

# The Party Bulletin Issue 5 Sept '07

## New Afrikan Maoist Party (NAMPA)

PO BOX 40799 • San Francisco, CA 94140

### FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Salamu Ndugu!

This issue of the Party Bulletin features a number of articles from Our ndugu at the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM). These are documents that We selected as important for building the foundations of Our ideology among Our readers. The first two articles address the basic questions of how We can be most effective. These ideas are related to the criticisms We have made of other organizations in the past. We will be building on the philosophical concepts of materialism in the next issue. The third article is the first installment of a series to introduce ndugus to basic concepts of political economy.

We want to remind Our incarcerated ndugus that if you can't afford to make regular bimonthly contributions, you need to at least write in once every three months and send in some contribution when you can. It's also important that ndugus in prison notify Us of what they are receiving. Our incarcerated ndugus now benefit from MIM's Free Political Literature to Prisoners Program. Therefore, any prisoner who has been active on Our list should have received a number of issues of MIM Notes in addition to the Party Bulletin every 2 months. By notifying Us of what you receive and when we can better track censorship and the effectiveness of Our work. If you do experience censorship, appeal the decision thru the appropriate means if possible, and forward any documentation to NAMPA.

All checks and money orders should be made out to "NAMPA c/o MIM Distr." and sent to PO Box 40799, San Francisco, CA 94140. Bi-monthly contributions are still \$5.00-- and from prisoners, \$2.05 or 5 stamps. Contributions should be made in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

We're still accepting essays, reviews, poems, or artwork that agree with Our party line and contributes to the propagation of a revolutionary culture that promotes values like the community being as a family, or controlling the means to produce what money buys versus having money.

We also still need people with computers and internet access to volunteer in helping Us produce and distribute Our bulletin and other literature.

Uhuru ni Lazima, Tutashinda!

CHOOSING ONE IDEOLOGY OVER ANOTHER:  
THE MATERIALIST METHOD

by MC5

*“We can (and must) begin to build socialism, not with abstract human material, or with human material specially prepared by us, but with the human material bequeathed to us by capitalism. True, it is not an easy matter, but no other approach to this task is serious enough to warrant discussion.”*

*V. I. Lenin, “‘Left-Wing Communism,’--An Infantile Disorder,”  
Collected Works, Vol. 31, p. 50.*

It is only by examining the practice of various ideologies over the long run of history that one can decide which ideology is the most effective in promoting end of oppression of oppressed groups by oppressor groups. In contrast, some people think it is fair to compare an abstract idea with an actual movement. That is not materialist method. Once one allows ideas to be compared with actual, historical movements one has no way of stopping all kinds of comparisons of ideas with actual practices. One can only compare practices with practices.

It is intellectuals and Trotskyists who compare practices with ideas to see how good or bad the practice is. With this comparison, for example, it is easy to shoot down the practice of Stalinism with the ideas of Trotskyism or the ideas of Madison and Jefferson or any idea for that matter. This method is not wrong because it is Trotskyist or Madisonian. Rather, Trotskyism is wrong because it uses this idealist method to criticize Stalinism instead of comparing Trotskyist practice with Stalinist practice.

In the same vein, it's not fair to compare Maoism with Jesus Christ in the abstract. Maybe Mao did not obey the 10 Commandments. But his followers have a better practice than the Christians when it comes to ending oppression.

The only time it is correct to evaluate a practice in relationship to an idea is within that practice. Maoists can determine if there are better ways to be Maoists and tap existing potential by discussing ideas within Maoism. Even then, the only proof of the validity of a new Maoist idea is by comparing one Maoist practice with another Maoist practice.

Hence MIM uses the “where’s the beef” taunt to everyone else. There are an infinity of logically consistent ideas ranging from professors’ pet economic models to Hare Krishna. Only some ideas, however, have come with practices to end oppression. By choosing the ideology that goes with the most historically effective practice of social change to end oppression, one separates oneself from dogmatism and religion. Dogmatism may take the form of believing in reform no matter what; it may take the form of opposing dogma all the time, but in every case dogmatism and religion really amount to comparing apples and oranges, the apples being ideas and the oranges, practices. Dogmatists of all stripes conclude that oranges should be more like apples. In contrast, Marxist

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materialists just pick the best oranges.

NAMP forms the following conclusions on the materialist method:

\* In debate, we must decide when it is appropriate to compare practices with each other.

\* Then we must decide on when it is appropriate to develop ideas within a practice.

## DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM

by MC17 & MC11

Published MIM Notes 51, April 1991

*“It is, I think, almost universally realized at present that the Bolsheviks could not have retained power for two and a half months, let alone two and a half years, without the most rigorous and truly iron discipline in our Party...” - V.I. Lenin(1)*

Democratic centralism is a principle of organization that can be used (or abused) by any functioning group. The democratic part of the term defines the equal participation and voice expected from all members of the organization. The centralism refers to the mandate that all members uphold all decisions made by the democratic processes of the organization.

In practical terms this translates into real participatory democracy within, but with strict discipline expected from all members. Even if one member disagrees with a decision, s/he is expected to uphold the decision externally while working from within to convince other members that they are wrong. This method of organization is based on the assumption that eventually the majority of the members of a group, presented with conflicting views, will be able to arrive at the best possible decision. This may be a prolonged process, and mistakes may be made, but the democratic element ensures that debate can go on until all members are satisfied.

First, the question of why people organizing for a socialist revolution should adopt structures at all needs to be addressed. To answer this we need to look at groups that exist without structure, in relative anarchy. These organizations can never be truly democratic because they inevitably lead to the formation of informal cliques that translate into power for those more experienced or more

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connected people - and powerlessness for other members. This is seen in single-issue organizations which almost always have a regular practice of informal decision making that only involves some of the members - usually the more experienced ones. Ironically it is people in these groups who most often oppose democratic centralism, deeming it undemocratic by comparing it to their own practice.

This is not to say that cliques will not exist in a party. The difference between groups that don't follow democratic centralist principles and a party is that the party has the structure and therefore the potential to enact policies that keep individuals or groups from usurping power, allowing true democratic participation from all members. Structurally, democratic centralism disperses power to all the members. This possibility does not exist in supposedly unstructured organizations.

If you accept the need for some kind of organized structure, the next question that inevitably arises (for those who support democracy) is why the discipline of centralism. This can be answered in part by looking at the history of the Black Panther Party (BPP). As an organization that only loosely enforced anything resembling centralism, particularly in the early years, the BPP suffered much infiltration and destruction at the hands of the FBI, CIA and police. It is much easier for these agents of the state to split and wreck a group which is not under centralist discipline. State spies had no problem discovering which BPP members disagreed with which others. They used this knowledge to play one off the other, by sending forged messages to people, and by agitating with those not entirely satisfied with a policy or rule. Rather than fostering healthy debate, the lack of centralism served to stifle it, allowing dishonest elements into destructively powerful and knowledgeable roles within their party. If all members of a party uphold the party line to the general public it will be much more difficult for agents of the state to create false conflict from the outside. This reduces one potentially destructive force on the party. They may still pursue this destruction from within, and this is where the structure of centralism becomes necessary to fight against the formation of cliques that are aimed at undermining democratic processes.

Of course, party members are not immune from the pressures the dominant capitalist ideology and culture exert on everyone's analysis and behavior. Even without state agents consciously trying to subvert the party, cadres are susceptible to spontaneous actions and incorrect ideas. Democratic centralism protects the party from being discredited by individual cadres following their spontaneous whims - which cannot help but be influenced by bourgeois forces and ideology. Recognizing individualism as a danger, centralism mandates that political lines and the practice that they dictate be discussed and voted on by the membership before the party authorizes an action or statement in its name. Either way, from within or without, centralism provides a structure that enables the party to exist in the face of the powerful and destructive forces of the state.

In any group, a lack of discipline on the part of members of an organization can be destructive to that organization. People need to be counted on in order for work to run as smoothly and efficiently as possible. In an organization

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whose goal is to seize power from the bourgeoisie, discipline and unity are essential if it is to have any chance of success. The bourgeoisie is itself very organized and disciplined.

Although Marx's material analysis of history proved that socialism is inevitable, bourgeois ownership of the means of production and control over the production of culture clearly puts the ruling class at a huge tactical advantage over those attempting to overthrow the capitalist system. The capitalists can succeed in putting off revolution indefinitely if no organized group arises to overthrow this system. Undisciplined groups have no chance of wresting state power from the current ruling class.

The truly successful revolutions of history were led by revolutionary parties operating under the principle of democratic centralism. There are no examples of success to point to that did not use such a structure. People are dying daily at the hands of capitalism, and to refuse a structure that has been proven to advance the revolutionary cause is to accept more deaths by postponing revolution.

Recognizing that everyone's personal lives have repercussions for the organization as a whole, the discipline of centralism allows the party to make rules to minimize the potential damage to the party. Members regulate their personal activities for the sake of the organization, but working from the assumption of the importance of the organization. This is merely one facet of their devotion to their work. All rules controlling behavior are made by the members and are always up for debate and change internally. If one presumes that the majority of the members will arrive at policies effective in achieving the greatest good for the organization, working for the people of the world, they should be willing to carry out these rules in the interest of the party's success.

People sometimes complain about the freedoms they are giving up for the sake of the party. But these people fail to question what freedom is under capitalism. Certainly MIM does not have the freedom to oppose exploitation and oppression. Black, Latino and First Nation peoples in this country are not free to pursue "the Amerikan dream." People in Amerika's Third World colonies are not free to eat, have medical care or go to school. The freedoms that people in this country are afraid of giving up are privileges. If people really believe they deserve these "freedoms" they should not be fighting for a revolution and do not belong in a revolutionary party in the first place.

Democratic centralism is the only structure of organization proven to advance the revolutionary cause. It is a structure of discipline that enables a revolutionary party to wage the most effective fight against the capitalist system.

Note: "Left-Wing" Communism, An Infantile Disorder, Selected Works. New York: International Publishers, 1971, p.516.

## **MONKEYS LIVING ON PARADISE ISLAND: ABOUT TRADE, COOPERATION, DIVISION OF LABOR AND THE LABOR THEORY OF VALUE**

by MC5, December 3, 2001

### **Paradise island**

We do not know if they are monkeys or if they are humyns or something in-between, but thousands of years ago there were 12 or 14 of these creatures that we will call monkeys for lack of better information on a very large island. On their island they have coconut trees and beaches.

The first two monkeys to meet are Ivan and Super Monkey.

### **I. A simple and somewhat unfortunate situation for trade**

Ivan and Super Monkey survive by consuming one fish and two coconuts every day.

Ivan can catch a fish every 5 hours and pick one coconut every 2 hours. Super Monkey can catch a fish every 2.5 hours and pick a coconut every hour.

To survive, Ivan and Super Monkey have to each get 7 fish and 14 coconuts a week. Ivan's survival work hours are 63 hours, but Super Monkey works 31.5 hours a week.

When Ivan and Super Monkey meet, Super Monkey is fishing and Ivan plans to pick coconuts. They consider trading their production for the upcoming week.

Toward this end, Super Monkey catches 11 fish instead of 7, and takes 27.5 hours and only picks 4 coconuts for a total of 31.5 hours of work just as he usually works when he works by himself with no trade. Super Monkey keeps 7 fish as usual and offers the other 4 to Ivan in trade. Ivan this week catches only 3 fish, but he picks 24 coconuts. That means 15 hours fishing and 48 hours picking coconuts for a total of 63 hours. He gives Super Monkey 10 coconuts in exchange for 4 fish.

Each monkey still works the same amount of hours as if working by himself and each receives the same production. It just so happens that Super Monkey prefers to fish and Ivan prefers to pick coconuts, so this arrangement continues for some weeks.

### **II. Appearance of Small Monkey**

After several weeks of trading like that, Ivan and Super Monkey meet Small Monkey, a third monkey who also lives near the southern beach on the island.

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The three monkeys come to realize that they live close together.

Small Monkey is not so large as to have high calorie requirements herself, but she has a baby and she makes soap and other products from fish and coconuts to take care of herself and her baby. According to one zoological historian, Small Monkey may have used coconut residue to paint her eyebrows and other fur white. Another scholar who is an expert in early humyn history said that Small Monkey could not afford to use the coconut residue to paint her fur and it was impossible. In any case, all the analysts agree that Small Monkey also lives on 1 fish and 2 coconuts per day.

Small Monkey takes 10 hours to catch a fish and 2.5 hours to pick a coconut. In her usual week before meeting Ivan and Super Monkey, she worked  $7(10) + 14(2.5) = 105$  hours a week to survive. Many monkeys in her situation have died from exhaustion and living too close to the edge of survival.

No one knows why, whether because Small Monkey preferred to pick coconuts and Super Monkey preferred to fish or just by accident one day when the two monkeys ran short of their preferred items, but the Super Monkey and the Small Monkey started trading.

In fact, one week, Ivan took a trip--working 63 hours to take care of himself while travelling around the island. In that week only Super Monkey and Small Monkey traded. That week, Super Monkey caught 12 fish and traded five to Small Monkey in return for 14 coconuts, for a total of 30 hours work for himself, 1.5 hours less than usual. Small Monkey caught two fish for a total of 7 fish for herself and picked 28 coconuts, 14 for herself and 14 for Super Monkey. To pick 28 coconuts it took Small Monkey  $28(2.5) = 70$  hours. To catch 2 fish took another 20 hours. Hence Small Monkey worked 90 hours that week.

When Ivan came back, the other two monkeys told Ivan of their arrangement. Ivan asked Super Monkey why he traded with Small Monkey. Super Monkey said he preferred to fish and anyway, somehow he worked 1.5 hours less by trading. Then Ivan asked Small Monkey why she traded. She said she did not know which she preferred, fishing or coconut-picking, but now she only works 90 hours instead of 105.

Ivan then had the realization that it did no matter whether someone preferred fishing or coconut-picking. Ivan founded the science of economics then and there and said, "you mean even though Super Monkey is better than Small Monkey in both coconut picking and fishing, you still traded and somehow both ended up better off?" Super Monkey and Small Monkey answered in the affirmative.

Then Ivan asked why it was that when Super Monkey and Ivan traded, the two monkeys did not end up better off. After all, was not Ivan better than Small Monkey in both fishing and coconut picking and so shouldn't he be a better trade partner for Super Monkey? Small Monkey and Super Monkey said they did not know why it was that previous trade did not save Super Monkey and Ivan any time.

Ivan was much disturbed by this. He went off to travel by himself, again supporting himself by working 63 hours. However, in his spare time, he sat on the Mountain of Wisdom to ponder this strange occurrence he had found.

Super Monkey was so much more efficient than Small Monkey that it seemed absurd that trade made any sense, but in fact, it did more for Super Monkey than trade with Ivan did.

While sitting on the Mountain of Wisdom, Ivan had a coconut drop on his head. “Ah hah, what matters is the proportion of labor time spent in producing two goods. Super Monkey’s ratio is 2.5 to 1 to pick one fish to one coconut. For Small Monkey the ratio is 4:1. Super Monkey relative to Small Monkey is good at fishing while Small Monkey is good at coconut-picking--if we look strictly at the ratio of time.”

With this realization, Ivan came up with a second realization while sitting on the Mountain of Wisdom. “My ratio is like Super Monkey’s, 2.5 to 1. That is why trade did not benefit us so much except that we each did what we preferred to do. That means if my theory is correct, I will also benefit from trading with Small Monkey.”

### **III. Ivan initiates three-way trade based on his theory of “comparative advantage”**

In every week in his life that he could remember, Ivan worked 63 hours to survive. When he arrived back at the southern beach he immediately proposed to Small Monkey that she no longer fish at all. She would trade for 5 fish from Super Monkey and 2 fish from Ivan. Small Monkey agreed and here is what happened.

Ivan produced 2 fish for Small Monkey plus his usual 7 fish for himself that week. That was 9 fish taking 45 hours. Then he worked another 16 hours for a total of 61 hours. In those 16 hours he produced 8 coconuts. Hence, he traded 2 fish for 6 coconuts from Small Monkey.

Small Monkey found herself in the following situation. She did no fishing at all. Meanwhile, she picked 14 coconuts for herself, 6 for Ivan and 14 for Super Monkey. That was a total of 34 coconuts. It took Small Monkey  $34(2.5)=85$  hours to produce the 34 coconuts, a record low hours worked in a week for Small Monkey.

When Ivan saw this, he confirmed his theory. All three monkeys were working fewer hours than ever to get their 1 fish and 2 coconuts each day just by trading amongst themselves. It did not matter what the monkeys called themselves or even if they were bad in both coconut-picking and fishing. Trading was good.

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## IV. Spaceship and new monkeys land

The three monkeys traded amongst themselves in this manner for several weeks, each quite optimistic about the new situation and trying to contemplate what it meant. Homes became tidier; monkeys played a little more and Ivan spent more time philosophizing.

Then one day a spaceship landed and to the surprise of the three monkeys, two monkeys walked out of it. They announced that their names were Morgan and Vader and that they had come from the future in order to conduct an experiment.

Morgan and Vader showed the three monkeys that they had thousands of fish and coconuts on their spaceship. Then Morgan announced that he had pieces of paper he called “money.” One piece of paper had a fish on it and the other one had a coconut. In addition, he said one fish paper was worth 3 coconut papers.

Morgan’s spaceship fish and coconuts were every bit as good as the ones on the island, so Morgan started trading with the monkeys. Morgan promised to keep supplies fresh on his spaceship and to travel amongst the monkeys so that they would not have to meet each other to conduct trade.

At first the three monkeys could not see any reason to be bothered by Morgan, except that his spaceship was much faster than walking. So when the monkeys did not want to meet that day, they traded with Morgan instead of each other. Morgan kept things the same, so Small Monkey still worked 85 hours a week, Ivan 61 and Super Monkey 30 hours just as in the past.

One day, Super Monkey decided he wanted to plan for a one week trip around the island. He worked 60 hours that week in order so that he would work not at all while he traveled. That week he took 7 fish and 14 coconuts and accepted money from Morgan for 7 more fish and 14 coconuts later, since Super Monkey did not need them now. After that little lesson all the monkeys occasionally varied when they worked and took money from Morgan in order to be guaranteed consumption in the future.

The monkeys carried on like this, getting used to “money” for a few weeks. Then one day Vader brandished an item he called a “light saber.” With this weapon, he scared Ivan into turning over all his week’s production in return for paper worth less than one half his week’s requirements. The paper Morgan gave Ivan was only good for 3 fish and 7 coconuts. To make matters worse, neither Super Monkey nor Small Monkey were around to see this and Ivan could not contact them. Morgan profited that week from all monkey production thanks to Vader, to the tune of 4 fish and 7 coconuts.

For Morgan it was no secret that he could reduce Ivan’s wages by more than half using force. In fact, in the situation, Ivan had no choice but to accept the 3 fish and 7 coconuts. This became uninteresting to Morgan, so he pushed his

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experiment further by also turning Vader loose on Small Monkey. Now when Super Monkey was away on a trip, Morgan gave Super Monkey not only 7 fish and 14 coconuts for his 7 fish bills and 14 coconut bills, but Morgan gave Super Monkey 14 fish and 28 coconuts total, exactly doubling the value of Super Monkey's money. Meanwhile, back at home, Ivan worked his usual 61 hours and then worked another 34 hours to make up the food that Vader forced him to turn over through his lower wages. Ivan was working 95 hours and Small Monkey was working even more, with both Ivan and Small Monkey becoming exhausted and sick.

In this situation, Super Monkey decided to extend his vacation another week, by working one week in three. He was not aware of how Vader had lowered the wages of Small Monkey and Ivan, and it is not clear that he could have done anything had he decided to defy Vader and Morgan.

In any case, it now appeared to Super Monkey that he was benefiting more than ever from trade and he thanked Morgan and Vader for this invention of money. The following week, Vader turned the screws even further on Ivan and gave him only 3 fish and 5 coconuts for his week's work. When Morgan met Super Monkey though, he gave him 14 fish and 30 coconuts. Then Morgan asked Super Monkey whether he would be willing to give Morgan 2 coconuts a week to keep this arrangement going. Super Monkey said yes, and this satisfied Morgan's curiosity. In effect, Super Monkey was now paying Morgan and Vader to torture Ivan and Small Monkey.

As this happened, Ivan contemplated the lessons he was learning. In the past, trade neither really helped nor hurt him when it came to dealings with Super Monkey. He only got to do more coconut picking, which he preferred over fishing, which was the preferred trade of Super Monkey. Now with Vader threatening him with violence, Ivan still received pay, but so-called trade with Super Monkey benefited Super Monkey and hurt Ivan.

Meanwhile, whenever she could, Small Monkey attempted to escape Vader's ever watchful eye in order to work by herself for 105 hours a week. The alternative was much worse as Vader helped Morgan ship off Small Monkey's products to Super Monkey after spending time on the Morgan spaceship.

Small Monkey and Ivan were nearing death, when Morgan from the future decided he knew enough about his ancestors and ended his experiment. He and Vader took their spaceship and flew away.

The use of paper money had concealed from Super Monkey the use of Vader's force against Small Monkey and Ivan. When Ivan thought about it, he guessed that Morgan could have persuaded just about any monkeys to believe that they deserved almost anything in exchange for their "money."

In fact, according to planetary historians, Morgan took the knowledge from his experiment on Paradise Island to another set of islands. There he found that even if he told one island called "Empire Island" he and Vader were torturing the monkeys on three other islands, the monkeys on "Empire Island"

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still accepted Morgan's assistance and readily helped him by paying him for his services and repairing Vader's "light saber" whenever necessary. Empire Island monkeys also went on to invent "cattle prods," "stun guns" and "neutron bombs." Empire Island monkeys stopped picking coconuts and catching fish except in sporting contests. The highest paid Empire Island monkeys won these sporting contests, but other monkeys had jobs as referees and announcers in these games. Still others had jobs keeping statistics on the games.

### **V. Blockades**

Back on the island of Small Monkey, Ivan and Super Monkey, the spaceship was gone. The three monkeys resumed trading amongst themselves as in the days before the spaceship. Small Monkey and Ivan recuperated their temporarily depressed health.

After a month of normalcy, the spaceship returned. Vader told Small Monkey to stay away from the other two monkeys and imposed what he called a "blockade." Every time Small Monkey tried to trade with the other monkeys, Vader stood in the way with the light saber and chanted "sanctions." Small Monkey went back to working 105 hours a week, Ivan 63 hours and Super Monkey 31.5 hours a week to support themselves.

Morgan tried to tell each monkey that they were from different "countries" and to have "national pride," but each monkey only remembered that they used to work less hours when there was no blockade against Small Monkey.

Then Morgan said that people cooperating with Small Monkey were "communists." The monkeys did not really see any point to what Morgan was saying, but he told them that they used to live in "sin" against "God" in a "socialist world" tending toward "communism."

The monkeys were very happy when the spaceship went away.

### **VI. Ivan invents boats and ladders**

Ivan was playing with dead coconut trees and coconut shells when he invented both a boat and a ladder. Eventually he found that he could make a boat and ladder in 40 hours work, but his boat and ladder only worked for a week before disintegrating, the delicate coconut hairs and threads not holding together and the wood then splitting open.

Ivan traded his boat and ladder with Super Monkey. With these new inventions, Super Monkey could catch a fish every 15 minutes and pick a coconut in 10 minutes.

Ivan traded with Super Monkey and asked for 7 fish and 14 coconuts in return. Super Monkey accepted. The result was that Ivan reduced his work week from 61 hours to 40. Super Monkey now produced 14 fish in 3.5 hours, and 28 coconuts in 4 hours and 40 minutes. Super Monkey worked a total of 9

hours and 10 minutes.

After one week of this two-monkey trading, Small Monkey arrived, because the blockade was over and the spaceship gone again. She asked Super Monkey for 7 fish. Super Monkey agreed to the trade if he could save 10 minutes from his work day. Small Monkey said, “OK, work 9 hours or less.” Super Monkey calculated that it took him  $21 \times (.25)$  hours to catch 21 fish. If he worked another 3 hours, he could collect 18 coconuts, which meant that Small Monkey had to collect 24. Small Monkey then worked  $24 \times (2.5)$  to collect the coconuts, 60 hours, a new record low for her. Meanwhile, Super Monkey only worked 8.25 hours, a 55 minute savings by trading with Small Monkey.

No one knows why Small Monkey did not use the ladder or boat. Perhaps they fell apart after Super Monkey used them. After all Super Monkey was bigger and more energetic than Ivan, who handled the ladder and boat with greater care. Perhaps the boat and ladder could not stand the rigors of transport to Small Monkey or perhaps Small Monkey was just afraid to use them or perhaps Super Monkey wanted to keep the ladder and boat for himself to use as toys in his spare time. Even so, the technical advancement of Super Monkey still benefited both Super Monkey and Small Monkey as they continued to trade.

### **VII. Monkey Joe**

On the north side of the island, unbeknownst to Ivan, Small Monkey and Super Monkey, there were another three monkeys. One was unknown to anyone. Another monkey was named “Joe” and the third “Brown Bear.” One day, when Brown Bear finished collecting his 7 fish and 14 coconuts for the week, Joe snuck up from behind and killed Brown Bear with a blow of a large rock to the head.

Joe now had his 7 fish and 14 coconuts plus Brown Bear’s. Ordinarily, Joe took 63 hours to collect 7 fish and 14 coconuts, just like Ivan did. This week it took him 63 hours for one week’s food and one blow of the rock to get another week’s food. He undertook a journey to the southern part of the island where he met the three monkeys there.

### **VIII. Monkey Joe trades with Ivan**

Joe observed the trading amongst the monkeys in the southern part of the island and then proposed to Ivan the following. “Ivan, sell me the boat and ladder and I’ll give you the 7 fish and 14 coconuts now, so you won’t have to wait until after Super Monkey collects them.”

Ivan realized that Joe was speeding up the production process for him, so he worked 40 hours and got his fish and coconuts on the spot in return for the boat and ladder. Ivan was also curious if even newer forms of economic cooperation would work.

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Joe now had a boat, a ladder and Brown Bear's 7 fish and 14 coconuts left over. Joe consumed Brown Bear's 7 fish and 14 coconuts that week and offered his boat to Super Monkey in exchange for 14 fish and 28 coconuts.

Since Small Monkey was away traveling, Super Monkey calculated that without the boat and ladder it would take him 31.5 hours to produce his needs. Meanwhile, to produce 21 fish and 42 coconuts with the boat and ladder would take 12.25 hours. Hence, Super Monkey agreed to the trade with Joe.

The following week, Small Monkey returned. Ivan made the same trade with Joe, who again ended up with a boat and ladder plus 7 fish and 14 coconuts left over to eat.

Next, Joe traded the boat and ladder to Super Monkey again. In turn, Small Monkey traded with Super Monkey. Super Monkey now had to produce 7 fish for himself, 14 fish for Joe and 7 for Small Monkey. That was 7 hours. Then he worked another 5 hours collecting coconuts with the ladder and collected 30 coconuts that way. He traded 7 fish to Small Monkey for the remaining 12 coconuts he needed. Small Monkey had to produce 12 for Super Monkey and 14 for herself, a total of 26 coconuts.  $26 \times (2.5) = 65$  hours.

One week Super Monkey toughened his bargaining stance with Small Monkey. In the past he worked 8.25 hours and now he was working 12.25. He wanted to cut back to 8 hours and 10 minutes in his new deal with Small Monkey. That meant he only collected 7 coconuts. Small Monkey would have to collect the remaining 49 for the island. That meant  $49 \times (2.5)$  hours = 122.5 hours, but Small Monkey said no, because if she worked by herself, she would only have to work 105 hours. Suddenly trade with Super Monkey no longer seemed to her benefit. At this time, Super Monkey and Small Monkey realized why their trade no matter how they arranged it could not bring them back to their previous high living standard: Joe was doing no work.

Thanks to the trade Ivan made with Joe, Super Monkey was working almost 4 hours more and Small Monkey was working 5 hours longer per week. Meanwhile, Joe had worked 0 hours the last two weeks.

### **IX. Small Monkey and Super Monkey bribe Ivan**

Small Monkey and Super Monkey realized they were working longer hours because Ivan traded to Joe instead of Super Monkey directly. However, only Ivan could make the boat and ladder inventions each week and it seemed most sensible for him to do so. He had to work 40 hours a week, and he was still happy to do so considering that he used to work 63 hours a week.

Ivan told Super Monkey and Small Monkey that it was better for him to receive pay on the spot than to wait for them to collect up their fish and coconuts. Next, Small Monkey and Super Monkey offered to bribe Ivan with more coconuts than he received from Joe. According to another version in recorded folklore, Super Monkey worked extra one week to save the fish and

coconuts so as to be able to pay Ivan on the spot like Joe did. Regardless, all scholars agreed that Small Monkey and Super Monkey calculated that there was no way for Joe to outcompete them if they got the boat and ladder first.

Super Monkey generously offered to work 9.25 hours instead of his past 8.25 hours before Joe arrived. In that extra hour, he would produce six coconuts in order to give Ivan 20 coconuts a week instead of 14. Ivan accepted this offer for some weeks. Meanwhile, in those weeks, Joe was thinking about starving to death when he realized it was better to work than die. So instead of working 0 hours a week, he returned to working 63 hours a week to survive. Nonetheless, Joe maintained his savings of 7 fish and 14 coconuts with the idea of returning to the idle life again some day in the future.

### **X. Ivan switches back to trade with Joe**

Ivan accumulated extra coconuts for months. Meanwhile, preferring to live by himself with his 63 hours of work per week, Joe refused to trade with Super Monkey and Small Monkey, hoping that some day the tide would turn. He built what he called a “country club” where he only socialized with Ivan.

One day Ivan did grow tired of his surplus in coconuts. He also wanted Joe to spend less time working and more time in the “country club.” So he went back to his trade with Joe and the benefits of getting his pay on the spot for his boat and ladder.

This time, however, Joe turned the screws on Super Monkey and Small Monkey and demanded 8 coconuts more than last time, for a total of 14 fish and 36 coconuts for his boat and ladder. Since Super Monkey and Small Monkey would still be worse off without the boat and ladder, they paid up the 14 fish and 36 coconuts to Joe, who turned around and bribed Ivan an extra 8 coconuts a week without being asked. Now Ivan was getting his 8 coconut bribe and getting it faster than ever before when he received the 6 or 7 coconut bribe from Super Monkey and Small Monkey.

### **XI. Ivan’s quandary**

Ivan was in a strange situation. He was working 40 hours a week, because only he knew how to make the boat and ladder. Yet, Joe worked 0 hours a week.

Meanwhile, the ever larger number of coconuts he was receiving each week convinced him that his situation could change yet again. Meanwhile, Joe was meeting him each week in the country club.

Ivan proposed to Joe that he would sell the idea of how to make boats and ladders to Joe in return for which Ivan would never work again. Joe realized that this meant he would have to work 40 hours a week to make the ladder and boat, just like Ivan did, since after all, the two monkeys had similar productivity rates.

## **New Afrikan Maoist Party**

Joe knew that he was better off with this idea than working by himself. 40 hours work was better than 63, but far worse than 0.

Ivan then threatened to resume trade with Small Monkey and Super Monkey directly if Joe did not agree to the idea. Joe was panicked but asked for a day to think about it.

Joe thought about what would happen if he too turned his back on Ivan and made a deal with Super Monkey and Small Monkey on the side. Ivan would work 40 hours. Super Monkey would expect to work 8.25 hours or less if he decided to live without bribing Ivan, who was bored of all the extra coconuts anyway. Small Monkey would also resume her lifestyle of working 60 hours a week, a record low.

Now what if Joe convinced Super Monkey to fish more? If Super Monkey caught 28 fish, it would take him 7 hours. Then if he just dumped the ladder without using it, how would Super Monkey make out? With Small Monkey's 60 hours of labor, she would produce 10 coconuts beyond the ones she consumed. Could Joe produce all the other coconuts? To produce his own plus those of Ivan would be 28 plus four more for Super Monkey not produced by Small Monkey. Hence to cut Super Monkey down to 7 hours work, Joe would have to come up with 32 coconuts, which would take him 64 hours. That did not seem a good idea to Joe.

Then Joe considered catching 8 fish and trading for the rest of his coconuts. He quickly realized that that would not work. He might as well take up Ivan's offer rather than go on the side to make a deal with Small Monkey and Super Monkey. Having been used to working 0 hours a week, Joe felt revolted that he was negotiating in this range and he was close to giving in to Ivan's idea of buying the technology to make boats and ladders or of learning how to use ladders himself.

...To Be Continued in Party Bulletin #6

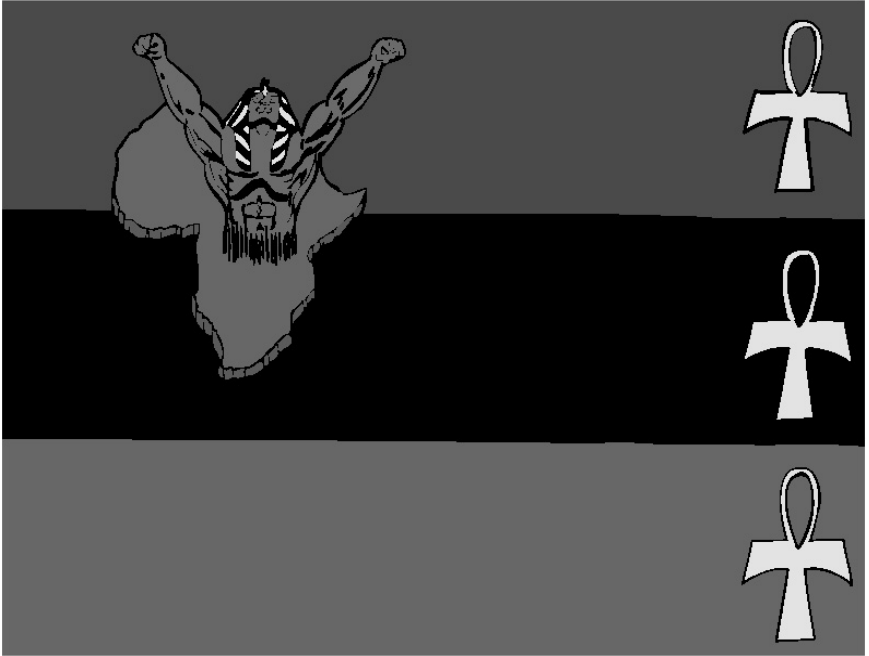
### **Review Questions:**

1) What conditions are necessary to make trade economically advantageous to both parties under the simplest model of trade given in parts I-III?

2) What did Vader and Morgan prove in their experiments with money? Who plays the roles of Vader, Morgan, Super Monkey, Ivan and Small Monkey in Our world?

3) How do countries benefit just by trading with others with better technology? How do sanctions hurt countries?

If you can, discuss these questions with a local study group. Submit your answers in your next letter to NAMF and We will respond in a future issue.



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