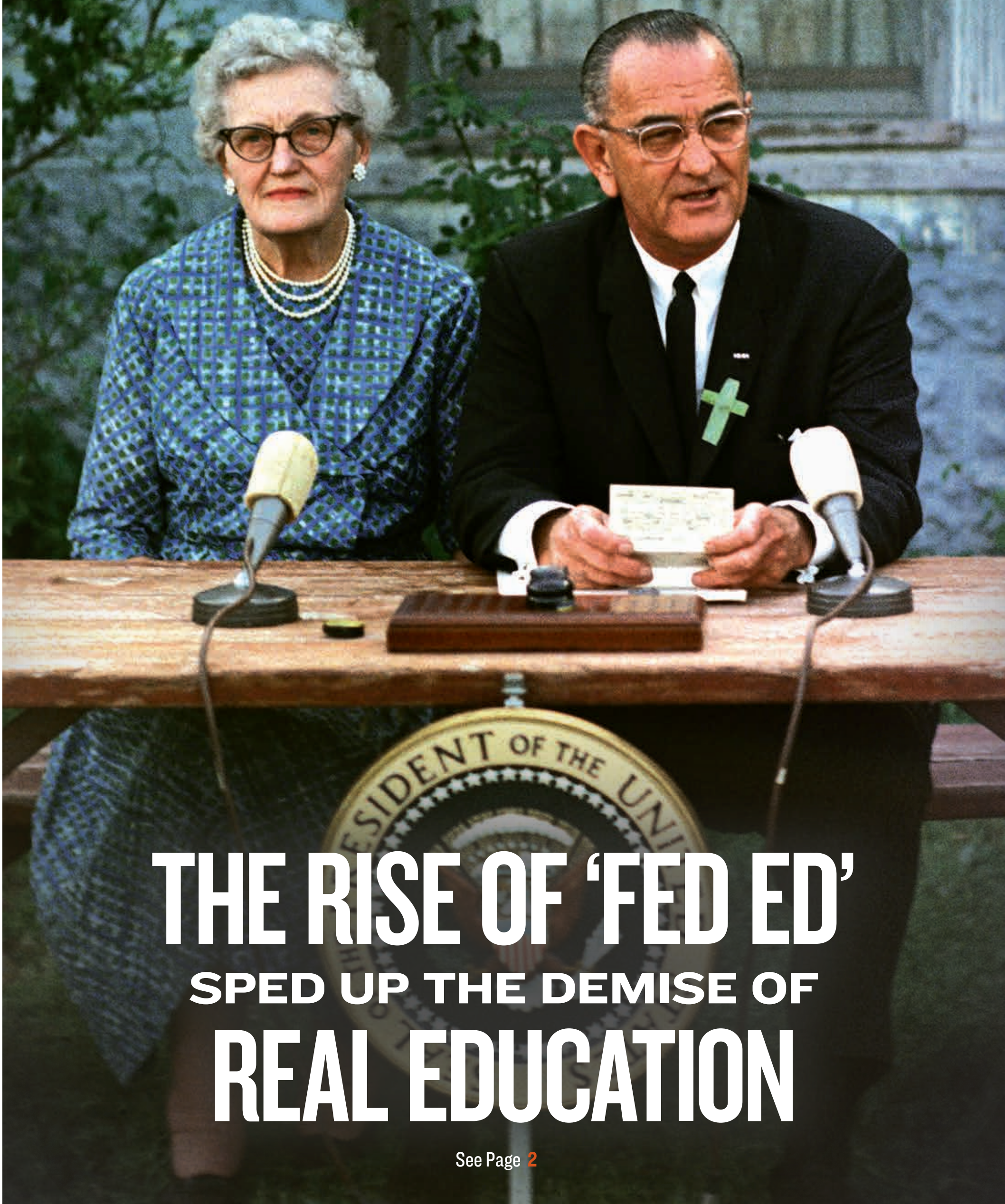


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THE EPOCH TIMES

AMERICAN CROSSROADS

President Lyndon
B. Johnson signing
the Elementary
and Secondary
Education Act on
April 11, 1965.



THE RISE OF 'FED ED'
SPED UP THE DEMISE OF
REAL EDUCATION

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The Rise of 'Fed Ed' Sped Up the Demise of Real Education

ALEX NEWMAN

Commentary

This is part 10 in a series of articles examining the origins of public education in the United States.

The public-school system was collectivist from the start, as this ongoing series on government education has already documented extensively. But as the feds got involved, it quickly went from bad to worse, with the slow and steady decline in education turning into a precipitous collapse.

Today, the schools are a disaster, even by the government's own measures. Consider, for instance, that the latest scores from the federal government's National Assessment of Educational Progress revealed that more than two thirds of 8th graders are not proficient in any core subject. It would be hard to do worse.

The U.S. government bears a big part of the blame. And there should be no doubt that it was deliberate, experts and former insiders tell The Epoch Times.

Because the U.S. Constitution delegated absolutely no power over education to the federal government—and because the Tenth Amendment specifically reserves all non-delegated powers to the states or the people—it was not easy for the federal camel's nose to get under the tent. Indeed, it took almost two centuries for Washington, D.C., to get seriously involved in public schools.

But communists worked diligently toward that goal for decades. In his 1932 book "Toward Soviet America," Communist Party USA leader William Z. Foster boldly outlined the agenda for his fellow revolutionaries. The goal: A U.S. Department of Education that would eventually replace patriotism and Christianity in school with communism and globalism.

"Among the elementary measures the American Soviet government will adopt to further the cultural revolution are the following: the schools, colleges and universities will be coordinated and grouped under the National Department of Education and its state and local branches," Foster declared, an idea that was almost unthinkable to Americans of the day.

He also outlined what this anticipated U.S. Department of Education would do once in charge of schools. "The studies will be revolutionized, being cleansed of religious, patriotic and other features of the bourgeois ideology," he said. "The students will be taught on the basis of Marxian dialectical materialism, internationalism and the general ethics of the new Socialist society."

Of course, it took a long time to make that a reality. But anyone who has studied even briefly what is going on in the federally controlled public schools of America today can see that Foster's agenda has been thoroughly implemented in every respect, all over the country. Unless dealt with, the disease will likely prove fatal.

Federal Involvement Begins

Aside from a few insignificant offices to collect statistics over the years, and Congress recommending Bibles printed by Robert Aitken of Philadelphia "for use in the schools" in the late 1700s, the feds played virtually no role whatsoever in education in America.

Indeed, it was not until the 1960s, long after the government school system created by collectivists had started destroying traditional education, that the federal government took its first major steps into education.

It began in 1962 and 1963, as documented in this series, with two U.S. Supreme Court rulings declaring that it was somehow a violation of the First Amendment to have prayer or Bible readings in public schools. These lawless opinions, as admitted by one of the justices in his dissent, replaced Christianity at school with the collectivist "religious humanism" of John Dewey, one of the socialist founders of America's public school system.

Well-educated Americans would have instantly recognized the absurdity of the ruling. After all, when the First Amendment was written and ratified, most of the states had established churches. The idea that this amendment, designed to prevent a national



President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act on April 11, 1965.

In exchange for federal taxpayer money, first released under ESEA, schools were forced to accept a growing array of federal regulations.

religion, was supposed to prohibit states and communities from having prayer or Bibles in schools, would have been laughed at even in the 1940s or '50s. But by the '60s the public education had already been in place for generations, dumbing down Americans and erasing their understanding of history to the point that such an outlandish anti-constitutional ruling became feasible.

Not long after that rogue court ruling, Congress—almost certainly emboldened by the high court's flagrant constitutional intrusions into state and local education—launched the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Signed by President Lyndon Johnson under the guise of "helping" states to "educate" all "disadvantaged" students, this statute opened up the floodgates of federal funding to K-12 public schools.



Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos speaks at the DeltaPlex Arena, Michigan, on Dec. 9, 2016, while President Donald Trump observes.



is Soviet-style workforce training."

Iserbyt also witnessed how great educators with valuable experience who loved liberty, such as Edward Curran, who led the National Institute of Education at the U.S. Department of Education, were purged and driven out. Meanwhile, collectivists and quacks continued moving quickly up the ranks. "The political appointees—most of them were rotten," said Iserbyt.

To impose the radical "reforms" on America, Iserbyt said she witnessed the U.S. Department of Education handing out all manner of enormous grants to fund dangerous quackery, data-gathering, and "efforts to transform the values of children away from traditional Americanism" through education. "I believe these were very abusive toward traditional values," she said, pointing to her important short publication "Soviets in the Classroom, America's Latest Education Fad."

The Extremism Continues

Today, despite a Republican president in the White House, the U.S. Department of Education remains firmly under collectivist control. During the 2016 presidential election, for example, an analysis by The Hill revealed that 99.7 percent of all political spending by Department of Education bureaucrats went to Hillary Clinton—the highest of any federal department.

Even after Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos took up her post, the left-wing extremism from the U.S. Education Department continued to spew forth. Indeed, on Feb. 12, 2017, the department's Twitter account posted a quote by Communist Party USA member W.E.B. Du Bois—with his name misspelled, no less, drawing national ridicule.

Among other absurdities, Du Bois claimed the USSR, led by one of the most brutal and murderous regimes in human history, was the "most hopeful country on earth." During the darkest depths of the "Great Leap Forward," Du Bois even held multiple meetings with mass-murdering Communist Chinese dictator Mao Zedong, and the two were always pictured with smiles on their faces.

These are some of the people who control U.S. education. Under the previous administration, the department, using "stimulus" money to bribe states into compliance, even imposed Obama-backed national standards on the nation—standards that are aligned with international schemes, too. Common Core will be dealt with in a future article in this series.

With around 4,000 employees, the Education Department's budget has been ballooning since it was created. And that is despite President Ronald Reagan promising to abolish it, and President Donald Trump saying on the campaign trail, "If we don't eliminate it completely, we certainly need to cut its power and reach."

There's currently a bill in Congress, H.R. 899, to abolish the U.S. Department of Education entirely. When asked why the bill was needed by this writer in an interview, Congressman Thomas Massie (R-Ky), the chief sponsor, replied, "How much time do you have?"

"The left understands that this is where you win or lose—in the schools and in the teaching of the children,"

As the old cliché goes, with federal funding comes federal control. And in exchange for federal taxpayer money, first released under ESEA, schools were forced to accept a growing array of federal regulations. At this point, the feds have effectively nationalized the public school system. Globalizing it is the next frontier.

There are over 100 subsidy programs now in place under the department, which has a budget approaching \$100 billion including "discretionary" and "mandatory" spending. Everything from discipline and academic standards to lunches, data collection, and even the gender of textbook writers is now subject to federal intrusion.

After the camel's nose was under the tent, it did not take long for the entire smelly beast to shove its way in. The relatively new U.S. Department of Education, which has centralized control over education in an unprecedented manner, has also played a crucial role in weaponizing America's public-education system against individual liberty.

Established in 1979 under President Jimmy Carter, the cabinet-level department was basically part of a quid-pro-quo agreement with the socialist-controlled National Education Association (NEA). The powerful union, which named the socialist and humanist Dewey as its "honorary life president," was already acting as a sort of national ministry of education. With the birth of the actual department, it sealed the deal.

By the time the U.S. Department of Education was established, the U.S. Congress's investigative committees charged with exposing communists and preventing infiltration of the federal government had long since been disbanded. As such, it's difficult to determine how many actual communists worked within the department.

But as the Bible says, "by their fruits ye shall know them." And the fruit coming from the Department of Education has been rotten to the core from day one.

A Whistleblower From the Belly of the Beast

From the start, using grants and other means, this unconstitutional behemoth began working to bring all education in the United States under federal control. Worse than that, it worked to systematically dumb down the American people and transform the values of children, according to whistleblower Charlotte Iserbyt, who served as senior policy adviser on education in the Reagan administration.

All of it was in line with what the mass-murdering Soviet regime was doing. Indeed, from its earliest days, the U.S. Department of Education was

involved in helping to "sovietize" the American public-school system, Iserbyt told The Epoch Times in a telephone interview. This agenda has been extremely successful in facilitating the disaster now unfolding in America, she explained.

Upon taking up her post at the U.S. Department of Education, Iserbyt found documents revealing that public schools in America were introducing Soviet quackery and curricula in the classroom, with help from the major foundations. In response, the patriotic Iserbyt began leaking the official documents to the press in an attempt to blow the whistle and stop the madness. She eventually compiled the smoking-gun evidence in her explosive book "The Deliberate Dumbing Down of America."

"When I was there, what I saw, I realized in retrospect, 'The Nation at Risk' report was very important," Iserbyt said, referring to a government report commissioned by Reagan arguing that the U.S. education system threatened America's future. "They needed that to convince America that we had terrible schools so they could bring in the reforms they wanted."

Pointing to the Soviet education system and the forces that worked to bring similar schemes to America, Iserbyt is also convinced that communism was the goal. U.S. Secretary of Education Terrel Bell "wanted to put in the communist system," Iserbyt argued. "I believe he was a communist. If you read in my book the things he said, there is no way to come up with any other conclusion."

Among other schemes, Iserbyt said he was the one responsible for bringing in the methods of "education" advocated by anti-Christian behaviorist B. F. Skinner and Soviet "psychologist" Ivan Pavlov to American schools. "These Pavlovian and Skinnerian methods destroy free will by treating people like animals to be trained and to give reflexive responses to stimuli," said Iserbyt. "This is animal training, not education. This is what was being used in communist countries to train and brainwash their populations, not educate them." Thanks to the Department of Education, it's being used all over America, too.

"Their agenda was to have absolute control of the American population through these changes in teaching and instruction being brought into the schools through the Department of Education," she continued, pointing to the important role of the Carnegie Endowment in negotiating with the Soviets on education. "So they claimed all these national reforms were needed to change education from what you know in your head, to what you can do, which

The U.S. Department of Education has existed because it is about control and not about children.

USPIE President Sheri Few

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION VIA WIMEDIA COMMONS

(Left) Jimmy Carter greets school children on April 12, 1978. He established the Department of Education in 1979.

(Right) Communist Party USA member W.E.B. Du Bois meets Chinese leader Mao Zedong in China in May 1959.

the popular Kentucky congressman continued.

Massie also noted that under the current administration, there's a tremendous opportunity to make abolishing the department bipartisan. Liberals and progressives, of course, do not want Trump in charge of their children's education, any more than conservatives want Obama or Biden running it.

"Unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. should not be in charge of our children's intellectual and moral development," Massie said. "States and local communities are best positioned to shape curricula that meet the needs of their students."

The group U.S. Parents Involved in Education (USPIE) is working to end all federal involvement in education, too. "Although this experiment with federal control of local public schools has gone on for half a century now, it has failed," USPIE President Sheri Few told The Epoch Times.

"The U.S. Department of Education has existed because it is about control and not about children. We need to stop treating children like guinea pigs in some social engineering laboratory." The U.S. Constitution and common sense both demand that the federal government get out of education. That would be a great step forward. However, as this series has documented, the government-education system has been controlled by collectivists from the very beginning. That means getting the feds out, by itself, will not solve the systemic problems plaguing education in the United States today.

Still, ending all "Fed Ed" may be a decent place to start. And with Trump in the White House, perhaps both sides of the aisle could work together on this, as a first step to much more far-reaching reforms.

Alex Newman is an award-winning international journalist, educator, author, and consultant who co-wrote the book "Crimes of the Educators: How Utopians Are Using Government Schools to Destroy America's Children." He also serves as the CEO of Liberty Sentinel Media and writes for diverse publications in the United States and abroad.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.



VOIR/ANSA



SARA DAVIS/GETTY IMAGES

How and Why Pro-China Communists Took Over Durham, North Carolina—Huge Implications for 2020

TREVOR LOUDON



Commentary
Pro-China communists from the Liberation Road group have insinuated their supporters and allies into several key positions in the city government of Durham, North Carolina.

Liberation Road has been highly influential in flipping neighboring Virginia from a Republican to a Democratic state; North Carolina is the next target.

Liberation Road has a strategy of destroying the Republican Party base in the South—what it terms the “New Confederacy”—by using the minority voting base to flip county by county, state by state to the Democrats.

If the communists can turn North Carolina blue, President Donald Trump will likely lose the 2020 election—handing Democrats and their socialist allies a near-permanent monopoly on power. By establishing a political base in Durham, the comrades aim to project their power and city resources across the entire state.

The 2020 presidential election

may well be won or lost in North Carolina.

North Carolina Maoists

Since 1985, the Freedom Road Socialist Organization (FRSO) has been the pre-eminent pro-China communist party in the country, absorbing cadre from several other Maoist groups along the way, including the Communist Workers Party, Line of March, and League of Revolutionary Struggle.

In April this year, the FRSO changed its name to Liberation Road—partially at least to sound fewer alarm bells as it proceeds to infiltrate the Democratic Party.

In 1988, FRSO had fewer than six members in North Carolina: a white lawyer from Revolutionary Workers Headquarters and a handful of black comrades from the Amilcar Cabral/Paul Robeson Collective. Through the 1990s, FRSO recruited more old Maoists and a new layer of university students from Durham, Raleigh, and Chapel Hill. They even recruited a couple of former Communist Party USA members, and in recent years seem to have absorbed some cadre from the pro-Iran and North Korea Workers World Party.

In the 2000s, FRSO began sending comrades from California,

Massachusetts, and New York to beef up the numbers, soon making the Maoists the most significant force on the left in the region. This was part of a deliberate colonization of Southern states, particularly Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, and Florida. FRSO targeted the South because of its high concentration of black and Hispanic potential voters, which, coupled with a history of racial polarization, made for great revolutionary potential.

North Carolina, one of the most politically marginal Republican-held states in the South was a prime target. Durham, with the largest concentration of black voters in the state, became ground zero for the Maoists. FRSO supporters began to infiltrate Durham student unions, community groups, labor unions, churches, and local government.

Maoist strategy is all about building a counter-state—taking over whole areas to form a state-within-state to serve as a base to spread revolution across a much wider area. Parts of Virginia are moving in that direction. Jackson, Mississippi, is already there. Durham is well on the way.

In recent years, FRSO has moved away from traditional street activism into more of an electoral

Maoist strategy is all about building a counter-state—taking over whole areas to form a state-within-state to serve as a base to spread revolution across a much wider area.

focus. The organization now has the numbers and influence to impact elections at both state and local level.

FRSO is extremely secretive about membership, but I estimate there are around a hundred cadre in the Triangle area and another 200 supporters or allies. Many FRSO/Liberation Road people lead key organizations that are able to mobilize several thousand people at a time.

To achieve its ends, FRSO has infiltrated several existing organizations and has created others.

Durham People's Alliance

In the early 1970s, Durham activists affiliated with the communist New American Movement formed two collectives—a health collective and a socialist feminist collective. In 1973, the health collective became the Durham Organizing Committee (DOC). The DOC later split, some members entering a Marxist-Leninist collective that eventually became the Communist Workers Party and others forming the Durham People's Alliance (DPA).

Since that time, the DPA has become a major force in local politics. With the ability to raise money and a small army of door knockers and phone-bankers, DPA's endorsement is widely sought by candidates on the left.

North Carolina Democratic congressmembers David Price and GK Butterfield and former Sen. Kay Hagan have all been endorsed and helped by DPA's 2,000 members—as have dozens of lower-level politicians.

Around 2014, FRSO cadre Aiden Graham joined the DPA board; in the same year DPA helped elect FRSO leader Sendolo Diaminah, a self-described “black queer communist,” to the Durham School Board, though he later resigned before finishing his term.

Durham Association of Educators

The Triangle area has experienced widespread education labor unrest in recent years, mainly because of the Durham Association of Educators (DAE), a local affiliate of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) and the National Education Association.

Longtime FRSO/Liberation Road cadre Bryan Proffitt is on the board of the NCAE and was president of

the DAE.

With an army of fired up leftist teachers on their roster, ready to rally or door-knock on command, the DAE has also become a major force in Durham left politics.

Durham For All

Launched in early 2016, Durham For All grew out of a group of FRSO supporters who had been working together for some years on local politics.

In 2014 and 2015, members of the founding team began experimenting with building political power through local elections, and led “victories to elect young, progressive people of color into local offices.”

Durham For All is a completely Liberation Road creation and is the counterpart of similar front groups Richmond For All in Virginia and Memphis For All in Tennessee.

Durham For All plans to build a force in Durham of 10,000 people to first take control of the city, then the entire state. The first goals were to take control of the City Council in 2017 to 2019 then to flip the state to the Democrats in 2020.

According to the Durham For All website:

“Corporations and right-wing politicians have rigged the political system, and we've had enough. Together, we are building a cross-class, multiracial movement in Durham that is 10,000 people strong. ...

“Power comes from thousands of people speaking up and deciding to take action. That's why our plan is based on building people power from the ground up. The plan has three stages:

“Stage 1: Build a Mandate. 2017. With the launch of our 10K Strong Campaign, we trained leaders like you to ask family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to sign our 10K Strong Pledge and join the movement for a Durham for All. In less than a year, over 4,500 people said “yes” and signed on! These commitments were the foundation for a new political vision of a Durham rooted in the principles of a Durham for all of us. Grounded in these principles, we organized in working class and people of color communities to find new leaders and get out the vote. Together, we elected a progressive, people of color majority to Durham's City Council!

“Stage 2: Build a Model.

2018. Through our Decriminalize Durham Campaign, we successfully piloted a base-building model that (1) activated and developed leaders in working class and people of color communities, (2) invited and supported hundreds of people to take new risks in organizing, and (3) translated election victories into policy wins via participatory democracy. We endorsed and elected officials who committed to fighting mass incarceration and stopping deportations

“Stage 3: Build a Movement. 2019-2020. In the third stage, we are harnessing the power of our movement to create platforms for co-government and to pass policy. We are continuing to refine and ex-

A woman votes in Durham, NC, on Nov. 8, 2016. African American turnout at the polls was reporting low across the battleground state.

FRSO targeted the South because of its high concentration of black and Hispanic potential voters, which, coupled with a history of racial polarization, made for great revolutionary potential.

and our base-building model to bring new leaders and thousands of voters into the critical state and federal elections in 2020. Working with groups in rural areas, towns, and other cities, we will be part of unleashing millions of engaged residents and leaders in a movement to win back North Carolina from the far right.”

So far, the goal to take over the Durham City Council has gone as planned.

In 2015, the DPA elected Charlie Reece and Jillian Johnson and helped re-elect Steve Schewel to the six-member Durham City Council.

Reece was treasurer of the North Carolina Democratic Party and a past board member and secretary of the DPA.

Johnson was a long-time FRSO affiliate and later served in the leadership of Durham For All alongside comrades Sendolo Diaminah, Aiden Graham, Anna Grant, Tony Macias, and Bennett Carpenter. Steve Schewel was a former radical magazine editor.

In 2017, the DPA successfully backed Schewel for Durham mayor. The DPA also elected their longtime board member and Durham For All supporter DeDreana Freeman and another former DPA board member Vernetta Alston to the City Council.

In 2019, Johnson, Reece, and newcomer Javiera Caballero ran as a leftist “Bull City Together” ticket backed by the DPA.

Schewel, Johnson, Reece, and Caballero were all endorsed as a team by Durham For All.

Liberation Road's Bryan Proffitt also endorsed the team, as did the DAE PAC, which also supported a “\$95 million housing bond to combat gentrification and end the rapid displacement of our communities.”

The left won everything. They passed the housing bond and now hold five of the six City Council seats, plus the mayoralty.

In 2018, DPA members also helped elect Satana Deberry for district attorney and Clarence Birkhead for sheriff.

FRSO leader Sendolo Diaminah noted in a Facebook post:

“Tonight we made history in Durham by electing Satana Deberry for DA and Clarence Birkhead for sheriff - both committed to ending mass incarceration and fighting deportations. There are so many things to say about this but tonight I just feel humbled and nourished by the calling to build political power with our people.”

So, stage one of the FRSO Durham For All plan is pretty well accomplished, according to their

original aims. Liberation Road and its allied organizations pretty much have a lock on North Carolina's fourth-largest city and its 275,000 citizens.

Can the Maoists Take the State?

Liberation Road has a strong presence in the state. So do their allies the Democratic Socialists of America, which has branches in Charlotte, Durham, Greensboro, Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Asheville, Winston-Salem, and the Yadkin Valley.

Liberation Road is affiliated to several ACORN-type voter registration organizations in the state, including Down Home NC, Ignite NC, and Blueprint North Carolina.

Liberation Road leader Aiden Graham also serves as the campaign manager for the North Carolina State AFL-CIO.

Between Durham For All, the DPA, DAE, North Carolina AFL-CIO, and the voter registration groups listed above, Liberation Road and its allies have the power to mobilize several thousand election workers against Republican candidates.

If the left is working hard to re-elect Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper and Attorney General Josh Stein, they're even more determined to defeat Republican Sen. Thom Tillis—considered one the most vulnerable in the country. The Democrats need to flip five State Senate seats for a majority and six seats in the State House.

If the left can defeat Sen. Tillis and flip one or both houses of the state legislature, North Carolina will be well down the road to becoming a Democratic state, just like Virginia was about three years ago.

Pro-China communists from FRSO/Liberation Road stole Virginia from under the nose of the Republican Party. If North Carolina is allowed to go down the same path then Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas will soon follow suit. The Republican Party will then be finished as a national force.

There is no excuse for the Republican Party to allow that to happen—if they care at all about their own survival that is.

Trevor Loudon is an author, filmmaker, and public speaker from New Zealand. For more than 30 years, he has researched radical left, Marxist, and terrorist movements and their covert influence on mainstream politics.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

Durham City Hall, Durham, NC, Sept. 1, 2019. Now, five of the six City Council seats, plus the mayoralty, are held by leftists backed by the Liberation Road/FRSO and the Durham People's Alliance (DPA).

WARREN LEMAY/DURHAM CITY HALL, DURHAM, NC VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



SARA DAVIS/GETTY IMAGES

FRSO supporters began to infiltrate Durham student unions. Students of North Carolina Central University wait in a long line during a countywide clinch in the Board of Elections' computer system on Nov. 8, 2016 in Durham, NC. The young African American vote could be crucial to the battleground state.

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Stephen Gregory
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