Gary Ayres

Fire Eater! Guest Writer

Joseph Weydemeyer

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Joseph Weydemeyer was born in Munster, Prussia, in 1818, and died in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1866. A lieutenant of the Prussian artillery from 1839-1845, he was influenced by Rhenish democracy and Westphalian socialism. He was a member of the Kommunistische Korrespondenzkomitee, Brussels 1846, and cooperated with Marx and Engels. He founded similar organizations in Germany and contributed to the Wesphalische Dampfboot.

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He organized worker's societies during the 1848-49 Revolution in Germany, and was editor of several newspapers in Germany and published *Die Revolution* in New York, New York.

He founded the American Workers' Union in 1853 and fought against the South during the War Between the States. After the war he was a politician in Missouri. Weydemeyer was a German Marxist. He went to the Berlin Military Academy and was commissioned an officer in 1838, where he served until his resignation to work for the Socialist and Marxist German revolution of 1848. Weydemeyer first worked for the movement as a journalist. He continued to work for this movement, even after the failed revolution. He continued publishing even up to 1851, until he was forced to go to Switzerland. Unable to work or publish his works because of his involvement in the revolution, a friend and mentor, Karl Marx, suggested he go to America for a temporary "exile." He was encouraged by another friend and mentor, Frederich Engels. Even though Weydemeyer didn't want to go to New York, he was persuaded to by his mentors. Engels told him that "after all…New York is not out of the world".

Weydemeyer arrived in New York in the winter of 1851 and by January of 1852 he had already started a new German-language paper, *Die Revolution*, which appeared in the New York City's Kleindeutschland (Little Germany). During the 1850's Weydemeyer, Karl Marx, and Frederich Engels worked together to form many unions in the northern states. One of the larger unions was the American Workers League. The Marxist men knew that times

were hard in the land and the best way to get to the working class of men was to unite them with propaganda through this quasi-trade union and the quasi-political party. The workers were slowly fed Marxism and Socialism behind the scenes of getting the men work, showing that Socialists had schemes from the beginning to take hold of this country.

What Weydemeyer was successful in getting across to the workers was that they were just slaves for wages. To become more they must form an even stronger party so they could seize control of the state and transform it, stripping it of all its power. All this was done without much help from the native-born Americans. Most of it was at the hands of foreign-born and mainly German-born, who now claimed America as their home. Is this starting to sound like the situation that native-born Americans are now confronting in 2005?

Again, this was done in the northern states. Even though we have not been taught about Socialism and Marxism infiltrating this country, it started most certainly in America at the beginning of the Radical Republicans' birth. One of those major players was Abraham Lincoln. When the election of 1860 came around, Weydemeyer supported Lincoln. Of course, Weydemeyer didn't take a step without the approval of Marx or Engels, so we know the support Lincoln received was from all these fellows. Weydemeyer served in the Union Army as an engineer and artillery officer and was in constant contact with his German Comrades. They discussed American politics and the war and how to effectively win the war. In letters from Engels to Weydemeyer, Engels spoke of Sherman's brilliance, and that against Sherman the South was crude in its ideas and war strategy. Not only did their correspondence back and forth concern tactics. though, but Frederich Engels was supplying Lincoln's army with cannons via Weydemeyer. In a letter from Engels to Weydemeyer he stated, "You may have any number of Prussian howitzers, as they have all been withdrawn now and replaced by rifled 6-pounders and 4-pounders."

After the war, Weydemeyer moved to St. Louis, joining his friends Carl Schurz and Joseph Pulitzer. Weydemeyer was elected county auditor as a Radical Republican. He died of cholera on 20 August 1866 at the age of 48, the day the National Labor Union Party, the organization he founded, was to hold its inaugural convention.

So ask yourselves what was the north involved in, with people like this, leading up to and through the War of Northern Aggression and even up to today. The citizens of this country are fed just enough and given just enough money to keep them in debt to the government. This is in exchange for what? The loss of your freedom!