

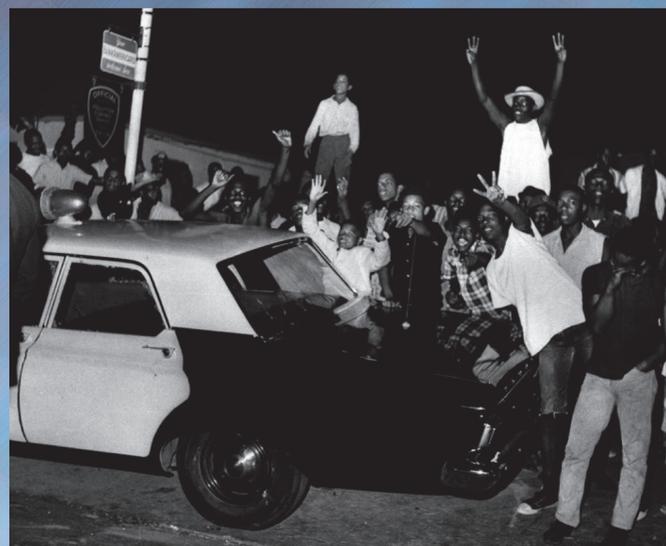
# you can't change the world if you don't know the **BASICS**



Depiction of the 1839 rebellion on the slave ship *Amistad* off the coast of Cuba.

### **Basics 3:17**

People say: "You mean to tell me that these youth running around selling drugs and killing each other, and caught up in all kinds of other stuff, can be a backbone of this revolutionary state power in the future?" Yes—but not as they are now, and not without struggle. They weren't always selling drugs and killing each other, and the rest of it—and they don't have to be into all that in the future. Ask yourself: how does it happen that you go from beautiful children to supposedly "irredeemable monsters" in a few years? It's because of the system, and what it does to people—not because of "unchanging and unchangeable human nature."



In August 1965, tens of thousands of Black people rose up defiantly in the Watts Rebellion.

### **Basics 5:6**

**Editor's note: Here Bob Avakian talks about the 1960s.**

Between the anti-war protesters and the war planners in the Pentagon; between the Black Panthers and J. Edgar Hoover; between Black, Latino, Asian, and Native peoples on the one side and the government on the other; between the women who rebelled against their "traditional" roles and the rich old men who ruled the country; between the youth who brought forward new music, in the broadest sense, and the preachers who denounced them as disciples of the devil and despoilers of civilization: the battle lines were sharply drawn. And through the course of those tumultuous times, those who were rebelling against the established order and the dominating relations and traditions increasingly found common cause and powerful unity; they increasingly gained—and deserved—the moral as well as political initiative, while the ruling class dug in and lashed out to defend its rule, but increasingly, and very deservedly, lost moral and political authority.



John Carlos (right) and Tommie Smith (center), along with Peter Norman, at the medals ceremony for the 200 meters at the 1968 Olympic Games, Mexico City.

### **Basics 5:17**

It is necessary to be boldly saying to people: "We don't need the church, we don't need the switch, we don't need the rod, and, no, we don't need the gangs and the drugs—we need revolution."

### **Basics 2:6**

Let's talk about work and housing together. Look at all these neighborhoods which under the rule of the capitalist system have been allowed and even encouraged to rot. Look at the youth and others just hanging out on the street corner with nothing to do or no way to do anything that doesn't get them into one kind of trouble or another. Imagine changing all that because now we have the power over society—we go to these youth and we say, "Here, we're going to give you training. We're going to give you education. We're going to bring you materials. We're going to enable you to go to work to build some beautiful housing and playgrounds and neighborhoods here for yourself and those who live here." Imagine if we said to them, you can not just work, you can be part of planning all this, you can be part of figuring out what should be done for the benefit of the people to make this society better and to contribute to making a whole different and radically better world. Imagine if for these youth, they could have a way, not just to make a living, building housing, hospitals, community centers and parks and other things people need, but at the same time, they could have the opportunity and the dignity of working together with people throughout society to build a whole better world. There's absolutely no reason why these things aren't possible except that we live under this system which makes them impossible.



Protest against the New York police murder of Sean Bell, 23-year-old Black man, December 1, 2006.

