



“Either we join hands and stand in solidarity with each other or we will be digging our own grave.”

– Leonardo Boff, “Something of Ours Is Already Saved,” an Interview by Dean Dettloff

STUDY GUIDE GEEZ 66: GLOBAL RESISTANCE AND SOLIDARITY

ABOUT GEEZ

Geez magazine is a quarterly, nonprofit, ad-free, print magazine about social justice, art, and activism for people at the fringes of faith in Canada and the U.S.

Geez is committed to naming and raging against oppression while also offering the hope, beauty, and power alive in local communities doing their work.

INTRODUCTION TO THE ISSUE

Whether we are aware of it or not, our lives are tied up with the lives of those all around the planet. They are entwined through systems of global capital that extract resources from some places and deliver them hand-wrapped to others. They are linked through tax-paying, war-making, occupation, colonization, and cultural hegemony.

But they are also connected through oceans and watersheds . . . through subterranean networks of mycelium . . . through movements for liberation and decolonization . . . through stories and songs and spirit that transcend the borders of time and space. The question is not whether our lives are connected, but how.

In the process of working on this issue, Geez was challenged and invited to look more closely at the ways that our magazine relates to resistance and solidarity around the world. We're grateful to share these questions in community and work together towards a world where all the peoples, waters, lands, and creatures of this sweet planet are running wild and free.

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PART I LEARN (FROM OUR ROOTS)

RECOMMENDED READING

Page 12 – Kindred Spirits by the Choctaw Nation

Page 32 – Labour Internationalism Against Climate Apartheid by Matthew Kennedy

Page 45 – The Missionary Impulse by Emily Stoddard

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What historical movements of solidarity inspire you? Who do you turn to as ancestors in this work?
2. In “The Missionary Impulse,” Emily Stoddard reckons with the legacy of missionary work in her family. As a fringe-y Christian magazine, naming and reckoning with this (sometimes) violent, (always) complex, and ongoing legacy feels like an important part of engaging with this issue. Is your family history entwined in missionary work in any way? How does/could that affect your ability to engage in global solidarity work today?

ACTIVITY

1. Do a deep dive into an aspect of your family history or movement history. Write or create something out of it and share it with your community.
2. Matthew Kennedy writes on the climate justice movement's call for a “Just Transition.” Plug into climate justice work in your community in a way that makes sense for you. Attend an action. Support local organizers. Help unionize or decolonize your workplace.

PART 2 GROW (OUR CONNECTIONS)

RECOMMENDED READING

Page 9 – Elderword: International Solidarity Work: Embracing the Contradictions by *Kim Redigan*

Page 13 – Something of Ours Is Already Saved, an Interview with Leonardo Boff by *Dean Dettloff*

Page 17 – Grief Grounds Us in Community by *Elizabeth Underwood*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Leonardo Boff, a liberation theology elder, does powerful dot-connecting around the ways that capital operates on a global scale and also the ways that anti-capitalist movements can be connected. How can we keep a big-picture view of the world and grow our own capacities for dot-connecting, while remaining rooted in our own places, communities, and watersheds?
2. Kim Redigan writes on the complexities of doing international solidarity work as a white U.S. citizen, including the environmental impact, power dynamics, and “saviour complexes.” Have you had such experiences? What did you learn? What do we need to keep in mind when doing solidarity work that crosses lines of identities, power, and access to resources?

ACTIVITY

1. Grow your global connections! Reach out to an international friend or comrade who you haven’t talked to in awhile. Start following a news source from another region in the world. Practise a new language.
2. Find a quiet place to read Elizabeth Underwood’s “Grief Grounds Us in Community.” Sit with the grief that you have known or are holding in your body. Know it as sacred. Feel the way that it connects you to all other beings of the world.

PART 3 FIGHT (FOR EACH OTHER)

RECOMMENDED READING

Page 19 – Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions: A Window of Hope by *Haidar Eid*

Page 24 – Get On the Side of the People by *Angelica Brown*

Page 40 – From Arms and Legs to a Body of Resistance by *Laurie Wen*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Each of these pieces describes intense forms of state oppression and violence. What does reading them bring up for you? Did anything that was named shock or surprise you? Have you had experiences similar to these?
2. Laurie Wen writes, “Emotional solidarity is not a sufficient response to the crisis in Ukraine, or anywhere else. But witnessing is a crucial part of solidarity that helps sustain the long-term action needed.” Do you agree? How can we hold these tensions?

ACTIVITY

1. Take action to stand in solidarity with the people of the Philippines. (See Angelica Brown’s piece).
2. Learn more about or deepen your commitment to the Palestinian call for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions.
3. Join Hong Kongers and Ukrainians around the world in pro-democracy actions and protests.

PART 4 RISE (TOWARDS THE FUTURE)

RECOMMENDED READING

Page 10 – The Prayers of the Earth and Those Who Come Seven Generations From Now by *Shakiya Canty and Marcia Lee*

Page 48 – Bendita Mezcla: Solidarity among Youth throughout NuestrAmérica by *Laurel Marshall Potter*

Page 53 – On Chernozem by *Lerochka Olegovna Kosyreva*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What children or youth are you learning from in the work of global solidarity?
2. Which new or emerging movements are inspiring you?
3. In “On Chernozem,” Lerochka Olegovna Kosyreva writes, “My wish is for us to follow in the way of the chernozem.” She then lists ways that we can show up like this rich soil. Which of these intentions are you most naturally drawn to? Which would you like to grow in?

ACTIVITY

1. Spend time reading the piece by Shakiya Canty and Marcia Lee. Journal, pray, or sit with the question that they gift us: “How do I live my life as the answer to the prayers of the earth and of those who come seven generations from now?”
2. Learn. Grow. Fight. Rise. Repeat!