films and salons, Revolution Books has been part of contributing to a new spirit and atmosphere of critical engagement, putting revolution back into the larger societal conversation.

Today, scores of professors order their textbooks through Revolution Books, and we need to triple that for our survival and ability to have the kind of societal impact that is needed. We also want to know what scholarship you think is important; we've learned much about what is on the cutting edge of philosophy, political science, history, natural science, literature, film and media and other areas from the professors we've gotten to know over the years. Conversely, academics have learned much from what we carry in

our store. In some cases, professors have even developed their syllabi from what we have in stock.

Using Revolution Books will be great for your students, as they are exposed to what our bookstore has to offer, and are given the opportunity to be part of cracking open debate on the questions facing people here and around the world. Some of our all-volunteer staff are drawn from students we've met this way (many of you first got to know us when you were students), and we need to involve many more. Also, because we are an educational institution, we don't charge sales tax for any books school-related, and we keep prices low.

**How it works (please see our easy to fill out ordering form as a separate attachment):**

*Except for the schools that are located near the store, we have teams of people go to your classroom to sell the books on a designated day[s].* Some professors like us to come the first day, some the second, etc., and if need be we come back a few weeks later for any residual needs. In the classroom, we give a picture of what our store is doing and ask if there are any questions about the store. This is usually a brief exchange. Some professors give us the classroom time to go deeper, and some prefer we don't take up time for this engagement. We are amenable. We sell the books in an orderly fashion and we accept all forms of payment. We accept Pell grant funds, although this has to be done at our physical store location at 146 West 26<sup>th</sup> St. Students generally like this and they avoid the long lines of a commercial bookstore. Most importantly, we introduce them to a perspective they would just not encounter otherwise.

Professors have asked us: so what's up with the students today? This store is one vital resource to awaken, inform, and inspire a new generation. A good example of this was professors at NYU telling their students to check out an event we organized at there called "Everything You've Been Told About Communism Is Wrong...Capitalism Is a Failure...Revolution Is the Solution." Over 120 students attended. Please be part of that awakening, informing and inspiring; in no small way does this ensure our staying open and flourishing.

Smitty, for Revolution Books