

CLASS WAR

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Brazilian Workers: Break with the Popular Front! Neither Impeachment Nor Coup are the Answer!

Contrary to what the bourgeoisie and the media would have us think, the Brazilian crisis is part of the world crisis of capitalism, which has caused political instability in the entire world, from dictatorships to Popular Front governments. The bourgeoisie has no way out apart from attacking the workers. Mass movements and revolutionary processes such as in the Middle East and North Africa have shown that workers are not willing to pay for the crisis. On the other hand, a sharpening of the inter-imperialist dispute between the U.S.A./EU and China/Russia blocs, who need war for their survival, is a counterrevolutionary force that must be fought on a class basis with independence from both imperialist blocs.



In Brazil the political situation is degenerating rapidly, with the economic recession and the government's austerity policies. On the 2nd of December, the president of the Congress, Eduardo Cunha, began a process of impeachment against Dilma in the Congress. Cunha belongs to the PMDB (Brazilian Democratic Movement Party,) the PT (Workers Party's) main ally in the Popular Front government. It is a bourgeois party known for having various wings led by oligarchs, the so-called "colonels" from various states and regions of the country. The main movers and shakers behind a coup are within the Government ranks. The PT, allied to the bourgeoisie through the Popular Front, ties workers to the bourgeoisie and has abandoned class independence, weakening the workers and opening the way for fascism.

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Why is Russia in Syria?



The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says at least 403 civilians, including more than 160 women and children, have died in Russian airstrikes. Reuters, Nov 15, 2015.

RT 'socialists' who back Russia and its allies against the insurgent masses of MENA are now openly exposed as enemies of the socialist revolution. The shooting down of a Russian plane by Turkey has opened people's eyes to the bigger picture behind the dirty war against ISIS. There are much bigger dirty wars going on, and they are the proxy wars between the US and China/Russia imperialist blocs to back client regimes capable of smashing the workers revolutions. The Middle East is now a war zone in the growing confrontation between the two main imperialist blocs. It is high time for the Western left to break from its social imperialist legacy and fight for socialist revolution.

RT 'socialists' in bed with Russian imperialism

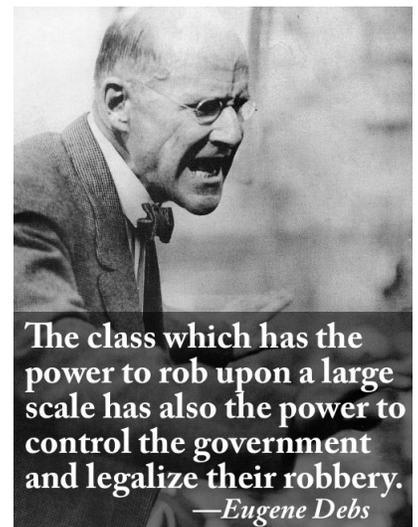
Meanwhile the [RT](#) (Russia Today) left that takes its world view from the Russian state media giant, is still pretending that the [Syrian civil war](#) is no more than a U.S.-sponsored war to remove Assad, while Russia is defending the 'democratically' elected Assad regime. Liberal John Pilger [says](#) that Assad is 'independent'. From what? Today Assad is increasingly dependent on Iran and its allies, Russia and China, to put down a popular uprising. Since Russia started bombing Syria last month it has dropped most of its bombs on the anti-Assad rebels and [civilians](#).

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No Support for Fake Socialist Bernie Sanders, "Sheepdog" for Hillary and the Democrats! No Support to the Capitalist Green Party!

Break with the Democratic and Republican Parties of Capital! Build a Class Struggle Workers/ Labor Party!

Gearing up for the 2016 elections, the pro-capitalist labor bureaucracy of the AFL-CIO/Change to Win labor federations and liberal 'progressives' are mobilizing all out support yet again for the Democratic Party, trying to tap into the despair and outrage of the masses who have been on the receiving end of the bipartisan Democratic and Republican party attacks. Endless wars, rampant racist police violence and terror against the black and brown communities, record deportation of immigrant workers, union-busting, environmental destruction, and the unrelenting downward pressure on the standard of living of workers have created a seething anger among the workers and oppressed who are daily taking it on the chin. Yet at every outbreak of social and class struggle, the liberal and reformist misleaders are there attempting to divert the struggle into safe channels, seeking to keep the struggle within limits which do not challenge capitalist



The class which has the power to rob upon a large scale has also the power to control the government and legalize their robbery.
—Eugene Debs

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Editorial

Year's end finds the international working class and the broader masses smarting from many beatings, a general recession heading for another cliff, terror and misogyny, hunger, dislocation of millions as refugees, pollution so bad the authorities warn you to stay indoors and rising sea levels combined with global warming's offspring, unnatural disasters. Looming over this whole list is the threat of interimperialist world war replacing the many proxy wars already making new, unforeseen crises.

This whole list can be placed under 'lack of revolutionary proletarian leadership.' We write Class War for workers who know everything must change and seek to understand their revolutionary tasks so as to fashion humanity's future before our species' clock runs out. We cannot endure many more years as bad as 2015.

The Great Recession of 2008 has never ended except for Wall Street and for paid pundits. Such 'recovery' as there has been in the U.S. has always had a fictitious side to go with the official numbers; millions of precariate jobs at minimum wages are counted as employment, and there have been only a few months where even this pumped up new jobs figure could be said to show economic growth. Eurozone troubles causing a real decline in the "value" of the Euro permitted an expansion in U.S. exports, while a Saudi policy of dumping crude oil on the market to head off the frackers resulted in cheap gasoline prices that in turn did more to stimulate the U.S. economy than all the money dumping (Quantitative Easing) policies of the Federal Reserve. But this won't last. In both parties the Reaganoids are in the saddle and the cocaine spoon of regulation of financial practices represented by the Dodd-Frank Act has been neutralized.

Those who made a killing on the 2008 crash want another one, and they have the equity in the bourgeois state. See p. 20 "Economic Crash Ahead."

Historically, the bourgeoisie has found no way out of economic crises of this order except by resort to destruction of Capital and productive forces once it has over-produced Capital and cannot find ways to employ it that generate greater profits. The tendency of the rate of profit to fall takes over, and this axiom is now operating on a worldwide market scale. China, whose growth rate and cheap goods cushioned the 2008 fall, is now in recession. The incentives to start a general war are growing, as are the number of frictions and collisions between the S.C.O., the China/Russia imperialist bloc, and the U.S. imperialism-led bloc of nations.

There is nothing in this world that lacks contradictions. On the surface of things you find the U.S. and Russia agreed to fight ISIS/Daesh, where in fact they are chiefly only agreed to fighting rebel forces trying to overthrow Assad. Some of the rebels are real revolutionaries who deserve every bit of solidarity the real left in this world can organize! Under the surface there is a proxy war between the U.S. imperialist bloc and Russia/China over the future map of the region. See our page one story '*Why is Russia in Syria*' reprinted from *Class Struggle no. 115*. Not helpfully for the U.S. bloc, the front-running Republican Party nomination contender, Donald Trump, has called for the U.S. to "let Russia solve Syria." The great irony and even humor in this is where this puts all the fake leftists who have been howling that the Russian pro-Assad intervention is "anti-imperialist," while calling Trump a fascist! Trump, in fact, represents the old 'know nothing'-Taft-McCarthy wing of the Republican party, around whom even more repugnant characters rally, including

naturalized exile rightists from everywhere and real fascists and Ku Kluxers.

Some good news on balance

The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement is not homogenous politically, with NGO liberal types frequently attempting to corral, hijack and speak for it. But a very smart and savvy layer of militants, including many females who will not be repressed!, foil the NGOers time and again. They have learned many lessons this past year and have caused the bourgeoisie to roll some heads of police chiefs and Commissioners and are now threatening the rule of Rahm Emanuel in Chicago. We applaud this. We have marched with you and do and will. We have a caution to raise.

Where BLM calls for the ouster of Emanuel we would add "Down With the Mayoralty!" We say so because every feature and legal product of the Mayoral system serves Capital first, and usually only. This means all their City Council votes are shows that follow the deals made in the back rooms, where you have been excluded for several hundred years! We call for "Power to Mass Popular Assemblies!," and for "Labor, Black and Brown Militias for Community Self-Defense!" in place of any form of bourgeois police. Consequently we do NOT stand with liberals, NGOers, anarcho- and bourgeois feminists who push "community accountability" for the police, rolling however many heads but leaving the 'blue wall' and the power structure of the coupon clipping profiteers of racism intact. A real threat to them are the Texas and Alabama BLM-inspired Black self-defense militias who carry arms openly and defend demonstrations by the community. This is the way to go! This is the way to fight police terror, and not deny it or refuse to call it by its proper name.

In Minneapolis, supposedly the home of the 'progressive' politics of the Hubert Humphrey tradition, the police had foreknowledge of and connived in the attack on a BLM demonstration that shot five demonstrators. Surprisingly this connivance was revealed by the NAACP whose own membership has always included police. Yet the left, such as it is, has made little of this and BLM has not taken up the demand to investigate this connection. We demand that the Justice Department find the specific connection to the Minneapolis police and bring Federal Charges. We demand the trade union federations eject the PBA's (police unions) and the prison guard associations. We demand the Justice Department 'out' the identities of fascists and white supremacists who are members of police departments across the U.S.A. Make 2016 the year we smash the blue wall of silence.

We applaud the profound understanding of

identity of interests among the oppressed and the real enemies of imperialism. This year we saw this flourish in the identification of Black Lives Matter with the cause of Palestinian Liberation and the forging of many ties that promise real sinews in struggles to come! Free Palestine!

Terror returns to roost

We are reprinting a Class War Supplement we issued right after the Paris attacks. It has the virtue of calling attention to other victims than the exclusive concern of the eurocentrics. But upon reflection we will here criticize ourselves for missing an important point raised by forces close to us in Europe and Latin America. We demand the end of the State of Emergency in France! We demand the suspension of all the extraordinary new anti-immigrant measures and open borders for refugees! We see the free movement of Capital everywhere, while workers driven from their homes by inter-imperialist conflict are herded into desolate refugee camps. Citizenship rights For All! Defend the right to Demonstrate! How obscene that the France that claims 1789 as its own tradition bans demonstrations!

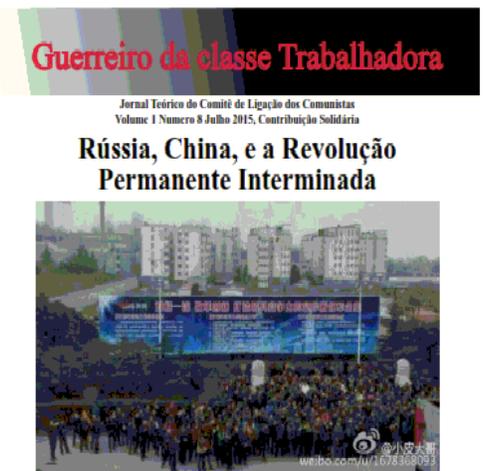
Scarcely had the TV yappers finished reading their teleprompters and their sneering at the French regime for failing to capture the terrorists, when the domestic terror we warned of in the supplement did indeed arrive on the doorstep of the U.S. working class, in Colorado Springs and in San Bernadino, CA. These events have two different sources, but they are united by particular strands of ignorance.

The principal form of identity in ignorance that runs between these two terrorist acts is misogyny, i.e., fear and hatred of women. Misogyny is a principal feature of the ISIS/Daesh New Caliphate, as refugees amply testify. Likewise, homegrown, “Christian”-inspired terror against medical facilities that perform abortions seek to take control of womens’ bodies away from women. Individual perpetrators of this terror (at least [11 killed in attacks since 1993](#), with [42 bombings from 1977-2014!](#)) are sometimes prosecuted, but it does appear that the bourgeois authorities tolerate terror as an extralegal form of acceptable political expression, so long as they have no Arab suspects. We have bourgeois feminism to blame for this, and secondarily such leftists who tailed them when they took the mass womens liberation movement off the streets and confined it to coffee table discussions of how to crack the ‘glass ceiling’ over white womens’ executive employment. Gay marriage becomes a legal commonplace BUT poor women go to prison now for [ending their pregnancy by whatever means](#), a remarkable development/contradiction

in the era of the Tea Party rush to privatize everything. We defend Planned Parenthood. We demand Free Abortion on Demand, Free 24-hour Child Care Centers and Equal Pay for Equal Work! These are also demands to take into the “Fight For Fifteen” parades of the union bureaucrat/democrats.



After Hillary Clinton becomes President in Jan., 2017, we can expect more drone wars and more retaliations by various rightists exploiting the righteous uprising of the Sunni populations of Iraq and Syria, oppressed by the U.S.-installed but Syrian-controlled Baghdad regime and the Assad regime alike. Just recently, former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel revealed that the Obama administration never had any intention of replacing the Assad regime. We will enjoy watching the contortions the ultralefts will have to perform to explain how their love of Assad is not tied up with the Putin/Trump bromance.



Diante de uma crise global crônica do capitalismo e da intensificação da rivalidade interimperialista entre os blocos dos EUA e da China, a tarefa mais urgente para os revolucionários de hoje é fornecer o programa para uma nova internacional trotskista que possa dirigir os trabalhadores na luta para derrotar o nacionalismo e o imperialismo numa revolução socialista vitoriosa. Em uma reunião pública em Londres, em 17 de Abril de 2015, a questão da Rússia e da China como potências imperialistas será debatida pelo Comitê de Ligação pela Quarta Internacional (CLQI) e pela Tendência Revolucionária Comunista Internacional (RCIT), nos do Comitê de Ligação dos Comunistas (LCC) argumentaremos que o método centrista de ambos as tendências não pode fornecer a resposta que os trabalhadores precisam. Argumentamos que tanto CLQI quanto a RCIT revêem Lenin sobre o imperialismo e o nacionalismo. Em resumo, ambos transformam a teoria da revolução permanente de

On the international horizon we are watching the launching of our sister Liaison Committee of Communists organization, the Grupo Revolucionário dos Trabalhadores (Revolutionary Workers Group - GRT) in Brazil. We are reprinting in English the front page article from the no. 2 issue of *Guerreiro da classe Trabalhadora* and are glad to adopt the analysis it contains as our own. Unlike the RCIT

tendency, we will not confuse the present impeachment effort of the PMDB (Party of the Brazilian Democratic Movement, i.e., the PT’s bourgeois government partners in the popular front) with a coup d’etat. We see the PT popular front government’s own repressions of strikes and picket lines and attacks on the favelas using the military police as actual inducements and temptations to other rightist forces for an actual, military coup d’etat, properly so called. To be calling for defense of the Popular Front in this moment is insane treachery, not Trotskyism.

Near our deadline for this number we received a small article calling for solidarity with the Algerian auto Workers of the National Society of Industrial Vehicles (SNVI), and we are glad to reprint this and look forward to more collaborative efforts and meetings in 2016 with the authors and members of the Permanent Revolution Collective! Principled unity is one of the greatest of Marxist goals. It wields tremendous power, all out of proportion to membership numbers! Forward to the World Party of Socialist Revolution!

Corruption and Sewer Socialism and illusions held close by the petty bourgeoisie

We are glad to see how BLM militants engaged and dodged support to the right social-democratic Bernie Sanders campaign and how they landed on their feet after the potentially damaging meeting with Hillary Clinton. We contrast this with the shameless activity of the ostensible revolutionary Marxists of Solidarity and their self-entrapment in the cross-class Richmond Progressive Alliance (RPA). This is the ultimate outcome to date of their encapsulation of a 3rd Camp petty-bourgeois membership. If this is too opaque for some readers, we’ll spell out what we mean in specifics.

One overarching problem with the micro popular front on a city government level is fostering the illusion that the police can be reformed within the capitalist state. This is the essential content of Bernie Sanders’ politics and in Vermont where you have the lowest black population in the U.S.A. you have the highest percentage of black incarceration. RPA is put in the position of defending the Richmond police department and will have to when the inevitable class collisions occur and the police make more black cadavers in the process.

We don’t have a problem with the impulse to fight corruption or to ‘throw the bums out,’ which can be the flip-side of the fight for reforms, which however partial, can be advances for our social class. But everywhere we fight the illusions of the petty-

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bourgeoisie that the capitalist system and its bourgeois state and the local manifestations of it in cities and towns can possibly be reformed. We see everywhere the petty-bourgeois politics in its varieties insisting that it can be reformed, and in this it is joined by the forces who see anti-capitalist insurrection as a manifestation of testosterone and otherwise as the greatest danger in a world where capitalism and imperialism threaten species survival and jerk us around with great pronouncements like the COP 21 pact, made behind the backs of the left that was banned from the meetings and banned from the streets.

We look at the pre-occupation with corruption by Occupy Democrats, an oxymoron if there ever was one, who simultaneously puff up the prospects of the Bernie Sanders' campaign and its social-imperialist continuity, while smoothing the path for the Bernie-bots into the Hillary Clinton camp. Still worse on the micro scale is the activity of the erstwhile Marxists of the Solidarity outfit who, in their alliance with the Democrats and the Greens have revealed their own third-camp trapdoor to liberalism. It is not too much to say that in this micro popular front they have become partners in and defenders of corruption (see [CWG articles on the Richmond Progressive Alliance](#)). This permits and facilitates a great distraction from class struggle by otherwise militant forces, just as the call by BLM to remove Rahm Emanuel loses some of the movement's focus and power by not aiming squarely at the bourgeois state.

Also placing themselves near the top of the list of class collaborators, the sewer socialists within the Chicago Socialist Campaign and the Kshama Sawant/CWI pragmatists who fetishize electoral politics distract from mandatory working class pedagogy that stresses self-reliance of the masses and the need for mass organizations of the one revolutionary social class. We begin from the proposition that if you want socialism it is not arrived at by magic or stealthy combination with those who have other goals, first of which is always private profit. Socialism is arrived at by the self-activity of the working class on the revolutionary road carrying out a Transitional Program, culminating in the conquest of all political power via insurrection and the smashing of the bourgeois state. We have no problem with exploiting electoral opportunities for popularizing the historical program of the working class, but we think single-issue anti-corruption campaigns have no historical possibilities and serve to preserve the power that is threatening us all with extinction.

After the Paris Attacks:

We are all Kenyans, and Malians, and Syrians, and Afghans

The drone operators in air conditioned trailers in Missouri are killing civilians in Yemen, Afghanistan and Syria alike; therefore the Pentagon conception that so-called terror bombings constitute "asymmetrical warfare" is wrong; "limited war" the term used in the Eisenhower and Kennedy days leading up to Vietnam acknowledged that the U.S. military was fighting "irregular forces" overseas. For all the victims on all the continents these distinctions are meaningless, they are victims of imperialist war and this is true in the metropolis as well as in the semi-colonies. The bombings in [Kenya](#) and Mali are not different from the bombings of civilians in Paris and neither are they different from the victims of the U.S. drones or one ton French bombs and Matra missiles. This is war, something imperialism makes continuously and non-stop and has done so since before the end of the Cold War, beginning with the Charlie Wilson/Brzezinski support policy for the anti-communist Mujahideen in 1979.

To end these wars that metastasize one into the next, pacifism will never work. A sentiment is no match for the powers of finance seeking resources and populations to exploit. Likewise the patriotic appeals of the Hollandes and Obamas to seriously make war and "finish terrorism off" are scams that only serve to keep the wars going.

The only way to put an end to "endless war" is socialist revolution. It is not just a question of disempowering those who always stand to benefit from murders and terror whether they be Wall St. banksters, members of the Paris Bourse or "radical" clerics seeking a piece of the oil profits. The great democratic aspirations of the masses must be met and exceeded for humanity to achieve a higher social level of development, and, in fact, in the global warming era species survival requires the same solution. Only socialism can deliver for the masses democratic aspirations and only the delivery of political power into the hands of a dictatorship of the international working class can put an end to the plunder and war policies of the capitalist dictatorship. The victims in Mali/Kenya have all the same social characteristics as the victims in the metropolis. The list grows and will grow. The empires must go!

In fact, U.S. imperialism is the world's leading terrorist. For those of us who live here, they are the main enemy. Daesh exists because the U.S. drove al-Qaeda in Iraq out of Iraq and into collision with the al-Zawahiri leadership resulting in separate organization, ISIS, which claims to be the real center of a new Caliphate, a reactionary world system based on a zealot's interpretation of Sharia law. Those who say that ISIS is the creation of the U.S are wrong in the literal sense, but ISIS could not exist except in the wake of a destroyed Iraq and a ruined Syria and these conditions must be laid squarely at the door of U.S. imperialism.



Social imperialists at home and abroad favor these wars. Bernie Sanders and François Hollande are not new phenomenon suddenly appearing on the historical stage. And it is important to know that the Max Schachtman brand of socialism supported the U.S. war in Vietnam just as the French Communist and Socialist parties supported France's colonial war in Vietnam and Algeria. They do so, and did so, because they represent the interests of the highest paid workers and the bureaucrats at the top of the labor federations who are beneficiaries of the little bit of real trickle down from imperialist super profits from the exploitation of our sisters and brothers in the semi-colonies. In this they identify with the interests of the imperialist bourgeoisie and take their side against the workers of the world. Like the empires they support we must sweep them into the dust-bin of history.

Social imperialism starts at home under the guise of Bernie Sanders and is reflected in the moralistic pacifistic drivel when the left produces its obligatory "we oppose terroristic barbarism" qualifiers. Nowhere do we read in the reformist or pacifist press that passes for a left any call for an end to social imperialist misleadership, a social imperialist leadership

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that always favors wars against “terrorist barbarism” and in favor of “metropolitan civilization.” Nowhere do we see the phony left calling on the labor movement to form its own party and channel the mighty force of labor to smash the capitalist state most presently in the imperialist centers. A layer of social imperialists stand in the way. They are doing their best to keep the workers internationalist consciousness from emerging. When blow back against the imperialist center occurs it is an extension of the wars of subjugation of the semi-colonial peoples but the social imperialists don’t want you to understand this. The social imperialist’s legitimacy, such as it is, in the eyes of the big bourgeoisie consists of sustaining nationalist mythology, the benevolence of U.S. world leadership and the rewards of private enterprise.

“In the absence of a popular secular leadership, including that of communists, both in the heartlands and the neo-colonies, leadership of resistance to imperialist oppression defaults to the radical clerics who mobilise their armies to negotiate with imperialism a share of the oil. In creating the history of colonial oppression, or benefiting from it, the Empire unites bosses and workers in a common fight to defend the basis of Empire, the extraction of wealth from the resources and labour of their client states”, - Dave Brownz, “[Marx on Parisian Terror](#)”

Under the combined thumb of intervention and state repression the imperialist’s historic interventions in the colonies and semi-colonies have severely stymied the emergence of a revolutionary and democratic workers movement, empowering every comprador bourgeoisie to crush the movements of the workers and peasants, making workers and peasant’s revolution less possible.

SMASH THE RACIST LIES! IMMEDIATE CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS FOR ALL!

In the aftermath of Kristallnacht in 1938, revolutionary Marxists called for the abolition of the racist U.S. immigration quotas so as to accept Jewish refugees from the Holocaust anyone with two eyes could see was coming. The reformist New Deal kept the doors shut tight. Today Syrian refugees face a similar obstacle in the U.S. Congress with sectors of the Democratic Party in coalition with the Tea Partiers in installing a process that will keep Syrian refugees out of the U.S.A. for two years or more, even in the cases where these applicants would ultimately be accepted. This is a death sentence; this is only acceptable in the eyes of the suckers whose own Caliphate is the white Anglo-

Saxon protestant Ku Klux Klan Caliphate. The anti-immigrant war, like the war on terror itself is a propaganda plan to reinforce the public impression of capitalism’s phony economic recovery. The anti-refugee and anti-immigrant causes serve as political distractions from the true picture of mass unemployment and exploit the anxiety of the precariously employed and underpaid.

The bourgeois media pound us with the ideas that workers are and should be outraged by the criminal attacks on civilians in France but they should know that these do not come about in abstraction from a series of similar suicide bombings committed across the Middle East and North Africa. And the bombings come about in direct connection to the brutal subjugation of non-believers in areas under ISIL/ISIS/Daesh control. Our homes, community and travel are no longer safe. During the recounting of the civilian dead in Paris and those killed in the downing of the Russian plane, the corporate media hide the facts that thousands of innocent civilians have been killed by 14 years of indiscriminate and targeted bombings by the U.S./UK/French and now Russian air forces.

Of course even less is revealed about the theocratic state of Israel which only last year slaughtered thousands in Gaza. As we write here, the war of terror waged by Israeli settlers against the Palestinians has escalated with many new victims. While the U.S. points to a paper disapproval of the expansion of these settlements, the U.S. Obama administration arms the Israeli military to the teeth and the very public ostensible disagreement with the policies of the arch racist Netanyahu has vanished from the press. At the same moment that police terror directed at black and brown communities result in record numbers of police victims, the bourgeoisie sponsors black anti-immigrant voices and anti-refugee hysteria always to the tune that the “foreigners” will take your job. A black vanguard has seen through this and has made a profound alliance with the Palestinian cause and we hope they will see their own interests in defending Syrian refugees from “the man’s” wars.

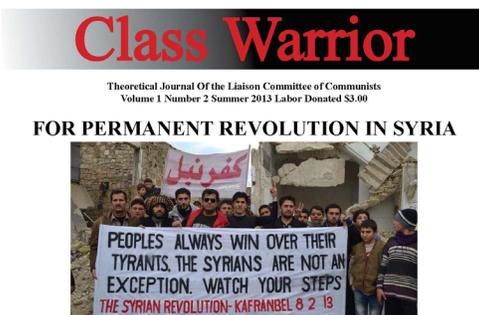
Imperialism’s military aggression and dominance stymies the forces of Permanent Revolution, the only forces that can hold back theocratic reaction, and as a result has thus brought that terrorist reaction to every worker’s doorstep from Fallujah to Paris and beyond. The ruling class will make use of this fear to rally workers into nationalist mobilizations; the fascists and racist forces will extend this sentiment to anti-Muslim violence. The centrist and social-imperialist left, “progressives” and pacifists find their ways to rally to the flags of the imperialists. Revolutionary workers must show another road forward, a road and program built

upon internationalist solidarity to defeat imperialism as a system. The imperialists have brought the war on terror down upon us; we must defeat the rule of the capitalist class whose self interests dictate that they choose between smaller and larger and world wars.

Revolutionary workers must oppose the rallying of nationalist and patriotic sentiment used to prepare for expanded and future military interventions. To defeat the terrorist threat imperialism must be taken out of the equation. This means that to defeat ISIS the capitalist system in the imperialist centers must be overthrown and replaced by internationalist workers governments.

Once again we are watching as the bourgeoisie gets away with fomenting racist hysteria, exactly and only because of the paucity and crisis of working class leadership. But revolutionaries are here to tell you that life does not have to be this way and that life must be another way for species survival.

Forward to a new world party of socialist revolution! Forward to the world socialist revolution!



IMPERIALISM, THE GLOBAL CRISIS, AND THE SYRIAN REVOLUTION

The global capitalist crisis that has built up since 2007 can only be resolved in two ways. Either the rivalry between the two imperialist blocs succeeds in resolving the crisis by means of depression and war, or the international working class mobilizes to defeat imperialism and bring about a socialist revolution. The imperialists are engaged in a struggle between the entrenched and declining powers bloc led by US imperialism and the emergent Chinese/Russian imperialist bloc over the resources, strategic assets and the super-profits to be extracted from the proletarianized masses and their homelands. The global south has become the battleground between these rival blocs at the expense of the semi-colonial nations and the working masses. The semi-colonial revolution is the flashpoint for the current international crisis of capitalism, where the imperialist forces and their national agents are confronted by popular resistance. The Arab Revolution that began in 2011 is an expression of the beginnings of a global challenge to the rule of capital by the world's workers who refuse to pay for the imperialist crisis and which has opened the road to permanent revolution. The revolutionary war in Syria has been the vanguard of the Arab Revolution and the global revolution for more than two years.

The initial form that this Arab Revolution has taken is the bourgeois-democratic revolution, since the workers in the Arab countries have first to overthrow the national bourgeoisies that act as the agents of imperialism in order to win even the most basic bourgeois-democratic rights. This is because imperialism requires authoritarian local agents to enforce exploitative social relations in semi-colonies, with or without military intervention. This arrangement has given rise to many variations of crony capitalism, hybrid monarch-capitalism, “radical nationalist” capitalism, and variants with

bourgeois-democratic institutions. But mostly they act as mere fig-leaves and their stability is derived from their ability to contain the masses and please the banker.

Today this predatory, parasitic imperialism, targets the semi-colonies, coming at them from two fronts. Either established esony regimes continue to contain the masses and deliver booty to the (centrist) dominant imperialist powers, or the masses upset the apple cart and chart an independent course. Right away of course, the “old” imperialist powers contest for economic hegemony with their imperialist rivals for control of the semi-colonial state, even as they face a revolutionary spring. When direct military neo-colonization is not a viable option, the “new” imperialist power aims for “regime change” either with behind-the-scenes maneuvering or by propelling itself on the back of a popular uprising. The extent to which the popular uprising is or can be subordinated to imperialist forces is the point in contention.

The Syrian masses are fighting for their liberation against the two major imperialist blocs, their proxies and the ultra-reactionary theocrats. For the working class to assert itself, it requires its party and program to unite the masses to carry the revolution against all forces of exploitation and oppression. While the two imperialist camps and theocrats have the resources of world capital and two old monarchies behind them, the Syrian masses have the virtue of the international crisis of capitalism at their back. So it isn’t just that the revolution happened in Syria as part of the Arab Spring. The Syrian revolution is the most advanced part of the reawakening of the Arab-nationalist revolution that started as the Arab Spring against the maturity measure imposed by national bourgeois regimes on behalf of imperialism.

Given it is the product of the repartition of global markets between

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Cont. from pg. 1 Russia in Syria....

UK Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn is standing up against the UK bombing ISIS. But he still looks to the UN to stop the civil war in Syria. Corbyn is taking a classic social democratic stand against the right wing Blairites who back imperialist war. He argues that a war under the aegis of the UN is somehow not imperialist. For him imperialism is not inscribed in the DNA of capitalism, rather it's a disease that is "not nice to have". By this reasoning, the 'social imperialist' (socialism at home and imperialism abroad) left rejects the reality that Russia and China are [imperialist powers](#) and defends them as 'progressive' regimes opposed to the world arch-enemy, US imperialism and its NATO allies.

Now that the [frontlines](#) between the [two imperialist blocs](#) are becoming clearly staked out, it's obvious even to idiots that the Syrian revolution has for 5 years been suppressed by both imperialist blocs as part of the 'great game'. We can see Russia's dramatic upstaging of the US in the war on ISIS as evidence that Putin is no pawn of the US or EU. He has 'come out' as an imperialist rival capable of breaking up NATO, dumping Turkey but drawing France and Germany closer to the orbit of the Russia/China bloc.

It is high time that the labour movement declared its independence from both imperialist blocs and stood for the class independence of the world's workers. First it has to abandon its [Eurocentrist faith](#) in 'good' capitalist regimes like that of Assad which has killed 400,000 and exiled millions. It must recognise the Syrian civil war as today's Spanish civil war, and send volunteers and arms to defeat Assad and to reinforce the secular armed masses of MENA to advance the revolution and overthrow the reactionary pro-imperialist regimes and kick them and their imperialist masters out!

Imperialism screws MENA

The Syrian people, like all those of MENA (Middle East and North Africa) are pawns in a power game between the two rival imperialist blocs. The main imperialist proxies (leaving out Israel, a US tool), Saudi Arabia on the US side and Iran on the Russia/China side, happen to be Sunni and Shia respectively, so the battle lines have increasingly taken a sectarian form to rally and discipline their forces. There is a history to this.

Since it was kicked out of Iran by the revolution in 1979 followed by the counter-revolutionary Shia Khomeini, the US, and its Israeli stooge, has aimed its 'axis of evil' policy at Iran. The US backed Saddam in

the Iraq/Iran war which Iraq lost. Saddam began to challenge the US in Kuwait in 1991, leading to the first Gulf war that killed over a million Iraqis in that war or by starving them with sanctions. At the same time the collapse of the Soviet Union and the opening of the capitalist road in China made the US appear invincible.

The 9/11 blowback punctured this illusion and Bush launched the frenzied 'war on terror' to invade Afghanistan and Iraq. The US smashed the Baathist regime because it began to swing towards Russia. Bush used the occupation to destroy the largely Sunni army leadership. It turns out that many of these leaders formed the beginning of what would become ISIS while in jail.

Born again Russia and China

The rise of China and Russia as [new born imperialist powers](#) in the 1990s and 2000s changed the balance of power in MENA and forced the US to compromise in tolerating regimes in Syria and Iraq that did not rock the boat. Israel, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States and Turkey, did not recognise this 'power sharing'. They opposed the Shia dominated regimes as extensions of Iran. When in 2011 the Arab Spring broke out and the popular masses threatened to revive the Arab Revolution, the reactionary regimes tried to steer any development of the revolution for democracy and socialism into sectarian regimes.

Behind the scenes NATO and SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) lined up with their Islamic proxies to contest the control of oil in MENA, but their main enemy was now the Arab revolution picking up momentum and threatening to overthrow their client dictators. This created an opening for al Qaeda to re-emerge as the radical Sunni counterweight to the rival Shia sects sponsored by Iran and now backed by the China/Russia imperialist bloc. The Arab revolution would be declared dead and buried in a morass of sectarian infighting.

Instant repression such as in Bahrain, fake Muslim Brotherhood democracy followed by military dictatorship in Egypt, NATO intervention in Libya, or US/Saudi invasion of Yemen, have held the revolution at bay. Only in Syria did an armed popular revolution threaten to overthrow a dictator and look like winning. The US intervened mainly to starve the FSA of heavy weapons (as it had done to the rebels in Libya) in the hope that Assad and the FSA would fight to a bloody draw allowing a US/Israeli stooge to replace Assad.

After 4 years the FSA still looked capable of defeating Assad so Russia and Iran stepped up their military support. The US then tried

to take over the popular revolution by arming and training 'moderate' militias without success. The long bloody stalemate in the civil war opened up a vacuum waiting to be filled by the radical Sunni sects like ISIS/Daesh willing to overthrow the Shia aligned regimes in Iraq and Syria. But Daesh was not prepared to act merely as a proxy for the US bloc, its origins in the former Baathist Iraqi regime meant it wanted to rewrite the old imperialist borders and exploit its Sunni backing to build an Islamic State.

All of this proves that all the lying rhetoric coming out of both imperialist blocs about a 'war on terror' is bullshit to mask their own rotten role in screwing over MENA for at least a century. Their power-grab today when the global crisis is pushing the US to aggressively challenge both Russia and China for control of the Earth's dwindling resources means that neither bloc will back down if their strategic interests are involved.

Daesh threatens the strategic interests of both blocs because its rhetoric directly challenges the DNA of imperialism to invade and plunder with its own virulent DNA to create a world-wide Islamic State. Daesh is not a problem because it cuts throats and rapes women, but because it is not prepared to bow down to either US or Russia/China imperialist blocs. Therefore, [those who defend](#) either the US or Russia/China bloc in the name of 'democracy' in a 'war on terror' against ISIS are no more than apologists for the imperialism that dominates, invades, occupies and represses the Arab masses.

Survival Socialism!

How do we want to die? Ground down by a terminal crisis of global capitalism? In one or other of the proxy wars that fosters national, religious or tribal divisions to slaughter 100,000s of workers and smash their democratic and socialist revolutions? Surveilled and executed in our homes or streets in a mayhem of global terror? Or will we survive all these only to face a slow death by climate or nuclear meltdown? Of course these are not choices at all. They are all in the last analysis manifestations of the decline and collapse of global capitalism. Economic crisis makes wars necessary and the massive waste and destruction of war-torn capitalism makes climate collapse even more certain. It should by now be obvious that capitalism has to die for the working masses of the world to survive!

The question of whether this or that particular proxy war will blow up into a world war depends on how far the rival imperialist ruling classes will go to defeat their rivals. If history is any indication they will go all the way. At a certain point bluff and counter-

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bluff may lead to adventurist actions that spark a meltdown. For example, Erdogan shooting down a Russian plane has been met by Russian economic and trade sanctions on Turkey. Such sanctions are always a preparation for war.

But at each point in this path to destruction, economic, military and ecological disaster can be stopped. They are man-made and more importantly, made by the capitalist ruling class. Whether we succumb to the implosion of global capitalism critically depends on how quickly we can build a mass anti-imperialist movement in both the West and the East that can unite our forces to halt the drive towards crisis, war and the sixth great extinction.

You can be sure that the only thing that will stop the imperialists and their client states from dragging the popular masses into a widening global war of terror is global resistance. That is why it is essential to oppose imperialist warmongering from the West and the East and not to be diverted by the 'war on terror'. Only by stopping imperialism at home from intervening directly or indirectly in MENA and by backing the popular secular forces fighting for democracy against imperialist and Islamic reaction can the Arab revolution rise again with any prospect of victory.

A new international revolutionary party

For this to happen, the social imperialist left that holds back the revolution with parliamentary talk of reformist compromises with the capitalists has to be removed. These are the Corbyns, the Sanders, the Syrizas, the union bosses, the NGO bureaucracies and the left commentariat that covers for them. Since the First Imperialist war, the working class has been capable of overthrowing capitalism. The only thing missing was a revolutionary party able to defeat the treacherous social imperialist leaders that acted as the agents of the ruling classes. In Russia a Bolshevik Party existed and the revolution succeeded. Elsewhere social democracy prevailed and the revolutions were defeated and the epoch of fascism, and the 'short' 20th century began.

Today it is the lessons of that period that are most important. They are summarised in the 1938 *Transitional Program* of Trotsky and the Fourth International. It is necessary to build a new World Party of Socialism that can lead workers united fronts to defend the interests of workers and expose and replace the treacherous leaders of the unions and social democracy that are the agents of the capitalists in the working class, with many millions of revolutionary fighters. This is

the revolutionary road to socialism, the only answer that humanity has to the evils of economic, military and climate destruction.

While the capitalist ruling class and its apologists defend the worst excesses of capitalism in the name of 'democracy', we have to say that bourgeois democracy is a sham reserved only for those who can buy it as a guarantee of their property rights. Parliaments are talkshops that divert us from the world of the workshops in which the working billions create the world's wealth. We are forced to work for a wage because we have no other means to survive. Now that our survival itself is threatened by the capitalist system facing a terminal crisis and ecological collapse it is necessary for the working class to take control of the global economy and get rid of the system that exploits both workers and nature.

Reprinted from [Class Struggle no. 115](#), journal of the Communist Workers Group of Aotearoa/New Zealand

The CWG adheres to the Transitional political method as expressed in the 1938 "Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International" in contrast to today's reformists and centrists who limit their program to the current consciousness of the masses. As opposed to the reformist minimum/maximum program, which in America translates to tailing after liberalism, notably Sanders' political "revolution," the CWG fights to bridge the gap between the immediate felt needs of the working class and the necessity for socialist revolution.

Leon Trotsky The Political Backwardness of American Workers

"...The program must express the objective tasks of the working class rather than the backwardness of the workers. It must reflect society as it is and not the backwardness of the working class. It is an instrument to overcome and vanquish the backwardness. That is why we must express in our program the whole acuteness of the social crises of the capitalist society, including in the first line the United States. We cannot postpone, modify objective conditions which don't depend upon us. We cannot guarantee that the masses will solve the crisis, but we must express the situation as it is, and that is the task of the program.

Another question is how to present this program to the workers. It is more a pedagogical task and question of terminology

in presenting the actual situation to the workers. Politics must be adapted to the productive forces, that is, the high development of the productive forces, the paralyzing of these productive forces by capitalist forms of property, the increasing unemployment which is becoming deeper and deeper—the greatest social plague. The productive forces cannot develop any longer. Scientific technology develops, but the material forces are declining. It signifies that society becomes poorer and poorer, the number of unemployed greater and greater. The misery of the masses deepens, the difficulties become greater and greater for the bourgeoisie and the workers; the bourgeoisie has no other solution except fascism, and the deepening of the crisis will force the bourgeoisie to abolish the remnants of democracy and replace them with fascism....

.... What can a revolutionary party do in this situation? In the first line give a clear honest picture of the objective situation, of the historic tasks which flow from this situation irrespective as to whether or not the workers are today ripe for this. Our tasks don't depend on the mentality of the workers. The task is to develop the mentality of the workers. That is what the program should formulate and present before the advanced workers. Some will say: good, the program is a scientific program; it corresponds to the objective situation — but if the workers won't accept this program, it will be sterile. Possibly. But this signifies only that the workers will be crushed since the crisis can't be solved any other way but by the socialist revolution. If the American worker will not accept the program in time he will be forced to accept the program of fascism. And when we appear with our program before the working class we cannot give any guarantees that they will accept our program. We cannot take responsibility for this ... we can only take the responsibility for ourselves....

.... The revolutionaries always consider that the reforms and acquisitions are only a by-product of the revolutionary struggle. If we say that we will only demand what they can give, the ruling class will give only one-tenth or none of what we demand. When we demand more and can impose our demands, the capitalists are compelled to give the maximum. The more extended and militant the spirit of the workers, the more is demanded and won. They are not sterile slogans; they are means of pressure on the bourgeoisie, and will give the greatest possible material results immediately...."

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1940/05/backwardness.htm>

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To stop any coup it is necessary that workers break with the Popular Front.

One day after the commencement of the process of impeachment was announced, the Minister of Civil Aviation, right arm of the vice-President Michel Temer (PMDB), resigned for allegedly personal reasons. In relation to the movements of “allies”, Dilma said she had no reason not to trust her vice-President. By way of reply, the vice-President wrote a challenging letter that was announced in the media as a break with Dilma. While Dilma implicitly trusts her government “allies” to approve the austerity measures, the PT and CUT (Unified Workers Central labor federation) stop workers’ strikes, shut down the battles and demobilize the class, leaving the road to an actual coup open.

On the 29th of October 2015 the PMDB released a programmatic statement called “A bridge to the future”, the motives for which became clear after the announcement of the impeachment process. The program says:

“All the initiatives announced here constitute a necessity, and almost a consensus, throughout the country. Political inertia and immobility have prevented them from being realized. The present crisis, of revenue but principally economic, with a fall of the GDP, high inflation, extremely high interest rates, increasing unemployment, the paralyzation of productive investment, and the complete absence of a positive outlook, is forcing society to confront its destiny. In this hour of truth, in which nothing less than the future of the nation is at stake, we need to form a political majority, even if transitory or circumstantial, capable in the short term of making all these decisions both in society and in the National Congress. There is no other way than obtaining the understanding and cooperation of all. The nation has already shown itself capable of confronting and overcoming great challenges. We will submit it to a new and decisive test.”

The program, after noting “inertia and political immobility”, outlines the effects of the capitalist crisis on the country and says it is necessary to “form a political majority, even if transitory or circumstantial”. Taking into account a possible impeachment of Dilma, this proposal serves as a call for a coalition government, including the right that has been in opposition, such as the PSDB (Brazilian Social Democratic Party) and DEM (Democrats), as well as the right that has been “allied” to the PT for the last 12 years.

Later on, remembering the political and



economic situation of the country, the program states “*Modern popular democracies do not appear to be capable of surviving passively with the end of economic growth and opportunities, nor with limitations on the growth of government spending. Even in the developed world, with generous social welfare systems, the interruption of economic growth and a pause in the expansion of money transfers and state services are generating a weakening of political authority and a profound social dissatisfaction.*”

The bourgeoisie is right to concern itself with social dissatisfaction. **Brazilian workers and youth, as in the entire world, have demonstrated their willingness to fight against paying the price of capitalist crisis.** The marches of June 2013, when millions went to the street in answer to the calls of the youth movement that fought against increases in the price of public transport and for better health and education, marked an upswing of struggles in Brazil. This movement was preceded by strikes involving teachers nationwide, federal public servants, and construction workers both private and governmental. Their worksites included huge government projects such as the Belo Monte, Santo Antonio, and Jirau dams and hydroelectric stations that are destroying indigenous communities and the Amazon rain forest. In 2014 we saw a movement against the World Cup, numerous strikes such as teachers and sanitation workers in Rio de Janeiro, metro workers in São Paulo, and bus drivers in Rio Grande do Sul. In 2015 there were various strikes with metal and petroleum workers, the struggle of public servants in Paraná, public service



strikes in Rio Grande do Sul, and student occupations of secondary schools in São Paulo.

In all these struggles, the CUT, CTB (Confederation of the Workers of Brazil), and other bureaucratic union organizations have intervened to isolate the participating workers, keep the emphasis on economic matters, and demobilize the workers. In the public service strike against the time-payment of salaries in Rio Grande do Sul, which united a record of more than 30 thousand workers in one meeting, the CUT united with the Police Union and the right wing bureaucrats of the “Unified Movement”, arguing for a limited 4 day strike and putting off a general strike for an undetermined time. In the teachers’ union, the largest and strongest, the CUT-aligned leadership closed the meeting and declared the end of the strike against a majority vote. The Rio Grande do Sul state government is run by the PMDB. **The PT and the CUT know that the financial crisis in Rio Grande do Sul is the same as that affecting the federal government and act to defeat the working class, all in the name of governability.**

With regard to the austerity project, the PMDB program says “*The solution will be harsh on the entire population; it will require emergency measures, and most importantly, structural reforms.*” The austerity program has had costs for the government, with the political crisis a sign of the difficulty of proceeding with the changes and advancing the structural reforms. In reality, these are just attacks on health, education, workers’ rights, and pensions that the bourgeoisie needs as its way out of the crisis.

“...we will have to change laws and even some of the Constitution, so that the fiscal crisis doesn’t keep returning, each time harder to solve, until we finally end up in a type of collapse”....“The other question of equal importance is government superannuation.” (PMDB program)

Further on: “*For this the first thing necessary is that we do away with established constitutional links such as requirements for spending on health and education*”....“*Another part of the new budget will have to be the end of indexation, whether of salaries, pensions, or anything else.*”

The PT united with the bourgeoisie to form a government, and over the last 13 years has applied imperialist policies, with privatizations, superannuation reforms, concessions, PPPs, restructurings, and attacks on workers’ rights like the PPE (Employment Protection Program). While bankers and business people are making

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more money than ever before in the history of the country (like the owners of construction businesses who profit enormously from government programs like Minha casa Minha vida - My house, My life) while living conditions, health, education, transport, workers' rights, youth, and the poor are under attack due to the "reforms", "restructurings", and "reorganizations" which are part of the structural "reforms" that the bourgeoisie claims are necessary to go forward.



Education is a great example of an area being attacked by the government and the bourgeoisie. It has been suffering through reforms insisted on by imperialism and the World Bank and implanted through the PNE (National Education Program), and which transform education into a market commodity. These affect everything from primary to tertiary education, implementing salaries related to teacher evaluations, destroying career progression, opening public education to the private sector, shutting schools, etc. The PNE was approved by the federal Congress in 2014, but its implantation had begun long before this. In Rio Grande do Sul we saw overcrowded classrooms, reform of secondary education, private foundations in the schools, etc. In São Paulo, pay dependent on evaluations is already a reality and workers have had part of their salary transformed into a "bonus". The recent reorganization measure, shutting schools and only allowing for student evaluations every three years in São Paulo, is just another facet of the World Bank's reform of education in Brazil, the PNE.

The government's main weapon in discussing and approving the PNE was the National Education Conference, set up to legitimize the attacks on public education and widely supported by the CUT, the National Union of Students, and various leftist organizations. Whilst the PNE signifies a structural reform in national education, the "left" wants to "improve" things by having 10% of the GDP spent on public education.

Education is a great example of resistance and workers' struggle and also of how the government bureaucracy acts to defeat the struggles in a way that defends the government. Since 2010, strikes and worker mobilizations have increased throughout the country and the union bureaucracy has acted to keep strikes isolated and focused on economic issues, impeding national mobilization and the fight against the PNE. In the school occupation movement in São Paulo against the "restructuring" of basic education by the PSDB government, the organizations aligned to the federal government tried

to negotiate an agreement with the state government on behalf of the students, and end the occupations. The students, organized in more than 200 occupied schools in a genuine United Front, resisted the bureaucratic maneuvers, maintaining the occupations and winning an annulment of the government privatization decree. The students know that the fight goes on and restructuring is still a threat. The struggle needs to advance until students and workers from the whole country are occupying schools and workplaces to combat the educational reform of the PNE (applied by all municipal, state, and federal governments), the coup, and capitalism itself.

Later still, the proposed PMDB program explains why the austerity program and structural reforms are necessary: *"The main objective is a policy of fiscal responsibility to interrupt the growth of government debt, to start with, so that we can begin reducing debt as a percentage of GDP. The normal means of achieving this is by achieving a budget surplus high enough to cover interest payments...In third place it is up to the State, run by a majority in agreement with the objectives of this growth, based on free enterprise, free competition, and the desire for integration with external markets, to achieve legislative change in critical areas."*



The government tirelessly proclaims that it is committed to the austerity program and the objectives of reaching a budget surplus are openly defended by the Minister of the Economy. The PT is compromised by imperialist policies and even with the economic crisis and the threat of a coup,

continues to defend the bourgeois attacks on workers as the solution for the economy. It's worth remembering that the request for the impeachment of Dilma isn't because of corruption, but because she has broken the Law of Fiscal Responsibility, a law passed by the PSDB government to guarantee the payment of public debt before investing in health, education, housing, etc. The PT defends the existence of this law. The government aligned movements such as the CUT, UNE and MST (a rural proletarian movement) are against austerity and, along with various social movements and bourgeois elements, have formed the Frente Brasil Popular (Brazilian People's Front) against any coup and in favor of a new political economy, although they support the government and act within the working class movement to demobilize true united fronts and their struggles, even though these are the only force capable of fighting a coup.

"We will carry out this program in the name of peace, of harmony, and of hope, that are still among us. We will obey the institutions of the democratic state, strictly follow the law and protect order, without which progress would be impossible. The country needs all Brazilians. Our promise is to reconstruct a modern, prosperous, democratic, and just state." (PMDB program)

It is possible that the PMDB would lead a coalition government if Dilma and the PT were defeated and the "Bridge to the Future" program seems designed for this. Despite their intentions and the promise of a democratic state, the PMDB and other right wing parties are involved in corruption scandals and would need to apply the same austerity measures that are making Dilma and the PT lose support. The absence of a left wing alternative and the deepening of the economic crisis cause the growth of extreme right wing reactionaries who have their own intentions and are a threat to the working class.

In this way, the Popular Front ties workers to parliament and opens the way for fascism. There is no way out for workers inside the bourgeois parliament. Workers must break from the Popular Front and fight both the coup and fascism with their own methods, the general strike, workers' committees, and self-defense organizations. The main necessity is a revolutionary party to give a perspective of working class victory against capitalism, and for socialism.

A large part of the left sees the rise of the imperialist China/Russia bloc as progressive compared to American imperialism and defends the Popular Front in Brazil and the Bolivarian governments as a "lesser evil" with respect to the traditional right. In a

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class rule. They promote populist demands for impotent or liberal reforms palatable to the capitalists. Their role is to direct the movements of the workers and oppressed off of the streets and into that "graveyard of social and class struggles" the Democratic Party. Through the traps of electoralism these labor lieutenants of capital, liberals and reformists limit the struggle for our most minimal demands (like a job at a living wage) to long-term legislative limbo.

Where is the party that fights for Jobs for All now? Where is the party that can end imperialist wars? Where is the party that is uncompromising in defense of the environment? It is not the Democratic Party!

To win Jobs For All we will need to share the work in a planned economy and that is something the ruling class and its twin parties, the Democrats and Republicans, are organized against. The capitalists know from experience that the long term decline of the rate of profit has not been reversed by the rise in the rate of productivity, so they know they cannot raise wages without impacting the share and bond holder's cut of the surplus value/profit. The capitalists cannot provide jobs for all or free education or universal free cradle to grave medical care. They know that to do so will put them out of business. The workers know that too! The historic economic and social interests of the workers cannot be met while the economy is subject to the anarchy of the capitalist market and bureaucratic state interventions do little to mitigate the misery which is the social cost of the private profit system.

As that is the dominant "understanding", our labor leaders only negotiate for crumbs. They may not, but should know, that to fight for the real needs of workers and oppressed labor must end the rule of the 1% and put the ownership and control of the means of production into the hands of the working class. That is a revolution. That is what is on the agenda, but not on Bernie Sanders' agenda. Bernie has no intention of guiding the working class to build its own revolutionary socialist Workers Party because Bernie is committed to leaving the capitalists in control of the ownership of the economy. Seek in vain on his web site and the demand for socialism is nowhere to be seen: He offers nothing of the socialist program. No expropriation of the commanding heights of the economy. No workers democratic control and planning of the economy. No program to return the holdings of the multi-national corporations to the peoples of the semi-colonies. His red flag has been washed so many times you can hardly see the pink left in it.

Democracy in America means the "democracy" of Wall Street, the dictatorship of Capital. The elections every two years in America determine which wing of the ruling class will administer brutal capitalist exploitation. It will be either the 'screw you with a smile' Democrats or the 'screw you outright' Republicans. The *Citizen's United* decision has brazenly revealed the farce of democratic pretensions the ruling class promotes. Bernie reduces democracy to getting rid of *Citizen's United*. But those who think overturning the *Citizen's United* ruling will restore democracy are trying to fool you. There never was popular democracy, not in antebellum or Jim Crow America, and not today. Today black people still have to fight for basic voting rights and against racist cop terror in every city. The mythology of town hall American democracy is long gone and there never was a town hall without a Tammany Hall behind it.

Frederick Engels, co-author of the *Communist Manifesto*, recognized the American political system for what it always has been. As he eloquently wrote over 100 years ago:

'Nowhere do "politicians" form a more separate, powerful section of the nation than in North America. There, each of the two great parties which alternately succeed each other in power is itself in turn controlled by people who make a business of politics, who speculate on seats in the legislative assemblies of the Union as well as of the separate states, or who make a living by carrying on agitation for their party and on its victory are rewarded with positions.

It is well known that the Americans have been striving for 30 years to shake off this yoke, which has become intolerable, and that in spite of all they can do they continue to sink ever deeper in this swamp of corruption. It is precisely in America that we see best how there takes place this process of the state power making itself independent in relation to society, whose mere instrument it was originally intended to be. Here there exists no dynasty, no nobility, no standing army, beyond the few men keeping watch on the Indians, no bureaucracy with permanent posts or the right to pensions, and nevertheless we find here two great gangs of political speculators, who alternately take possession of the state power and exploit it by the most corrupt means and for the most corrupt ends – and the nation is powerless against these two great cartels of politicians, who are ostensibly its servants, but in reality exploit and plunder it." - Frederick Engels in his 1891 Postscript [to the Civil War in France by Karl Marx]

The Democratic Party hope of today is Hillary Clinton, former Wal-Mart board member, supporter of Zionist Israel against the just

demands of the Palestinians and who also supported Bush's imperialist wars against Iraq and Afghanistan. A Marxist jokingly remarked on Facebook that imperialist war criminal "Nixon was the last great liberal President." There is certainly some truth in this, as absent the mass civil rights, antiwar, women's and gay rights struggles, the political parties have lurched rightward.

The capitalist crisis reveals the Democrats as qualitatively no different than the Republicans, as Obama has well-earned the title "deporter-in-chief," deporting record numbers of our immigrant sisters and brothers. The Democratic Party mayor of Chicago Rahm Emanuel tried to break the Chicago teacher's strike and then went on to all-out attack public education. From the TPP to war in the Near East, the differences between right-wing reaction and the Democrats are in the small details.

Yet ironically the nearly defunct Stalinist CP-USA has since the days of Reagan made a distinction between the "ultra-right" and the tolerable right (today's rightward drifting Democratic leadership) whom they tell workers to bloc with. Their method, the method of creating cross class popular fronts that bind the workers to their class enemy, is at one with Bernie Sanders, the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and other fake socialists like SocAlt and Solidarity who are building the Chris Hedges dream alliance out of the experiences of Richmond California and Seattle Washington.

Under the Democratic regime in Chicago the police had their own private Guantanamo torture chambers exposed at Homan Square. Government reports on Cleveland police abuse and similar reports on the Ferguson police funds racket are just the tip of the iceberg of nation-wide state repression imposed by Democrats and Republicans alike. The new liberal Oakland mayor made her debut by denying protesters the right to assemble at night. This is an extension of the so-called free speech zones used to corral protesters at political conventions and, as we [witnessed in Kansas City](#) and Philly, to protect fascists and Klansmen from anti-fascist protesters.

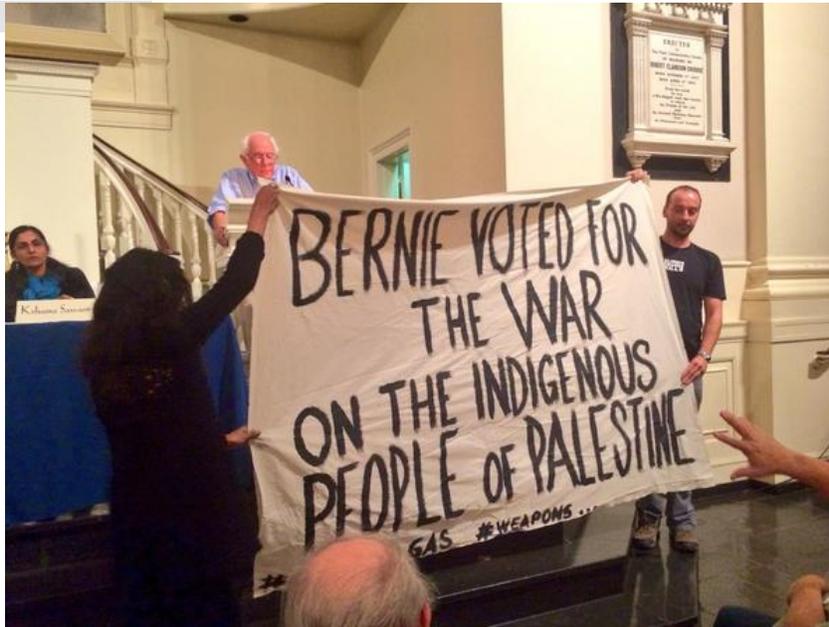
Bernie Sanders: Fake-Socialist for the Democrats, Social-Imperialist for War

Sanders role is "[sheepdog](#)" for the Democratic Party, to drive unsuspecting workers, activists and leftists, into the voting booth to support the Democratic Party. This is an old political trick that is used by the established capitalist parties, the Democrats and Republicans, to ensure that capitalism remains safe. *Sanders 'campaign' does nothing to mobilize workers in a serious fight to win even the most basic reforms, rather his campaign*

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intends to head off working class political independence and militant class struggle.

As Bruce Dixon from *Black Agenda Report* wrote “Bernie’s job is to warm up the crowd for Hillary, herding activist energies and the disaffected left back into the Democratic fold one more time. Bernie aims to tie up activist energies and resources till the summer of 2016 when the only remaining choice will be the usual lesser of two evils.” (Presidential Candidate Bernie Sanders: Sheepdogging for Hillary and the Democrats in 2016 – Bruce Dixon)



Sawant shares stage with Sanders as Leftists stand in solidarity with the Palestinians

As far as socialism, with Bernie you can pretty much forget it. Any talk of socialism or even the “S” word is not to be found on his campaign site and he explicitly says he is “a Democratic candidate for President.” It is the bourgeois press and Sanders’ leftist and fake-socialist supporters, like Kshama Sawant’s Socialist Alternative (SocAlt) who are granting Sanders his undeserved socialist credentials and false progressive credibility. Sanders caucuses and votes with the Democrats 90% of the time and we never hear him raise the socialist program in the halls of Congress.

SocAlt [shamelessly crosses the class line](#) and flatly states that they “will be campaigning with Sanders supporters against the corporate politicians while politically arguing for Sanders to run all-out through the November 2016 election, as a step toward building an independent political alternative for working people.” While SocAlt supporters have ludicrously tried to deny that SocAlt supports Sanders, Sawant herself made it very explicit in a speech on November 19th:

“....That’s why I want Bernie Sanders to win the presidency and defeat the agenda of the Billionaire class.

But in order to win, Bernie Sanders needs to take on Wall Street and all those corporations who dominate Hillary Clinton’s campaign and the Democratic Party machine.....” - [“Kshama Sawant on Bernie Sanders’ Democratic Socialism”](#)

Sawant goes on to disguise the class line between the working class and liberal populist bourgeois politicians like Sanders **and** the capitalist Democratic Party by presenting Sanders as a working class candidate:

“But in order to win, Bernie Sanders needs to take on Wall Street and all those corporations who dominate Hillary Clinton’s campaign and the Democratic Party machine. To win, Bernie Sanders needs a mass movement from below and an organization, independent of corporate cash. He needs a mass party of and for working people. Let’s come together to build such a movement and such a party, against the Republican right wing and independent of big business, Clintonite Democrats. This race is not a race between two progressive candidates. Hillary Clinton served on the Wal Mart board of directors, while Sanders supports the fight for \$15. Hillary Clinton is a hawkish supporter of military intervention and voted for the Iraq war. Clinton is the candidate of Wall Street and the Billionaire class.”

And in December, [SocAlt initiated and promotes](#) an organization “[Movement4Bernie](#), an independent grassroots organization outside of any influence by the DNC aimed at maximizing the on-the-ground organizing of Bernie supporters.”

What SocAlt is doing is in essence the politics of the popular front, the same class collaborationist method employed by the pro-capitalist union bureaucracy in binding the workers to a liberal wing of the bourgeoisie. Popular front politics means defeat for the working class, historically quite literally written in the blood of the workers such as in Allende’s Chile. In America, the blood of the workers will continue to be shed nearly daily by the police terror against the black and brown communities until such time as capitalism is swept away. SocAlt makes a mockery of class independence, of independent working class politics and suppresses the historic workers political program, lying to the oppressed by telling them that the cops and jailers are

their brother workers. ***We say throw the [Police Benevolent Associations](#) and prison guards out of the AFL-CIO and Change to Win labor federations!***

Steve Early of *Labor Notes*, writing for *Jacobin*, admonished labor to take note that Sanders has a “... track record that few ‘friends of labor’ can match.” Thus we see the leaders of Labor Notes creating the cross-class popular front that Chris Hedges, Kshama Sawant, and the “unity at any price” left are drooling over.

In 2014, Sanders showed us his idea of a “progressive economic agenda” when he voted to cut [\\$8.7 billion in](#)

[SNAP food stamp benefits](#), that translates to a \$90 per month cut. Only nine Democratic Senators voted against and [89 House Democrats](#) (Nancy Pelosi!) voted for the bill, including 14 members (Loebsack-IA) of the Democratic Party Progressive Caucus. And now, more food stamp cuts are set to take effect in 2015 and 2016!

Sanders is a social imperialist. He voted for Bush’s war in Afghanistan and has supported the U.S. military occupation of the Near East. In 1999, Congressman Sanders voted for NATO’s war against Serbia, prompting one of his [staffers to resign](#) asking “Is there a moral limit to the military violence you are willing to participate in or support? Where does that limit lie? And when that limit has been reached, what action will you take?” Sanders engages in anti-worker, anti-immigrant ‘American jobs for American workers’ chauvinism by introducing legislation that opposes the federal visa program for foreign workers. He is also a supporter of the Israeli Zionist colonial-settler state that brutally oppresses the Palestinian people and denies them their right to national self-determination.

In his campaign for the nomination, Sanders has come out for drones and special forces to counter “terrorism.” His plan to fight ISIS/Daesh is that of the monarchy of Saudi Arabia who wants to organize an army formation of 32 Moslem nations, nominally to fight ISIS/Daesh under Obama’s aerial umbrella. Sanders also calls for the prosecution of whistleblower Edward Snowden, who heroically exposed U.S. imperialist snooping and spying activities.

Sanders’ economic and social politics are liberal reformism, well within acceptable

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limits for the ruling class. His calls for such things as free university education is just populist demagoguery. He is not using his campaign to launch the mass movements it will take to win. The capitalist ruling class knows what it needs to do to survive, and absent mass social and class struggle, it ain't reforming capitalism for the better. What [Leon Trotsky stated](#) during the last great capitalist crisis is true today, that "in general, there can be no discussion of systematic social reforms and the raising of the masses' living standards; when every serious demand of the proletariat and even every serious demand of the petty bourgeoisie inevitably reaches beyond the limits of capitalist property relations and of the bourgeois state."

The American working class, divided by racism, has never developed the political class consciousness of the European working class who did form independent working class parties with a formal commitment to socialism (albeit they became bourgeois workers parties with pro-capitalist leaderships that betrayed their socialist political program and the worker base) and which won limited gains through both struggle and legislation. In America, the delusion is that gains can be won through the Democratic Party of Capital at the ballot box.

So what would a socialist politician do?

A socialist representative in the Senate or House would advance legislation based on the historic socialist program of the working class and utilize the office and bully pulpit to organize and mobilize the mass movements of the workers and oppressed. Primarily they would utilize the campaign and elected office to advance the historic, working class political program of transitional demands based on struggle to abolish the capitalist system. Working class consciousness is key, and socialist candidates must use their electoral campaigns and elected offices to build political class consciousness, to educate, agitate and organize the struggles of the working class and the oppressed. The building of an independent workers/labor party based on a class struggle program is vital.

To her credit, Sawant, during her campaign for Seattle City Council, called for Boeing workers to take over the plant to much applause. It was the limits of her reformist politics that forced her to stop there, rather than calling for sit-down strikes in the entire industry and nationalization without compensation to the major shareholders and run the industry under workers control, and for a workers/labor party. Such calls would



Socialist Alternative promotes Sanders and parrots his liberal populism against the "billionaire class" and "political revolution," rather than fighting for the socialist program.

likely have received as much applause among workers who know they are being screwed by the bosses. Rather than being the tribune of the people, Sanders idea of "struggle" is caucusing with the Democrats in a hopeless misbelief that it is the political class not the workers themselves who can make socialism.

Early American Socialist Eugene V. Debs ran for President five times on an openly socialist program seeking to mobilize the workers to fight to abolish capitalism, winning nearly a million votes in 1920. As opposed to Sanders, Debs opposed imperialist war and was jailed for his opposition to World War I.

Green Party: Supporting the Right of Corporations to "generate profits", but in a Responsible, Environmentally Friendly Way

For many on the left, the Green Party is seen as an alternative, even though it is a pro-capitalist party, appealing to small capitalists and middle class professionals and de-classed layers who see no future in an economy run by the working class. It is pretty plain to see for anyone that [reads their program](#) that it is not about expropriating the expropriators. Essentially they want a regulated, environmentally and worker "friendly" system of capitalist exploitation based on small scale businesses (i.e. petty-bourgeoisie). This is wishful thinking. The capitalist system from its inception has trended towards concentrated monopolies. Small scale capitalism turns into large scale capitalism and a hell of a lot of it pretty quickly. Socialism does not oppose the concentration of production into larger and more efficient enterprises. Indeed the materialist method recognizes that the socialization of production is one of the major

advances brought to humanity by capitalism. While production has been socialized by Capital, wealth appropriation remains private. This is the basic contradiction of capitalism that only the socialist revolution can resolve. The Greens want to go backwards and are ultimately idealists promoting a nostalgia for an artisans' economy which could never have been more than a half-way step between pre-capitalism and monopoly-capitalist imperialism.

A green capitalism is impossible. Capitalism is not rational and is driven to maximize the rate of profit for Capital. Only a centrally planned socialist economy run under democratic control of the workers can roll back the environmental destruction already wrought and create a true rational, environmentally-safe mode of production.

The Greens, like Sanders, breed illusions in the electoral system that change will come through the ballot box. Change (for the worse) through elections can be seen in Richmond, CA, where Green former mayor McLaughlin in a popular front with Mike Parker and the Richmond Progressive Alliance (RPA) administered a decaying capitalism on a municipal scale:

"Richmond, California has become, like Seattle, a prime example of what happens when the fake Trotskyists create a popular front with the liberal left capitalist parties like the Greens and the milieu of disaffected Democrats seeking "change" within the confines of the capitalist system.

The Green Mayor, the referendum to tax Chevron, the sugar drink tax, the eminent domain housing foreclosure solution and minimum wage increase referendum all overshadow, in the pages of The Nation and Labor Notes, the expose of the dilapidated conditions in the public housing complexes, the campaign of bullying and abuse of power by City of Richmond managers, the underperforming schools in the West Contra Costa School district, the privatization by Veolia of the water and sewage systems, a minimum wage campaign which if successful will keep workers enslaved to sub-living wages for the foreseeable future, and a school-to-prison pipeline which the RPA/Green/"socialist" bloc have tolerated and presided over for the last eight years...." - Class War Vol.2 No.2, "Sewer Socialism in Richmond, California."

For Marxists, the class nature of a political party is determined first by which class interest its political program serves, then by their policy in practice and last by its class composition. The [Green Party program](#) does have some social democratic demands, such as jobs for all and universal healthcare that put the ostensible socialists such as the [Chicago Socialist Campaign](#) to shame, but they

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are fundamentally committed to capitalist property relations. Their platform explicitly calls to "...change the legal design of corporations so that they **generate profits**, but not at the expense of the environment, human rights, public health, workers, or the communities in which the corporation operates (emphasis added)." With their concern for capitalist profits, it came as no surprise that the Greens in Richmond refused to join actions (March, 2009 and Labor Day, 2012) which called for the expropriation of Chevron. They want to 'curb corporate power', not eliminate it.

The working class needs unity; it is desperately needed, but on what political basis and with which social class should the workers stake their future? The CWG stands on the method and historic program of the working class as best expressed in the [1938 Transitional Program](#) of Trotsky's Fourth International. For Marxists, it is not unprincipled to bloc with or advance critical support to working class parties and workers candidates. It is necessary to openly and unflinchingly warn the masses of the limits of the reformists' program and methods. This outs the reformists and puts their politics to the test. However, when those candidates act as sheepdogs or ally with the class enemy to trap the workers into a political bloc with the bosses, we warn the workers to reject Sawant, Early, Sanders and those like the [Communist Party U.S.A. \(CP-USA\)](#) who overtly elevate one wing of the ruling class as more progressive than another with their fake fight against the "ultra-right."

Trump: Social Reaction American-Style

The right-wing has rallied around GOP candidate Donald Trump, who has even garnered fascist support from Trump shooting his mouth off. This represents a rightward shift in the GOP party. Trump is a rightist demagogue who represents the McCarthy/Taft/Goldwater/Bircher wing of the Republican Party and their resurgence; This is the resurgence of the Know-Nothing tradition whose ascendancy allows the real fascists, the KKK, and rightist exile formations from everywhere to parade their hate politics in the open. In the atmosphere they create, attacks like the Charleston massacre, the racist attack on Minneapolis BLM and the clinic shooting in Colorado Springs proliferate.

AFL-CIO/Change to Win Labor-Faker Misleaders

Of course, the electoral circus would not be complete without the Democratic Party labor bureaucrats. With the Iowa caucus being the traditional focus of national attention,

a Working Families Summit was held on May 16th in Ames, Iowa attended by several hundred people. Sponsored by the AFL-CIO, the Iowa Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO), many unions such as United Electrical (UE), Communication Workers of America (CWA) and various other unions and labor bodies, the purpose of the summit was to "*bring together progressive Iowans and progressive ideas, so more Iowans and political candidates at all levels better understand the issues that are critical to working families.*" Other sponsors included a various assortment of liberal community based organizations (CBO) and NGO's such as the Iowa Community Action Association, along with liberal think-tanks such as Progress Iowa and the Iowa Policy Project.

It is the liberal think-tanks, like the Center for American Progress (CAP), that help set the Democratic Party political populism that the union bureaucracy utilizes so effectively to keep the working class in check. Quite ironic that CAP claims to be fighting for social progress, yet [receives funding](#) directly from corporations, major retailers, energy interests, health care companies and financial institutions such as Comcast, Walmart, General Motors, Pacific Gas and Electric and General Electric. He who pays the piper!

These conferences that the labor bureaucracy stage have nothing to do with organizing a fight against the all-out attacks being waged by the bosses and their Democratic and Republican political parties against the working class, against the oppressed, against the poor, and against society as a whole. All this is designed to come up with a non-action plan for the Democratic Party.

If anyone thinks the union misleaders have a unique strategy to win substantial gains for workers and the oppressed, think again. They don't! This is the same tried and failed method they have employed for decades. Their strategy is 'Vote Democrat!', reliance on the courts, lobbying legislators and begging the bosses for some crumbs from the table. The result has seen dramatic cuts to social gains, attacks on public education, deportation of immigrant workers, unemployment or underemployment, and a labor movement that has been brought to the brink.

If the labor leadership was serious, they would be throwing labor resources into organizing and action committees to unionize the low-wage retail and fast food industries "wall-to-wall". Instead of fighting for a living wage at prevailing union wages and benefits, the labor-skates peddle the sub-living, poverty minimum wage, something they have been pushing since the FDR days. As far as civil rights, where were the organized union contingents at the #BlackLivesMatter protests?

The labor movement will only be rebuilt through struggle independent of the Democrats. What is needed is to revive the class struggle tactics that built the unions, the mass picket lines that mean "don't cross"; the sit-down, solidarity and general strikes; flying picket squads and hot-cargoing. Every labor struggle should be run with the efficiency of a military operation with the mass mobilization of the working class and the oppressed. What is needed is an independent revolutionary workers party!

For Workers/Oppressed Struggle!

As the Communist Workers Group (CWG-U.S.) wrote in 2014:

"If it were merely a question of "good" people in Washington, those "friends of labor" our unions told us to elect, wouldn't they have already imposed massive programs to put us all to work, lift us out of poverty, to replant the forests, to put millions to work building clean energy projects, to put millions more to work cleaning up the environment, when they had the majority in both houses and the executive? But big capital cannot see profit in that kind of investment, and they, more than your unions ever did or could, own the politicians in congress, lock stock and barrel." – ["Abolish Wage Slavery"](#)

Only the power of the organized, politically class conscious working class, linked to the struggles of the specially oppressed, has the power to fundamentally change society.

The fight for civil rights means defending the black, brown and immigrant communities against the racist cops through disciplined, organized labor, black and brown self-defense guards! For labor political strikes against cop brutality and racism! For workers tribunals to bring these killer cops to justice!

No One is Illegal! Tear Down the Wall! For Free Movement Across Borders! For mass labor mobilizations and political strikes to stop deportations and defend immigrants against La Migra! Fight for full citizenship rights for all immigrants! For international, across border class struggle!

To win a living wage labor needs its own independent politics, based on the mass mobilization of the workers in every job place to organize the unorganized, to revitalize the unions where they exist, build new unions and build solidarity among all workers to strengthen the entire class, as opposed to the current state of atomization of labor, of business and craft unionism, which today is in many places degenerating into corporate unionism and captive unionism.

Charleston Massacre and Racist Capitalist America:

Build Labor, Black and Brown United Front Defense Against Racist Police, Fascist and Vigilante Terror!

For the ruling class, the face of terrorism is a person of Arabic ethnicity. This in spite of all evidence in the real world in which the working class lives. A white fascist terrorist was free to murder nine black church-goers at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina on June, 17, 2015. The fascist Dylan Roof wanted to start a race war saying somebody had to do it. The somebody he is referring to are the great numbers of reactionary racists who have been picking their heads up across the U.S.A., in this season where they are encouraged by the rise in the numbers of summary executions of black citizens by the police, usually without any provocation. To paraphrase the Dred Scot decision, black Americans in 2015 have ***'no rights that the racist cops or courts of the capitalist state are bound to respect....'*** The dreams of equality of the liberal Civil Rights movement lie shattered after four decades, while acts of right-wing white supremacist and fascist violence are as frequent as ever and decaying capitalism still reels from the 2008 global financial crisis. In Ukraine and Greece, fascism is already a mass movement available to the ruling class. In the U.S., in the week since the Charleston murders, sales of Confederate flags have spiked 3000% giving us some index of the would-be conspirators and sympathizers with Roof and his race war dream.

The Judge in Charleston who arraigned Roof said Roof's family are victims. Just as remarkably, the dash cam of Roof's arrest shows him being treated with kid gloves and looks more like a health and welfare check, in contrast to the brutal police choke-hold execution of the unarmed Eric Garner, whose "crime" was selling untaxed cigarettes. The cops even gave Roof a bullet proof vest. Fox News' ridiculous claims that Roof's act was not racist has been augmented by the media claims that his killing spree was due to mental illness. Obama compared Roof's act to Columbine, giving cover to the racism. Roof's online manifesto and flag patches on his coat of Apartheid South Africa and Rhodesia showed him as a Klaus Barbie wannabe. The racist murders were a deliberate political act aimed at black people. He stated that he wanted to start a race war. These murders are a microcosm of the genocidal political program the fascist and

white supremacist organizations would carry out on a mass scale if they had the means and the green light from the ruling class.

Recent protests have centered on the Confederate flags. The fact that it was flying at all over the South Carolina capitol is telling. The fact that it was the one flag not flying at half-staff is a really symbolic statement that the capitalist state holds black life cheap. The Confederate flag and the monuments to the leading military figures of the Confederate rebellion are not cultural symbols of any noble cause, but are the rallying icons of slavocrat reaction, features of which were models for German Nazism. Modern mythology of the Council of Conservative Citizens (CofCC) has it that the Civil War was over states' rights, but this is nonsense for camouflage purposes, such as their IRS tax-exempt status. The CofCC is explicitly racist and gets to hide behind the anti-Obama sentiment which claims that the Tea Party was being politically victimized by the IRS. We note that the CofCC daily lists the national police blotters, deleting all white-perpetrator's crimes for their propagandistic purposes.



Alabama BLM Educates and Organizes for Self-Defense

The Charleston shooting is the deadliest right-wing terrorist attack since the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City by fascist Timothy McVeigh that killed 168 people and injured 600. Black people are not the only target of the right-wing terrorists, but also immigrants, Jews, Arabs, women, gays and transgender people. Misogynist Christian extremists such as Eric Rudolph have carried out bombings of abortion clinics and execute doctors who perform abortions. Rudolph planted the bomb at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta that killed one woman and injured 111 others.

Anti-black racism, however, has always been the focal point of social reaction in America. The extra-judicial executions and beatings by the police of black people are reinforced by murderous right-wing violence. American capitalism was built on the bedrock of chattel slavery and race prejudice, and was later adapted to the conditions and needs of emerging industrial capitalism after the defeat of Reconstruction and the imposition of Jim Crow segregation.

Now, over half a century since the heyday of the Civil Rights Movement, the condition of the majority of blacks in the U.S. remains as bad, if not worse than ever. The incarceration rate for black males (non-violent drug offenses being the leading conviction) is six times that of whites. The cops gun down a black person every day. The official unemployment rate is 24% for black youth, voting rights are being undermined and the inner city public schools are left to rot by the bourgeois state. The overturning of legal Jim Crow segregation by the liberal Civil Rights Movement was unable to end the ***de facto economic segregation*** of black workers as a ***"last hired, first fired"*** super-exploited, specially oppressed sector of the working class.

The Gandhian program and method of Dr. King's liberal wing of the Civil Rights Movement did attempt to address economic inequality and stated economic equality for blacks as an aim, but scarcely won any of the economic objectives. Some organizing drives, such as the sanitation men and hospital workers can point to support from the poor People's March campaign, but after King's death, leadership fell to forces with an even more explicitly multi-class, Democratic Party political agenda and the Civil Rights Movement has been stymied and fighting defensive battles ever since. This could not be otherwise without a class independent political expression of the working people in the form of a political party, embracing the eradication of the oppression of the black and brown populations as an organic expression of working class unity. This is scientifically necessary. ***Black oppression is firmly grounded in capitalist relations of production in America and will only end with the abolition of capitalism.*** In the major U.S. cities, the Democratic Party is the party of real estate, gentrification and slumlords.

The liberal and progressive activists have

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no solution either to the fascist terror or for the conquest of black liberation. Liberal idealism that seeks to change racial prejudice on an individual level is not a program for black freedom. Checking privilege may make individual whites more aware of their personal prejudices, but it does little in the way of tearing down the brutal racist segregation of American society. The disparate treatment of black people was clearly demonstrated in the Atlanta, Georgia airport where a white man walked in with a rifle and stood down the police, while unarmed black youth are regularly killed by the cops. After the Warriors won in Oakland, white people were celebrating with firecrackers at the corner of 14th and Broadway while cops clamped down on celebrations in black East Oakland, enforcing Democratic mayor Schaaff's curfew.

Education, housing, healthcare, jobs and the democratic right to walk down the street and not be beaten or killed by the cops **are not privileges, but rights that are denied** to a significant section of American society based on skin color. The fight for full equality will only be won through integrated struggle against capitalism by the multi-racial working class. ***For the workers in America, this is a strategic question. The entire U.S. working class can either rise together fighting for black liberation, or continue to sink into misery under decaying capitalism.*** It was Karl Marx who wrote immortal words which can serve to fight black oppression today, stating that ***“labour cannot emancipate itself in the white skin where in the black it is branded.”***

The situation in Obama's America is getting worse for the entire working class as Obama just fast-tracked through the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) which could possibly export 25% of remaining American manufacturing jobs, according to Pete Sikora, the political director of Communication Workers of America (CWA) Local 1. Sikora cited that post-NAFTA, half of the call center jobs have been outsourced overseas. The TPP will create a downward pressure on all wages and further deproletarianize the United States as marginalized service jobs increasingly become the only employment option. This will only lead to further impoverishment of the already desperate black and brown communities, and will impact every layer of our entire social class. This is, in fact, part of the global capitalist attack on the international working class.

It is exactly the lack of unity that has enfeebled the working class, so that it is not even on the agenda of the present leadership to fight for universal healthcare nor any fundamental

reform, such “big things” not being on ***their*** agenda in the whole post Taft-Hartley era. The existing racial division of the U.S. working class reminds us of what Karl Marx wrote about the British and Irish working classes and how their division served their mutual capitalist exploiters:

“And most important of all! Every industrial and commercial centre in England now possesses a working class divided into two hostile camps, English proletarians and Irish proletarians. The ordinary English worker hates the Irish worker as a competitor who lowers his standard of life. In relation to the Irish worker he regards himself as a member of the ruling nation and consequently he becomes a tool of the English aristocrats and capitalists against Ireland, thus strengthening their domination over himself. He cherishes religious, social, and national prejudices against the Irish worker. His attitude towards him is much the same as that of the “poor whites” to the Negroes in the former slave states of the U.S.A. The Irishman pays him back with interest in his own money. He sees in the English worker both the accomplice and the stupid tool of the English rulers in Ireland. This antagonism is artificially kept alive and intensified by the press, the pulpit, the comic papers, in short, by all the means at the disposal of the ruling classes. This antagonism is the secret of the impotence of the English working class, despite its organisation. It is the secret by which the capitalist class maintains its power. And the latter is quite aware of this.” (emphasis added, [Letter: Marx to Sigrid Meyer and August Vogt In New York, 1870](#))¹

The pacifist and liberal bourgeois reaction to the Charleston murders has been their standard call for gun control, which has been amplified by the Obama administration. This is being used to take guns away from the black community and from workers and the oppressed generally. Where it has received blue collar support, this is an irrational and emotional response. Gun control will not stop racist terror; the fascists and white supremacists will always find a way to get weapons. They will get them from the police, where the police and themselves are not one and the same (remember Mark Fuhrman.) The Golden Dawn in Greece gets their guns from the police, as has been proved in court. This will only leave the masses defenseless against these race terrorists as well as removing what little remaining restraint felt by the police in the black and brown communities.

The sentiment for armed self-defense is inevitably coming to the fore (see [“Georgia civil rights leader calls for black families to defend themselves”](#).) In Texas, the Huey P. Newton Gun Club openly marches armed. What is needed is not to leave the black community isolated from the working

class as a whole. The Black Panthers, as courageous as they were, were divorced and isolated from the organized labor movement and were targeted and killed by the F.B.I. and police. In the best tradition of the Minneapolis Teamsters defense guard that drove the fascist Silver Shirts from the Twin Cities, Robert F. Williams and the Deacons for Defense, the labor movement needs to organize to drive the KKK, Nazis, and racists from the streets. What is needed today is the building of organized, militant, trained and disciplined labor, black and brown self-defense guards to defend the black, brown and immigrant communities against racist police terror. Every act of police violence should be met with mass protest and labor political strikes. ***They shoot us down, we shut them down!***

The CWG stands for uniting all forces that advocate for multi-racial self-defense by the workers and oppressed. ***We call for workers assemblies and tribunals that fight for justice and to win safety for our class and all oppressed peoples. We think that convocation of workers assemblies for self-defense is the objective necessity of the moment and must be put on the agenda of the trade union and Black Lives Matter movements.*** Revolutionary socialists should call for and organize a campaign that moves labor to the forefront of the mobilization for self-defense. Otherwise, when oppressed people defend themselves they will be isolated and shot down again by the COINTELPRO which we all know was never really dismantled.

We call for all black and brown organizations, Left and Socialist organizations, militant trade unionists, labor unions and the AFL-CIO/Change to Win labor federations and all those who wish to fight the white supremacy of the capitalist system, to organize and build for a national conference to create a national united front self-defense committee to organize labor, black and brown defense against racist terror. Such a committee would unite the resources and strength of our class and the oppressed communities in the best traditions of the labor movement, such as the International Labor Defense that defended the Scottsboro Boys, under the principle that ***“An Injury to One, is an Injury to All!”***

Along with organizing militant, disciplined, and trained labor, black and brown self-defense guards, such a committee could coordinate and build the campaigns that are necessary; the labor political strikes against racist cop terror and the labor/oppressed mobilizations to drive the fascist and white supremacist organizations to ground.

Missouri Football Players, Black Students Show the Way!

Abolish the Iowa Board of Regents! No to Cuts in Education!

No Downsizing and No Privatization of Public Services!

Organize Mass Worker/Student/Faculty Struggle to Defend Public Education!

Free, Quality Public Education For All!

Republican Iowa Governor Branstad [hates public education](#) and public sector workers, and particularly unionized workers. His latest political stunt is the appointment of J. Bruce Harreld as the new University of Iowa president through Branstad's hand-picked Board of Regents. The search process was obviously a setup from day one, as the University search committee went through the motions and fast-tracked the appointment of Harreld, a career corporate executive who lacks credible academic experience. He fits the bill very well for Branstad, who is [privatizing Medicaid](#) in Iowa. What Harreld will do remains to be seen, but [Harreld says explicitly](#) that the University needs "to shift all of the practices, policies, procedures and culture." This is business-speak for workers, faculty and students getting the shaft. In the context of an education funding shortage and for a University that has been cutting staff and privatizing since the 1990's, Harreld's appointment signals future intransigence. Workers will get it in the neck; and as the quality of education declines, students will discover they have new debts, as tuition and fees will continue to increase to counter the [impending shortfall](#) that Branstad is committed to imposing. Harreld's installation comes in the wake of the [Deloitte fiasco](#), which was a scheme to make cuts, as is the [TIER](#) project.

Harreld's installation can be stopped. But this limited goal will not solve the generalized problem of state university systems operated as private profit machines. To achieve remedies that serve workers, faculties, students and communities, we must **employ the general strike weapon in support of a class struggle political program**. The nation-wide attacks on public education can only be stopped if we take up the method of the Missouri football players and shut it down in a general strike for open admissions and free tuition as part of a nation-wide campaign that unites Black Lives Matter, the struggle of the low-wage and precarious workers and the defense of immigrants and women. **The historic international program of the student movement has been for free, quality public education for all, with a student stipend, for academic freedom and guaranteed**

work upon graduation.

This school year marks the eighth anniversary of the generalized crisis of the capitalist system. This is what the kept capitalists' media monopoly calls the "Great Recession of 2008-2009." But we notice that the cuts go on and the recovery does not include rehiring what are now long-term unemployed. The mushrooming growth of the precariat who exist at a subsistence or lower rate of pay is counted as a reduced unemployment statistic. College students graduate with overwhelming debt and few job prospects. The full-time working population has seen their wage package stagnate while their benefits and hours have been under continuous attack. Thus adjunct faculty finds they have greater workloads for less pay and many suddenly find themselves unemployed. This is the future in store for many university workers in Harreld's promised program of changes.



Mass Outrage at Board of Regents over the Harreld Appointment

Harreld's appointment has set off a series of protests as workers, faculty, students and the community have expressed outrage at this blatant attack on the University and public education.

The Harreld appointment even made [national news](#). Both the Faculty Senate and Student Senate at the UI [condemned the appointment](#). The UI Staff Council, which "represents" the unorganized workers and is little better than an appendage of the University administration and a company "union", even chimed in their

disappointment.

[Iowans for Defending Our Universities \(IDOU\)](#), has come into being as a coalition of "students, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, unions and citizens." Which unions, they don't say. But the teaching assistants union UE-COGS has taken a prominent organizing role for these rallies, while the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, the Iowa City Federation of Labor (ICFL) has also shown support. The IDOU coalition has organized several protests, but if you "join" the coalition on their website, you are relegated to an email list. You are not invited to scheduled mass meetings of workers and students; instead, you are only called upon to carry signs that maintain the chains between the labor bureaucracy, the Democratic Party and leaderships you did not elect. ***This is exactly what democracy does NOT look like!*** Any successful workers movement demands workers democracy in order to flourish.

There should be mass, democratic worker/student/faculty assemblies organized on a regular basis that take exclusive decision-making power out of the hands of the Regents and Management and places it into the hands of the Assembly!

Abolish the Board of Regents! Examine the books and the contracts and publicize the identities of the beneficiaries of University and State largesse! A largesse based on increased public debt, fees and tuition hikes!

The Campus Community Assembly should establish Action Committees to meet and work daily to pursue the Assembly's agenda.

The November 17th Campus Community Assembly to "learn more about the current crisis and share ideas for responding" is a first start as far as mobilizing workers, students and faculty.

The IDOU coalition has two major action demands:

- to defend our universities against Board actions that undermine integrity.

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- to demand that Board President Bruce Rastetter and all members of the Board of Regents be removed or resign

If the resignation of the Board of Regents is achieved, it would temporarily restrain business interests and would turn the tide against wanton attacks on our public services. However, truth is that “shared governance” is a myth under capitalism. Even at a public university.

Either the Regents rule for the interests of Big Capital and continue to fleece the public treasury and the tuition-payers, or, the workers, students, faculty and communities, i.e., the working class, establishes free education as a right!

We don't need the Board of Regents to dictate! Those who work and study at the University should run the University! For worker/student/faculty control of the University through democratically elected committees!

The Labor Bureaucracy and the Democratic Party Graveyard of Struggle

The University of Iowa is the core of the organized public sector workers in Iowa, with three unions, AFSCME Local 12 that covers the “merit” blue collar and clerical, UE-COGS who represent the graduate student teaching assistants and SEIU 199 who represent the nurses. These three unions represent thousands of workers in a “right to work” wage-slave state. It is labor that has taken a prominent lead in the protests against Harreld, notably UE-COGS, and the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, the Iowa City Federation of Labor (ICFL). The leadership of AFSCME Local 12 (and AFSCME Council 61) and SEIU 199 have issued no formal statements on the Harreld appointment or in protest of the Board of Regents. Governor Branstad has always hated unions, particularly AFSCME, and he has a [long history of anti-union and anti-worker attacks](#). AFSCME and SEIU are not trying to organize mass opposition to the board of Regents, are not trying to build a fighting labor movement...their method is to surrender the fight before it has even begun.

And make no mistake about it. The University has been cutting staff for decades. Back in the 1990's, there were [demonstrations against cuts](#) and the use of temp workers at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) and Vending Services were privatized out to Coca-Cola, eliminating those union jobs. Branstad, “inspired” by Scott Walker, could very well be able to gut Chapter 20, the Iowa Collective Bargaining

law. **Now is the time to organize to fight!** As was shown in Wisconsin, the strategy of class collaboration with the capitalist Democratic Party, electoral politics and “fighting” right-wing Republicans with Democrats is the path to demobilizing the mass movement and spontaneous uprisings of the rank and file.



The Iowa City Federation of Labor has taken a more active role in organizing demonstrations in recent years, but historically rather than an organization of workers struggle and solidarity, it has been and still is primarily a sandbox for the local Democratic Party political hacks within the labor movement to play in. This is the method of the pro-capitalist, Democratic Party labor bureaucracy. One of the first things they do in any and every struggle is prop up the Democratic Party and divert workers into the dead-end of lobbying, legislative and electoral politics, limiting struggles to what is acceptable to the Democrats. In Johnson County, the Fight for \$15 was watered down from one [poverty, sub-living wage](#) to another \$10.10 poverty sub-living wage promoted by the Iowa Democratic Party. **NOT NOW, but in 2017!** It was an [SEIU 199 labor-faking bureaucrat](#) who stated at a 2013 Fight for \$15 minimum wage rally that “...\$15 would be great. We'll take \$10.”. He sure wasn't kidding.

As the CWG wrote in [Class War](#) in 2013 about the Chicago Teachers' strike:

“This is the bankrupt political methodology of the parasitic, pro-capitalist union bureaucracy that has dragged the labor movement to defeat after defeat. In virtually every labor struggle, the first thing these labor-fakers postulate are “talk shop” rallies with some kind of electoral strategy, which translates into “we don't need working class struggle, let's elect ‘labor-friendly’ politicians (mostly Democrats).” This was clearly the case in the Wisconsin Recall diversion, as well as in Michigan battle over “right to scab (work)”, where the AFL-CIO and Change to Win labor federation tops caved in.”

Early American socialist Daniel De Leon's characterized the labor bureaucracy as the “labor lieutenants of the capitalist class”. This parasitic, privileged, pro-capitalist layer within the workers movement identifies its interests more with the class enemy than with the vast mass of unorganized, highly exploited workers as they push “labor-management” class collaboration and tie the labor movement to the capitalist Democratic Party (and sometimes the Republican.)

The labor lieutenants' dutifully endorsed attacks on public services is exemplified by the 2013 [Johnson County disabled paratransit SEATS](#) cuts at the hands of the Democratic Party County Supervisors, where the ICFL did not mobilize against the cuts to a vital unionized public service, but instead fed a free Chili supper to County Supervisor Rod Sullivan, the initiator of the cuts and point man at the county level. 24 hours after the news of the cuts hit the press, Sullivan was eating the workers' beans at the annual ICFL Chili Supper mobilization of the Democratic Party politicians.

We need a class struggle leadership of the labor movement, a leadership who will push the struggle forward and not limit it, or divert it into impotent channels or outright surrender.

From Protest to Power

Scott Walker, the anti-union Governor of Wisconsin, in 2011 said he didn't care how many protestors marched around the capitol and he really didn't. Protests and demonstrations should be an opportunity to discuss, debate and build the struggle, not “moral suasion” rallies. What was needed in Wisconsin was [mass strike action](#). Collective bargaining in Iowa was won for public sector workers, passed by a GOP Senate and signed by a GOP Governor, through what were illegal teachers' strikes at the time. **What is needed is to go from protest to actual power!** In particular, working class power. Organized workers have the ability to shut down the University, and especially the UIHC. Students by themselves wield little social power. The University can always end the semester early. It was the black Mizzou football players who by acting effectively as workers, went on strike to force the University President to resign over racist incidents.

The CWG points to the example of the [1934 Minneapolis Teamsters strike](#) that was a signature event in not only building the Teamsters union, but the mass industrial unions. We bring this up as a model of organization, independent of the capitalist parties, and effective employment of self-

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organized working class power across a city, a state and a region leading to the organization of Teamsters in nine states. This struggle was run with military efficiency with a class struggle leadership decided upon by workers democratic strike committees. Every struggle should be organized to win!

As American Trotskyist James Cannon wrote of the [1934 Teamsters strike](#):

“Our people didn’t believe in anybody or anything but the policy of the class struggle and the ability of the workers to prevail by their mass strength and solidarity. Consequently, they expected from the start that the union would have to fight for its right to exist; that the bosses would not yield any recognition to the union, would not yield any increase of wages or reduction of the scandalous hours without some pressure being brought to bear. Therefore they prepared everything from the point of view of class war. They knew that power, not diplomacy, would decide the issue. Bluffs don’t work in fundamental things, only in incidental ones. In such things as the conflict of class interests one must be prepared to fight.

Proceeding from these general concepts, the Minneapolis Trotskyists, in the course of organizing the workers, planned a battle strategy. Something unique was seen in Minneapolis for the first time. That is, a strike that was thoroughly organized beforehand, a strike prepared with the meticulous detail which they used to attribute to the German army—down to the last button sewn on the uniform of the last individual soldier. When the hour of the deadline came, and the bosses thought they could still maneuver and bluff, our people were setting up a fortress for action....”

Lest you think that free education is only possible in another era in the distant past, consider that the city University system in New York was tuition-free until 1976 and consider the South African student union recent victory over the imposition of tuition and fees.

The way forward is through political program, leadership and action:

For free, quality public education for all with open admissions and a student stipend! Abolish all student debt!

Make the capitalists pay! Nationalize the private schools and charter schools without compensation! Seize their endowments! For worker, student,

faculty and community control of public education!

Cops and campus security out of schools! No to racist Stop and Frisk! Organize labor, black and brown workers self-defense guards via the Campus Community Assembly against racist cop, fascist and vigilante terror!

Abolish the ROTC! NSA, CIA, FBI plants and military off campus! For academic and internet freedom! Expose all COINTELPRO-type programs! Hands off all whistleblowers! Free Chelsea Manning and drop the charges against Edward Snowden and Julian Assange!

Unite the struggle with the broader working class! None of these demands can be won without a united multi-racial working class struggle to defend all social gains, such as education, and extend them via jobs for all! For a 30 hour workweek at 40 hours pay to spread the work around! For a living wage at the prevailing union rate, including guaranteed pensions that can’t be taken away!

Free quality healthcare for all! For socialized medicine to include free abortion on demand and full reproductive services! Equal pay for equal work! Free quality 24-hour childcare! For fully paid maternity leave!

Defend immigrant rights! For mass labor, black and brown mobilizations to stop La Migra raids and deportations! For immediate full citizenship rights for all immigrants! No to English-only bigotry! Same work, same contract across borders! For joint Canadian, American, Mexican and Central American labor struggle!

Organize workers’ struggle to defeat Branstad and all attacks on public services! We need democratic rank and file action and union strike committees to coordinate daily struggle activity in pursuit of the program! Organize the University of Iowa Student, Temp, Faculty and Professional & Scientific workers!

Build for the indefinite general strike to implement these demands! The only illegal strike is the one that loses! Smash all anti-labor laws through struggle! Spread the struggle to Iowa State, UNI and nation-wide!

Build a class struggle leadership of our unions! No collaborating with the Democrats! Break with all the capitalist parties! Build a fighting workers/labor party to fight for a workers government and a rational, centrally-planned socialist economy based on human needs!

For species survival, build a new revolutionary workers international that unites all workers against the imperialist powers! For world socialism!

Cont. from pg. 9 Brazil...

dispute among imperialists, no matter who wins, the working class pays the price with their jobs and their lives. Workers must maintain class independence and fight against both imperialist blocs and their agents in the semi-colonies, such as the Popular Front and the “Bolivarians” in Latin America.

Left:

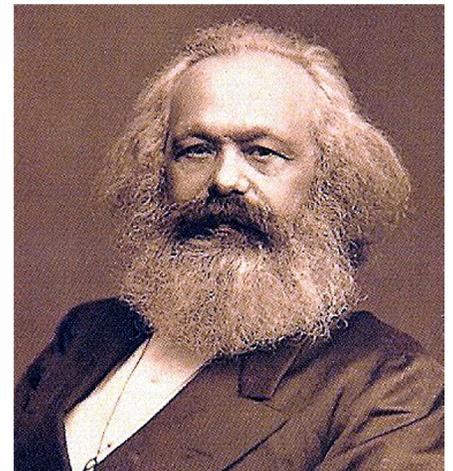
PSOL: mostly defends the government
PSTU: calls for new elections (a PSDB senator also defended this idea in an interview) <http://www.pstu.org.br/node/21834>

MRT (PTS Argentina): calls for a Free and Sovereign Constituent Assembly (the PMDB program insists on the necessity of constitutional changes) <http://www.esquerdadiario.com.br/Por-Assembleia-Constituente-Livre-Soberana-mobilizacao>

MTST : Fearless People’s Front

CCR:<http://www.thecomunists.net/home/portugu%C3%AAs/nao-ao-impeachment/>

“Uma ponte para o Futuro”: http://pmdb.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/RELEASE-TEMER_A4-28.10.15-Online.pdf



*We are reprinting below a leaflet distributed by the **Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-ZIM)** last Summer at demonstrations opposing the Mugabe regime attacks on street vendors:*

Hands Off the Street Vendors!

The Mugabe ZANU PF regime has threatened so-called illegal street vendors in Harare and Bulawayo with police and perhaps also army repression beginning Monday, June 8th, 2015. The Mugabe regime is under pressure from local and foreign capitalists to deal with the vendors, hence the crackdown. The Mugabe “revolution” has not secured national independence and has taken and survives due to its role of imposing the will of foreign capital on the masses with total disregard for their needs. This is the popular front trapping the masses in misery. Around 5 million people are involved in street vending and their unions have vowed to resist the action. ***The RWG calls for strike actions across the country to foil this attack on masses of the urban poor!*** In Zimbabwe, anyone is liable to become a small vendor who is not part of the labor aristocracy.

The ZANU PF liberators of 1980 become the quasi-colonial regime of today just as the Chinese degenerate workers state of those days who backed them has become Chinese imperialism, the main prop of the Zimbabwe regime today. This regime has failed to bring about national liberation on every imaginable score, with a real unemployment rate of 90% or thereabouts among the urban and even the rural working class. Thus an attack on the street vendors amounts to an attack on the national domestic economy itself. It is not a question of finding a proper “place” for our “mothers” to sell their “goodies” (ZANU PF Political Commissar Kasukuwere.)

The mere fact that the Joint Operations Command (JOC) spokesperson local Government Minister Chombo could suggest that the army could be employed in tandem with the police to herd the vendors off the streets suggests the real dimensions of the crisis both of the economy and the regime. It is interesting to note that the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), the opposition grouping favored by Anglo-American imperialism, points to the failure of the ZANU PF to deliver the 2.3 million jobs it promised when it stood in the last elections. Of course the MDC has no program for generating these jobs, nor even a desire to do so, because full employment of the Zimbabwe working class would immediately change the relationship of class forces to the disadvantage of their Western imperialist sponsors.

Jobs for all! For a 30 hour workweek at 40 hours Pay! We demand a sliding scale of wages and prices and employment for all who can work; working conditions should improve for all workers! For guaranteed employment for all who are able, a guaranteed income for all!

We demand the introduction of state projects to employ all the unemployed! Workers! Force the government to stop the attack on the vendors!

Land must be distributed to all poor peasants together with a state bank to provide cheap credit to all small farmers!

Workers form action committees to lead the resistance to the growing attacks on the wages and working conditions of the poor and the livelihood of the majority poor! We call on the workers and the oppressed groups to convene a congress of delegates from the working people, peasants, urban poor, youth and soldiers to come up with a constitution that guarantees a good life for all!

Workers break with the MDC and ZANU PF and form a workers party that truly champions the interests of the workers and the poor masses, form rank and file unions to lead action in all unions and break with the reformist trade union leadership!

No to US and Chinese imperialism!

No to reformism and fake Trotskyism, build a fighting socialist party!

For workers councils and for a workers state based upon them that defends workers and peasants against the local and foreign capitalists! For a workers and peasants' government on the basis of the armed people to implement decisions that benefit the workers and the poor.

For an African socialist revolution as part of the international revolution that alone can guarantee a better life for all!

For a new world party of socialist revolution based on the Transitional Program of 1938 to lead the revolution to end capitalism and open the road to socialism!

Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-ZIM)

Email: rwg.zimbabwe@gmail.com
Website: www.rwgzimbabwe.wordpress.com

Subscribe to ***Revolutionary Worker***
(Paper of RWG-Zimbabwe)

Cont. from pg. 13 Elections...

To do this we need a workers party with a fighting program that unites all workers, from the best paid to the poorest. This can be accomplished when the organized sector takes up the demands of **JOBS FOR ALL -SHARE THE WORK -THIRTY HOURS WORK FOR FORTY HOURS PAY! FREE QUALITY UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION AND PENSIONS ARE A RIGHT!**

These demands can be won by ***forming rank and file class struggle caucuses in our unions that bring back the class struggle methods that built the unions in the first place, like job site occupations, general strikes and political strikes.***

Thus our fight today is not to reform a decaying mode of production ready for the dung heap of history. Our fight must be for what we need to lift all of us out of poverty! ***Abolish all student debt! For free, quality education, and housing for all! For free, quality socialized medicine to include free abortion on demand and full women's reproductive services!***

Only a workers' government can guarantee a living income for all because only a workers' government will relieve the capitalists of the hoarded capital and put it to work. Only a workers government can or will tell big capital that if you cannot provide for all, we (the assembled working class) will nationalize the commanding heights of industry without compensation and run them under the workers own self-management and plan.

But a workers' government will not come about without a struggle, a struggle in the unions, the factories and job sites ***led by a worker's party with a revolutionary program, which by its very nature must confront the multi-national corporations and thus be internationalist and build the fight for workers power in a revolutionary workers international party!***

This is what it takes to end poverty in our time!

Build mass workers' assemblies! Form the workers party that fights for a workers' government and the historic program of the working class. For a rational, centralized planned environmentally-friendly economy run under workers control based on social needs, not profit! ABOLISH WAGE SLAVERY! For a Socialist World!

Economic Crash Ahead

Will the coming meltdown of China mean the end of global capitalism? Let's have a brief look at this question. It's pretty common knowledge that the so-called Global Financial Crisis (GFC) was not some isolated crisis but a symptom of something fundamentally wrong with the global capitalist economy. In fact, if it were not for China's rapid growth the GFC would have turned into a long recession. Now China is finally slowing down but who can say by how much? It is still a long way from a meltdown but it opens the door to a slump or a crash in the near future. The big question today is whether or not the global economy can recover from another big crash.

Economists on the Marxist Left, Neo-Classical Right and Keynesian Centre can all see a slump ahead but they disagree on the causes and the solutions. The Neo-classicals blame state interference preventing the market selfcorrecting by means of depression. "Socialism for the Rich" (QE, or printing money) after the GFC only postponed the inevitable deflation and depression ahead. Keynesians complain that the QE trillions went to Wall St instead of Main Street whereas policies like Sanders and Corbyn's plans for "peoples' QE" would avert another depression. Marxists argue that QE cannot stop a depression but for different reasons than the Neo-classicals. The Neo-classicals want to unleash a depression to smack working class wages down to slave levels, and eliminate the 'social wage' while Marxists argue that workers should refuse to pay for the capitalist crisis, rise up and overthrow the rotten system that only survives at the expense of the lives of working people.

To put this debate in perspective we need to take a deeper look at the history of capitalism. Crises are not new. Capitalism has a history of regular crises punctuating long upturns and downturns. They are akin to the economy breathing in and out. As the economy expands it reaches a point where it cannot grow without depressions that cut costs and increase productivity. Each depression cleared the road for a new expansion. Thus the crises of the 19th century fuelled a process of national capitalism which drove industrial revolution ahead. But by the turn of the 20th century national markets became fetters on growth and the more advanced economies began to colonise the backward countries to extract their wealth. By exporting capital to the colonies the 'imperialist' countries took advantage of cheap labour and raw materials. Crises were now less like regular breathing and more like the gasps of a dying animal. The downturns were driven by monopolies backed by powerful nation states to wage trade wars and World Wars to defeat and plunder their rivals and fuel an upturn.

Capitalism in the 20th century as a global system was no longer progressive. Instead of developing the economy by increasing labour productivity it was destroying wealth in depressions and wars. The capitalists were no longer entrepreneurs but parasites living off monopoly profits that were squandered on wars and speculation. The world economy virtually stagnated between 1914 and 1945. Far from Keynesian economics stimulating a post-war boom, the boom was possible only as the result of such massive destruction of the wealth by depressions and wars. Despite the price paid for the post-war boom it didn't last long and crisis set in again in the 1960s.

While capitalism staggered from crises to wars in the 20th century the Soviet Union and then China demonstrated that there was another way of organising society where economic development did not need to destroy wealth. They proved that by getting rid of the capitalists and planning the economy they could grow much more rapidly than capitalism. The superiority of planning over the market forced world capital to impose economic quarantines and a Cold War that ultimately forced Russia and China to return to the global capitalist market.

Here the story gets more interesting. The return of Russia and China to the capitalist world economy did not rescue it by opening up Eurasia to Western plunder. It proved that even the dreaded 'communist' regimes could retain their economic independence and resist Western domination. The 'communist' elite could convert itself into a new capitalist class and manage the switch to the market without becoming recolonised by foreign powers. The result is that since 2000 both Russia and China have become rising imperialist powers that are now the main rivals to the US imperialist bloc.

The joke on the Neo-classicals is that the former 'communist' states have proven they are able to switch to state monopoly capitalism and apply a centralised Keynesian economics to moderate the anarchic effects of the global market. This is not good enough for the ideologues who preach 'more-market'. They demand an end to corruption, regulation of markets, currency manipulation, off-book debts, fake statistics, cyber war, one-party dictatorship, etc., knowing that this would subordinate Chinese state monopoly capitalism to US state monopoly capitalism.

Meanwhile the Keynesians are seething with envy because this state monopoly regime is what they want in the US and EU to end financial speculation and invest capital into the real economy. As Michael Roberts argues, the end of the post-war boom has already taught us that a Corbyn-type 'peoples QE' or more correctly the 'multiplier', will not make

capitalists switch from parasitic speculation to invest in production unless they are sure of making a profit. More money chasing fewer goods leads to "stagflation". If more proof is wanted, Japan has stagnated for most of the post war period as a result of such policies.

What is this 'root cause' behind the China slowdown? How best to explain this? For Michael Roberts neither the Neo-Classical or Keynesian approach can explain the rise and fall of China. "The Marxist model of rising productivity through investment and innovation to replace labour and the accompanying contradiction with the dominant law of value in the world economy provides the best explanation of where China has come from and where it is going." (Roberts, China: A Weird Beast).

On the Marxist model, China's real GDP depends on production of value by its working class. But this is subject to exploiting labour sufficiently to make a profit. When workers resist, profits fall, production slows down or stagnates, and excess money that leaves production enters speculation in existing commodities causing price inflation and money devaluation. So while crises begin with falling profits they usually blow up when asset bubbles burst.

Rather than printing money that leads to stagflation, the capitalist solution to the crisis must be depression—the devaluing of existing capital, machines, raw materials and wages, to the point where investment in production is profitable again. But depression comes up against the resistance of the workers that produce the raw materials in China's trading partners including NZ, as well as Chinese workers producing finished products. The more-market solution is a declaration of open class war inside China and in all its trading partners. The Marxist response is to say "bring it on" to workers in all these countries. The workers united will never be defeated!

Meanwhile, the growing antagonism between Russia/China bloc and the US bloc sparked by trade and finance sanctions on Russia has escalated the rivalry between the blocs and ramped up economic and military confrontations. Russia may spark the crash by defaulting on its debt to its Western creditors before a China meltdown can happen. The proxy wars in Ukraine and Syria may blow up into regional wars. Whatever the timing of such events, there is nothing that can prevent the China slowdown becoming a meltdown sooner or later. Whenever it happens a new global crash will pose the question: is this the last crash before human extinction?

Reprinted from [Class Struggle no. 115](#), journal of the Communist Workers Group of Aotearoa/New Zealand

International Labor Defense

An Injury to One is an Injury to All!
**For International Working Class Defense of All Class War Prisoners
 and Victims of Capitalist State Repression!**

The CWG stands for the non-sectarian working class defense of class war prisoners and all the oppressed based upon the old Wobbly principle that “An Injury to One is an Injury to All!”

We place no faith in the capitalist courts, government agencies or labor boards to achieve justice. We call for the united International Working Class in alliance with the oppressed to come to the defense of all victims of capitalist state repression with class struggle methods. This means not only union resolutions but mass labor mobilizations and political strikes.

We are reprinting below a special appeal from the [Workers International Vanguard Party \(WIVP\)](#) for the Boikelong 4.

“On the 21st April 2015, the courts sentenced 4 leading activists to 16 years in prison, merely for the crime of being leaders of the community. This an emergency appeal for political and financial support for the campaign to free them.”

Free the Boikelong 4! SPECIAL APPEAL

The activists Dinah Makheta, Siphon Mangane, Dan Molefe and Pulane Mahlangu are political prisoners of the capitalist state. We demand their immediate release. We call for all working class organizations to take up this call to campaign for the over-turning of their sentences, for an end to the criminalisation of protest and for the arrest of the bosses of Anglo American, Lonmin and other mining giants that have stolen hundreds of billions over the years that could have been used for decent housing for all, jobs for all, free, quality health care for all, free, quality education for all and all the needs of the entire masses.

More than 63% of deaths of children are caused by hunger. Hundreds of thousands of people are dying from diseases of poverty. Millions are crowded into small dwellings and shacks. More than half the youth that start school drop out before matric because of poverty conditions. Our pensioners are starving; this year they received only a 4% ‘increase’, which is a cut in real terms. Meanwhile Anglo American and other mining giants not only take hundreds of billions of Rands of profits out of the country and the region, they also do not pay the taxes that they should. The government turns a blind eye to this theft while targeting activists who lead the struggles of the masses.

Cde Dinah has a 12 year-old boy and a 83 year old granny who is blind. Cde Siphon has 1 child; cde Dan has 3 children;

Cde Pulane cannot care for her family as she is regarded as a prisoner-on-the-run.

Free **Dinah Makheta, Siphon Mangane, Dan Molefe, Pulane Mahlangu and other political prisoners!** Workers should mobilise committees, at all mines and other workplaces. Forward to workers’ control over the means of production!

Arrest the mining bosses and the corrupt police and political leaders responsible for the Marikana and other massacres! The police are the executive arm of the big bosses. They are not there to protect the masses. They protect thieving big bosses.

A legal fund has been set up to help pay for the costs of the appeal process. Please contribute to

Name of account: Eastes Inc Trust fund
Absa bank
Northcliff branch (Johannesburg)
Account number: 2840184350
Branch code: 334705

Please use the **reference:** appealvdbp

Please also email or sms us how much you are depositing so that we can keep track of funds.

Email: workersinternational@gmail.com

ph/sms/whatsapp +27 822020617

The following has been translated and reprinted from the [Groupe marxiste internationaliste](#).

Down with the repression of the SNVI (Algeria)!

Workers of the National Society of Industrial Vehicles (SNVI) Rouiba (Algeria) are forced to struggle periodically to obtain payment of their monthly salaries. On 1 and 2 December, the strikers have suffered the repression of the police and riot troops tear gas, charges, arrests.

All Algerian workers must require their organizations to unite to free the strikers, the right for employees to be paid, to strike, to demonstrate and to organize freely.

It is the responsibility of parties and trade unions in France to affirm their solidarity with the workers of SNVI, against repression and for their claims.

Employees need their independence vis-à-vis trade unions of any bourgeois party, the capitalist government of the state. Any consequent social struggle is the question of self-organization of workers elected committees and militias.

The power of corrupt staff and degenerated FLN, besides the repression of strikers, takes a series of measures designed to restrict democratic freedoms, give pledges to clerics, to oppress the youth, women, minorities National and strengthen the exploitation of workers to safeguard the interests of the bourgeoisie sold to imperialism.

Release of all arrested workers! No pursuit! Independence of trade unions!

Legal equality for women! Expropriation of all the thieves who seized the country’s wealth!

Production plan under the control of the population to employ the unemployed and the needs! Workers’ and popular government! Socialist Federation of the Maghreb!

December 8, 2015

Internationalist Marxist group [French section of the Permanent Revolution Collective]



Abortion Rights Under Assault:

Drop All Charges Against Anna Yocca!

Free Purvi Patel!



31-year old Anna Yocca of Tennessee is facing an indictment of first-degree attempted murder with a possible life sentence after she tried to perform a self-abortion with a coat-hanger at 24 weeks of pregnancy. This is just the tip of the ice-berg on the capitalist state's war on women's rights. Capitalism in decline and crisis is a festival of social reaction against democratic rights, and hard-won gains of the women's movement are a direct target. From misogynist Presidential candidate Donald Trump's sexist remarks to the terrorist attacks on abortion clinics to the undermining and outlawing of women's right to an abortion, the condition of women deteriorates under world capitalism.

[Anna Yocca pleaded not guilty](#) on December 22nd as activists stood in solidarity with her in the courtroom wearing "Abortion on demand and without apology" stickers. She has been appointed a public defender, as high-priced lawyers and slick legal defenses are largely inaccessible to the working class.

In Tennessee, 96% of the counties have no abortion services and as [Mother Jones](#) reports, "Tennessee has some of the most restrictive abortion laws in the country, and the state legislature plans to propose more. In 2014, an amendment to the state constitution clarified that it would not protect a woman's right to an abortion, and prohibited public funding for abortion—despite that fact that state and federal dollars cannot legally be used to fund abortion. The average cost of an abortion in the state has been calculated to be \$475-\$680. Clinics in Tennessee don't perform abortions after 16 weeks."

In an equally outrageous case, an Indiana woman, Purvi Patel, was sentenced to 20 years for "feticide" for inducing a self-abortion. In the United States, 38 states have en-

acted fetal homicide laws. Capitalism in its death agony drops all pretense of the rationalism of the Enlightenment, as the prosecution in the Patel case used a forensic "test" that dates from the 17th Century that belongs to an age of superstition and witch hunts.

"News reports from the trial emphasized Prahlow's use of a "lung float test" in making his determination. The idea behind the test — which dates from the 17th century — is that if the lungs float in water, the baby took at least one breath. If they sink, then the fetus died before leaving the womb. If that sounds like the old test for witchcraft — if an accused witch floated, she was judged guilty; if she sank, she was innocent — it's also about as old and nearly as discredited." (New York Times, "Purvi Patel Could Be Just the Beginning")

The CWG demands that the charges against Anna Yocca be immediately dropped and that Purvi Patel have her conviction immediately overturned and that she be released. The CWG stands for free abortion on demand as well as full reproductive services as part of a free quality socialized healthcare system for all! We call on the labor movement to take up the fight for women's liberation, to fight for abortion rights and to mobilize to defend the clinics against the anti-woman terrorists.

<http://www.commondreams.org/news/2015/12/14/tennessee-self-abortion-arrest-highlights-dangers-war-women>

Mumia Denied Medical Care: Free Mumia Abu-Jamal!

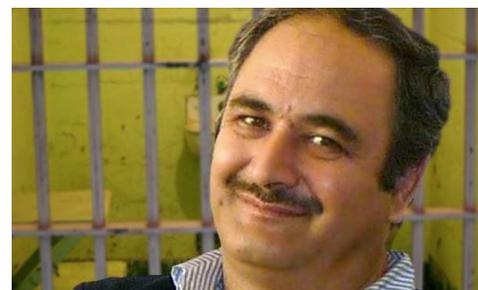
In a continuing battle with the State of Pennsylvania over access to healthcare, journalist and former Black Panther Mumia Abu-Jamal testified before a judge in December as part of his lawsuit. Diagnosed with Hepatitis C, he is requesting a groundbreaking drug that cures 90 percent of patients; a drug that the State of Pennsylvania has denied him. Mumia testified that with the drug, "I can be cured. Without it, I may die."

Framed up and imprisoned since 1982, on death row until his death sentence was vacated in 2001, the state is trying to kill him, something the police and the courts could not do, through medical neglect.

The international working class needs to take up the defense of Mumia, the "Voice of the Voiceless," and demand his immediate release.

<http://www.freemumia.com/>

Labor Activist Shahrokh Zamani Dies in Prison After Being Denied Medical Care



The CWG is saddened and outraged to learn of the death of Iranian labor activist Shahrokh Zamani who died of a stroke in September at the Rajaei Shahr Prison. As was [reported online](#), "Zamani had repeatedly gone to the prison infirmary during the previous days, reporting severe chest pains and requesting treatment at hospital, but his request was denied, a journalist in Tehran told the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran." This was a blatant case of homicide through medical neglect. Iranian prison authorities make it a practice to deny critical medical care to political prisoners, in effect imposing a death sentence.

Zamani, a house painter, was sentenced to 11 years by an Iranian court in 2011 for his labor activism. Charged with "acting against national security by attempting to form house painters' union," he is just one example of trade unionists in Iran who suffer arrest, prosecution and long prison terms. Independent labor unions are illegal in Iran. On the eve of May 1st, [International Workers Day](#), of this year, at least five labor leaders were arrested in the wake of increasing labor militancy.

The CWG printed Sharokh Zamani's case in *Class War* in 2014 and we reprint below an excerpt from his speech on May 1st:

"Workers, activists and labour organisations, we must learn the lessons of the history of our struggles and the struggles of the workers of the world. Together with the workers of the world let us turn this year's May Day into the day of unity, struggle, empathy and camaraderie of all workers' movements for organising resistance and struggle to destroy temporary contracts, blank-signed contracts and for establishing permanent jobs, imposing wages in line with inflation and decent living wages, imposing the right to strike, the right to form independent organisations and progressive labour legislation."

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2015/09/shahrokh-zamani-death/>

Free Bassel Khartabil!



Syrian software developer Bassel Khartabil was arrested in March, 2012 by the brutal Assad regime. Tried in a military court without a lawyer for the “crime” of working to keep the Internet open and free in Syria and trying to preserve Syria’s rich cultural heritage, something the Assad regime cannot tolerate. Not even a political activist or militant, but just a worker who believes in free speech and an open society, he has reportedly been sentenced to death in November.

The Assad regime’s suspicion and paranoia surrounding technology and communication that they don’t understand and fear they cannot control results in death sentences for the creative and with it the death of that much more of Syria’s cultural life. Thousands have been tortured to death in Assad’s jails whose names are not all known by any means, even to the [Syrian Observatory for Human Rights](#).

As the [Guardian](#) reports:

“Danny O’Brien of the digital rights defender the Electronic Frontier Foundation, which is also campaigning for Khartabil’s release, says there is a new pattern of authoritarian regimes targeting technologists in the same way they do journalists and human rights lawyers.”

International pressure needs to be brought to bear on the Syrian government by the working class and all those who support free speech, the open sharing of information and culture to find Bassel’s whereabouts and demand that he be immediately freed and that all charges be dropped.

<https://globalvoices.org/2015/11/13/freebassel-death-sentence-rumored-for-syrian-web-developer/>

<https://electronicintifada.net/content/death-sentence-battling-syrias-censors/15040>

<http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2015/dec/11/bassel-khartabil-fears-for-man-who-brought-open-internet-to-the-arab-world>

Steven Salaita, Palestine and Free Speech

Steven Salaita, the professor who had his job offer at the University of Illinois (UI) rescinded over his tweets supporting the Palestinian struggle has settled his lawsuit against the University. The university admitted no wrong-doing, he agreed to not work at the University and even with an award of \$600,000 and \$275,000 to pay legal fees, this is no great victory, but a defeat. He should have won millions and gotten his job. \$600,000 is not that great of a win considering that a public lawsuit puts one at risk with future employers. In the age of employer Internet snooping, this should make workers everywhere nervous.

The University of Illinois denied that their decision to withdraw the job offer was politically motivated, but this was exposed as a lie. UI Chancellor Phyllis Wise was forced to resign after she was found out hiding emails relevant to Salaita’s withdrawn job offer.

Salaita’s case is just one example of pro-Zionists trying to censor any support for the just Palestinian struggle and to silence those who criticize Israel. In 2014, [Northeastern University \(Boston\)](#) banned the campus group Students for Justice in Palestine after they distributed 600 fliers. This is just one example. [Palestine Legal](#), an organization that is “dedicated to protecting the civil and constitutional rights of people in the US who speak out for Palestinian freedom” cites that in 2014 they responded “to 152 incidents of censorship, punishment, or other burdening of advocacy for Palestinian rights and received 68 additional requests for legal assistance in anticipation of such actions. In the first six months of 2015 alone, Palestine Legal responded to 140 incidents and 33 requests for assistance in anticipation of potential suppression.”

The capitalist crisis has not only produced an all-out assault on the working class as the ruling class seeks to restore their rate of profit, but also attacks on the hard-won democratic rights of society, such as free speech and assembly. It is in the interest of the working class to defend these democratic rights as defense of our class. While legal means should not be ignored, it is only through struggle that these rights will be ultimately defended and advanced.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-steven-salaita-settlement-met-20151112-story.html>

Defend Black Lives Matter! Free All Those Arrested and Drop the Charges!



Black Lives Matter (BLM,) unlike Occupy, shows few signs of abating and stands as a breath of political fresh air. BLM protesters took to the streets *en masse* in Chicago over Thanksgiving-Black Friday, disrupting the busiest shopping day of the year in outrage over the Laquan McDonald murder by the racist cops. BLM hit Chicago streets once again on Christmas Eve day.

The Mall of America, the biggest shopping mall in the U.S., witnessed a protest last December that led to a “loss of sales.” This December 24th saw another demonstration at the mall that was actually a planned diversion, as the organizers quickly directed the demonstrators to transit to the MSP International Airport, where the demonstration blocked traffic, light rail and delayed a number of flights. They were protesting this year over the police killing of Jamar Clark. At least fourteen people were reported arrested.

[BLM stated](#) that the Minneapolis airport demonstration was not only about anti-black racism, but also against Islamophobia and the racist reaction against Muslims.

The Mall of America sought an injunction to bar BLM from protesting at the Mall and to remove social media messages related to the protest. The County Judge denied both requests, but banned three BLM activists and of course affirmed the “right” for the Mall to remove protesters from “private” property. Malls exist in the U.S., not in a foreign dictatorship. Not property of foreign kingdoms, but are public commons built by labor.

Community pickets that stop commerce are supportable, but what is needed is to link these demonstrations to the working class. The workers at the malls, in transit, the airports and all workers have a historic interest in fighting racist police terror and for black liberation. Organized workers can wield tremendous social power through political strike actions in defense of the black community and for the class as a whole.

What we Fight For

We fight to overthrow Capitalism

Historically, capitalism expanded world-wide to free much of humanity from the bonds of feudal or tribal society, and developed the economy, society and culture to a new higher level. But it could only do this by exploiting the labour of the productive classes to make its profits. To survive, capitalism became increasingly destructive of “nature” and humanity. In the early 20th century it entered the epoch of imperialism in which successive crises unleashed wars, revolutions and counter-revolutions. Today we fight to end capitalism’s wars, famine, oppression and injustice, by mobilising workers to overthrow their own ruling classes and bring to an end the rotten, exploitative and oppressive society that has exceeded its use-by date.

We fight for Socialism

By the 20th century, capitalism had created the pre-conditions for socialism – a world-wide working class and modern industry capable of meeting all our basic needs. The potential to eliminate poverty, starvation, disease and war has long existed. The October Revolution proved this to be true, bringing peace, bread and land to millions. But it became the victim of the combined assault of imperialism and Stalinism. After 1924 the USSR, along with its deformed offspring in Europe, degenerated back towards capitalism. In the absence of a workers political revolution, capitalism was restored between 1990 and 1992. Vietnam and China then followed. In the 21st century only North Korea survives as a degenerated workers state. We unconditionally defend the DPRK against capitalism and fight for political revolution to overthrow the bureaucracy as part of a world socialist revolution.

We fight to defend Marxism

While the economic conditions for socialism exist today, standing between the working class and socialism are political, social and cultural barriers. They are the capitalist state and bourgeois ideology and its agents. These agents claim that Marxism is dead and capitalism need not be exploitative. We say that Marxism is a living science that explains both capitalism’s continued exploitation and its attempts to hide class exploitation behind the appearance of individual “freedom” and “equality”. It reveals how and why the reformist, Stalinist and centrist misleaders of the working class tie workers to bourgeois ideas of nationalism, racism, sexism and equality. Such false beliefs will be exploded when the struggle against the inequality, injustice, anarchy and barbarism of capitalism in crisis, led by a revolutionary Marxist party, produces a revolutionary class-consciousness.

We fight for a Revolutionary Party

The bourgeoisie and its agents condemn the Marxist party as totalitarian. We say that without a democratic and a centrally organised party there can be no revolution. We base our beliefs on the revolutionary tradition of Bolshevism and Trotskyism. Such a party, armed with a transitional program, forms a bridge that joins the daily fight to defend all the past and present gains won from capitalism to the victorious socialist revolution. Defensive struggles for bourgeois rights and freedoms, for decent wages and conditions, will link up the struggles of workers of all nationalities, genders, ethnicities and sexual orientations, bringing about movements for workers control, political strikes and the arming of the working class, as necessary steps to workers’ power and the smashing of the bourgeois state. Along the way, workers will learn that each new step is one of many in a long march to revolutionize every barrier put in the path to their victorious revolution.

We fight for Communism

Communism stands for the creation of a classless, stateless society beyond socialism that is capable of meeting all human needs. Against the ruling class lies that capitalism can be made “fair” for all, that nature can be “conserved”, that socialism and communism are “dead”, we raise the red flag of communism to keep alive the revolutionary tradition of the Communist Manifesto of 1848, the Bolshevik-led October Revolution, the Third Communist International until 1924, and the revolutionary Fourth International up to its collapse into centrism, with the closing of the International Center. We fight to build a new Communist International, as a world party of socialism capable of leading workers to a victorious struggle for socialism.

Join us: Where overthrowing capitalism is all in a days work !!!

CWG-USA calls for United Front Defense Against Racist Police, Fascist and Vigilante Terror!

“We call for all black and brown organizations, Left and Socialist organizations, militant trade unionists, labor unions and the AFL-CIO/Change to Win labor federations and all those who wish to fight the white supremacy of the capitalist system, to **organize and build for a national conference to create a national united front self-defense committee to organize labor, black and brown defense against racist terror.** Such a committee would unite the resources and strength of our class and the oppressed communities in the best traditions of the labor movement, such as the International Labor Defense that defended the Scottsboro Boys, under the principle that *“An Injury to One, is an Injury to All!”*”

Communist Workers Group – USA (CWG-US):

Email: cwgclasswar@gmail.com
 Website: <http://cwgusa.wordpress.com/>
 Class War (Paper of the CWG-US)

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