

## Occupy's Attempt To Close Ports Would Punish The 99%

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**Economic Illiteracy:** Is the discredited "Occupy" protest horde shifting to economic terrorism? Its attempt to shut down West Coast ports Monday — in the name of "good jobs" — is a nasty shot at America's workers.

Claiming its aim is to "end corporate profits" Occupy's leadership, consulting no one, has declared war on the U.S. economy by trying to disrupt major ports in Portland, Ore., and Oakland, Long Beach and San Diego, Calif.

Before the cops kicked them out and arrested a few, they managed to put a grimy paw around the neck of a the U.S. economy, aiming to strangle it all.

It's the hoary Marxist idea of the 1930s — that to halt the means of production empowers the working class.

We've got news for them: It's garbage. And it will hurt the people — the so-called 99% — it purports to help the most.

For starters, it's not working the way they thought it would. The International Longshoremen and Warehouse Union, a famously far-left union with a large San Francisco and Long Beach presence, isn't going along.

"A third-party proposal to shut down terminals on Dec. 12 has not been vetted by the union's democratic process," the ILWU, which represents 15,000 dockworkers, said in a curtly worded news release.

That underlines that the Occupy movement is a self-appointed elite that could care less whether their illegal acts lead to longshoremen layoffs. The ILWU has no intention of being the group's sacrificial lamb.

But it's more than longshoremen who will pay for shutdown.

"If (Occupy wants) to hit the U.S. economy at a vulnerable spot, they are hitting in the right direction," notes Cato Institute trade expert Dan Griswold.

He points out that world trade has expanded dramatically and a port shutdown hurts workers far and wide. These days, for example, factories depend on just-in-time

shipments arriving at certain hours. If they don't arrive, workers lose their jobs, Griswold said.

What's more, in a shutdown, businesses can move to alternative ports — like in Canada, Mexico or the Panama Canal, leaving U.S. workers the losers. "There's competition," said Long Beach port spokesman Lee Peterson.

It's always the workers who get burned — not just longshoremen, but truck drivers, security officers, highway construction workers, manufacturing workers, shopkeepers — some 300,000 jobs in all. "The 99% — they work here at the port," said Peterson.

Occupy's leaders say the port shutdown is a protest against the bad U.S. economy. The irony, notes Cato's Griswold, is world trade is one of our few bright spots.

That Occupy is now seeking to destroy trade speaks volumes about their real intentions. For this costly port stunt, they should be held accountable.