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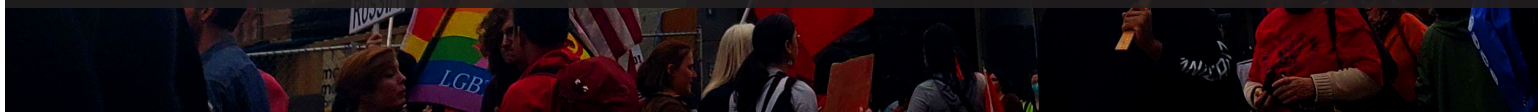
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AMERICAN WORKERS FACE INTENSIFYING STRUGGLE FOR LIFE AND LIBERATION



REFORM CANNOT FIX IT! ONLY ECONOMIC SYSTEM CHANGE CAN COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE!



The second-largest oil refinery in the US, owned by ExxonMobil in Baton Rouge, LA. (Barry Lewis/InPictures)

Devin B., New York. May 17, 2023.

In recent decades, the capitalist ruling class has had to face the reality of the ongoing destruction of the Earth's ecosystems and its inevitable consequences for human survival in the coming years. Leading scientists have proven and continue to emphasize that global warming, the extinction and endangerment of a majority of the Earth's species, and the general destruction of the environment are the fault of human activity – with the majority of it being caused in the last two centuries. Suffice to say that capitalism as an economic system, maintained through profit incentives and monopolies, will be the gravedigger of humanity and most of life on this planet due to its innate desire to extract profits at a constant rate of increase.

Capitalism cannot fundamentally improve problems caused by the very motivation for production under capitalism – profitability. To drastically curb the excesses of a for-profit economic system means to heavily regulate or outright abolish private industry – concessions that the capitalist class will never grant to the working class or else jeopardize their very social position.

Humans have been interacting with their environment for the entirety of our existence as a species: first through the early nomadic hunter-gatherer societies of humanity; then to a greater extent with the advent of stone and bronze tools; then even more so with adoption of animal husbandry and domestication of agriculture. These types of changes occurred well before the Industrial period and serve as the start of mass human alteration and extraction of the Earth, although still very limited and inefficient in light of the technical capabilities of the epoch.

By the time of the Industrial Revolution and afterwards, the technological advancements in production and manufacturing allowed for greater

efficiency in resource extraction and commodity production that further stimulated those processes to the point of unsustainability that we see today. Humanity has always interacted with nature as we ourselves are part of it, born from it, and need the resources it produces to stay alive. The difference in that relation under capitalism is that humanity's need to interact with the Earth for survival was distorted into an urge to do so to the degree that these processes aided in commodity production and resulted in greater and greater gains for capitalists.

The realization of the capitalist mode of production greatly accelerated the rate of consumption of fossil fuels and rare earth materials relative to the pre-Industrial era. This rapid increase in humanity's productive capabilities allowed for previously unattainable efficiency in the processes of creation of commodities, encouraging capitalists to indulge in the financial possibilities of largely unregulated environmental interaction and resource consumption.

Capitalism advanced the rate of exploitation of labor and nature to such an extreme degree that it was only a matter of time before the system's contradictions produced grave environmental consequences that would result in loss of life on a global scale. For instance:

- 1) There are currently 3 trillion metric tons of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, (37 percent higher than the level prior to the Industrial Revolution);
- 2) The atmosphere has a methane concentration of 1,774 parts per billion (ppb) (a 59 percent increase from the concentration before the Industrial Revolution);
- 3) The concentration of nitrous oxide, which has a global warming effect roughly 300 times that of carbon dioxide over 100 years, is 18 percent higher than prior to I.R.;
- 4) Black carbon, or soot, is made up of microscopic particles from incomplete burning of organic matter like fossil fuels and warms both the atmosphere and snow (and ice). It is likely responsible for as much as 25 percent of global warming and over 30 percent of Arctic warming.

The anarchic and largely unregulated production under capitalism has allowed mainly 90 companies – including Chevron, Exxon, BP, etc. – to cause two-thirds of these global warming emissions and bring us into a new extinction event, according to leading scientists (who have said so as early as 1998!).

None of this has been a surprise to the capitalist ruling class. Scientists have been theorizing about the possible correlation between the burning of fossil fuels and global warming through CO2 emissions since the late 19th century (Svante Arrhenius). In 1960, Charles David Keeling provided scientific evidence to support this earlier hypothesis, and his data gave birth to the Keeling Curve, a daily record of global atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration. Yet, the American Petroleum Institute knew of such a connection a year prior through the likes of physicist Edward Teller who brought warnings of drastic increase in global temperatures by the end of the century. Sadly, this newly acquired knowledge was used for the purposes of misinformation and denial by oil industry executives who funded scientists and organizations that subscribed to their distorted view of reality.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, ExxonMobil formulated their anti-science positions through a series of memos that sought to stress uncertainty in scientific conclusions on fossil fuels and global warming to divert public outcry away from them and their peers. In response to impending catastrophe, the capitalists choose to sow distrust and anti-intellectualism to protect themselves, effectively condemning significant portions of the life on this planet to death. For almost 70 years, the barons of the oil industry have been well aware that continued intense use of fossil fuels would lead to a rise in the Earth's temperature that would melt glaciers at the poles and raise the planet's sea levels. Nearly a century's worth of inaction and indifference by those almost solely responsible have caused the dire conditions that we find ourselves in today and will continue to have to adapt to in the near future.

Corporations are so indifferent to human suffering that some have even sued governments for attempting to switch to green energy! Internal documents and publicly released emails have shown that capitalists are not dedicated to achieving net zero emissions – they are truly the enemies of the people and life in general. They silence and smear science, take legal action against anybody willing to jeopardize profits for the future of humanity, and worst of all choose not only to maintain current levels of emissions but seek ways to raise profit margins and increase production – therefore looking to RAISE current emissions and accelerate our suffering.

We cannot stand for this any longer – the time has well passed when we could passively scoff at data that is staring us in the face. Capitalism will be the gravedigger of humankind if we do not immediately

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REFORM CANNOT FIX IT! ONLY ECONOMIC SYSTEM CHANGE CAN COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE!

organize the working class around the most important fight of our times. We cannot trust the capitalist ruling class to consider the dire situation in front of us all—we have to take the reins of production into OUR hands collectively and conduct production in a manner that considers the environment first and foremost. We have to bring together our isolated and disunited organizations and parties into a coalition fighting for our Earth and our future! We have to unite to force as many concessions and reforms from the capitalist class as possible in preparation for greater and ultimately revolutionary changes to the structure of and policies around production, distribution and disposal in this country.

In the end, the only systemic solution that can guarantee complete and total control over the economy, the only one that raises humanity from the blind consumption of goods to responsible

and sustainable control over itself, is a centrally planned economy. Centrally planned economies allow integration of all firms into a wider system, the destruction of intellectual property, the data transference necessary between different firms to both improve production and to actively account for indicators in a way LCAs (Life Cycle Assessments; processes to determine products' environmental impact through an analysis of the product's life from production to final disposal) can never do: across the entirety of a society. Central planning allows for the possibility of not only curbing the rising levels of greenhouse gases, but also to reduce their concentrations. All barriers to this progress would be removed, and we will exit the Capitalinian age and enter the Communian age. But what must first fall is private ownership of property. As such, even many scientists advocate that capitalist society must come to an end.

We cannot sit on our hands here. We have to advance the struggle against our extinction event at an ever increasing rate and without disunity and sectarianism. The best weapon we have as the working class is organization and solidarity for the achievement of a common goal, the security of the rights which we can guarantee, and the active rejection of all those proposed that seek to deny us those rights. As organizers and activists, as progressives and revolutionaries, we cannot allow our ideological differences to separate us beyond the point of cooperation; it plays right into the hands of the capitalists and therefore into our collective demise! If the capitalists act in unity for their common goal of profits, denial, and destruction, then let us unite for our common goal of democracy, solidarity, and sustainability.

KENT STATE MASSACRE: IF YOU DARE TO STRUGGLE, YOU DARE TO WIN

Red Nesbitt, Maryland. May 4, 2023.

On May 4, 1970, the Ohio National Guard fired into a crowd of student demonstrators who were on strike against President Richard Nixon's announcement to expand the Vietnam War into Cambodia. The Kent State University students in Ohio had assembled a protest on university grounds of some 2,000 people, and the National Guard attempted to disperse the large crowd of demonstrators with a bullhorn, but could not be heard over the chants and protest songs of the students. At that time tear gas was fired into the crowd with grenade launchers to push the students back, whereupon the Guards advanced in formation to the athletic grounds. The protestors surrounded the Guardsmen and chanted slogans such as "Pigs off our campus!"

After the Guards had fired a pistol shot into the air and fired another volley of tear gas, the students parted and allowed the Guards to exit the athletic grounds, but trailed behind the military formation to ensure they did not lose any ground to the repressive forces. Without giving any verbal warning to the students taking back their positions, the National Guard fired into the crowd, in a volley which some eyewitnesses reported that "appeared to go on, as a solid volley, for perhaps a full minute or a little longer." Many students did not disperse even after hearing the gunshots because they had been given no warning, and could not believe that they would be fired upon with lethal ammunition instead of blanks. Then the bodies started falling. Four students were fatally shot, Allison Krause,

19, Jeffrey Glenn Miller, 20, Sandra Lee Scheuer, 20, and William Knox Schroeder, 19. Nine other students were injured. After the volley ceased, the would-be weekend warriors ordered the students to disperse or they would be fired upon once again.

Over 700 students initiated a sit-down on campus to hold their ground. Adjutant Professor Glenn Frank ran onto the campus pleading for the students to disperse, yelling, "I don't care whether you've never listened to anyone before in your lives. I am begging you right now. If you don't disperse right now, they're going to move in, and it can only be a slaughter. Would you please listen to me? Jesus Christ, I don't want to be a part of this!" The protest dispersed at that time and ambulances arrived to tend to the victims.

The massacre triggered national outcry. 450 college campuses nationwide declared a strike and over 4 million students and workers protested the Kent State killings. Students at New York University flew a banner that read, "They can't kill us all!" Only days into the strike, on May 8, 11 people were bayoneted by the New Mexico National Guard in a confrontation between students and Guardsmen at the University of New Mexico. In New York City, a massive protest with over 20,000 demonstrators clashed with construction workers belonging to a conservative trade union in what became known as the Hard Hat Riot. Hundreds of people were injured, including seven police, and six people were arrested but only one of them was one of the class traitor rioters.

The nationwide strike and the continued violence against anti-war demonstrators all emanating from the Kent State Massacre had a profound impact on public opinion against the Vietnam War, and only three years later the US military was forced to withdraw its combat troops from Vietnam, supporting the South Vietnam government logistically for another two years, until that reactionary government fell and Vietnam was united under People's Power. In the United States, several photographs detailing the shooting have become infamous for the horror created at the scene by the American repressive state apparatus. The culture of resistance of the 1970s, and in every popular manifestation since, has paid homage to a brutal reactionary crime perpetrated on American soil. On May 4, 1970, the wretched realities of reactionary terror and the menace of fascism came home for the American masses, and to this day it lingers like a prowling predator.

The American Party of Labor solemnly pays its respects to every student and worker, of every political conviction, that opposed the Vietnam War and paid for their courage with their life, their liberty, and their happiness. Their banner is carried forward as Marxist-Leninists and popular forces today fight the same battles against apartheid, war, capitalist tyranny, and the social liberation of all oppressed classes and peoples.

***Pigs Off Our Campuses! Solidarity, Forever!
Not One Step Back! No War Among Peoples, No
Peace Among Classes!***

U.S. SUPREME COURT UNDERMINES POWER OF ORGANIZED LABOR

Leonard Zorfass, New Jersey. June 5, 2023.

According to a recent Supreme Court ruling released on Thursday, June 1, 2023, companies are now granted the ability to sue unions for damages resulting from strikes.

Damages resulting from strikes very much include financial damage and loss of profit. This decision strikes a blow at an already fragile power base among unions, while undermining the collective efforts of workers in "right-to-work" states. By examining relevant data, we can understand the implications of this ruling on exploited workers and marginalized communities.

In recent years the Supreme Court's attacks on organized labor, which began under the Reagan regime, have continued more openly and with less resistance.

Research conducted even by bourgeois organizations, such as the Economic Policy Institute, consistently reveals the critical role that unions play in reducing income inequality and narrowing the wage gap. Unionized workers, and particularly workers from oppressed communities, benefit from higher wages and improved benefits compared

to their non-unionized counterparts. The June 1 Supreme Court ruling obstructs the potential of unions to uplift marginalized workers, hindering their capacity to effectively fight for fair treatment and economic justice through the legal means of the current system. This threatens to exacerbate existing income disparities, limit access to quality healthcare and retirement benefits, and perpetuate systemic injustices.

This ruling is openly presented as a measure to protect the interests of companies against the interests of their exploited and oppressed employees. By granting companies the ability to sue unions for damages, the ruling seeks to intimidate and suppress the collective power of the oppressed. It reinforces the inherent violence of capitalism, as corporations wield their financial might as a weapon against the workers' demands for better wages, improved working conditions, and an end to exploitation.

History has shown us the transformative power of organized resistance. The ruling class fears the unity of workers. Even the tame strikes of recent years have put enough fear into the ruling class to make such fundamental attacks on workers rights. It is through solidarity, education, and collective

action that we can dismantle the structures that perpetuate exploitation and fight for a society where the needs and aspirations of the oppressed are valued above profit. Fostering inclusive and diverse radical labor movements that center the experiences and demands of workers of color and oppressed genders will be crucial to the liberation of the working class and humankind as a whole.

The erosion of legal rights and protections demands urgent attention and action. As attacks on the working masses persist, it becomes increasingly apparent that the struggle for justice and equality may necessitate unconventional means to rectify systemic injustices.



Members of the Supreme Court sit for a new group portrait following the addition of Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, at the Supreme Court building in 2022. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF SUMATRA PROTEST P&G DEFORESTATION AT OHIO MAY DAY



Protesters carry a banner demanding for P&G to honor their promise. (Photo: The Blackbird Collective/Instagram)

Robin H., Ohio. May 6, 2023.

On May Day, activists with the Rainforest Action Network, The Blackbird Collective, and Study Group for the People's Initiative Development (KSPPM), and representatives from the Pargamanan-Bintang Maria community of Sumatra, Indonesia, marched in Cincinnati to protest against Procter & Gamble for going against their word and continuing to do business with a company called Toba Pulp Lestari (TPL), a pulp and paper company in North Sumatra.

TPL has jailed land defenders, deforested stretches of indigenous land of the local population, and displaced locals by seizing lands on which they base their livelihoods. P&G does business with a supplier called Royal Golden Eagle Group, which uses a network of companies to control millions of acres of land, including the aforementioned TPL. In doing business with RGE, P&G incentivizes land grabs and stripping indigenous people of their land.

Protesters from Cincinnati and Indonesia joined together to chant their demand: "tutup, tutup, tutup TPL, tutup TPL, sekarang juga," and its English translation, "shut down, shut down, shut down TPL, shut down TPL, shut it down right now."

Evajunita Lumban Gaol delivered a speech sharing the perspective of the indigenous people of the region. "Companies like PNG make so much money, they cannot eat that money. We grow from and eat from the land. We eat the rice, the vegetables, and the fruit that come from the land. The land is what gives us life. If PNG continues to do business with corporations that destroy our forest, destroy our

land, that means PNG is killing the future generations of the people of my community."

Although they are not often seen tied together, indigenous peoples' struggles also tend to be one of the most potent struggles of environmentalism. According to the World Wildlife Fund, 80% of the planet's biodiversity in forests, deserts, grassland, and marine environments are protected by only 5% of the world's population: indigenous peoples.

May Day is a celebration of International Workers Day. As communists, socialists, and workers across the globe marched in solidarity together, Cincinnati's May Day was unique in that workers who live nearly 9,500 miles apart came together to protest the injustice of global finance capital in two different layers of the supply chain, both in joint action to help the indigenous people of North Sumatra to end deforestation and displacement. The protest in Cincinnati shows that in the battle for socialism and against capitalism's climate crisis, it takes all of us internationally working together to dismantle this oppressive and destructive system.

E.P.N.I. STRUGGLES FOR CONCESSIONS



EPNI activists and supporters marching for their cause. (EPNIfarm.org)

Justine S., Minnesota. June 7, 2023.

In 2023, the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute (EPNI) in Minneapolis will purchase the Roof Depot, a vacant lot named by its most recent corporate inhabitant. EPNI is run by activists as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, with all of its tax statements easily accessible. The city had planned to demolish the lot, to which activists, especially from the American Indian Movement, objected on the grounds that demolition presents an undue risk to the neighborhood, with arsenic from the factory's pesticide-producing past being easily dispersed onto the neighboring, largely Black, Indigenous, and Latino community. As a counter-proposal, the EPNI has put forth a vision of the abandoned Roof Depot repurposed as an urban garden, with ownership being distributed equally between tenants, residents, and outside investors. The leaders of this initiative are all respected activists within the community, and the project will undoubtedly bring low-cost housing, many decent jobs, and yet another environmentally sound and sustainable urban garden to Minneapolis. The ability of the EPNI to buy this property was the result of a 9-year battle with the state, mobilizing many sectors of the working class, especially oppressed national minorities, to gain this truly monumental concession.

Unfortunately, fighting for concessions from capitalists only ever results in short term gains. In 1799, Robert Owen purchased the New Lanark mill, intent on realizing a vision of industry untainted by the evils of capitalism, with dignity for its workers, and a plan for a new world dominated by rationality and kindness. His plans for a moral factory succeeded, and the condition of his workers was improved greatly. This mind of genius had brought the end of suffering under capitalism! Utopian, rational socialism was the new era of industry – now for the task of convincing the world.

Robert Owen's vision failed. In place of dignity, we have dirt on our hands and face – not the lush dirt of a society that takes care of its land, but oil and dust. In place of a decent salary, we have pennies. In place of a stable living, we have a "gig economy." Our bodies

are disposable, replaced by whoever sells themselves at the cheapest price. The profit motive won out because monopoly has made it impossible for any business to survive the beginning stages without heavily exploiting its workers. Highly exploitative, incorporated businesses are more profitable, more stable, and attract more investment. If a bank loan is needed to start a business, an investment of just 40% is enough to give the bank power over the business, which enables them to pressure the business to become more profitable, more exploitative. In addition to these structural factors, Robert Owen was the exception – most capitalists have no such moral convictions, because keeping a business alive with such convictions is all but impossible due to the competition that monopoly prices provide. The fundamental mechanisms of capital keep such "moral" enterprises underwater, struggling for air. So it is with nonprofits. So it is with co-ops. So it was with Robert Owen's utopian societies.

Now, this does not mean that the achievements of EPNI are meaningless. EPNI will provide incredibly important services to the local community, including job and housing opportunities for oppressed and exploited workers. It will provide a lively hub of economic and cultural life for the neighborhood, and a sorely needed source of quality food. But this cannot be the end goal. The EPNI's urban gardening project will be under constant threat throughout the entirety of its existence – of bankruptcy, and of sabotage. Investors and the market will constantly pressure it to change missions, to provide them profit even when the owners themselves are receiving only a modest wage. EPNI is doomed under capitalism to the same fate as the New Lanark mill. Now there are some important differences: EPNI has the entire community behind it, and is run in a city where voices sympathetic to working-class struggles poke through the noise of capitalist complacency in the local government just often enough that they may survive and thrive for many years to come. But this is no guarantee of continuity, and EPNI and its community must remain vigilant in placing people before profits.

But the EPNI, like the New Lanark mill, is still fundamentally built upon a capitalist framework. The representation it promises workers and tenants is not guaranteed by law, and so it is liable to be eroded, if not outright illusory. A "nice" capitalist still has to turn a profit, and to do that, it must exploit workers by paying them for only a fraction of the labor they produce. Representation is not the same as power, and although workers at EPNI might have representation, they will not have the real power to serve their real interests. Socialism cannot be built through more co-ops, unless they are built on a real framework of workers' power, rather than a token

one. This real framework is referred to by Lenin as dual power.

Dual power does not mean the gradual replacement of openly undemocratic capitalist enterprises with democratic capitalist enterprises, but the establishment of socialized mechanisms of production, distribution, and governance which vie for legitimacy with capitalist institutions. Such socialized institutions operate independently of the official channels, although within legality in the early vulnerable stages, and disseminate and fortify the workers' struggle for full power in society. The Black Panthers, with their breakfast program, literacy and education programs, and community patrol, represent a powerful attempt at establishing dual power in the United States. Systems of dual power might look very similar to cooperatives, in that workers and members have some say in production and distribution, but are fundamentally different: dual power is a building block of a socialist economic system, while cooperatives are simply a feeble attempt to "humanize" the fundamentally unchanged capitalist economic system. They both have a democratic element and appear similar on the surface, but in cooperatives, the democratic element is a fleeting, surface level phenomenon, with real power lying in the hands of the capitalist class – in systems of dual power, the democratic element is representative of complete proletarian control, of the embryo of an economic system driven not by anarchic production and profit motives, but by stable prosperity based on production and distribution by need.

If the EPNI continues on its path of striving for capitalist concessions, it will dampen the class consciousness of its workers and tenants and develop an internal oligarchy, representing bourgeois class interests. It will demand reform, reform, reform, and position itself as the ultimate solution to the contradictions within capitalism. In this scenario, it will lose the trust of the workers, and slowly fade out of political life. Absorption is a much more straightforward fate – rather than a slow rot from within, the EPNI would be taken over by capitalist forces, whether through the selling of stock, or the appointment of new, non-activist directors, or even through a forcible takeover by the state. In any of these cases, the EPNI will lose the remarkable opportunity placed before it to become a true bastion of internationalist workers' solidarity, and an arm of dual power.

So the tasks before the EPNI are twofold: first, to meet the immediate material demands and needs of its community, and second, to channel that community connection into a source of proletarian dual power, rather than continuing along the path of reformism.

THE DEBT CEILING DEBATE: AN OPEN ATTACK ON THE WORKING CLASS



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks to reporters after a hectic series of amendment votes and final passage on the big debt ceiling and budget cuts package, Thursday, June 1, 2023. (AP Photo / J. Scott Applewhite)

Ian Ocx and Hari Kumar. June 3, 2023.

Late in the night June 1, 2023, Congress voted to pass an agreement on the debt ceiling to prevent the US government from defaulting on its national debt. This debate recurs frequently as the representatives of differing factions of the ruling class fight to preserve their advantages. As they do so it is the workers that end up being squeezed further. However, they reflect the factional struggles within the ruling class.

What is the “debt ceiling”? Like any organization, the government operates within a budget. If its previous outgoing payments exceed that, it risks “default” – being unable to pay its bill. These past bills were already previously approved by Congress. In recent years there have been an increasing number of such debates as priorities are set for future spending by the Senate and House. The national debt began to mount seriously with the First World War. According to Department of the Treasury data it escalated rapidly starting with the Reagan administration, that is, with the onset of the neoliberal era and the increasing domination of the financial wings of global capitalism. We have discussed this in detail elsewhere.

It is worth making two points. First the equation of a state with an individual household is ridiculously naive, as the more insightful bourgeois commentators, for example Paul Krugman, make clear. Individuals have an earning curve that declines after they hit a peak as they age. The same is far from true of governments who “normally see their revenues rise, generation after generation, as the economies they regulate and tax grow.” Governments do have to “service” the debt – pay off bits at a time. But the state does not have to pay it all off and can defer it to the future far more easily than an individual household. Krugman drives this point home with the example of the debt incurred by England during the Napoleonic wars, which were deferred for decades and decades and to this day have not been totally repaid.

Secondly none of this is new. It is fundamental to capitalism. Marx wrote in Capital Volume III that:

“The only part of the so-called national wealth that actually enters into the collective possessions of modern peoples is their national debt. Hence, as a necessary consequence, the modern doctrine that a nation becomes the richer the more deeply it is in debt. Public credit becomes the credo of capital. And with the rise of national debt-making ... The public debt becomes one of the most powerful levers of primitive accumulation.”

That is why the debt ceiling is a matter of politics and not simple accounting. Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer even went so far as to say that with the reaching of this agreement, “America can breathe a sigh of relief.” The immediate next question is: who in American society can breathe a sigh of relief? Perhaps the bourgeoisie and their representatives in the government, but it will not be the American working class, who, without any proper national representation, lost the most in this debt ceiling agreement.

The agreement that was reached allocates a total of around \$1.5 trillion dollars that will be used to fund the government for the next year. The budget is broken down to show an \$886 billion military defense budget, but only allocates \$704 billion for non-defense spending. This in turn means that while the US military-industrial complex will encompass 60% of the budget once again, the American working class faces austerity measures in order to satisfy the needs of US imperialism. The current debt ceiling agreement also entails several expanded work requirements making it more difficult to receive and keep food stamps. This will also cut funding and limit the amount of credit families in the Needy Families program may receive, and student loan repayments will restart. This attack on working class families comes at a time when 34 million people in the US face hunger and food insecurity with 9 million children living in food insecure conditions, and while student

loan forgiveness plans are being struggled for on a national level.

Discussions concerning the national debt ceiling are nothing new to the American worker and they reappear in bourgeois political circles and bourgeois media outlets regularly. Each time these debates and such agreements in Congress are reached, it is the American working class that is told to pay the price and “tighten their belts” so that the US does not default on its national debt. Each time the limit is raised to “keep the country functioning,” the bourgeois politicians decide that it is the workers whose social benefits are cut to make up for the past ventures and policies of the American bourgeoisie.

Debt ceiling debates turn into economic murder for the working class. While there is a new labor movement on the rise it lacks national leadership and representation. The bourgeoisie take advantage of the lack of organized power that the American working class is struggling to build, especially in order to cut the already limited working and social benefits that workers receive. Since the voices of the workers are silent in these debates it is all too easy for bourgeois politicians to simply cut the funds allocated to social benefits won by working class struggles in the US over the years. The results are then justified as necessary in order to keep the government functioning.

In essence, the debt ceiling debate and agreements reached act as a weapon of the ruling bourgeois class to strip workers of the already limited benefits that they are allowed, and as a defense mechanism for the bourgeoisie who see these debates as a time to secure their place, role, and status in American society by diminishing and attacking the lives of the working class.

The way forward for the American workers lies in the continued struggle to build an organized labor movement with a national leadership that forces the bourgeoisie to moderate its strategy of sucking dry what little benefits the workers have to pay for their system of oppression. The American working class is not represented by the reactionary bourgeois government. It has no stake in this government’s existence as a class. Simply put, the US government does not represent the interests of US workers; it represents the American bourgeois and its class interests. As such, it is not the American workers who should have to sacrifice to maintain the functionality of a government that does not represent them.

SEX EDUCATION OVERHAUL ENDANGERS FLORIDA YOUTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The Women's Commission of the American Party of Labor. May 5, 2023.

The Florida House and Senate have passed HB 1069—a bill to overhaul sex education in schools—amidst a nationwide wave of legislation targeting reproductive rights and the LGBTQIA+ community. Florida has been leading the charge on this front, passing several regressive bills with the endorsement of Governor Ron DeSantis. In HB 1069, sex education in public schools is to be drastically changed, particularly at the elementary level. The text of the bill explicitly states that materials must be removed from elementary schools which are “pornographic;” “depict or describe sexual conduct;” or are “inappropriate for the grade level and age group for which the material is used.” The Department of Education will have the authority to hold school boards accountable for meeting these standards, with an additional amendment allowing for parental review of materials. The bill has recently passed in the state Senate and is expected to become law with DeSantis’ approval.

Beyond elementary school, the bill outlines a very narrow set of topics that are to be discussed in sexual health education for grades 6 through 12 – including an unscientific, transphobic, and misogynistic definition of biological sex – and grants greater powers to the Department of Education and more opportunities for parents to prevent their children from learning about sexual and developmental health.

As discussion on the floor of the legislature began on the language and implications of this bill, questions arose for which the sponsors and authors of this bill had to grapple. When asked if this bill would prohibit discussion in elementary schools on menstruation, Representative Stan McClain confirmed, “It would.” This includes restricting menstruating children from talking about their own experiences.

According to the bill, sex is to be defined as “the classification of a person as either female or male based on the organization of the body of such person for a specific reproductive role, as indicated by the person’s sex chromosomes, naturally occurring sex hormones, and internal and external genitalia present at birth.” Lawmakers also want schools to conform to this view, stating that “sex is determined by biology and reproductive function at birth that biological males impregnate biological females by fertilizing the female egg with male sperm; that the female then gestates the offspring; and that these reproductive roles are binary, stable, and unchangeable.” A lot of the language in this bill is strange, particularly the absurd phrase “reproductive function at birth,” which is an impossibility since reproductive functionality doesn’t begin until puberty. The current scientific understanding of biological sex is very different from how it is defined in this bill. Biological sex is usually informed by external, visible physical characteristics observed at birth; however, biological sex is not binary and is a cluster of characteristics not always visible, including external and internal structures, chromosomes, and hormones.

Even these strict and reductionist policies for sexual health education are limited to what the Department of Education considers to be appropriate for certain age and grade levels. As previously mentioned, sex education materials are to be removed entirely from elementary schools, preventing education from reaching younger students, for whom this education is equally as valuable. The boundary of sex education not being allowed for fifth graders but being allowed for sixth graders is arbitrary and harmful. An important consideration that this bill does not address is that children reach puberty at different ages, not just in middle school and junior high. One of the intentions of this bill is to prohibit the discussion of menstruation in elementary schools, ignoring the fact that

many children begin their periods at this time. A meta-study of three decades of research demonstrated the harm of removing sexual education in schools, endorsing National Sex Education Standards that require even kindergartners to understand basic concepts like consent and how to identify abuse.

The right-wing rhetoric surrounding this bill and others like it is that of “parental rights,” to argue in favor of granting parents more control over what materials are shown to students in schools. The argument Republicans publicly make is that parents should have a choice of how they raise their children: if parents do not want their child to receive sex education in school, they can choose to keep that education from them. In Florida, parents already have the ability to opt their children out of sex education sessions, and this right was already further empowered with the passage of Florida HB 545 in 2021, changing the “opt-out” policy to one in which parents must “opt-in” to consent for their children to be educated on sexual health. However, HB 1069 would allow parents to further request the removal of such educational materials from school districts altogether. The districts will be required to publish lists of which materials have been removed (after determining that they do not meet the standards outlined by state law) as well as lists of materials that were not removed with an explanation of why they are allowed to stay. After this review, public committee meetings will be held where parents can protest against the inclusion, or petition for the removal, of such subject matter. The parental review process and the oversight of the Department of Education will not require any consultation with health experts or teachers, whose lesson plans and day-to-day jobs will be changed by this bill.

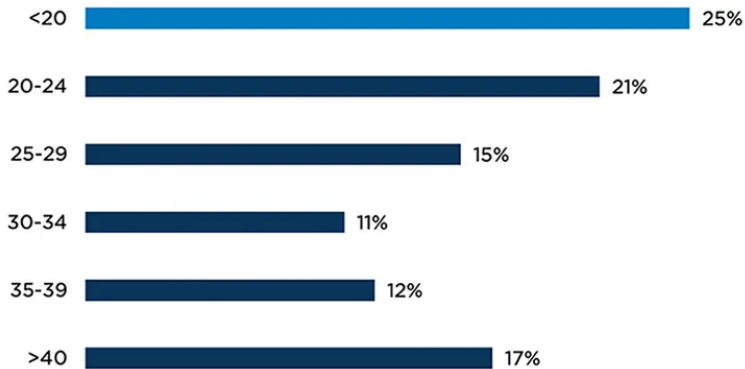
A 2015 study showed that up to 94% of parents of elementary school aged children think there is some benefit to having sex education in schools before grade 6. A significant majority of the parents polled cited such benefits as children learning how to prevent or respond to sexual abuse, how to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, and how to prevent pregnancy. These results indicate that the proposed bill in Florida is in opposition to general opinions of parents across the political spectrum and from various religious faiths. According to the conductors of this study: “If parents were aware that the majority agreed with sexuality content being taught in schools, they may be more committed to supporting school health educators in advocating for comprehensive sexuality education requirements in elementary schools.” These results indicate that the parental review measures in HB 1069 will only cater to a very small minority of parents, who will make changes for all students in a school district.

It is clear that the consequences of this bill passing will be a decline in public sexual health. Restricting access to sexual education directly decreases how informed children and adolescents are pertaining to matters of their own bodies. HB 1069 confines sexual education to instruction on abstinence, without any discussion of contraceptives. Abstinence-only sex education is not effective in preventing either teen pregnancy or STI transmission, both of which disproportionately affect teens of color, low-income and rural teens, and those belonging to LGBTQIA+ communities. Florida is also restricting options for teenagers who become pregnant. Several bills have been introduced in Florida to limit abortion access (HB 1033, SB 1076, SB 300, HB 7). Teenagers who become pregnant are the most likely age group to seek out and receive abortion care, with terminations accounting for 25% of pregnancies in people under the age of 20. With Florida limiting both sex education, which helps young people learn how to avoid pregnancy, and limiting abortion, something that is vital care, many young women will be forced to carry unwanted pregnancies, experience traumatic birthing processes, and have a more difficult

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SEX EDUCATION OVERHAUL ENDANGERS FLORIDA YOUTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH

time accessing education and other opportunities that they otherwise may have. Despite reactionary rhetoric that pregnancy is what the female body is intended to do, similar to what HB 1069 lays out, pregnancy is very dangerous with many health risks associated with it, not limited to life-long disability and even death. The combination of limiting access to contraceptives through lack of information, and limiting access to abortion, will change or even end the trajectory of the lives of many young people in Florida.



Percent of pregnancies ending in abortion by age, 2017. (Figures based on Child Trends' calculations of abortion data in the U.S. between 1973–2017 from Guttmacher Institute, 2021.)

Additionally, without education on contraceptives and safe sexual practices, the risk of contracting an STI due to unprotected sex increases. STIs can be very serious for the individual who contracts them, and pose a public health risk. The CDC has published recommendations for sexual health services in schools, stating, "Other school programs, such as condom availability programs, school-based STD screening events, and sexual health awareness campaigns, can improve students' beliefs and attitudes about condom use and STD testing, and their use of SHS (Sexual Health Services)."

The lack of education in schools on menstrual health is another huge problem that this Florida bill will exacerbate. Many students start menstruating in elementary school, and with no school-based information on the topic, they may not have a proper understanding of this development in their health. Lack of education can lead to young girls not accessing hygienic period products, increasing feelings of shame, and causing confusion as to what is happening to them. Periods have been cited as a source of young women missing school due to related symptoms, lack of access to period products, and shame. Not being able to speak about their experiences with having a period can cause students to not speak out when they need help accessing products or healthcare surrounding menstrual health. This may make it more difficult for students with serious health conditions to speak out or even recognize an abnormal period, which may lead to long term health issues.

Additionally, withholding education from children at a young age on all topics concerning sexual health and development means lack of knowledge on sexual abuse. Educating young children on their own bodies, and what behavior from others is inappropriate, can allow children a better chance at reporting sexual abuse. Children should have an understanding of what types of interactions are abusive, especially in the context of sexual abuse. Teaching kids which body parts should be considered 'private,' and that people should not touch them is very important in getting them out of abusive situations. Sexual education includes giving children resources on reporting sexual abuse and the vocabulary to be able to tell a trusted adult about it if they need to. Bills that

prohibit discussion of all sexual matters in school will limit the opportunities for children to report and escape sexual abuse, a reality that an estimated 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys will face.

Legislation restricting sexual education will also have negative impacts on educators, who will be held responsible for complying with the standards laid out by the bill. In Florida, where sexual content in schools is already under stricter laws than other states, educators are facing consequences for not meeting the nebulous standards of the restrictions. For example, a Florida middle school principal was forced to resign after complaints of showing inappropriate sexual content to students. The content in question was Michaelangelo's Statue of David, a historically important art piece depicting a nude Biblical character in a non-sexual manner. As even more restrictions are placed on educators in Florida, it is inevitable that cases like this will continue to occur. These pieces of legislation can cause teachers to lose their jobs for simply providing education to students, if the educational content includes factors the reactionary government or parents disagree with.

With more educational regulations, potential lawsuits, and added bureaucracy with the new laws, such as the parental review process discussed above, more state money will be spent. With legislation that Florida has enacted, such as the "Stop WOKE Act," the state has incurred costs of at least \$16.7 million as of December 2022, reported by the Miami Herald. These costs are passed on to Florida taxpayers. HB 75 and SB 242, the two bills to bring about free menstrual hygiene products to public schools would have an estimated cost of 3.3 million, assuming the same costs incurred per student seen in California who had a similar bill pass. This means the costs of the "Stop WOKE Act" could have funded a free menstrual hygiene program 5 times over, or roughly the same funding needed to enact the program in not just Florida, but also Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, North and South Carolina, and Texas (based on census data here). Meanwhile, the Florida state government fails to provide adequate funding to a litany of issues, ranging from widespread poverty and homelessness, climate change, and public health. Adding more legislation, of which the only purpose is repression and promotion of backwards ideas, reveals deep rooted governmental neglect of the population as more funds will be funneled into expensive lawsuits and investigations.

The backwards and proto-fascist lawmakers in Florida must be challenged for the sake of both public health and the future of young women in the state. With a government that actively works against the interests of the people, it becomes all the more necessary to build networks of community support. The people of Florida are coming together to protect each other from the repression being enacted by their government. Volunteer organizations, such as SWAN, are helping Floridian women access reproductive health resources. Meanwhile, youth organizations such as Students For Socialism at University of South Florida are regularly organizing in resistance to state repression and engaging in community aid. More organizations are continuing to be built to support those targeted by laws in Florida and push for a better future. Nationally, larger coalitions and organizations have publicly accessible resources for education and materials, such as Sex Ed for Social Change and Planned Parenthood's resources for parents to discuss sexual education with their children. It is vital for both the people of Florida and people across the US to organize against the rise in fascism and protect the most vulnerable.



PUTIN, PRIGOZHIN, TWO PEAS IN A POD – WHAT JUST HAPPENED IN RUSSIA?



Vladimir Putin (Photo: Reuters), president of Russia, and Yevgeny Prigozhini (Photo: Getty), owner of the Wagner Group private army.

Hari Kumar, international correspondent.
June 25, 2023.

The oligarch Yevgeny Prigozhin, who founded the armed mercenary group called “Wagner,” is today’s Coriolanus. Similar to that Roman general in an arrogant hubris fueling a spectacular turn-coat-ism, he now only awaits his own murder. As the chagrined Ukrainian Mykhailo Podolyak (advisor to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine) said, “You almost nullified Putin, took control of the central authorities, reached Moscow and suddenly ... you retreat. Because one very specific intermediary with a dubious reputation (#Lukashenko) promised security guarantees from the person (#Putin) who ordered to destroy you in the morning.”

A recap of events

Recent volcanic events are straight forward to describe. A missile was aimed at Vladimir Putin and his regime. The bomb was launched after criminal charges were laid by Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu against Prigozhin.

While Prigozhin did not call for the overthrow of Putin himself, only for Shoigu and his team, he seized military installations at Rostov-on-Don. Wagner armored columns and troops rolled on the M4 motorway against Moscow. In short: an attempted coup. Putin fled Moscow on his presidential jet. But within 200 km (125 miles)

of Moscow, the armed threat was defused. The Republic of Belarus President Aleksandr G. Lukashenko offered asylum of sorts to Prigozhin. Simultaneously, Kremlin spokesman Dmitri S. Peskov assured Prigozhin that:

“[t]he criminal case against... Prigozhin, would be dropped. Prigozhin will go to Belarus, Peskov said, and the fighters who rebelled with him would not be prosecuted by law given their ‘service at the front.’ Wagner fighters who did not participate in the mutiny can sign contracts with the Russian Ministry of Defense, he said.”

At last reporting the armored column was turned back, and the Wagner occupation of Rostov-on-Don (the jump-off point for munitions and Russian troops) against Ukraine was ended:

“Wagner armored vehicles began leaving the military hub of Rostov-on-Don, in southwestern Russia, on Saturday night... The fighters’ departure from Rostov, whose occupation sent an image of strength, added credibility to the deal apparently reached in talks with the Belarusian leader.”

Perhaps the last word of the news roundup goes to President Zelenskyy of Ukraine and his message on Twitter: “Today, the world saw that the bosses of Russia do not control anything.”

How can Marxists understand these events?

The class character of Russia today

Putin’s passage to power continued the destruction of the socialist USSR which was initiated by Khrushchev and extended under Bulganin and Brezhnev. The latter created a state capitalist enterprise favoring heavy industrialists, often army based. By extending privatization in the post Gorbachev era of Chubais, the state capitalists were enormously weakened. American capital was allowed entry into the stripping of State resources to their delight. But this spurred national Russian capital to take back control. That began with criminal gang activities at financial institutions, open extortion, seizure of State assets, and corrupt governing bodies – particularly from Leningrad. This was Putin’s domain. From here he de-legitimized Chechnya’s national aspirations as terrorism. This justified his murderous rampages engineering false-flag explosions in Moscow, and the brutal war in Chechnya, and enabled his militarized hold that finally established the oligarchic regime in Russia. Russia under Putin was characterized in 2022 as “a hyper-nationalist neo-imperialist state while Putin himself is an oligarch and a ruthless imperialist, not ‘an anti-fascist.’”

If Putin was initially just one hyena amongst others feeding off the carcass of the former USSR, he rapidly extinguished most others – including Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Alexei Navalny – which leads to the logical query...

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PUTIN, PRIGOZHIN, TWO PEAS IN A POD – WHAT JUST HAPPENED IN RUSSIA?

Who is Yevgeny V. Prigozhin?

Prigozhin is a Russian businessman who until recently was a close associate of Mr. Putin. Born in 1961 in then-Leningrad, Prigozhin was imprisoned in 1981 for robbery amongst other crimes. After serving nine years, he “opened a hot-dog stand, eventually leading to an entrepreneurial career starting restaurants and convenience stores.”

Prigozhin was labelled “Putin’s chef” because of his catering business, which has staged elaborate state banquets for Mr. Putin.

But he came more to prominence when he formed the mercenary group ‘Wagner.’ This first saw prominence during the 2014 annexation of the Crimea by Russia:

“The entity first emerged in 2014, during Russia’s annexation of Crimea. The U.S. government has said that the organization is financed by Yevgeny V. Prigozhin...”

The group reportedly took its name from the *nom de guerre* of its leader, Dmitry Utkin, a retired Russian military officer. Mr. Utkin is said to have chosen Wagner to honor the composer, who was a favorite of Hitler’s. Despite the Kremlin’s denial of any ties to Wagner, Mr. Utkin has been photographed next to Mr. Putin.”

After that the Wagner mercenaries were used as an extension of the Russian state arm overseas. It enabled a plausible deniability of Russian imperialist brutality and extra-judicial murders in Syria and elsewhere, especially in Africa:

“In addition to their involvement in Syria, Libya, Central African Republic and Ukraine, Wagner operatives have also fought in Sudan, Mali and Mozambique, exerting Russian influence by proxy, doing the bidding of authoritarian leaders and, at times, seizing oil and gas fields or securing other material interests. Increasingly, they’ve become more formalized and have started acting more like Western military contractors.”

He appeared to have a mandate from Putin for electronic disruption and media control. That led to his indictment in 2018 by a US federal grand jury, and personal sanctions for “interfering in the American election through the Internet Research Agency, a troll factory that spread falsehoods and waged information warfare against the United States, in support of the presidential campaign of Trump.”

Wagner goes to Ukraine

After Putin and the Russian imperialists started their poorly led aggressive war of invasion in Ukraine, Wagner was sent to the Ukrainian Front. Prigozhin, being familiar with Russian jails himself, recruited into Wagner from prisoners. Wagner’s moderate successes – achieved only at high death rates – both swelled Prigozhin’s head, and infuriated him against the Russian army leadership. Especially after the recent, grinding senseless battle of Bakhmut, many Wagner troops died. Prigozhin accused Russian commanders of incompetence and inadequate supply of munitions. This rapidly began a “tough talk” set of diatribes, with Prigozhin “using social media to turn tough talk and brutality into his personal brand... launching accusations at Russia’s military leadership, blaming it for failing to provide his forces with enough ammunition and ignoring soldiers’ struggles... Mr. Putin had not checked Mr. Prigozhin’s online accusations, despite jailing or fining many other critics of the war. Spewing vulgarities, disregarding the law and displaying loyalty to no one but Mr. Putin, Mr. Prigozhin.. became a symbol of wartime Russia.”

All this likely gave Prigozhin delusions of grandeur as a “savior” of Russia. It appears he even met with Ukraine’s military intelligence chief, Kyrylo Budanov. Prigozhin made extraordinary offers of treason to reveal Russia’s most vulnerable troop locations to Ukraine:

“In late January, with his mercenary forces dying by the thousands in a fight for the ruined city of Bakhmut, Wagner Group owner Yevgeniy Prigozhin made Ukraine an extraordinary offer. Prigozhin said that if Ukraine’s commanders withdrew their soldiers from the area around Bakhmut, he would give Kyiv information on Russian troop positions, which Ukraine could use to attack them. Prigozhin conveyed the proposal to his contacts in Ukraine’s military intelligence directorate, with whom he has maintained secret communications during the course of the war, according to previously unreported U.S. intelligence documents leaked on the group-chat platform Discord... Two Ukrainian officials confirmed that Prigozhin has spoken several times to the Ukrainian intelligence directorate, known as HUR. One official said that Prigozhin extended the offer regarding Bakhmut more than once, but that Kyiv rejected it...”

Conclusions

There were early reports that dissident pro-Navalny forces in Russia had prematurely hailed the attack and were moving to join it. But obviously Prigozhin finally realized he was unlikely to prevail. Putin for his part invoked the Civil War in 1917, facetiously painting that as a time of “intrigues, squabbles and politicking behind the backs of the army and the nation [turning] into the greatest turmoil... the tragedy of the civil war.” In reality the Civil War was far more: it was an open fight between the Bolshevik new order and the ex-Tsarist, pro-Western imperialists, who were trying to dislodge the Lenin Government.

While there are a number of pro-Marxist and Marxist-Leninist forces in Russia today, none have reached anywhere near the point of being able to intervene with mass credibility. Until such a party emerges, anti-Putin struggles are doomed to remain largely in the realm of inter-oligarch struggles.

In those the people have no voice. That is not to say that alliances at certain points might not be necessary. But only a principled working class party leading the way forward can hope to dislodge the oligarchs and recreate conditions for a new socialist revolution in Russia. The same largely applies to Ukraine, although there a precondition will be the removal and forcing back of Russian aggression. Only then can remaining reactionary forces – including their own oligarchy – be dealt with.

ALL POWER



TO THE PEOPLE



THE THREAT OF FASCISM IS LOOMING IN THE U.S.



Counter protesters face down hundreds of white nationalists, neo-Nazis, KKK and members of the "alt-right" during the Unite the Right rally, August 12, 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia. (Getty Images)

Devin B., New York. May 20, 2023.

The Southern Poverty Law Center reported that they tracked the presence of 35 hate groups in NY state in 2021, ranging from "general hate" groups to white nationalist and anti-LGBTQ organizations. The same tracking database found an additional 698 hate groups across the nation. The map also indicated that outside of the aforementioned groups in NY state, 19 hate groups can be found in the immediate tri-state area; totaling 54 hate groups across 12,093 km² in one of the most densely populated metropolitan areas in the world. The existence of dozens of largely white nationalist and right-wing organizations that are well organized and politically active poses a major threat to our local communities and the basic rights of the minority groups in this country (such as ethnic and national minorities, immigrants, undocumented persons, refugees and asylum seekers, disabled persons, and LGBTQIA+ people). Per the Anti-Defamation League, "White supremacists killed more people in 2021 than any other type of extremist, though not an outright majority, as is often the case. An in-depth look at white supremacist killings over the past 10 years demonstrates the dangers posed by alt right white supremacists and white supremacist prison gangs."

Such white supremacists and white nationalists can be found in organizations like the Three Percenters, Oath Keepers, Proud Boys and the American Freedom Party. While few such groups would likely call themselves Nazis or fascists; their politics, aesthetics, and tactics coincide heavily with these same historical Parties and organizations – all to achieve the same social and political ends. They frequently endorse the use of violence and their members and sympathizers use violence to advance their political goals. "In 2021, domestic extremists killed at least 29 people in the United States, in 19 separate incidents. This represents a modest increase from the 23 extremist-related murders documented in 2020 but is far lower than the number of murders committed in any of the

five years prior (which ranged from 45 to 78). The 2021 murder totals were low primarily because no high-casualty extremist-related shooting spree occurred this past year. Such sprees are the main contributor to high murder totals." Per the ADL, from 2012 to 2021, 443 deaths were caused by violent extremists, with 75% of such killings being perpetrated by right-wing extremists.

As the statistics show, even if these groups and their sympathizers aren't conducting acts of political violence on a large scale, their history of behavior only leads us to believe that their killings and maimings will increase and grow in proportion to their membership. As these groups continue to feel emboldened by right-wing politicians like Ron DeSantis, Donald Trump and Mike Pence, they are likely only to grow in number with the respective popularity of the aforementioned "politicians" – even more so if these right-wing ideologues make considerable political gains such as presidency or even a competitive presidential campaign. Per PRRI (Public Religion Research Institute), "After the violent attacks on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, the prospect of political violence threatening a peaceful transfer of power has become more than an abstract question. As noted above, nearly one in five Americans (18%) agree with the statement 'Because things have gotten so far off track, true American patriots may have to resort to violence in order to save our country.' Republicans (30%) are more likely to agree with this than independents (17%) and Democrats (11%). Among Republicans who most trust far-right news sources, agreement increases to 40%, compared to 32% among those who most trust Fox News and 22% among those who most trust mainstream news sources."

The extremists function as the violent arm of the fascist and white nationalist movements but the republicans and broad right-wing function as a mass support base for these extremists. They justify their actions, defend the severe consequences of those actions and empower the next group of perpetrators of fascist violence. This from a government that openly admits that these violent extremists and their growing movement "will not fade if we simply hope for its disappearance, let alone if we ignore it," and sought to develop a whole national strategic plan to monitor and counter perpetrators of right-wing reactionary violence in particular. Yet, how can the people trust the "counter-terror" response of a government whose military is known to be tied to white supremacists and neo-Nazis?

The Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence from February 6th of this year states,

"U.S. persons and interests at home and abroad will face a persistent and increasingly diverse threat from terrorism during the next year. Individuals and cells adhering to ideologies espoused by ISIS, al-Qa'ida, or the transnational Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists (RMVE) movement pose a significant terrorist threat to U.S. persons, facilities, and interests." In the context of the tasks of Communists, Socialists and progressive forces in the United States, the most dire and realistic threat is amongst the aforementioned "RMVE" movement that we have exemplified in this document through the white nationalist, white supremacist, fascist, and neo-Nazi movement(s) in this country.

We cannot fail to see the immense threat standing right in front of us, organizing itself all around us and openly declaring war against all the progressive and revolutionary ideals that the democratic, socialist and communist forces in this country stand for and fight for. We would be failing our mission as self described revolutionaries, activists and organizers by denying this incredibly important task we have for the immediate future. It would be nothing except the most open betrayal to the working class and to the minority communities in this country – many of which already have their basic human rights under siege – to refuse to act against these bigoted murderers. To defend our lives, our communities and all that we cherish, we have to organize ourselves and combat this open attack on democracy, diversity and in many ways human life.

We cannot sit on our hands here, we have to be ahead of the issue – we have to stomp out fascism in this country before it gets the opportunity to stomp us out. The best weapon we have as the working class against this is organization and solidarity for the achievement of a common goal and the security of the rights which we can guarantee and the active rejection of all those proposed that seek to deny us those rights. As organizers and activists, as progressives and revolutionaries, we cannot allow our ideological differences to separate us beyond the point of co-operation; it plays right into the hands of the fascists and neo-Nazis. If they plan unity for their common goal of death, deprivation and hate then let us unite for our common goal of democracy, solidarity, and anti-fascism!



PALESTINE BLEEDS AND THE WORLD WATCHES

Red Nesbitt, Maryland. May 15, 2023.

On May 9, 2023, the Israeli Defense Force conducted a two-hour aerial bombardment of the Gaza Strip in response to attacks by Hamas after a political prisoner, Khader Adnan, passed away from a hunger strike. Although there had been a fragile, week-long ceasefire from the exchanges of fusillades, this accord did not stop a brutal, disproportionate and unnecessary attack by the Israeli state, called "Operation Arrow and Shield." The three targets of the attack were killed in the strike, along with no fewer than ten civilians and 20 more injured as a result of the protracted bombardment. It is worth mentioning here that, according to Palestinian media, the three targets were en route to Cairo to establish further peace talks with Israel after the shootings last week and the widespread protests across Gaza.

It is not yet clear how many Palestinian homes were destroyed as a result of the bombardment, but many videos have surfaced of Palestinians standing in the ruins of their homes, mourning collectively, outraged, distraught and rightfully so. Consequently, the two access points into the Gaza Strip have been closed off by the IDF, at a time when the World Food Program estimates that 63% of Palestinians suffer from food insecurity. Although Hamas has promised a "unified Palestinian response," the Israeli Defense Minister, Yoav Gallant, has retorted, "Any terrorist that harms Israeli citizens shall be made to regret it." At the same time, what regret shall be elicited from the IDF for its barbaric slaying of a dozen civilians, and the wounding, traumatization and displacement of dozens more?

Any student of history, any passive observer of the news shall know that this massacre is only an episode in the series of atrocities carried out against the Palestinian people, for the fundamentalist terror of a relative few, a terror supplied and legitimized by the active genocide against the Palestinian people. In August of 2022, the surprise operation "Breaking Dawn" killed 49 Palestinians, including 19 children. One systemic aspect of the brutalization of the Palestinian people is the process of house demolition, either done to punish communities suspected of harboring and supplying Jihadist organizations or in a much more banal horror, to clear land for the construction of Israeli settlements. The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions estimates that, as of 2022, 52,000 Palestinian houses have been razed, a part of 130,000 structures destroyed overall since 1948. The destruction of housing, as a form of collective punishment, is recognized under international law as a war crime, and yet no sanctions have been leveled against Israel as has been done against countries like Venezuela and Cuba for dreaded "authoritarianism." The destruction of homes, the massacre and starvation of civilians – these are war crimes. This is genocide. To the bourgeoisie, progressive platforms that feed the poor and flout the demands of the IMF are crimes to be punished, but barbarism against civilians is a business venture worth hundreds of millions and billions of dollars in arms deals.

The IDF claims that organizations such as Hamas purposefully put their bases in schools and hospitals as a means of protection via human shields. Despite a lack of evidence to support this claim, there is absolutely no justification for the lack of preference for surgical strikes against terrorist threats as compared to hours-long bombardments with missiles and aircraft, such as the month-long Gaza War in 2014 that killed 2,000 Palestinians (including ten children in a UN school) and 75 Israelis. The IDF certainly has the capacity for such tactics, as for around a year now, near-nightly raids have been conducted into Palestine against such targets it deems are threats to Israel's security. Human Rights groups have estimated that about half of the 105 Palestinian casualties of 2023 have been civilians. Supposing that surgical strikes are preferable to the



Palestinians hold Palestinian flags as they take part in a "Land Day" rally in Sakhnin in northern Israel on March 30, 2023. (Reuters/Ammar Awad)

colonizing state of Israel, there is no excuse for the preference of warmongering and collateral damage over the sustenance of peace talks.

Indeed, how has the international community responded to the May 9th "operation"? The neighboring and mediating nations of Jordan and Egypt have condemned Israel's killing of civilians. Tor Wennesland, the UN Envoy for peace talks in Southwest Asia, issued a statement in which he declared to be "deeply alarmed" and called for "restraint on all sides." The Russian consulate in Ramallah declared that one of its citizens, Dr. Jamal Hasouan, was killed along with his wife and son in this attack. At a time when the threat of war looms between imperialist powers over Russia's plunderous campaign into Ukraine, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict further exacerbates tensions between the NATO imperialist bloc that supports Israel and the Sino-Russian imperialist bloc that orients itself towards Palestine. Major news outlets such as CNN and The Guardian have devoted special attention to the casualties of "Jihadist" organizers and "battle songs" sung at the funerals of children over the genuine crisis fomented by the blockade and bombardment by the Israeli state.

More than the stammering of feckless diplomats, more than threats and excuses from fundamentalists and colonizers, the people of Palestine need and demand international involvement in this crisis. The working peoples of the world must likewise demand the end of disproportionate attacks, the establishment of joint peace talks between Israel and Palestine, the recognition of Palestine as a legal state, and maneuvers towards a one-state solution for a democratic, progressive, independent and whole Palestine, in which the rights of all nationalities and religions are respected. If not for an end to the barbaric suffering of the Palestinian people, then for an end to the refugee crisis created thence, against the build up of inter-imperialist tensions and the strengthening of the capitalist state in America, with over 735 million dollars of armaments sold to Israel in 2021, and 3.8 billion dollars in 2022, for the purpose of "security assistance" to Israel under the Biden Administration. No more excuses of "it's a complicated issue" or "good and bad on both sides," no more demonization of the Palestinian people, will be tolerated. Marxist-Leninists the world over, with progressive and democratic forces, assert the just demand for peace and solidarity to the long-suffering people of Palestine.

THE CONTINUED DANGER AND TRAGEDY OF AMERICA'S GUN VIOLENCE



(Photo: Karen Ducey/BBC)

Ian Oxx, Texas. May 13, 2023.

On Saturday May 6th, 2023 a self-described neo-Nazi named Mauricio Garcia (33, he/him), who was wearing a vest with the abbreviation R.W.D.S. ("Right Wing Death Squad") arrived at an outlet mall in Allen, Texas, just outside of Dallas, and proceeded to brutally murder eight people with his AR-15 assault rifle. His victims, whom Garcia killed indiscriminately as he fired into the crowd, ranged in age and nationality. Their names were: Kyu Song Cho (37, he/him), Cindy Cho (33, she/her), Christian LaCour (20, he/him), Elio Cumana-Rivas (32, he/him), Aishwarya Thatikonda (26, she/her), and three children ages 3, 8, and 11. This act of violence perpetrated by Garcia is just one of 208 mass shootings (as of 05-11-2023) that have occurred within the US so far this year. This tragedy is interconnected to other contradictions that are intensifying within US society: (i) the continued failure of American bourgeois society to deal with the gun violence that has plagued the US for decades and (ii) the rampant growth of right-wing extremism.

American Bourgeois Society and Gun Violence, the Never Ending Tragedy

Between the years 2016 and 2022 the US averaged 490 mass shootings a year, with some years being more violent than others. To add to the issue, gun culture has become largely interwoven into American society as a representation of individualism and freedom, with the US having the most civilian-held firearms of any country. If broken down, the numbers show that for every 100 US citizens there exist 120 known legal firearms that are personally owned in the country. The issue with gun violence exists further back than just 2016 and has been a prolific problem within US society for decades, a problem that seems to only be getting worse as the internal and inherent contradictions of capitalism persist. The National Institute of Justice of the United States (NIJ) recently completed a study covering mass shootings within the last fifty years in the US. They found that nearly half of the mass shootings in that time frame occurred

after the year 2000, with 33% of that half occurring after 2010, demonstrating an increasing rate of incidents over time. The NIJ also found that mass shootings are increasing in their deadliness. In the 1970s mass shootings in the US claimed an average of 8 lives per year, whereas from 2010-2019 mass shootings claimed an average of 51 lives per year.

As the number of mass shootings and their death toll increases almost yearly in the US, mass shootings have begun to cement themselves as part of everyday life in American society. They occur anywhere people are gathered: grocery stores, malls, buildings of prayer, parks, community events, and schools. Many schools engage in active shooter simulation drills which can cause negative impacts on the mental and emotional health of students and youth as well as school staff. The FBI has even put out a Public Service Announcement on how to survive a mass shooting. Several of the worst and most deadly shootings have occurred in the last decade alone.

As this particular outgrowth of the alienating nature of American capitalism continues to persist and even intensifies, almost daily, the bourgeois-democratic nature of US politics does not allow for a viable solution for the masses of people. Over the last decade there have been numerous federal attempts to create stronger regulations on the buying, selling, and owning of firearms within the United States, yet the vast majority of them have failed as reactionary elements of the American bourgeoisie see gun sales as great business with the two largest gun manufacturers in the US – Smith & Wesson, and Sturm, Ruger & Company – seeing profits of \$449 million and \$280 million respectively in 2021. It also needs to be mentioned that the National Rifle Association (NRA) spends millions of dollars on lobbying within the US government to minimize the number and efficacy of gun laws, restrictions, and regulations. It's also worth noting that in 2005 there was a largely successful attempt to protect and secure the profits of gun manufacturers when Congress passed the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, which

gave weapons manufacturers complete immunity from legal repercussions concerning the violence and death caused by their products. Even so-called "socialists" in Congress like Bernie Sanders supported this reactionary measure to protect the interests of capital at the time.

The Age of Right-Wing Extremism

Since the major international economic crisis of capitalism in 2008 the American bourgeois class has been engaging in various reactionary attacks and austerity measures on the multiethnic and multinational working class that exists within the US. These attacks have come in the form of stagnant and cut wages, cuts to social welfare programs, attacks on immigrants, especially those from Southern and Central American countries, attacks on the LGBTQIA+ community, and attacks on women's rights. Many of these attacks were heavily intensified under the reactionary presidency of Donald Trump who was also able to breathe life into a neo-fascist and reactionary movement with the US by "legitimizing" its existence with his far-right rhetoric.

These attacks on the various sectors of the American working class have not only been used to benefit the capitalists economically, but have also helped the reactionary segments of the US bourgeoisie spread bigotry and division among the workers over cultural and socioeconomic issues in order to stop the growth of a new US labor movement that would stand a chance of winning concessions and democratic rights for workers. The cannibalization of the American working class over the last several decades, which was intensified by the 2008-09 economic crisis and the reactionary presidency of Trump, has fueled the alienation and reactionary radicalization of several distinct strata within US society.

Over the last decade right-wing attacks have become more common within the US and more than quadrupled between 2016 and 2017. From 2008-2011 the US experienced an average of 5 right-wing extremist attacks each year. In 2012 that average rose to 12 right-wing attacks per year, and then jumped to an average of 31 right-wing attacks in 2018. The increase in right-wing activity coincides with the mania of the Trump administration and its lasting aftereffects within American culture. Unsurprisingly, the overwhelming majority of weapons used in these attacks are firearms and other incendiary devices. Research completed by the Center for Strategic and International Studies shows that the reason so many of these attacks involve guns and firearms is because they are "simple to acquire [and] easy to use" due to the extremely loose gun laws within the United States.

(Continued on page 13)

THE CONTINUED DANGER AND TRAGEDY OF AMERICA'S GUN VIOLENCE

Conclusions

The United States, which has gun culture intertwined within it, is going through a turbulent period of economic instability which has led to the intensification of the alienation people experience and feel within American society. This same alienation as well as the reactionary fervor of certain segments within the American capitalist class has led to an increase and growth in far-right politics within the US. This growth in the far-right mixed with the current gun culture has led to an increase in right-wing violence, including mass shootings like the one that recently occurred in Allen, Texas.

It is also evident that the bourgeois-democratic system within the US is incapable of solving this issue in any meaningful way, especially when gun sales are a massively profitable industry and any form of regulation would stand to lower the profit margins of capitalists who care little for the lives and safety of the overall population. Because of this inaction on the part of the bourgeois class, the multiethnic

and multinational American working class is left to fall victim to the ever-growing threat of extremist violence. This cannot stand. In the struggle to create a safer world where such violence and mass shootings are no longer a threat to life, the American working class and its representatives must engage in social and political struggle, a struggle that must be fought in two stages: immediate and long-term tasks.

Immediate Tasks of Struggle

The immediate tasks of the struggle to combat both the growth of right-wing extremism and mass shootings in general are to build mass organizations that (i) continue to struggle for regulations on gun sales, background checks, and the types of weapons that can be purchased within the bourgeois-democratic system on both the state and federal levels, especially reforms that ban high powered assault-rifles like the AR-15, extended magazines, high powered munitions, and that strengthen background checks and extend waiting periods; and (ii) organize against right-wing organizations and forces to defend the democratic

rights of all workers and oppressed minorities, as well as engage in community education against the lies and propaganda of right-wing ideology.

Long-Term Tasks of Struggle

Any and all reforms that can be won under the bourgeois-democratic system by the workers can be again stripped by the bourgeoisie. With capitalism's inherent alienating nature, the threat of right-wing extremism and mass shootings will never be truly averted until capitalism itself is overthrown and replaced with a socialist system, where the working people have control over society and will not just limit the contradictions inherent to capitalism but will negate their existence altogether. Therefore the long-term tasks of this struggle must be to build upon the victories won in the immediate struggles and use these victories to help empower the position of the working class until it is organized enough to fully dismantle and destroy the system that causes such violence once and for all.

EDITORIAL: ON SENSIBLE REGULATION OF FIREARMS

Benjamin J. Rizzo, Deputy National Chair of the American Party of Labor. May 23, 2023.

So-called gun control is a controversial topic in the American communist movement, with many communists vehemently opposing any regulations or restrictions on the ownership and purchase of firearms, often in a knee-jerk way. In my opinion, many of the communists who oppose "gun control" – which is a misnomer anyway; it should be called "sensible regulation of firearms" – often lack the organizing ability to get even as few as five people out to a meeting. To me, these people seem to be caught up in fantasies about firearms and their utility as a tool of revolutionary transformation.

The sad reality is that American society, at least, is awash in firearms although the estimates of the numbers of firearms in civilian hands vary widely. One estimate that uses methodology devised in the 1990s by a retired professor of public policy at Duke University places the figure at 352 million. Another estimate from 2020 by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, a trade group representing the gun industry, places the figure at 434 million. Keep in mind that this is in a country with an estimated population of 333 million as of 2022.

In any event, the working class is using these firearms to kill each other and themselves in appalling numbers rather than their exploiters and oppressors in the capitalist class. That's the bottom line to me.

According to statistics from the federal Centers for Disease Control, there were around 49,000 deaths from firearms in the U.S. in 2021. This is greater than the nearly 43,000 deaths from motor vehicle crashes that year, although it is eclipsed by the more than 110,000 deaths from opioid overdoses. These gun deaths in 2021 include about 26,000 suicides and 21,000 murders, with the other approximately 1,500 deaths attributed to accidents, "undetermined circumstances," and killings by law enforcement (557). According to the Washington Post, the actual number of people killed by law enforcement that year could be almost double the number reported since not all law enforcement agencies report killings to the FBI.

It seems to me that a responsible and rational position, a position that corresponds to the material reality of our society – for any communist party that claims to care about the welfare of the working class and that seeks to provide it with the guidance and direction that it so desperately needs – is to advocate for sensible regulation of the ownership and purchase of firearms. This would include limiting sales of firearms to those 21 years old and up so they have the opportunity to gain the maturity needed for responsible ownership of firearms; banning sales of weapons – such as assault weapons (the weapons of choice for alienated young men who aspire to be mass shooters) – that clearly are not compatible with the self-defense needs of civilians; closing the "gun show loophole," i.e. requiring all transfers of firearms

between civilians to be reported to the authorities; and ending the opportunities for people to misuse guns in a fit of temper, such as allowing concealed carry of firearms anywhere and everywhere, which some believe is a cause for the increase over the last few years in road rage incidents leading to death. These incidents went from 70 in 2018 to 141 in 2022, along with a corresponding increase in injuries from road rage shooting incidents (176 people in 2018 vs. 413 people in 2022).

It is irresponsible for any Marxist group that aspires to one day be the vanguard party of the American proletariat – the leading organization of the working class in its struggle for liberation – to just shrug its shoulders and act as though nothing can be done about the carnage (which seems akin to the pernicious idea that capitalism is a "natural" system) and to project the belief that the bloodshed doesn't matter and doesn't have political ramifications. If anything, the violence in our society often seems to play into the hands of the right wing as working people adopt reactionary positions on firearms and crime and stock up on firearms in large numbers, often in response to the fears cynically whipped up by the right wing at certain times, such as the election of the first Black president. It is time that communists quit sounding like libertarians when it comes to sensible regulation of firearms that would make society safer, thus would be in the best interests of the working class, and that could reduce the chances of attacks by fascists, such as we saw in Kenosha in 2020.

CLASS STRUGGLE AND IDENTITY POLITICS: STRATEGY AND TACTICS



Members of Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM), a group founded in London to support a miners' strike, winter 1984-85. (LGSM / Bishopsgate Institute)

J. P. Galindo, Communist Party of Spain (Marxist-Leninist), June 10, 2023.

English translation provided by Camilo Lazo for The Red Phoenix.

One of the titanic tasks that Marx and Engels faced on their way to building a new materialist philosophy was to proclaim the end of the immutable concept of nature. From their earliest philosophical works, both criticized the idea of a once-and-for-all world as we know it, and strove to analyze the ways in which nature constantly flows, moves, and transforms. This is the essential basis of dialectical materialism, according to which apparently contradictory and independent elements are crossed by a multitude of shared or complementary characteristics.

In other, and more modern terms, we would say that nature and its relationships are "non-binary" as we cannot reduce them to fixed contradictory pairs: day/night, summer/winter, etc., as there are multiple intermediate gradations that "flow" between the two (the indefinite moment of twilight, for example), transforming some things into their opposites through the accumulation of small quantitative changes (the light that gradually decreases at sunset, in our example) until reaching the general qualitative change: from day to night, from one thing to its opposite.

The self-same process occurs in the transition between the isolated individual and the totality of individuals that we call the mass society. This mass is made up of a multitude of more or less large groups united by some shared qualities among the individuals that form it, which may be more or less evident or abstract.

When these links of affinity acquire a political profile, oriented mainly to defend or expand the rights of the group, they acquire the rank of "identities" and their members can assume the role of "activists" of their identity (although they can be not mutually exclusive, but cumulative). Thus, the same individual can belong to the LGBT community,

to the vegan community, to the racialized collective. This political aspect of identities has its *raison d'être* in linking social groups located in positions of power with specific identities (in the case of Spain this is usually summarized as the "heterosexual white male"), and how this dominant position affects the rest of the groups and identities of society, under the premise that the dominant ideology in a society is that of its dominant class and, consequently, the identity of the ruling class is imposed on the rest, marginalizing or persecuting them in many different ways.

Following this perspective, some post-structuralist analysts, philosophers and ideologues (Foucault, Deleuze, Butler) have argued, in the second half of the 20th century, that the struggle of marginal identities against normative identities (those who establish the general norm for society) had greater revolutionary potential than the old class struggle, since the concept of social class is "transversal" (that is, it encompasses a multitude of identities) and therefore hides or indefinitely postpones the just demands of certain minority groups.

However, there are essential differences between the class struggle and that of identities that make them impossible to equate. The class struggle is not the claim of any minority group, but the organized movement of a social majority capable of threatening the continuity of the current economic, political and social model, and is organized to achieve it in a revolutionary way. Identity struggles, on the other hand, are by definition the demands of minority collectives or groups, excluded in some way by the dominant ideology, but which can be resolved within the prevailing system as they are not incompatible with the very existence of capitalism, as the movements of the last decades have shown that work to create a "friendly" capitalism (environmentalist, inclusive, feminist, anti-racist) but equally exploitative and parasitic.

We are, then, before different but not contradictory fronts that can be complemented as differentiated strategies and tactics. The strategy, the organized advance towards a final objective, cannot attend to the concrete questions that arise at each step. That is the task of the tactician, capable of applying practical solutions but which do not necessarily represent direct advances towards the strategic objective, although they do facilitate the path.

The ultimate goal of Marxist-Leninists is social revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat, and their strategy to achieve this involves different tactics at different times, taking into account the development of the productive forces, the level

of political consciousness of the masses and their organization, the movements of the national and international bourgeoisie, etc. At the present time and circumstances, with a harsh bourgeois offensive underway against the popular classes and with a massively disorganized and brutalized proletariat, the struggle of marginalized identities against the oligarchy and its dominant ideology is not only not an obstacle to our strategy, but it represents a tactical support to it. But it is very important not to confuse both.

The tactical support of communists to minority protest movements is part of our movement of accumulation of social forces against capitalism, because the more extensive the opposition to the bourgeoisie and its social regime, the more powerful the revolutionary advance of the proletariat will be. However, we are aware that their claims cannot be resolved within the current narrow capitalist framework because any progress in this direction leads to partial reforms, to "friendly capitalism" that "listens" to its citizens and "attends" to their demands. The only real and permanent solution is through the revolutionary destruction of the capitalist mode of production and its social relations.

It is not a matter, then, of considering the groups that claim their identity as enemies of the revolution for "diverting forces" (for this we must first have a strong revolutionary movement) or of substituting the revolutionary strategy of the struggle of classes for that of identities. What is necessary, however complex it may be, is knowing how to use both fronts, strategically and tactically, to undermine the strength of the common enemy.

Correctly oriented (radically anti-capitalist) identity politics are a valuable tactical support of the revolutionary proletariat, while the revolutionary destruction of the capitalist regime and its social forms is the only strategic solution to bourgeois discrimination. The first are framed within the general movement of the second, develop in the revolutionary process, and reach the resolution of their contradictions only in the social transformation of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Unity, as always, equals strength.



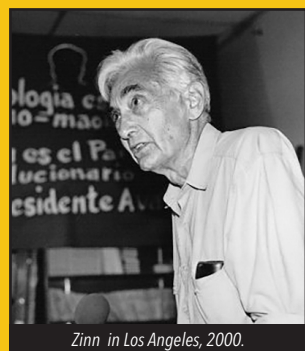
About the Red Phoenix

The Red Phoenix is the mass voice of the American Party of Labor, published and printed bi-monthly. It is a newspaper dedicated to providing a creative and original insight on what is happening in the United States of America and around the world. Along with analysis of important news, events, reviews, and commentary, the paper also includes interviews and letters from workers across the country. The goal of the Red Phoenix is to provide a platform for working people of all kinds, without the biases and mitigation of corporate media.

The Red Phoenix is aimed at revolutionary and progressive-minded people, activists, workers, and others who are fighting in firm opposition to the war against the poor and the oppressed. Our political stands are taken from a revolutionary perspective and our writing serves as a medium of expressing that sentiment.

The Red Phoenix was founded in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crash, as a way to give a platform and voice for working class people left outside popular media narratives. During the Trump presidential campaign and the George Floyd Movement, the Red Phoenix grew to have correspondents across the country seeking to interview workers, analyze the resurgent labor movement, and agitate for a true workers' democracy. In our era of misinformation and rising fascism and union-busting, the need for true working class stories, under the "blue and red" mythology, has never been greater.

To help us with our work by subscribing, donating, or submitting your own articles for publication, please visit us online at RedPhoenixNews.com



Zinn in Los Angeles, 2000.

"We were not born critical of existing society. There was a moment in our lives when certain facts appeared before us, startled us, and then caused us to question beliefs that were strongly fixed in our consciousness... We all have an enormous responsibility to bring to the attention of others information they do not have, which has the potential of causing them to rethink long-held ideas."

Howard Zinn (1922–2010)

Author of *A People's History of the United States*

About the American Party of Labor

The APL 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 when billionaires have more wealth than the bottom 90% of Americans.

★ **An Anti-Revisionist, Internationalist Party:** The American Party of Labor is a dedicated anti-revisionist party, opposed to concessions to capitalists, and critical of all imperialist actions by the US, Russia, and China. The APL is an observer member in the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO), and participates in the international anti-revisionist struggle.

★ **A Party of Working Class People:** The American Party of Labor is made up of workers fighting for workers' rights. Many of our members are in active union and unionization struggles, and we all do our political work after clocking out.

★ **A Party of Equals:** The APL is active in the fight for the rights of women, oppressed nations, the LGBTQIA+ community, and immigrants, and for the community control of police departments. In 2019, the APL was a founding member in the National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression.

★ **Forever Anti-Fascist:** We uphold the anti-fascist legacy of the Marxist-Leninist movement. Members of the American Party of Labor are active in movements against the Far-Right on college campuses, and the barbaric treatment of immigrants at the border.

Who can join? How do I get involved?

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

To look at our joining procedure, activity, membership FAQ, and more, please visit:

AmericanPartyofLabor.com

You can find everything that you should know about us here, 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.

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Why are we Marxist-Leninists in the USA in the 21st century?

There is an important fundamental difference between Marxism and other so-called anti-capitalist or "third way" theories. Marx, unlike many thinkers of his day, did not see a problem with capitalism that could just be mitigated. Instead, he and his compatriots analyzed capitalism itself to understand how the system worked. Marx's ideas for revolution are based on that analysis, and the experiences of the struggles in Europe of 1848. Solutions to the problems of capitalism can only be reached by understanding and observing the system itself, textured with the political reality of the country and historical struggles. This is why we think revolutionary history is worth talking about, and making part of our platform.

Regarding the regulation of capitalism and emergent social democratic reform movements, it is not uncommon that capitalist states restrict the private sector for various reasons. The problem is that political power is still stacked in favor of the ruling class; they have every avenue and all the resources necessary undo reforms and regulations. What truly led to the collapse of the socialist bloc was not that these countries pursued communism, which was ultimately too radical, but rather that these nations pursued market style reforms until they had more or less become capitalist countries. As we have seen in the US, liberal victories are short-lived.

Today, social democratic movements would have us do much the same, if not less – regulate capitalism, nationalize some industry, and try to maintain a welfare state – without expropriating the ruling class, without giving the nation a clear direction for the future, and worst of all, without putting the working class in power. We cannot face climate change, resurgent fascism, police brutality, the exploitation of oppressed nations, and the threat of American imperialism around the world without a revolutionary, centrally organized movement.



**PEACE,
EQUALITY,
SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY**

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