The American Party of Labor is a revolutionary working class organization. Our aim is to abolish the capitalist system and replace it with a socialist, working democracy, a system based on the principle laid out by Marx, “from each according to his ability, to each according to his need.” There can be no true freedom or democracy, we argue, unless billionaires have more wealth than the bottom 90% of Americans.

Who Can Join? How Do I Get Involved?

Every working person who is open to our plan for change, agree with our Program and Platform and is over the age of 18 is welcome to join.

To look at our joining procedure, activity, membership FAQ, and more please visit:
bit.ly/JoinTheAPL

You can find everything that you should know about us, and you can contact us and connect to members in your area. If we don’t have a presence in your city, we’ll get to know you and help you establish one.

Why is Marxist-Leninism in the USA in the 21st century?

There is an important fundamental difference between Marxism and other so-called anti-captalist or “third way” theories. Marx, unlike many thinkers of his day, did not just set out to develop a new philosophy of history, but to change the structure of society through the operation of collective action by the working class. This is why the so-called Marxist theories for revolution are based on the analysis and theory of the struggle in Europe of 1848. Solutions to the problems of capitalism can only be reached by understanding and changing the system itself, not with the political reality of the current and historical struggles. This is why we think revolutionary history is worth talking about, and making part of our practice.

Regarding the regulation of capital and emergent social democratic requirements, it is not enough to address the symptoms. The problem is that political power is still owned by the ruling class. They have every reason and all the resources necessary to resist reforms and regulations. What they need is to align the interests of the public with the interests of the political system, which is ultimately too radical, but rather that these raise new market-based welfare reforms, which means they have more or less become capitalist countries. As we have seen in the US, liberal ideas are short-lived.

Today, social democracy movements would have to do as much the same, if not less require regulation, nationalization, national industries, and try to maintain a welfare state without reproducing the ruling class without giving them the means of production to the working class to be a meaningful alternative under a new system of management or collectively through a new government.

The American Party of Labor operates nationally to be in touch with the entire world. We are a people who see it necessary to be working class by Marxist-Leninist ideology and principle. Such individuals are few in number, probably a small number of 50,000 or less than 1%. But they have the potential to form the vanguard of the working class and the poor, and the potential to form the vanguard of the working class and the poor in the years to come. The American Party of Labor is the national organization of the working class.

The American Party of Labor demands the abolition of all private property and that all means of production be in the hands of the working class. The Party stands on the side of the working class and its allies in the struggle to destroy the capitalist system and replace it with a socialist one. The working class will be the only solution for our political revolution.

The American Party of Labor demands that all oppressed nations within the context of the American Empire, including, but not means limited to, indigenous people, brown-skinned Latin American and Asian Americans (whom we refer to in this context as the American colonial people), who stand in the path of the American colonial people (whom we refer to in this context as the American colonial people). The working class will be the only solution for the liberation of all of the peoples of the world.

Our General Line.

1. The American Party of Labor demands the abolition of private property and that all means of production be in the hands of the working class. We call for the need to form national and international organizations of the working class and their allies to form the vanguard of the American working class. We call for the need to form national and international organizations of the working class and their allies to form the vanguard of the American working class.

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The Red Phoenix is published bi-monthly by The American Party of Labor.

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2020 ELECTION SPECIAL ISSUE!
WORKERS DECIDE AND ORGANIZE!!

"Parliamentary cretinism is an incurable disease, an illness whose unfortunate victims are persecuted by the lobbies that, whole and its history and its future are directed and determined by a majority of votes that just that very representative institution that has the honour of having them in the capacity of its members."

- Frederick Engels

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Make Support for Communist from Worker Life Today!
By the Secretariat of the American Party of Labor

The whole world watches the upcoming elections in the United States. While there are other powerful imperialist nations in the post-colonial world, the U.S. remains at its center. Specialization on the election directly affects the daily dail and flow of investment in the global market, as capitalists consider the opportunities created by the over 10,000 lives lost during the COVID-19 outbreak and greater instability in the imperialist core. For liberals, the first term of Trump’s presidency has greatly empowered the radical right-wing, seen the intensification of the oppression of immigrants, and the shipping away of bourgeois rights like voting. Right-wing violence against oppressed peoples has not only continued through the state’s repressive forces, but also through the militant right movement that is emerging from the shadows of Charlottesville. In so many ways, this election casts a long shadow over the lives of everyone living in the United States.

There are many on the left that have decided that Trump must be defeated and that endorsements for Biden are the logical call to action. It cannot be denied that Trump must be defeated and that his presidency represents a grave threat to the working class in the U.S. Yet, in this regard, we cannot refuse to acknowledge the simple truth that these fascist policies and movements existed before Trump and will exist, stronger than ever, after Trump. There is no need for Trump to form a paramilitary group when the reactionary citizenry has been cultivated for generations upon generations into being that force. The police have been busy clearing the streets while the violent suppression of oppressed peoples from the get-go. The American state, for all its talk about liberty of the average citizen, has no problem with giving authoritarian power when it suits the needs of the ruling classes, both at home and abroad. All the pieces existed before Trump, exist terribly under Trump, and will exist after Trump.

“Ours are living people who are too seriously impelled to refuse to see, as the whole country did during this week’s debate, that we lose in either case without a real popular movement.”

No Communist group in the United States has a meaningful level of influence over public opinion. Yet, many organizations have thrown their hat into the ring of endorsement, committing themselves to the electoral cause. There is pragmatism behind this but not much else. One might as well argue that a Communist group in the United States endorsing a candidate would hurt that candidate more than anything else. After all, the liberals hate the radical left, and Communists especially, many times more than they hate the right-wing and fascism, the attack on even the social democratic Bernie Sanders campaign shows this.

As the election looms over US political life, from the unemployment lines to the immigrant detention facilities built by Obama and Biden and made a home forugenics and family separation by Trump, to the wealthy suburb Biden and Trump both focus their campaigning on, we say that the slogan of “defeat Trump” is insufficient. As Malcolm X said in 1964, and as the Bolsheviks argued in 1917, the ballot can be a tool for revolutionaries, one that shouldn’t be ignored. But we should never, particularly as fascists grow in power in the United States, reduce our slogans to the old electoral games of “this election is too important.” Our lives as working people are too seriously impelled by grotesque state and right violence to refuse to see, as the whole country did during this week’s debate, that we lose in either case without a real popular movement.

The Long Decoy into American Fascism

In the treatment of any disorder, it is necessary to get to the root cause of the disease. Treating the symptoms of the disease, while important, is not a cure, and will only provide temporary or partial relief to the sufferer. Trump is not the disease, he is a symptom of the disease, the festering rash the disease has brought up. The disease is capitalism. But, identifying the disease is not enough. It’s also necessary to point to its pathologies:

Fascism is nothing new in American political life. From the second generation Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s to Father Coughlin, the German-American Bund, and the developments of the 1930s, to the American Nazi Party of the 1960s and 70s to the Neo-Nazi of today, overtly fascist organizations and ideas have had a persistent presence on the American political scene. What is new is how these groups and the ultra-reactionary ideology they represent have moved from the fringes and shadows to the center stage. It is evident that they have been encouraged and emboldened by the Trump presidency.

It must however be strongly stated that, while clear and open fascism now only recently crept out from the cesspool into the light of day, fascist tendencies and the process of fascistization has been a feature of American society for decades. Fascism is the crisis of capitalism in decay. Fascism is the uniform put on by a capitalism that is no longer able to effectively manage the class struggle and ensure ruling class “order.” It is the triumphant dictatorship of the most reactionary elements of finance capital. Seen in this light, fascism in the United States is not a question of the ultra-nationalist fringe group. Rather, it is part and parcel of the development of American capitalism in its final, imperialist stage.

The fusion of monopoly finance capital with the machine of the state has not been noted and commented on since the 1950s—the much vaunted “military-industrial complex” assuming economic dominance. In the social sphere, there has long been an ongoing process of militarization, not in any racist, but rather in the sense of taking the aspect of an occupying army. On the ideological front, the Civil Rights Movement, women’s movement, and labor movement movements of the 1940s and 1970s triggered a conservative backlash that has continued to this very day. Reagan’s presidency in the 1980s accentuated the attempts to undo any of the liberal policies enacted over the previous two decades. In the 1990s, both the ostensibly liberal Democratic Party and the overtly conservative Republican Party shifted to the Right. This rightward trend has not abated, it has intensified. This is ingrained in the very structure of American politics.

Thus, Trumpism must be seen as a part, and a particular manifestation of, this deeply rooted ongoing process.

If Venezuela held elections in the way American elections are carried out, the U.S. would have bombed the whole region with all NATO countries applauding. Imagine if Macron said he wouldn’t step down, if electors were being stacked by the incumbent, where private companies with association with joined interests which backs candidates also owned the machines on which people vote. If the United Socialist Party of Venezuela owned the voting machines, setting up judges for life, refusing to step down, encouraging right wing gangs to “stand by” for the result of the elections, Caracas would be leveled.

While liberal talking heads make jokes about the state of politics and the right threatening more civil violence, much of the American media continues to look in horror regardless of the results of the election. For most in the world, the leader of the United States is irrelevant because their oppression is in the interest of the United States, even more so dependent on it. Donkey and elephant are not shown on the crest of American soldiers or American bombs.

With a global world market, modern national markets are grown around the international system of exploitation and oppression. These systems are fundamental for capitalism and have been in place since its early beginnings with the development of the Atlantic Slave Trade and gold market formed by the influx of gold from the Americas into Europe. These same exact systems exist today, putting gold in your smartphone, no matter its brand, Apple and Huawei alike.

For communists, we knew that no matter who wins the election, which party holds Congress, the struggle continues. Even if a self-proclaimed Democratic Socialist came to be president and brought the “Nordic Model” to the United States, much of the world would continue to face the worst of exploitation and oppression to support all the social programs that would be enacted.

We are communists because we gain from it, or because we simply hate one group of people, but out of compassion for the millions across the globe that suffer under the heel of American capital. Whether Biden is elected or Trump remains president, the streetkids will be full. Across the continent of Africa, competing imperialist world powers will continue to plunder its land and shackle its people.

So, the struggle continues. Here in the belly of imperialism, communists have the most intense struggle to wage. We wish our friends here had divided exploited and oppressed to overthrow their shackles here in the U.S. so that the shackles the U.S. has on the rest of the world dissolve. If the imperialists are to stop policing their capital across the world with its banks and military that the imperialists must be stopped from policing their home at home with their banks and militaries. Capital at home doesn’t extend to just objects but too people. To the imperialists, black bodies at home are a source of profit and policing, just as they are in Africa under the boots of the same imperialists.

And we continue to struggle against all kinds of forces, both within our movement and without, in our endeavor to build a communist movement. Poverty, racism, war, every kind of social chauvinism are expressions of the class system: Until the class system is overcome, this communist does not rest. This communist stands against the ruling class, the imperialist class, both at home and abroad.

This communist, as the election looms, stands for the liberation of humanity, not for this or that group to claim victories, this or that country to claim power on the world market—for liberation. No matter which button you push once a year to “participate in democracy,” no matter which single-issue campaign you get caught up in, never forget the struggle. Never forget to struggle.
ORANGE HAZE: THE HISTORICAL, CAPITALIST ROOTS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

By Peter Charles Kopf, Red Phoenix Correspondent, Sacramento

Dusk fell at 10am in northern California on September 9th as clouds of smoke blocked out the sun leaving the state with only a dimly lit sky that was accompanied by an orange haze of smoke limiting line of sight and a swirling of ash that built banks of ash on the sidewalks and streets. This apocalyptic scene was caused by an estimated 5,926 wild fires suffocating in the state. While wild fires are common to California and even natural or beneficial, climate change has rapidly intensified their destructive capabilities.

Forest fires in California are nothing new. So many forest fires happen every year the state created an agency, The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), with the explicit purposes of preventing wild fires and preventing firefighting and emergency services during forest fires. Even California’s ecosystem is fire adapted with native plant species such as manzanita, ceanothus, chamise, and scrub oak needing routine forest fires to complete their life cycle.

Unfortunately, the fires this year are not more of the same as this is a recorded breaking year 6 of the fires this year are the largest fires ever recorded and more than 3 million acres of land have been burned exceed the previous record in 2018 of 6.9 million acres burned. The fires are still burning and cities and towns are evacuated across the state. This is the worst the fires have been and they are getting worse. The key question to understanding the wildfire in context is why has something that used to be a benign and necessary part of this land’s ecosystem become so devastating and destructive? There is no one answer about the fire, despite many many on social media might suggest, as its the result of multiple variables that have built up and contributed to each other over the years and are now coming to a head.

One of the courses of this was a bad investment back in the 1800s. All over California you can find groves of eucalyptus trees with their distinct leaves and smell. It’s hard to believe a tree so prevalent in this state is not a native plant, but the tree is actually native to Australia, and was introduced to California in the 1870s. A British scientist, Thomas H. Jones, saw eucalyptus in Australia and he brought seeds to the United States, which were then sent to California. William H. Fountain, who founded this Australian tree grew extremely well in California. Mueller teamed up with Ellwood Cooper, an educator at Santa Barbara, and they wrote books and gave lectures on eucalyptus, how the wood was used as lumber for the construction of buildings and the amounts of leaves that make great livestock feed. Mueller and Cooper became very wealthy through the sale of eucalyptus seeds and saplings and books on their care as investors planted them all over the state. Unfortunately, Mueller and Cooper turned out to be a little too much more than men as the trees where not as quickly to be used and created a dangerous unnatural to wild fires.

Take the case of Frank C. Havens. Havens was a real estate developer in Oakland who planted 8 million eucalyptus trees in a 16-mile strip from Oakland to Berkeley and opened a mill to process the trees. Havens found that the lumber from the trees had an irregular grain and bent, cracked and shrank when dried and the leaves where toxic and animals couldn’t eat them. The trees were worthless and as more investors discovered this, they began to demand the government buy up the trees. Eucalyptus has very oily wood, this causes it to catch fire easily and is extremely hard to put out. The spread of these trees over the last century have made the forest fires more intense and frequent and then the normally would have been had the trees not been introduced for a quick profit for aspiring capitalists.

The second reason for the influx of fires has been Democrat Republican apathy to climate change. The 2020 fire season was preceded by a record breaking heat wave in Canada causing the state to be even more and then usual. Forest fires tend to slow down at night when the temperature cools down leading to condensation that increases the humidity and makes things less flammable. This year has been different as night temperatures are not dropping like they used to, causing fires to burn at the same rate night and day. Climate models have predicted high precipitation rates in the winter and spring leading to more growth, followed by hot and dry summers. This will cause a climate which is more likely to cause wildfires will lead to more under growth creating more kindling in the summer making fires more intense.

Scientists across the world agree that climate change is real and is human caused and we need to address it before the earth is unusable. Yet Trump, when visiting California to cheer on and offer support to emergency responders fighting the fires, refused to acknowledge the role of climate change and stated “Well I don’t think science knows, actually, I’ll start getting cooler you just you just watch” when asked about climate change. President Trump has stated the fires are caused by poor forest management by the state (despite most of the forest being on federal land). His denial of climate change is an opinion shared by most of the Republican party. You would think the Republicans’ apathy towards climate change should not worry Californians and the west coast as this area is largely controlled by Democrats who acknowledge climate change. While they acknowledge climate change, they do little to nothing about it. The “Green New Deal” promoted by Alexandria Ocasia-Cortez and other members of the “Squad” has not gained traction across the entire party. Governor Gavin Newsom and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi who are both Californians and Democrats have been dismissive and critical of the “Green New Deal”, with Governor Newsom stating he had “some trouble with the idea” and Pelosi commenting the energy sources had failed. Pelosi saying “It will be of one or several or maybe many suggestions that we receive. The green dream, or whatever they call it, nobody knows what it is. It’s not a solution that’s going to come out of the air.”

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In conclusion, the fires are not just a natural disaster. It is caused by human actions, specifically deforestation and climate change. We need to take action to prevent future fires and protect our environment for future generations.

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ELECTIONS WON’T DEFUSE FEAST, ONLY WE CAN (CONT.)

The Historic Crimes of the Trump Regime

Yet, in tracing and understanding this history, we shouldn’t lose track of the shifts and accelerating of criminality undertaken by the Trump regime. The crimes of the Trump government against the peoples of the United States are severe and innumerable. His response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been an utter failure, prioritizing profits over human health and distorting scientists and experts in general, resulting in 200,000+ deaths. The coronavirus has disproportionately affected the African-American population, as well as causing untold deaths among Americans with no healthcare coverage, over 10,000,000 of which lost their insurance during the COVID 19 recession. Official figures of unemployment in the U.S. currently stands at over 30 million people, with no relief in sight except one pitiful $1200 stimulus payment that barely covers one month of rent and living expenses for most US citizens.

His government has been vitriolic racist and anti-immigrant from the start, and now U.S. policy manifests in ripping children from their parents and imprisoning them indefinitely into what must be called concentration camps. This atrocity is only compounded by the recent reports of forced hysterectomies within these detention camps, an outright genocidal action. The Trump regime has overseen a continuous erosion and rollback of the democratic rights of the people for self-expression, assembly, protest, and speech, through the use of murderous police terror and calls for violence against peaceful protesters, targeting of political opponents, and attempting to list the broad anti-fascist forces and Black Lives Matter activists as terrorists for opposing right wing reaction and fighting for civil rights. All this points to a landscape of repression of the dissident and the people’s democratic rights.

“All the historians, all the experts, all the survivors of authoritarian regimes of the past, all the mass organizations, all the human rights groups, all the working poor of this country, and all the rest of the world, agree on this singular issue: we must be prepared to stop the rise of fascism in the United States at all costs.”

Top of this, Trump himself has made plain his intent to destroy and sabotage the remaining vestiges of bourgeois democracy still remaining, intentionally withholding funding from the Postal Service to sabotage mail-in voting, giving speeches with false claims of voter fraud designed to disenfranchise Americans, instituting a block of payroll taxes designed to defund and dismantle Social Security (primarily hurting the elderly and working poor), and openly stating he will “negotiate” to serve a third term in office, despite threats of impeachment and calls to abolish the Electoral College that permitted him to win the 2016 electoral college. All of this is a clear agenda by Trump to move toward becoming an autocratic ruler.

The Trump government is actively working to destroy what left is of human rights and constitutional bourgeois democracy in the United States, as well as roll back social programs for healthcare and public education, bodily autonomy through Roe v. Wade, the right to organize in a union, minimum wage and protection for workers, basic universal voting rights, all while clearing the pathway for the wealthy owners of monopolies and corporations to seize more power in society than ever before, not to mention ignoring and aggravating the natural disasters from the existent environmental crisis of climate change. The racist oppression of immigrants and the sabotaging of democracy echo the fascist of the past. All the historians, all the experts, all the survivors of authoritarian regimes of the past, all the mass organizations, all the human rights groups, all the working poor of this country, and all the rest of the world, agree on this singular issue: we must be prepared to stop the rise of fascism in the United States at all costs.

The Unique Features of American Fascism, and Our Unique Responses

Many left commentators have been slow to recognize this fascist progression in the US since 2016, because they conceive of fascism as a rational, objectively identifiable ideological movement. In 2016, when the American Party of Labor identified Trump as a proto-fascist, we were often attacked, and accused of reformism for not attacking Hillary Clinton enough. Leftists and liberals attacked us for flying a banner that equated Trump and Mussolini.

But we know that Fascism has historically moved in many different patterns and has its own character in each country it penetrates. Instead of a pure army race, we have a more general white supremacy, replacing the Japanese Fascist desire for a Pacific empire we have American Exceptionalism and international hegemony supported by both blue and red. Yet all cases of Fascism, however they present themselves as a theme, they are anti-rational manifestations of the general fascist desire to bring about a despotic dictatorship of the most chauvinist forces in the country and capital. There is little one can do to sway a white supremacist, but that doesn’t rely on the illusions of the myth of a new reality, as the recent debate proved with little doubt: Due to this the standard political discourse fails short of removing Fascism from power. As Jean Paul Sartre argued of the fascists, “They know that their remarks are frivolous, open to challenge. But they are amusing themselves, for it is their divinity which is obliged to use words respectively, since he believes the words. But the anti Semites have the right to play.”

Join Us In The Fight! Get Involved Today!
practice often renounces the deep ideological struggle required to do such things, and refuses to redress themselves to the contradictions within the US working class, even sometimes refusing to acknowledge that US working class exists.*

Everywhere reaction and hatred is, we must be there to counter it with working class organization, journalism, and mutual aid. In Orlando, Alabama, New Jersey, New York City, and beyond, the American Party of Labor has found success in organizing through and aligning with local working class organizations that bring a national program of working democracy and socialism. Stronger local organizations bring the great urgency of our platform to working people, and orient them with greater clarity and focus. In this era of electoral red, blue, and purple states, communists must intentionally cross those lines. In doing so, however, we have to be willing to speak to local people, address their concerns, and be willing to educate and discuss with those who hold reactionary positions. The US left is often quick to praise the work of the interwar CPUSA in organizing the south and black communities, but in contemporary practice often renounces the deep ideological struggle required to do such things, and refuses to redress themselves to the contradictions within the US working class, even sometimes refusing to acknowledge that US working class exists. To defeat fascism, we have to face those influences through the education of police, workers, and discuss and de-educate them.

As fascism rises in the US, refusing to do the hard work of revolutionary organizing could prove a fatal mistake. For this reason, we say that we must defeat the rise of fascism with radical working class organizing, not just Trump, and not just with cynical, pragmatic, and “tactical” electioneering. More than anything else, we have to amplify the power of the workers of the world, who often feel powerless and blown about by fascist policy and anti-science fanaticism in 2020. We all felt and saw how alienated most of the country felt, both right and left, by the recent debate. That is the power of the socialist movement, to weaponize our experiences of alienation against the alienation of the working class into organization and power. A national organization of working class people, deeply linked with local organizations, can, like the revolutionary movements of the past, fundamentally remake society and vanquish fascism once, and for all.

**The US left is often quick to praise the work of the interwar CPUSA in organizing the south and black communities, but in contemporary**
LETTER TO THE PHOENIX: “DEFEATING TRUMP” IS NO EXCUSE FOR PROGRESSIVES TO SETTLE FOR MODERATE DEMOCRATS

Biden will inevitably abandon his promises if elected. During the primaries he opposed progressive policies advocated by Sanders such as the Green New Deal and socialized healthcare. It was only after other conservative Democrats such as Buttigieg and Harris dropped out of the race in order to slow the momentum of Sanders that Biden suddenly reversed his stance in an attempt to pander to progressives.

The Democratic leadership will never allow progressives and self-proclaimed socialists to dominate the party, even if it means handing power to Republicans. Progressives upset with the Democratic establishment must actively commit to voting for third parties if they want any chance of succeeding. Donald Trump is only used as an excuse by the likes of Biden, Pelosi, and others to shame the working class into remaining complacent with endless compromise.

NAARPR CALLS FOR PROTESTS THE DAY AFTER THE NOVEMBER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (NOVEMBER 4, 2020)

Trump losing the elections will create greater organizing space for turning this page of history with large with sickness, death and mass rebellion to embark upon the road for freedom, justice and equality and ending the plundering of the monopoly capitalist bosses.

Biden’s victory is important in this moment of history we do not deny that in the least. Yet we must face the sober reality that his victory will not necessarily provide the path to freedom, justice and equality for our people, for the 140 million poor, for the homeless, the sick, hungry and working class masses. We, the people’s movement is the vehicle we must drive up freedom’s road.

We are also well aware that Trump has said that he would not leave power. His administration has already tried to disrupt the election by undermining the Post Office and attacks on mail-in voting. Trump could try many things during and after the election such as trying to stop the vote count (a tactic that pro-U.S. forces in other countries have done to fix elections) or call out right wing shock troops.

The fundamental truth of the case of this national call for protests the day after the November Presidential election is that the great historical lesson of the moment we are in is best characterized by the fact that over 22 million rebelled against racist injustice in response to the brutal murder of George Floyd. The social energy of this great rebellion is the same energy compelling us to call this protest. Join us and let us, the people united, open a new era of struggle for our liberation dedicate to never returning our country to like it was. We are fighting for a new day to dance with great jubilee in the sunlight of freedom.

Every Struggle for Liberation has its Home in the Party of Labor

The Peoples’ Mandate For Change Must Be Carried Out

In this triple pandemic of racism, COVID-19, and recession our National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression is issuing a call to all the democratic forces presently engaged in the struggle against racist injustice, the economic slaughter of our communities and the utterly unspeakable failure at all levels to use its full capacity to stop the death march of the coronavirus across the land.

We, as a country, have a greater capacity in terms of wealth and technology than most other countries to stop the spread of infections and death but unmitigated, capitalist greed, putting profits before people, has made us the leading country in COVID-19 infections and death. The pandemic has hit African American and other oppressed communities the hardest.

We are going all out in this election to defeat Trump because it is unequivocally clear that this administration’s racist, anti-people and anti-working class policies have already eradicated every semblance of democracy and brought us to the brink of the worst economic disaster in U.S. history with no plan whatsoever to provide relief for our suffering people. This recession has hit women, and in particular black women the hardest, sucking away years of progress.

Win or lose in the elections we are calling for mass protests the day after the election to highlight the fact that Trump’s scorched earth policies have left the political landscape almost as barren and bleak as COVID-19 and the police-state style racist repression used against tens of thousands of protesters, leaving thousands injured and jailed and some dead. Trump has openly sided with racist, right-wing, violent elements to attack the movement against police crimes.

Our Demands:
Stop Police Crimes!
NAARPR calls for Community Control of Police!
Extend and expand economic relief for the unemployed!
Stop the evictions and utility shut off!
Protect the health care that we have, we want health care for all!
Fight the pandemic!
Stop the racist attacks on immigrants and the harassment of Asian Americans!
LETTER TO THE PHOENIX: WHY DOES VOTING IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS SEEM SO IMPORTANT?

Note: The Red Phoenix does not edit the content of letters and reproduces them as a glimpse into the minds of working people in the US.

The Red Phoenix received the following letter from G. Green on the nature of the 2020 election. G. Green is a ‘meat-lock and worker bee career bartender, mom/hed of household’ living in Florida.

Nowadays in the US, it is made abundantly clear that everyone wants you to vote, to exercise your right to participate and be heard. All types of people, from politicians to celebrities, to community members, family members and even Atlanta’s leading exotic dancers are rushing you to get your booty to the polls.

When I was younger, there was a Hitler heist all over the media telling us simultaneously to ‘Rock The Vote’ and ‘Stop being poor’ in the same year. I wondered... Why would Paris want me to vote? After all, I hated her and all the privilege she represented so why should she care what I have to say about anything? It came as no surprise when the news broke that the thin, spoiled and famous blonde didn’t just not vote that year but in fact, wasn’t even registered to do so. Her voting performance was done for social or financial reasons. It was done by a master of the principle. In light of a recent Cambridge Study that tracked the real differences between the two parties, maybe Paris’ apathy was justified.

Voting may look and even feel good, but the truth is it doesn’t help anyone as the study suggests. There’s always been an extravagant aspect to American democracy. There’s the fanaticism of the people, the performative showmanship from the candidates and the spectacle-like media wire in a constant whirl. Now we know as fact that this exhibition is an illusionary one. In the wake of a global pandemic that still lingers in the US airwaves and having now more positive cases in the White House than in all New Zealand and North Korea for the last 10 days, the American people are focusing on science and trusting it more than ever.

Science, in the shape of that recent study, tells us today that our vote does not make a difference at all. Because it all turns out, on the issues that affect the poor, the depopulation of poverty, police violence, and so on, which party wins has little effect. The study carefully measures how the two major parties affect economic, education, environment, crime, family, social, and health outcomes and it finds ZERO differences between the democratic and republican parties.

I fail to see how this study has not made big news, this factual statistical information is more valuable now than ever before. Science has warned us before about the unsustainability of capitalism and the damaging effects of a rampant free market to the average citizen. Today, Science is shouting at us that the two ruling parties are just as one. It is showing the sham that our electoral process is on a whole new level. This isn’t just the electoral college, this is a blatant lie and it’s not just your Marxist philosophy professor telling you, this is the premier journal in political science letting you know what’s up. Straight up.

So, why would there be so much pressure to participate in a democracy that is purely theoretical? I think we all can agree that the canvassers, the census, the media and political ads are getting increasingly aggressive. Going as far as having each of the two major parties telling you to vote against the other, as opposed to, in their favor. Presidential candidates are running on a “I’m not the other guy” platform, and each party cries that the other will take your basic liberties, trample your rights and destroy our country. Frankly, this style of campaigning feels insulting to the intelligence of anyone who can acknowledge that real democracy can not be founded in fear.

The answer to why the establishment would want you to vote is simple:

To make you feel good and look good and, to make the system look even better, like it’s actually working as if it was a real democracy. Voting, especially in this election, would be an incredibly self-serving act that satisfies mostly yourself. It justifies the collective faith in a system that is not what it promises. As Gare Vidal once said, “the two parties are just one party, representing four percent of the population.

The presidential elections have become just another product for our massive consumption.

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IN ALABAMA, ORGANIZING WORKERS HAS BECOME A MORE EFFECTIVE WEAPON THAN THE BALLOT.

By Jay Hyde, October 2020

With the 2020 election looming overhead in Alabama, which is state Trump is statistically the most likely to win, the fight for a working class movement is stronger than it has been in decades. There are many that feel disillusioned and cynical towards the electoral system. Many believe that the true power can only come from the people, and that the ballot is either largely a spectacle or simply a means of harm reduction. The capitalist duopoly have once again shown their hand, and they have struck down even the most basic of social programs and reforms that could benefit the working and oppressed peoples in a meaningful way. Due to the alienation from the system felt by workers, the Huntsville IWW was the obvious place to feel for a path forward for Alabama. I asked David and Jacob, two members of the Huntsville Industrial Workers of the World Union in Alabama, what their thoughts on the election are, and they did not pull any punches. The first topic discussed was if they plan to vote, if anything has influenced their decision, how they feel about the choices presented, and if they are excited to vote. David responded by saying, “I have already voted absentee, about a month ago. My decision was mainly influenced by a feeling of need to do something. Recognizing that I live in a solid red state, my vote has no impact whatsoever on the presidential race, regardless I felt the need to at least make a mark off my ballot.” Jacob then responded with “I vote. My default position is voting, so not much influencing my decision there. For me not to vote would be what would require some sort of external influence. I don’t feel good about the choices presented, and I’m not excited. When voters are not excited about their options, and largely feel that their voices are not even listened to, it becomes increasingly imperative that we continue creating a party made up of workers that fights for workers rights. Dave’s statements make it pretty clear that the Democratic Party is not seen as the party of the working class here in Alabama.

After that, we got into whether or not they felt their vote had meaning. David replied by reiterating, “See above, the only meaning my vote has is in my heart, knowing I’ve done what I could to stop the bleeding. At this point it’s more about harm reduction.” Jacob replied by stating, “Not particularly, because of the electoral college and my being in Alabama.” This shows the failure of our current system, so voters are forced to either vote for who is perceived as the lesser of two evils, and even then most workers’ votes are canceled out by an antiquated system. This is the path we’ve been on and it’s been suffocating our voices for far too long.

This is where the discussion took an empowering turn. We discussed what workers can do to get a ballot they feel good about! Dave stated, “Build a grassroots network to start helping get workers elected. It doesn’t matter if their janitors, electricians or cooks. Get them on the damn ballot and get them elected.”

We are no longer a representative republic because our representatives, for the most part, have never worked an honest day in their lives. THIS IS THE PROBLEM. We need working class people making the budget and running the country. People that aren’t trying to gain favor with corporations, people that want to serve people. People that believe in mutual aid.” Jacob responded similarly with, “I reckon more primary participation would help, but more than that we need to organize on the job—that’s where our power lies, where we have the longest work weeks, and where the least union protection. For us to be able to organize, we need to continue the revolutionary struggle every day on the streets, on the job, in local elections, and in whatever spaces workers can gather to fight for worker and community control on every level.

If you would like to find out more about Dave and Jacob, please check out Huntsville IWW Facebook and Twitter. Also, they have a radio show and YouTube channel. The Valley Labor Report is a weekly radio program airing 9:30 to 11:00am on Saturdays on 92.5 WNN. They will be covering local, state, and national American events, so check it out!

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