

Break the Chain: Palestine, Labor, Imperialism, and Zionism Syllabus and Calendar

Summary and Goals

The Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions has called on workers around the world to do everything in their power to disrupt the flow of arms that has allowed Israel to perpetrate the ongoing genocide of Palestinians. What will workers in the U.S, the heart of empire, do to heed this call? Here in New York, [Break the Chain](#), an NYC-DSA priority campaign, is actively organizing workers to cut off the local arm of the U.S-Israel weapons supply chain that passes through JFK Airport. In order to effectively organize against the international capitalist and imperialist infrastructure enabling this genocide, we must educate ourselves about how the supply lines of empire operate, what we can do to disrupt them, and how our work fits into the broader international struggle. This curriculum is designed to ground organizers in key topics related to BtC's mission, including the material realities of imperialism and Zionism, the history of the Palestinian struggle, and the relationship between US labor and imperialist extraction. By studying and analyzing these materials together, we hope to build a common intellectual foundation and develop our skills as organizers.

Readings

- Ghassan Kanafani, *The Revolution of 1936-1939 in Palestine* (1804 Books, 2023)
- Jeff Schurhke, *Blue Collar Empire: The Untold Story of US Labor's Global Anticommunist Crusade* (Verso, 2024)
- Jeff Schurhke, *No Neutrals There: US Labor, Zionism, and the Struggle for Palestine* (Haymarket Books, 2025)
- Laleh Khalili, *Sinews of War and Trade: Shipping and Capitalism in the Arabian Peninsula* (Verso, 2020)
- Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions - Gaza Strip, *An Urgent Call from the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions to Trade Unions and Labor Forces in the United States of America On the Occasion of International Workers' Day - May 1, 2026*
- Palestinian Youth Movement, Democratic Socialist of America, Movement Research Unit, *People's Embargo for Palestine, The Role of United Airlines in Military Cargo Shipments to Israel - September 9, 2026*
- Sammy Z, *arms embargo as class struggle - September 10, 2026*
- *Toward a Revolutionary Charter for Comprehensive Liberation*
- Adam Hanieh, Robert Knox, and Rafeef Ziadah, *Resisting Erasure: Capital, Imperialism, and Race in Palestine* (Verso, 2025)
- Hassan E.T.- *Where is Sudan?*
- Rosemary Sayigh- *Palestinians From Peasants to Revolutionaries*
- Ashok Kumar- *Weaponising the Supply Chain: Yemen's Blockade and the Contradictions of Maritime Logistics Capital*
- Max Ajl, *Palestine's Great Flood: Part I*
- *The Rank and File Strategy: A Guide from the Democratic Socialist Labor Commission*

- Sarah Lazare, Dockworkers Unions in Six Countries Announce Day of Strikes and Protests Against War and Genocide, In These Times - July 31, 2026
- Joe Burns, Class Struggle Unionism (Haymarket Books, 2022)
- No Shortcuts: Organizing for Power in the New Gilded Age by Jane M. McAlevey (Oxford University Press, 2016)
- Eddie Campbell, Setting an Agenda From the Inside: Building a Fighting Union Within the War Machine, Long-Haul - 2025

Timeline and Location

- Monday evenings from 6:30-8pm, running on a biweekly basis
- October 26th to January 4th
- In-person meetings in Central and South Brooklyn
 - Exact session locations will be communicated directly to participants in advance

Communication

Facilitators will send out session information to participants by email, and will create a dedicated Signal chat for announcements and ongoing discussion.

Format and Requirements

- Readings and Syllabus are available
- Session agenda and discussion questions will be sent directly to participants two days before the session
- [DSA Guidelines for Respectful Discussion](#)

Break the Chain: An Introduction - Monday 10/26

- Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions - Gaza Strip, An Urgent Call from the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions to Trade Unions and Labor Forces in the United States of America On the Occasion of International Workers' Day - May 1, 2026
- Sammy Z, arms embargo as class struggle, Socialist Forum - September 10, 2026
- Palestinian Youth Movement, Democratic Socialist of America, Movement Research Unit, People's Embargo for Palestine, The Role of United Airlines in Military Cargo Shipments to Israel - September 9, 2026
- Sarah Lazare, Dockworkers Unions in Six Countries Announce Day of Strikes and Protests Against War and Genocide, In These Times - July 31, 2026

Zionist Colonization and Palestinian Resistance - Monday 11/9

- Ghassan Kanafani, The Revolution of 1936-1939 in Palestine (1804 Books, 2023)

- Adam Hanieh, Robert Knox, Rafeef Ziadah, *Resisting Erasure: Capital, Imperialism, and Race in Palestine* (Verso, 2025)

Normalization and the Imperialist World System - Monday 11/23

- Hassan E.T.- Where is Sudan?
- Max Ajl, *Palestine's Great Flood: Part I*

Supply Chains and the War Machine - Monday 12/7

- Laleh Khalili, *Sinews of War and Trade: Shipping and Capitalism in the Arabian Peninsula* (Verso, 2020), *Introduction and Chapter 8: Bounties of War*
- Ashok Kumar- *Weaponising the Supply Chain: Yemen's Blockade and the Contradictions of Maritime Logistics Capital*

Organized Labor in the Heart of Empire - Monday 12/21

- Jeff Schurhke, *No Neutrals There: US Labor, Zionism, and the Struggle for Palestine, Introduction, Chapter 3: Bonding With Israel* (Haymarket Books, 2026)
- Jeff Schurhke, *Blue Collar Empire: The Untold Story of US Labor's Global Anticommunist Crusade, Introduction* (Verso, 2024)
- Joe Burns, *Class Struggle Unionism, Chapter 3: Beyond Labor Liberalism*

Break the Chain, Supply Chain Disruption, and Socialist Labor Strategy - Monday 1/4

- Jeff Schurhke, *No Neutrals There: US Labor, Zionism, and the Struggle for Palestine, Chapter 6: Labor for Palestine* (Haymarket Books, 2026)
- *The Rank and File Strategy: A Guide from the Democratic Socialist Labor Commission*
- Eddie Campbell, *Setting an Agenda From the Inside: Building a Fighting Union Within the War Machine*, Long-Haul - 2025
- *No Shortcuts: Organizing for Power in the New Gilded Age* by Jane M. McAlevey, *Chapter 2: The Power to Win is in the Community, Not the Boardroom* (Oxford University Press, 2016)