

CLASS WAR

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BRAZIL: THE POPULAR FRONT AND COUNTER-REVOLUTION VS. SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

The international crisis of capitalism hit Brazil late but with savage blows. The country is experiencing the worst recession in decades.

Workers suffer delayed wages, inflation and unemployment. The bourgeoisie and their media resorted to the campaign for impeachment creating the illusion that if the Workers Party (Partido de Trabalhadores--PT) was forced to leave government the situation would improve and that the end of corruption would be guaranteed by "Justice" applied in the course of the operation "Car Wash" investigation.

The fallacy of the popular front and its inability to withstand even a parliamentary attack from the right was built into the Dilma Rousseff 21st century Brazilian case. As in so many others, this Popular Front was a transparent cross class alliance of guaranteed fragility, attempting the impossible, i.e. serving two class masters. The agreement to abide a popular front meant the ruling class had to accept some appearance of accommodating the wishes of the working class. But the program of the popular front is to defend capitalist power and property for the duration of its periodic crisis. In the Brazilian case the crisis has taken so sharp a turn that the bourgeoisie needs to find a culprit even more than it needed the popular electoral confirmation of 2014. With no way out from the late but inexorable effects of the global crisis of capitalism, making Dilma Rousseff 'walk- the-plank' was the method chosen to hide the adoption of the entire neo-liberal austerity program required by the pro-western-bloc of the comprador bourgeoisie.

For the PT to retain power and be re-elected in 2014, it had to bloc with the PMDB (Party of the Democratic Movement of Brazil-a neo-liberal party of the capitalist class.) A deal was made to run Michel Temer of the PMDB for vice president, and it is he who

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Brutal Mexican State Repression Against Striking Teachers:

Victory to the Mexican Teachers! For United Working Class Struggle Across Borders Throughout the Americas!



Photo courtesy telesur

Educators, students and school employees in Mexico are approaching a watershed moment of struggle against union busting, austerity and the wholesale privatization and/or junking of public education. Already in some quarters this struggle has reached more advanced consciousness and forms of organization than even those seen in the strike wave in France. And not a moment too soon. The tops of the Mexican Federal government declare that they are not responsible, but the police have felt authorized to kill strikers with impunity.¹ Will the education workers in Mexico be able to rally the big battalions of the working class? They need to in order to have any hope of winning.

Spurred on by U.S. imperialist capital, the ruling class in Mexico is attempting to privatize education but is getting a more militant and determined response from class struggle oriented workers who do not take it lightly when their teachers, students and comrades are gunned down by the police. As reported by [ABC News](#):

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Media Circus when 5 cops die, blaming Black Lives Matter

No individualism can solve the problems of a social class. It is only in comic books that a super-hero can save the day for the downtrodden. We agree with Trotsky's 1938 statement "For Grynspan!," where Trotsky understands perfectly the motive leading to his solo attack with a handgun to make a symbolic act of reprisal against the Nazis:

"We Marxists consider the tactic of individual terror inexpedient in the tasks of the liberating struggle of the proletariat as well as oppressed nationalities. A single isolated hero cannot replace the masses. But we understand only too clearly the inevitability of such convulsive acts of despair and vengeance. All our emotions, all our sympathies are with the self-sacrificing avengers even though they

have been unable to discover the correct road. Our sympathy becomes intensified because Grynspan is not a political militant but an inexperienced youth, almost a boy, whose only counselor was a feeling of indignation. To tear Grynspan out of the hands of capitalist justice, which is capable of chopping off his head to further serve capitalist diplomacy, is the elementary, immediate task of the international working class!" - "For Grynspan", 1939, Leon Trotsky¹

Because capitalism requires the oppression of the poor, which in America means the active violent terrorization of the black and brown communities by the state and all its agencies including the police, the FBI and other "intelligence" outfits, the proceeding decline and decay of the capitalist economy promises more violence not less. This means more racist white supremacy not less, more terrorism against women's health care providers, the LGBTQ community and immigrant workers, not less. Because there is no mass revolutionary workers party capable of defending the working class by organizing

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Editorial

Wall Street Elections

On CNN they are tooting their own horn about their election coverage with a voiceover with an English accent intoning the line “2016, an election like no other.” We agree, and disagree with those who want to see echoes of 1964 and ‘68 in this “contest.” *We say this is like no election at all!* At least so far, in mid-July, when nothing but repressions and a coronation are to be expected from the Conventions of the one-two party. As we said in the last issue, this is Hillary Clinton’s election to lose. And we note the correct observation made by many that the modern history of “lesser evilism” has resulted in a movement of the Democrats to the right.

While leftists advise protest votes in “safe” states, we say between Trump and Clinton the working class has no bigger enemies. We vote with our feet for class independence.

Two sets of facts have arrived on the national scene to reinforce our conclusion. One is the telemetry-like polling of “Five thirty eight,”² who show Clinton’s odds of winning down somewhat from May’s 75+%, doubtless due to the “Bernie or Bust” and #demexit phenomena, to 66+% to Trump’s 33% chances. Hillary and Bernie are joined now in stamping on any embers of left-moving, radicalizing disunity to their corporatist con game. Since their win is assured in all but spin, they know that now - and not afterwards, since they will not in fact lose-- is the time to use the “stab in the back” tactic. We want to meet the youth who **have had it** and see through the ballyhoo and won’t go to Philadelphia in search of a busted skull!

The other is a poll conducted by GenForward

of the opinions of representative 18-30 year olds. GenForward’s survey is a collaboration of the Black Youth Project of the University of Chicago with the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. (<http://genforwardsurvey.com/>) The poll shows that across all ethnicities, 39% of 18-30 year olds approve of Clinton, while 19% approve of Trump. This is a forecast of so low a voter turnout as to be a Wall Street installation, not an election. Trump gives every kind of white supremacist and fascist a wink, causing many to be emboldened to carry out violence their police membership will not stop. Clinton gets to pose as Mrs. sane continuity. A continuity with the murderous years of “post-racial” Obama, AKA “the great deporter!”



The Goldwater girl and the modern Know Nothing just out on the town dicking around!

And of course, if you can get beyond the sensational differences between Mrs. Flimflam and the playboy blowhard, in real political terms you can’t find any difference you could measure, even with a magnifying vernier micrometer, between these job applicants for boss of the racist police forces and prison guards and magistrates, i.e., to be chairperson of the Executive Committee of the capitalist class dictatorship. Not for a moment do the top level place seekers and their suites of sycophants contemplate whether the planet has any remaining time for their 4-year cycles of consequences, denials

and their never ending defense of privilege!

We have made no endorsement. Depending upon where you live, you may have one or another subjectively socialist candidate on the ballot. That’s who you want to vote for, notwithstanding their shortcomings whether by your own lights or ours, keeping in mind the truth Socialist leader Eugene Victor Debs told workers a century ago, that “It is ALWAYS BETTER to vote for what you want and not get it, than to vote for what you DON’T WANT and get it!”

We’re not going for the opportunists’ *lick your wounds* convention, where almost every petty bourgeois tendency within and without the workers movement will pretend they are there to lead the mass breakaway from the Democrats of CPUSA leader Gus Hall’s dreams.³

The announced purpose of this “Socialist Convergence” Philadelphia conference coinciding with the Democrats’ convention, is to continue the Bernie Sanders’ “political revolution.” Like Hall’s vision, the violence this “political revolution” in bourgeois politics does to socialism, where terms have a scientifically defined content, is staggering. Gone is the method of the [Transitional Program](#) and even any pretext of class independence at home or on the internationalist plane. We see Solidarity in this mix, touting their “sewer socialism” popular frontism of the Richmond, CA variety, and ex-mayor McLaughlin of the so-called Richmond Progressive Alliance will be featured.

We say almost every opportunist because the Communist Party won’t be there, so deeply are they buried in the Clinton campaign behind the slogan “defeat the far right at all costs!” There is no revolution in the Bernie Sanders “political revolution” they seek to carry forward, and the proof is the bourgeois Green Party has endorsed this “left” confab. Like many of the nominal socialists and Obama too, the Greens love Assad and eschew the actual Syrian revolution. We are very glad to see that Black Lives Matter has NOT fallen for this caucus, even though the “Socialist Convergence” may endorse the Democrat McKesson’s “Ten Point Program” for reform of the police that so far has been a forgotten non-starter. We don’t expect these ‘play nice’ revolutionists (!) to even try to form a labor party or revive the ghost of Tony Mazzochi or try to launch a trade union based exploratory committee for the possibility of someday forming a labor party, but only to endorse Bernie’s vague call for sectoral “struggle organizations” he mentioned in his collapse address, endorsing and praising Hillary. **We will not play nice in the shadow of any popular front!**

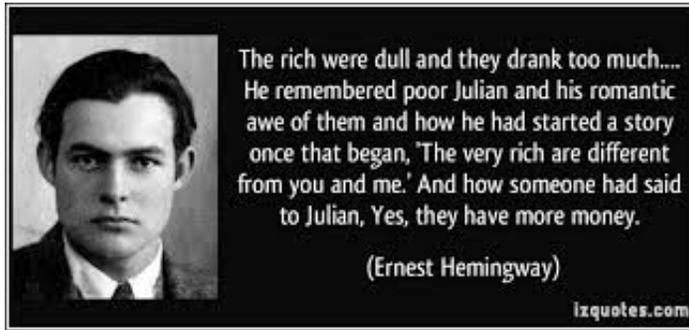
As we have said at all times going back to our pre-existence in the '60s and '70s, we want class political independence in the form of a fighting workers' Labor Party. Within such a party we will fight for the historical program of working class internationalism, the revolutionary road to socialism, the no-compromise, class-for-itself program of a revolutionary workers government. A historic development that will play its part in the world socialist revolution and its rescue of the planet and its living species, atmosphere, seas and possibilities before disappearing with the wage system, social classes, money and scarcity. We have a world to win and nothing to lose but our chains!

In a famous exchange cited by bourgeois economist Paul Samuelson in his college textbook "Economics," F. Scott Fitzgerald told Ernest Hemingway "The rich are different than us."

As the big capitalists experience the decline in the rate of profit, they are suffering from a quasi-addictive withdrawal syndrome. For at least the last ten years, accumulation of profit from the process of production of use values eludes them, so instead, like vultures, they seek return on investment in stock market gimmicks, via privatization of public wealth and through the privatization of public enterprises and services. This death spiral down (or death gasp) of capitalism, the reduction of the cycle of capital from a productive endeavor to a speculative, predatory and parasitic one, is meeting mass resistance wherever English is not the native tongue.

Brexit

The scale and to some extent also the forms of struggle we see in Mexico, Chile and France potentially threaten the rule of Capital and the bosses have not been slow to resort to lethal force. It is at this moment that the U.K. ruling class went ahead and showed us, in setting up the circular firing squad called Brexit, that they may be different but they are not smarter than us. If our class is to survive we must realize that from the UK to Brazil, China to Washington, Athens to Harare the ruling class is incapable of settling its accounts; the only path to peace and economic stability is for our class to turn from sporadic rallies, demonstrations and strikes into building sustained democratic workers institutions from factory committees to popular workers councils and militias that counterpose workers power via a revolutionary workers government to the promise of capitalist discontinuity, austerity and envirocide.



In some ways you can plausibly say floods in Ghana and China and wildfires in Australia and California matter more than the Brexit, since they are a lawful product of nature tortured by human intervention. The greed of the capitalists and their drive to make the U.S.A. a "net energy exporter" by 2020 (Larry Summers on Charlie Rose) may doom us, and not only because the atmospheric carbon content will soar, but also because the fracking okayed in the Democratic party 2016 platform will make 20, 30, many Flints in the U.S.A. alone; and what our rulers can pull off in the U.S.A. they will try everywhere. They are trying their "education reform" program on the Mexican masses as we write. What matters especially about the Brexit comes in two idea flavors.

The Brexit may or may not trigger a return to worldwide recession, as its consequences reverberate through a world market that already expected no growth this year. For Britain, leaving the E.U. will mean a [contraction of trade](#) and already has meant a devaluation of the pound sterling from an average \$1.55 to \$1.32 or less. This means more unemployment as a reward for anti-immigrant patriotic nonsense. More unemployment at a time when the rulers are already leery of capital investment, exactly because of the law of the tendency of the rate of profits to fall. The overnight devaluation, not brought about by any conscious design but by the brutal "invisible hand of the market" so beloved of the spinmasters of Capital, is a massive attack on the workers' and retirees purchasing power!

The slashing of the masses' purchasing power has caused a crisis of leadership in both major parties, both of which were divided between "leaves" and "remains." Exactly the industrial labor retiree generations who went for the call to "take our country back" are tasting the bitterness of the Tory electoral con job. The Labour MPs have shown how they are stalwarts of capital B Bourgeois Labourism and the phony economic deal that says the bourgeois profits and rents are equal shares with wages of the social product. To keep the masses swallowing this putrescence they call for Corbyn's head, exactly for insufficient exertions in the cause of "remain," i.e., staying in the E.U.

Many in Labour want to know why the referendum was agreed to and even welcomed as a test of strength, and such leading figures as Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell take this moment to tell the voters that the Labour Party is their vehicle for achieving Socialism in the U.K. (!!!!) This, of course is in the service of keeping the party reins in Corbyn's hands, and actually has nothing to do with socialism. Except to show how many decades of the workers' time and heaps of cadavers of their young this party has wasted supporting bourgeois rule.

There was no reason Labour had to accept this referendum!!!

It was just a calculation and a maneuver on the Tories' part that they would stymie the growth of the UKIP (the U.K. Independence Party, a further right challenger party) and then Labour went along with this, willy-nilly. Cameron kept the UKIP in check in the 2015 elections but then had to come through with the referendum to outmaneuver them. There was no legal necessity to have it. It was a just campaign promise. The night the results were tallied \$125 Billion in fictitious stock exchange "value" went poof! (vanished into the ether, or cosmos, take your pick.) By July 6 the Pound was trading in the \$1.28 range and the China News Channel reported the capital losses in stock prices traced to Brexit concern had run to \$3 Trillion.

Not surprisingly, the Tories and Labour are each having a deserved leadership crisis, and hanging over the Queen's head is the possibility that Scottish Capital will once again try to bust up the U.K., seeing business advantages in E.U. membership. Likewise, there is a sudden Belfast Protestant rush to get Republic of Ireland passports.

Our tendency, the Liaison Committee of Communists wants to cut through all this parliamentarist crap! Our entire transitional method is an attack on the tradition of parliamentary socialists who sell the workers an evolutionary and municipality socialism that you can vote for and cast off class war. Our tendency fights for the program of nationalization of the commanding heights of the economy without compensation to the big capitalists and for workers self-management and labor-guided central planning for production. The working class' historic tasks are not national solutions because capital today is a global cancer; the cure is international. Workers have no interest in capitalist trading blocs! They are always biased toward the most powerful national capitalist class in the bloc. Workers demand: Not a capitalist E.U. but a Socialist United States of Europe. For the free movement of

Cont. from pg. 1 Brazil...

has been installed in her place. This has brought no social peace and the masses remain on the streets in protests of Temer's every political move, while there is neither social peace among the right, for whom his elevation has proved to be no panacea. Where Dilma's piecemeal adoption of neoliberal economic measures was as ineffective as it was unpopular, Temer's wholesale application finds no mass support whatsoever.



The Past Catches Up

The election of the popular front in 2014 garnered 54 million votes for Dilma/Temer against the 51 million cast for the conservative PSDB (Brazilian Social Democracy Party.) Which is to say inside the popular front bloc the PT only received a plurality; Dilma was only the first choice of some of the 54 million. In less than two years she was removed from office by the votes of 55 senators on May 12. Vice President Michel Temer took office during the "suspension" and within 18 days lost two cabinet ministers, forced to resign due to charges of 'being on the take.' The masses can see that the PMDB is just as, if not more implicated, than the PT legislators in the various corruption cases. Of the 24 ministers appointed by Temer, seven are cited in the complaints.

The Petrobras scandal reaches deep in all directions within the realm of bourgeois politics. There isn't even any evidence of a will to install personalities who are not involved. It now seems the ruling class would be happy enough to install a leadership that has not been exposed. Recent leaks have exposed a parliamentary effort that can be called a conspiracy to use the Dilma impeachment as a smokescreen for suspending any further Operation Car Wash investigation. And so the protests continue as they have from day one. 'THROW TEMER OUT!' is the cry in a number of cities, such as in Porto Alegre, a city of 1.5 million where more than 20 thousand people protested. Artists protested against the closure of the Ministry of Culture and managed to reverse the measure and in several states the students have occupied the schools protesting the poor conditions of education. On June 8th, the Wall St. Journal reported that Temer has an approval rating of 11.8%.

Ineffective strike action by PT-allied trade

union bureaucrats shows they never had any other strategy than class collaboration, as represented in the popular front.¹ Their announced one-day strike at Petrobras on June 10th, against Temer and for Dilma, was a flop. Instinctively, the workers look for a different, adequate leadership whose call they will answer. Too late an appearance of a revolutionary workers' leadership with its class-for-itself, internationalist program will only embolden the anti-parliamentary far right. This far right has hardly been heard from to date, contrary to the commentary by Dilma apologists, Stalinists generally and the liberal and reformist "Bolivarian socialism" cheerleaders. Workers in the main know there has been no coup d'etat, noting the absence of tanks in the streets.

The toothless response by the official trade union leadership attests to the explosion of the project of the BRICS, which was sold to the working masses as an alternative to socialist revolution, as a way to insulate the participant nations from the 2008 economic crisis. The promise of a 'Market-Socialism' in place of a revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat was presented by Lula/Chavez/Morales and the Bolivarian Bourgeoisie as a '21st century socialism' and the 'Win-Win' play which would link semi-colonies to the emerging China/Russia imperialist bloc. This was supposed to deliver the workers out from under the thumb of U.S. and EU imperialism. The BRICS countries and the semi-colonies who sought protection under their umbrella were to be protected from the crisis affecting all super-exploited workers in the semi-colonies by switching their allegiance to the China/Russia bloc.

The PMDB program, "A Bridge to the Future," is the platform used to unite the sectors of the bourgeois opposition and the defecting PT right to form a new government to put into practice the demands of the neoliberal austerity program. The interim

government announced that it will make pension reform and budget cuts in health and education. There is little difference between these measures and those proposed by the popular front.

On the surface, the chief difference appears to be the elimination of the *bolsa familia*, the food stamps program. But the cuts go deeper and the main difference between the immediate goals of the Temer clique and Dilma is in relation to Petrobras. Temer wants to change the current system of sharing the pre-salt geological layer offshore in favor of the private concessions. They call this Petrobras' new delivery system for international oil companies. The current operating regime has Petrobras as the sole operator of the oil and gas extraction. Petrobras as the sole extraction operator has made many deals with international companies and has received loans from Chinese banks. Temer seeks to sell development leases for parcels of the concessionaire to international oil companies to do their own drilling. A leader of the Oil Workers Federation linked to the Communist Party wrote a proposal which calls for Petrobras to be the sole operator with a further capitalization of the company seeking funds and selling shares to Chinese banks and companies represented by the BRICS alliance.²

The crisis and the fragility of the interim government demonstrate the difficulty of the bourgeoisie to implement its program and resolve the political crisis in its favor. Demonstrations against the impeachment and now against Temer are controlled by organizations linked to the PT, such as CUT (United Confederation of Labor), UNE (National Union of Students) and the MST (Landless Workers Movement). All of the political "fight" staged by the PT against the impeachment was based on agreements and frustrated maneuvers in parliament and the judiciary, while within the labor movement they acted to dismantle the strikes and keep the battles within the boundaries of economism, promoting the depoliticization of the masses. The PT subordinated the interests of workers to their reformist politics of alliance with the bourgeoisie and now propose to limit the fight against impeachment and the interim government to proposals for agreements with the bourgeoisie that restore the popular front regime, enhance their interests in the municipal elections of October of 2016 and to save the PT from the Car Wash fallout,

threatening especially to Lula.

Workers who have been fighting against impeachment and the threat of coup, going out, taking to the streets to kick out Temer, those who go on strike, students who take over their schools and the many other popular movements now in action all need to break with the Popular Front and the reformist politics of the PT! We see the call by CONLUTAS (National Struggles Coordination -trade union federation) for a general strike against the Temer government and we support it. We would obviously intervene in a very different way than the Moreno LIT-CI (Liga Internacional de los Trabajadores – Cuarta Internacional) because the possibility exists that the 180 day suspension will elapse without the senate impeachment of Dilma. So our comrades in Brazil insist first, last and always for class independence and no support what-so-ever for any popular front formula!

A government slogan must be popularized that unmistakably advocates the dictatorship of the proletariat. No confusion on this score is permissible. In the U.S.A. today the slogan “For a Workers’ Government” cannot be confused with any Kautskyan project that preserves the rule of the bourgeois parliament and fails to expropriate the capitalist class materially as well as politically. In south America, because of the failure of social democracy and the popular front to deliver socialism in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Bolivia, Venezuela and Brazil, these forces have poisoned the concept of a workers’ government. Therefore it may be necessary to raise an even more explicit and transparent slogan to rally the workers and farmers to build their own assemblies, to arm themselves both politically and figuratively and to seize all power into their own hands and create the revolutionary government of the workers and poor farmers’ councils.

Only the class-independent struggle of the self-organized workers and the oppressed offers a comprehensive relief from the local effects of the world capitalist crisis. What is required is the elaboration of a revolutionary workers program that links every partial struggle to the conquest of all political power by workers democratic organs of the class as a whole. These organs, workers councils based on elected factory committees and popular organizations’ representatives, will build workers’ political general strikes defended by workers’ militias to stop Temer’s sociopathic neoliberal program of imperialism’s dictates and stop the daily assaults on workers, on the favela, students and the landless. Workers must prepare to face down not only social control enforced by the Military Police but also the subsequent attempts by the ruling class to employ the armed forces and the extra-parliamentary right to massacre the workers’

revolutionary struggle for emancipation.

Kautskyans defend the popular front: or The Boy who Cried coup!

We watch with a certain amusement the mutual recriminations of the Internationalist Group (IG) and the Spartacist League (SL) headquartered in the U.S.A. as they accuse each other of serving as props for the PT. In the real world real trouble is made by real defenders of the popular front who even have generated a new 21st century theory of the United Front to cover for cross class alliances.

The instability of the Temer government has increased the possibility that the impeachment will not pass in the Senate. In early June Dilma was interviewed on TV speaking of new elections. The main centrist groups, the PSTU (United Socialist Workers Party), PSOL (Socialism and Liberty Party) and PCB (Brazilian Communist Party) say there is no coup and not to fight against the impeachment. They say DON’T participate in the demonstrations for fear of being seen as wanting to bring Dilma back and getting their hands dirty from the Car Wash scandal. In October, 2016 Brazil will have municipal elections. In Porto Alegre, the PSOL, PSTU and PCB are discussing a joint slate for these elections (where the PSOL candidate appears first in some polls) with the network (Marina Silva), “Root” (a group calling themselves “new left”) and PPL (the national developmental program group, a PMDB break-off from 2011.) These groups are creating their own Popular Front cross class alliance; they want to keep this rotten tradition alive to sell out the socialist revolution.

For the better part of two years the Liga Comunista de Brasil (LCT) and the Revolutionary Communist Internationalist Tendency (RCIT) have been warning the masses of the threat of a coup in Brazil.³ Then under some tough questioning in the interview with Glenn Greenwald of *The Intercept*,⁴ Lula rendered the concept more profound pronouncing it to be a ‘soft coup’. Noam Chomsky added another qualifier by pronouncing the process “an *institutional coup*” and not to be out-qualified for non-use of class terms the misnamed RCIT pronounced what is going on as “an *authentic coup*,” their proof, the fact that it is “*soft*” al la Lula and “*institutional*” al la Chomsky! All these qualifiers are methods of defending the popular front to the masses. RCIT is crowing that now the coup is proven because not just the politicians but the courts and military are behind the impeachment. Any communist understands that the bosses’ state is a front for the ruling class. But plotting a coup, or flag waving during an impeachment is not the same as carrying it out.

The fact that these “*astounding revelations*” (RCIT is easily astounded it seems) prove that a coup plot is underway (but not made public except for leaks) says no more than the ruling class is preparing *a coup that will be activated only if the impeachment fails*.

We have to fight the impeachment not to stop the coup plot, but to have the forces capable of defeating it when it arrives. If left to the PT they will try to negotiate their political careers (elect Lula in 2018) and leave the workers exposed to the coup plotters. Of course it is our task to split the PT from below on the basis of a workers United Front against a fascist plot.

There are no circumstances where Trotskyists call upon workers to shed blood for a capitalist state even when led by a cross class alliance. We tell the workers that the impeachment is to carry out the wishes of the bosses’ international masters and that the time to organize against a fascist coup is right now, before it is hatched. The impeachment is proceeding, but while it is likely it is not guaranteed. The RCIT believes the Armed Forces leaders have spoken based upon their assent to what was pronounced constitutional by the Supreme Court. This may take in the credulous on other continents where the military coup is an historical anomaly. The Armed Forces have not spoken, the fascists have not paid, fed, uniformed, and set on foot a mass movement and the modernistic palaces in Brasilia are not filled with troops. Dilma and Lula have their freedom of movement and association... and of course the police are attacking the favelas neither less nor more than under the popular front.

The Consequences of the Popular Front

The fake socialist Workers Party (PT) of Brazil has brought impeachment down upon itself. For decades the leadership of the PT has told the working class that they do not need to maintain class independence, that they do not need to expropriate the capitalist class and that social justice can be won by gaining electoral victories via the mechanisms of the ‘democracy’ won in the overthrow of the military junta.

Instead of fighting for socialist revolution, in a revolutionary Marxist sense, by occupying the factories, mines, mills and farms, nationalizing the commanding heights of the economy and putting them under workers’ control and self-management, the petty bourgeois ex-guerrillas made common cause with the social democratic leaders of the metal workers union, telling the workers that social and economic justice is an incremental process of reform that can be won by political wheeling and dealing.

Cont. from pg. 5 Brazil...

Unable to win political power on its own, the Workers Party formed the Popular Front government (a.k.a. the People's Front) for 14 years by making alliance with "radical" and "progressive" capitalist parties. In so doing the PT told the workers that they had to surrender class independence in order to get BOTH a shot at power and a piece of the pie. That piece of the pie arrived as a "family grant" (*bolsa familia*) to make a modicum of food available for the poorest of the poor. The '21st century socialism' offered by the PT was not unlike President Lyndon Johnson's 'Great Society' food stamps program. Not unlike Aristide's Haiti, Lula's government lifted the poorest up from total destitution to an economic condition best described as misery. This, the opportunist left in Brazil and elsewhere, tells workers, was the best we should expect and a great step forward. This chatter was repeated *ad nauseum* by the imperialist left, happily cheering on the PT, the Bolivarian "revolution" and the rise of the BRICS as the 'Win-Win' path toward "21st century socialism."

While the first world plunged into depression in 2008, China's economy was able to sustain world capitalism for a time by the use of massive governmental investments in housing and infrastructural projects, but the "Chinese engine" could not sustain its independence from the global crisis of the world economy forever and the respite it provided to the BRICS eventually evaporated.

Many of the "leftist" organizations who are against the impeachment defend the Popular Front government as the "lesser evil" in relation to the right and the Temer government. They argue that the right wing government is more linked to U.S. imperialism and they defend China, Russia and the BRICS as an anti-imperialist alternative (read "Anti-Imperialist United Front".) But China and Russia are imperialist countries. The current capitalist crisis is shaking the U.S. world hegemony and intensifies the competition between the U.S./EU imperialist blocs, and that of China and Russia. The increase of the influence of Chinese capital in Latin America is not an anti-imperialist alternative for the working class. In the face of inter-imperialist struggle the workers must maintain class independence and fight against both imperialist blocs.

The Bankruptcy of "21st century socialism" has been exposed for years in Venezuela, Argentina and Cuba. The life of workers today in Venezuela is not socialism, but a capitalism in deep crisis, in which a government said to be "left" manages capitalism without the approval of the U.S. ruling class. This faux socialism offers only destitution for the workers. The U.S. ruling

class has continuously connived at toppling the PSUV government in Caracas, longing to tighten the screws on the Venezuelan masses. In Argentina, where the government of the "left" opened the country for investments from China, the masses did not escape the damage caused by the capitalist crisis and the Peronists eventually lost the elections to the "conservative" right. Today, the Peronist bureaucracy that controls the main organizations of the workers is a major obstacle to the independent struggle against the Macri government.

The destruction of the Cuban deformed workers state at the hands of the Bolivarian "market socialism" backed by Chinese imperialism is an historic defeat for the working masses of Latin America and the international working class at the hands of this international class collaborationist Anti-imperialist United Front.

The Revolutionary Path Forward

Unlike the ultra-left and sectarians who run from the fight against impeachment because they do not want to be associated with the Dilma/Lula cabal leading the PT and their petty corruptions, and in particular their crimes against the working class and poor, the LCC (Liaison Committee of Communists) internationally and our sister organization the RWG (Revolutionary Workers Group) in Brazil fought against the impeachment and the continuing threat of a coup. At all times we warn the masses that the PT-led popular front has been imposing the austerity, has run a war against the poor in the favelas and favored the developers in the build up to the world cup and Olympics. Favored them over the needs the people and has been allying itself with the rising imperialist bloc of China/Russia and the BRICS.

We fight against the impeachment because the impeachment is not about Dilma, but is the preferred method of the ruling class to assert an alliance with the U.S./E.U. imperialist bloc to roll back the social gains the masses won over the last 14 years, such as *Bolsa Familia*, the *Prouni* (university for all), and *Mi Casa Mi Vida* (home ownership program). ***We defend every social gain won by the masses and never attribute them to the party in power but to the pressure the masses exerted for change.*** Just like the "Great Society" in the U.S.A. under Johnson, which brought Food Stamps, Head Start, the Civil Rights Act, and "fair housing," we know the gains were won by the masses in the streets demanding economic and social justice, not by the benevolence of the ruling class. The pre-salt oil and gas,⁵ which promised to be a bonanza for the state treasury has suffered under the falling energy pricing and the impeachment leaders and big sectors of the bourgeoisie want to

privatize Petrobras and the social resources as part of the neo-liberal drive. These big capitalists funded and put their white middle class and techno-managerial layers into the streets forming massive anti-corruption demonstrations which have since faded away as the corruption exposes the right wing politicians, the chosen darlings of U.S./EU imperialists and the big Brazilian capitalists.

It is not unlikely that the truth of the corruption may defuse the impeachment and that the Temer government will not be able to sustain itself, again raising the threat of a military coup to enforce and extend the privatizations, the deconstruction of the social gains and a shift of global alliances. But for communists this does not mean we embrace another popular front cross class government.

The popular front and the bloc with China/Russia cannot deliver and sustain social gains. This can only be done by independent working class mobilizations that build organs of workers power in every factory and work place, among the landless and poor and create popular assemblies that arm the masses against the coup both programmatically and figuratively.

The alternative for the working class in Latin America is class independence from the bourgeoisie, dual power organs such as factory committees and self-defense militia and their own internationalist revolutionary party to fight for the dictatorship of the proletariat. This would be a workers' government that expropriates the bourgeoisie and the imperialists' properties and foreign direct investments. This is the only way for the working class to stop the advance of the right and fascism and free itself from the crippling yoke of imperialism, both imperialist blocs and the wage-slavery system.

- **Down with any future popular front of the PSTU/CUT/UNE/MST et.al. with the PT and the bourgeoisie!**
- **Build Working class councils and militias to defend the class from the state forces!**
- **Repudiate the national debt! Repudiate the Cup and Olympic debt!**
- **For a living wage, free education, health, housing and social security!**
- **Unite all the workers and peasants in struggle in a national conference to prepare for a general strike!**
- **For the indefinite Political General Strike to unite the proletariat and to fight for a Workers and Peasants Government!**
- **For a mass Revolutionary Party and Revolutionary Program!**

- **For a New World Party of Socialist Revolution!**
- **Expropriate all imperialist and national capitalist property!**
- **Institute workers control of the means of production. For a national plan of production for need not profit!**
- **For a Workers' and Peasants' Government and a Socialist United States of the Americas!**

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1 *Upstream*, "'No impact' from 24-hour Brazil strike"

<http://www.upstreamonline.com/live/1435248/no-impact-from-24-hour-brazil-strike>

2 *Vermelho*, "Aldemir Caetano: Petrobras deve renegociar dívida e se capitalizer"

www.vermelho.org.br/noticia/275305-2

3 Remarkably, the RCIT and Liga Comunista have validated the terminology of Lula ("soft coup") and Chomsky ("institutional coup.") This gets more renegade all the time, but as hard as they try to cover up their adaptations, each attempt is just as transparent! To wit...

"The history of the class struggle is not familiar *only* with outright military coups. It also has experienced "soft" or "institutional" coups. Hitler, by the way, came to power in an "institutional" way, with no formal coup. The same happened in Honduras in 2009 and in Paraguay in 2012. Those who contend that *only* a military coup is an authentic coup are guilty of formalism."

<http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/latin-america/brazil-temer-government/>

And if you haven't tossed your lunch yet, check out this Kautskyan drivel from further down in the same number...!

"The Process of Impeachment is Provided for by Bourgeois Democracy

Indeed it is; on this we have no doubt. But is this a good argument to be neutral? What about the need to analyze the class struggle motives behind such an initiative? We repeatedly say that the PT, based on its origins, could never have been able to completely implement the tasks dictated to it by western imperialism. Neither could a Popular Front government, just like some now-deposed populist governments couldn't, like those of Honduras, Paraguay, and Argentina; nor will this be possible for governments for which the road to a coup d'état is still ahead of them, like in Ecuador, Bolivia, etc. And note, we are only talking about Latin America! If we take examples from the rest of the world, or even from history, the list would be far longer. In any event, **shouldn't the defense of impeachment or the toppling of a government be contingent on the existence of a revolutionary (or pre-revolutionary) process**, (emphasis ours ed.) with the guidance of a revolutionary party with a revolutionary

program? Where is there such guidance in Brazil? Of course, the extent of attacks now being waged against the workers in our country can in fact open the road to a revolutionary process in Brazil; and not only must we believe in this possibility, but we must help in bringing it about, even if the present conditions are less than optimal, because instead of the Popular Front government headed by Dilma Rousseff we will now have to go up against a thoroughly bourgeois regime backed by social-democrats, Stalinists, and opportunists of all kinds, to say nothing of religious and other reactionaries."

4 *The Intercept*, "Exclusive Interview by Glenn Greenwald With Former Brazilian President Lula da Silva"

<https://theintercept.com/2016/04/11/watch-exclusive-interview-with-former-brazilian-president-lula-da-silva/>

5 *Oil Price*, "Pre-Salt Bonanza Begins In Brazil With First Oil Produced"

<http://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/Pre-Salt-Bonanza-Begins-In-Brazil-With-First-Oil-Produced.html>

"...*The Brazilian pre-salt bonanza has now officially begun, with Norway's Statoil and partners announcing production of the first oil and gas from the offshore Gavea field in Brazil—part of the largest-ever oil and gas discovery in the Campos Basin's pre-salt layer.*

The project is controlled by state-run Petrobras, but Statoil holds a 35 percent interest and will assume the role of operator later this year, while other partners include Spain's Repsol and Chinese Sinopec...."

Cont. from pg. 3 Editorial...

labor across borders, full citizenship rights for workers wherever they migrate to! Nationalism is the curse of Capital, Internationalism is the workers salve and health.

You were never going to get any socialism from the European Union, which was always only an unsuccessful (!) streamliner of the problems of tariffs and the movement of workers and Capital in pursuit of U.S. and Japanese rates of profits. In recent times it has been nothing so much as an alliance for imposing austerity, for privatization and for the exclusion of immigrants, shutting all bourgeois eyes tight to how their project has scapegoated Africans and Arab refugees from their imperialist wars. The E.U. was always an anti-labor combination and social democracy sold you this poison. Only a soviet united socialist states of Europe will employ, benefit and free the one European working class.

Workers need their own revolutionary communist international party, an integral national section of a world party of socialist

revolution, rooted in our working class organizations and communities and those of the oppressed, everywhere standing atop the historical lessons of all class societies and the program and method of [Trotsky's Transitional Program of 1938](#), "The Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International." We need this 'yesterday!'

Puerto Rico takes another beating by the Empire

Just now Congressman Paul Ryan is lecturing Donald Trump on the appearance of anti-semitism given by a Twitter image circulated by Trump's campaign, and Yahoo News writes of "Trump's White Supremacist problem" on July 5th. Thank you "Captain Obvious?" You see, Ryan wants you to know it is not just his suits that are oh-so-civilized. Meanwhile Ryan's greatest political accomplishment to date, according to the Wall Street Journal, his adoring 1% fans and all the Democrats who voted for it, has been to pummel Puerto Rico with a "bailout" so dreadful in its repayment burdens that you could wonder whether the island nation had lost a terrible war to a U.S.A. ruled by a vengeful, racist Clemenceau!⁴

Puerto Ricans were made U.S. citizens by the Jones-Shafroth Act of 1917, making the male population between 18 and 43 liable to be dragooned under the Conscription Act of 1916 and the superseding Selective Service Act of 1917, and 20,000 were drafted for World War I. Other than in America's wars, and in all the years since, these citizens have been treated as unwelcome Hispanic foreigners and ungrateful colonials by imperialists who nowadays pump upwards of \$30 Billion a year in profits out of the sweat of Puerto Rican workers, even as the country has endured 10 years of unrelieved economic depression. The Ryan "bailout" puts over a "youth minimum wage" of \$4.20 and curtails funding for fighting the spread of the Zika virus. On the island, Ryan's party is known as the Statehood Party(!) No U.S. state would accept a "bailout" like this one that fattens Wall Street hedge funds and does nothing good whatsoever for anyone outside the island government racket's circles of friends. Their lives are devoted to tax evasion, like their stateside mentors in the twin parties' District of Columbia roost.⁵

As a matter of scientific analysis of the history and economic development of the island nation the LCC has always called for independence for Puerto Rico and this will require a complete break with capitalist politics and a revolutionary workers' government dedicated to a program of socialist solutions that place the survival and well-being of the working class above all other considerations. This means full

Cont. from pg. 1 Mexico...

“Business leaders and government officials said Wednesday (6/29/16, ed.) that supplies of gasoline, food and other goods are running out in southern Mexico because protesting teachers have blockaded key highways ...

...The supply of gasoline in the southern state of Chiapas was expected to completely run out Wednesday. The head of the Chiapas association of gas stations told local media there might be some gasoline left in the city of Tapachula, near the Guatemala border, but that in 90 percent of gas stations, supplies ran out by Wednesday morning.

Groups of protesters, sometimes just a handful, have blocked highways at about three dozen places. They sometimes let cars pass, but refused to allow freight and tanker trucks through.

The protesters oppose new laws that require testing of teachers and weaken their unions' control over hiring.

The Interior Department said the blockades had caused many businesses to lose 80 percent of normal sales, putting thousands of jobs at risk.”²

Since 2013, the Coordinadora Nacional de Trabajadores de la Educación (CNTE) teacher's union has waged a struggle against the “neo-liberal” education reforms of the administration of President Enrique Peña Nieto. These education reforms are part of an all-out assault across the world on public education and public services as world imperialism seeks to restore its falling rate of profit. A principle philosophical underpinning of their “recovery” program is to cast off what they see as the unnecessary dead-weight of social wages, the public services and social programs benefitting the workers and the poor.

The struggle in Mexico has waxed and waned for three years from encampments in July, 2013, building up to teachers engaging in occupations and road blockades today. On June 19th, federal, state and local police fired on unarmed demonstrators, killing twelve students and teachers and wounding more than 100, and casualties were not limited to Oaxaca. An estimated 8,000 teachers have been fired, over 4,000 for strike activity, while seven leaders of Teachers union Section 22 (roughly equivalent to a District Council) in Oaxaca have been arrested.³

Ruben Nunez Gines, the Secretary General of Section 22, and Francisco Villalobos Ricárdez, the Organizational Secretary, are among the arrested, framed up on bogus charges of “money-laundering” for collecting

membership dues the Federal Government terms “funds from illicit sources.”⁴ This is nothing but an attempt by the Mexican state to break the CNTE and the strike. Ominously, at least 23 strikers and supporters have been reported “disappeared.” The CWG demands **“Immediately drop all charges and free all arrested, including Gines and Villalobos! Added to the missing 43 students of Ayotzinapa we demand a public accounting of the 23 missing strikers!” SMASH THE POLICE STATE! FOR ARMED WORKERS TRIBUNALS TO FIND OUR MISSING STUDENTS AND STRIKERS AND TO ESTABLISH RESPONSIBILITY AND JUSTICE!**

The teacher's strike has won support of students and their parents as well as from other sectors of the working class such as oil workers, telecommunications workers and professors from UNAM, Latin America's largest university. 200,000 doctors went on strike in 70 cities, including in the state of Oaxaca, against proposed healthcare reforms **and in solidarity** with the teachers struggle. Despite the silence of the bourgeois media, workers around the world have also rallied to the defense of the Oaxaca teachers from Japan to New York. The Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), AFL-CIO, of Sacramento, California, released a statement denouncing the repression.⁵

On July 1st, Interior Minister Osorio Chong presented an ultimatum to the striking teachers that they clear the highway blockades. The CNTE responded that this threat was “paving the way for escalating repression, even if they will need to do it by force” and that the CNTE will hold an indefinite strike against the government attacks on education. The union leadership is only demanding a dialogue with the government over education reforms, not for their outright revocation. The Nieto regime will not even acquiesce to this unless the teachers give a blank check to education reform. The union leadership at least has the courage to demand punishment for those responsible for police repression and the release of all those arrested during the strike. The claim by the Nieto regime that the blockades are causing hardships has been countered by bourgeois agricultural and state authorities, as well as local merchants, who stated that the government's claims are exaggerated and being used to justify state repression.⁶ The Mexican state has a history of brutal repression, from the anti-communist witch-hunts of the 1950's, the 1968 massacre of students in Mexico City, the repression directed at the 1994 Zapatista uprising, the 2014 Tlatlaya massacre and many others.

The Bloody Hand of U.S. Imperialism

The murderous Mexican state of Peña Nieto is carrying out the dirty work of U.S.

imperialism. It is the policy of Obama and of both presidential contenders Trump and Clinton, who are all willing puppets of Wall Street. Mexico is a laboratory for the U.S. imperialist ruling class for imposing its own education and health care cuts at home. The U.S. political elite of both the Democratic and Republican parties have supported the **Merida initiative**, which has militarized Mexico under the banner of the “war on drugs,” a 100% cynical for-profit exercise. U.S. military and police support programs of the U.S. Agency for International Development provides arms for Mexican police forces and has swollen the profits of U.S. small arms manufacturers. It is not a stretch to say the “war on drugs” is a war fomented by the National Rifle Association.⁷

The combined effect is to refashion Mexico from a dependent nation into a colony of the U.S. billionaires. This process was accelerated by the passage of NAFTA in 1993. The *maquidores*, the collapse of the corn price and the most recent collapse of oil prices, ongoing as we write, have all contributed to the immiseration of the Mexican masses.

It was NAFTA, passed under the Clinton administration that gave the green light to the American ruling class to increase the exploitation of the Mexican working class. It was NAFTA that sparked the heroic armed Zapatista (EZLN) revolt of the indigenous Mayans of Chiapas in 1994.⁸ NAFTA also saw the expansion of the free-trade zones like the *maquiladores*, which are notorious low-wage industrial parks of super-exploitation with few job protections for the desperate Mexican masses and total disregard for stewardship of the environment.

Mexican unions

Already in Trotsky's time, all the way up until 1940, the biggest Mexican unions were being integrated into the capitalist state. By this we mean it increasingly became the union's program to reproduce the conditions of exploitation of the workers they nominally represented in “struggle” with the bosses. Additionally, the bureaucrats began enjoying privileges otherwise reserved for the comprador class, in return for sweetheart deals with imperialist employers, chiefly from the U.S. Like their counterparts in the AFL-CIO, Mexican Union leaderships have tied their fortunes to support for one of the main bourgeois parties; indeed even more so. The bureaucrats are interchangeable figures with the leaders of the PRI, the Institutional Revolutionary Party, which was in power continuously for 70 years!!!

Lest you think we communists are exaggerating, griping and otherwise making this up, consider this report and especially

its source, a bosses' service organization dedicated to helping capital make profit:

"In the early twentieth century, in order to facilitate Mexico's dramatic postwar economic growth, labor unions in Mexico accepted wage increases that did not exceed productivity gains. This helped reduce the effect of inflation, but fell short of the gains many workers hoped to achieve through their organizations. Furthermore, the CTM and several other CT-member union federations resorted to coercion and bribery to limit wage demands. Over the years, the CTM has increasingly become more agreeable to employers' moves aimed at increasing productivity and creating jobs...." - Tecma Trust, "Labor Unions in Mexico", <https://www.tecma.com/labor-unions-in-mexico/>

For International Class Struggle!

American workers can best help the embattled Mexican proletariat by organizing to wage uncompromising class struggle against U.S. imperialism at home. The fight against English-only bigotry, and for open borders and immediate full citizenship rights for all immigrants would go a long way towards uniting American workers with their class sisters and brothers from Latin America, South America, and the Caribbean. Mass labor, black and brown mobilizations and labor political strikes are needed to stop "Deporter-in-Chief" Obama's La Migra deportations.

Joint trade union international committees are needed to coordinate international solidarity and struggle. **Workers should demand same work, same contract across borders!** Consulate protests against the repression of Mexican teachers need to be raised to the next level. For labor political strikes to defend the Mexican teachers!

The fight to guarantee necessary public services, and for free, quality education, healthcare and housing is the fight for ending capitalist exploitation through socialist revolution.

The road forward for the embattled Mexican working class for democratic and economic rights is through permanent revolution; the fight for socialist revolution. There is no other way to win an egalitarian democratic society free from the grip of world imperialism.

It was the Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky who developed the Marxist theory of [Permanent Revolution](#), based on the observation that the democratic revolution in the semi-colonial world could not win independence from imperialism, conquer

Global Attack on Education and Public Services and the Vacuum of Leadership

For their part, the U.S. ruling class is waging a bipartisan assault on public education, with the push for charter schools, attacks on tenure, abuse of adjunct faculty, refusing recognition to graduate student (Teaching Assistant) labor unions and refusing to bargain where local unions have been recognized.

Democrats for Education Reform⁹ is a PAC (political action committee) stocked with high-profile figures with name recognition, such as State Senator Gloria Romero of California and U.S. Senator Corey Booker from New Jersey, with a privatizing and union busting agenda. American Federation of Teachers (AFT) President Weingarten was and is an early vocal supporter of Hillary Clinton. AFT was the first major union to endorse Clinton and both have been supporters of privatizing public schools. Governor Andrew Cuomo tried to slash state university budgets this spring while college professors for City University of New York and AFSCME campus workers, both working for years without a contract, told Cuomo they would strike. Cuomo caved in!

One of the more dynamic strikes in recent years in America was the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) strike in 2012 against Democratic Party Mayor Rahm Emanuel's cuts in public education. Like the struggle in Mexico, the CTU strike demonstrated the seething anger below the surface of the working masses that is breaking out periodically in sharp struggle aimed at the boss' attacks. Sold out by the CTU Caucus of Rank and File Educators (CORE) leadership of the union, composed of alleged socialists in Solidarity and the International Socialist Organization (ISO), along with Democratic Party bureaucrats, it demonstrated what could have been with a class struggle leadership that was willing to fight.¹⁰

basic democratic rights and achieve democratic land reform under the sway of the native capitalist class and its political formations. Trotsky's greatest contribution to Marxist theory would explain that the native bourgeoisie could not develop the material wealth and power and coalesce as a cohesive class capable of acting in its own interest against imperialist domination, specifically because of its ties to, dependence upon and subordination to the various imperialist nations and blocs. Thus the democratic bourgeois revolution accomplished in France in 1789, in Britain in the 1640's, in the U.S.A in 1776 and 1865, cannot be accomplished in the semi colonies in the age of imperialism. The conquest of the historically democratic

At every step, if it is not the liberal Democratic Party union bureaucrats or activists misleading the struggles, to make them "respectable" in the eyes of the bourgeoisie, then it is the reformist socialists who are more than willing to fill the gap, to limit and put a lid on the struggles of the workers and oppressed. This is the true picture of every labor struggle in recent memory. The militant Longshore (ILWU) workers in the EGT struggle of 2011 in Longview Washington engaged in class struggle tactics that harkened back to the militant class battles of the 1930's. They were not defeated on the picket line, but by the Democratic Party ILWU bureaucracy who rammed through a rotten settlement. Ditto the Renton, Washington machinists at Boeing.

Black Lives Matter engage in militant street protest and there are advanced class conscious workers such as those BLM activists who are educating for armed self-defense against racist police terror, but BLM has yet to find a political expression or organization beyond a loose and politically contradictory protest movement. To date, BLM is very much like the Occupy movement that expressed outrage at the "1%."

What is needed is an internationalist class struggle leadership to unite the struggles of the workers and oppressed across national boundaries, a leadership that is going to politically arm the masses with a revolutionary program that points the way forward towards fulfilling the historic task of the working class, which is the abolition of capitalist exploitation. ***Leninist-Trotskyist workers parties need to be built throughout the Americas and internationally as part of a new, revived revolutionary workers international.***

tasks accomplished in the bourgeois revolutions today require the socialist revolution, a revolution that can only be carried out by the working class leading the oppressed, the landless and forsaken.

***Mexican government:
Hands off the teachers!
Victory to the Teachers strike!***

Build revolutionary workers parties in Mexico, the United States and throughout the Americas!

Build a new revolutionary workers international, the world party of socialist revolution!

Cont. from pg. 9 Mexico...



Youth Lead the Way!

This July 15th Black Lives Matter rally in Oakland involved only a handful of militant youth and adults, maybe 250 at its peak but the ruling class is so fearful of the masses that just the threat of this social media announced march had the state government building on lockdown, sending a thousand plus workers home for an early Friday. With two helicopters hovering overhead and dozens of Oakland PD and CHP officers drawing overtime, the state received the taunts of young women accusing them of institution-wide rape of young women and intent to murder young black people.

The ruling class trembles and the movement is led by a handful of teenagers! There is no question what will happen in Oakland when the next police murder is caught on video and live-streamed. It won't just be the teenagers!



Black Lives Matter protesters lock themselves to the doors of the police "union" in Oakland. CWG says: "Kick the cops and prison guards out of the labor federations and labor unions!"

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Cont. from pg. 7 Editorial...

employment for the able at living wages, and this means tearing up Ryan's bailout, utterly nullifying the "Compact of Permanent Union" and abrogating every one of the oppressive, unequal treaties put upon Puerto Ricans by U.S. imperialism since the 1898 invasion.⁶

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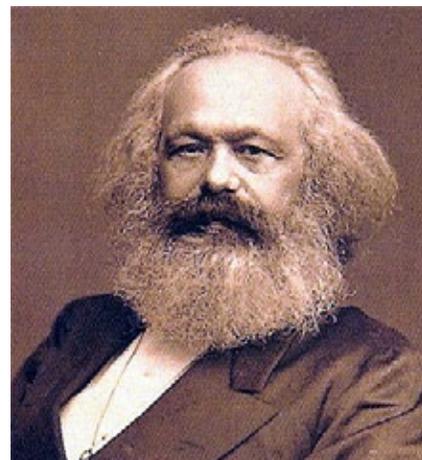
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Cont. from pg. 1 Black Lives Matter...

labor and the oppressed to end the system of exploitation, the pressure cooker of the decay and decline has no pressure relief valve that allows the revolution to cook and not burn, and not explode but emerge victorious. Because the pacifist preachers who come out and tell us to turn the other cheek have lost credibility and the years of protests from Oscar Grant's execution until today have not reined in the blue terror, there is a new level of frustration that inevitably exploded in sniper fire in Dallas.

Capitalism and its enforcers brought Afghan veteran Micah Johnson's attack down upon the gunmen in blue. Sniping at cops is not a solution that will end police terror, white supremacy or the capitalist system of exploitation. Although we do not agree with this violent tactic we can understand it and place the blame for it squarely on those misleaders of the labor movement and the oppressed who year after year try to draw progressive people and the working class into class collaboration. Class collaboration with the capitalist parties, in particular the Democratic Party which they demand we put our faith in, as well as an absurd faith in the ability of the system to be reformed.

From *The Nation* to *New Republic* to *The Progressive* and the Bernie Bots and even the anarchists guided by Noam Chomsky, all the petty-bourgeois forces guide the oppressed and workers into the Hillary campaign. All these voices of the "left" oppose the independent political organization of the working class and thus impede the movement to overthrow the capitalist class, thus perpetuating its violence and in turn the angry and frustrated will be driven to tactics which do not serve the movement. Thus we have the 'black bloc' outbursts of window breaking youth and those who will take it one step further and snipe at cops.²

Not the Brightest of their bulbs....

In Texas, several state officials, including Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, lashed out at the group (BLM), directly linking its tone and tactics to the killings. Patrick acknowledged that the demonstration in Dallas on the night of July 7th had been peaceful until the gunman struck, but he accused the movement of creating the conditions for what happened. "I do blame former Black Lives Matter protests," he said.

We defend Black Lives Matter

We defend Black Lives Matter. Conceptually it is a summation of the ideas of the previous high-water mark of development of the civil rights movement before its demobilization



Teamsters Self Defense Guards 1938 that drove the fascist Silver Shirts from the Twin Cities

in the phony 'post-racial' Obama era. We have big reservations about some of the self-proclaimed spokespersons who grandstand to get name-recognition for lives as career Democrats. Probably the highest profile of these is DeRay McKesson, who we see as 'tomorrow's Congressman John Lewis today,' practically setting himself up for arrest in Baton Rouge, filming himself and copywriting the footage and his remarks and story for syndication. Fortunately, there are better and less conspicuous brains in the vanguard of this movement. If it is as yet somewhat heterogeneous, it is not incoherent; there is no particular penchant for running after bourgeois politicians and there is no agreement on class-collaboration of the McKesson variety. That more than 200 were arrested nationally on the 7/9-7/10 weekend of protest reminds us that the civil rights movement may have been put to sleep by many talking heads, but it never did die!³



Robert F. Williams organized self-defense against KKK in North Carolina

The ruling class politicians have no intention of, nor could they rein in their terrorist police thugs; so when the response of anti-racist youth is self-organization and protest, the ruling class blames the organizers and youth activists for creating the charged atmosphere! Little do these lawyers realize how they appear, and how their remarks say

that it is perfectly normal and acceptable for the police to step up the numbers of summary executions of non-whites.

What this bonehead Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and his ilk cannot get through their thick skulls is that the class exploitation and special oppression that sustains the ruling class and lackeys like himself has maintained a charged atmosphere for 500 years. Chickens always come home to roost. The one difference now is that as the frequency of the state murders increases, the U.S.A. becomes "national Ferguson."

The revolutionary road to working class survival!

We expect nothing from the bosses, the racist cops or their courts; just more of the same. Along with the politicians, they are just the operatives of the capitalist-0.1% they all serve! Those institutions exist to keep us down, not protect us! Only the multiracial working class Labor, Black & Brown mass mobilizations, united strike actions, Self-Defense Guards and multi-racial workers' Tribunals organized by the Labor movement can bring these racist murderers to justice!

To the voices who say we call for violence we say our aim is to prevent it. Given the choice between pacifist acceptance of state violence and armed standoffs with the state or routing the fascists, we'll always want the standoff and the rout and we'll let holier people prefer the martyrdom and bloodshed!

The CWG stands for uniting all forces that advocate for multi-racial self-defense by the workers and oppressed. We call for ejecting the Police and Prison Guards' organizations from the Labor Federations. 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

Cont. from pg. 11 Black Lives Matter...

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.

Candle light vigils, police oversight commissions, ‘progressive’ politicians alongside the interfaith religious leaders only serve to keep the community actions limited to the acceptable participation in the very system designed by the capitalists to keep the working class and oppressed communities down.

WE NEED OUR OWN INSTITUTIONS TO ENFORCE JUSTICE

**The working class must never forget
Philando Castile, Alton Sterling,
Mario Romero, Eric Garner, Oscar
Grant, Michael Brown, Sandra Bland....
Remember all victims of
racist cop terror!**

**Eject the cops, prison guards, and cop
“unions” from the labor federations!**

No faith in the bosses’ courts!

**Turn the mobilizations for justice into
organizing and mustering to form up
Labor Black and Brown Self Defense
Guards and tribunals!**

**Build Labor Black and Brown strike
actions to bring murdering racist cops
and vigilantes to justice!**

Corbyn and Sanders: Reformism and Social Imperialism

We don’t suppose Jeremy Corbyn had to pay much of a political price for the flap caused by former London mayor Ken Livingstone, but it does highlight the creepy racist thinking of British ruling class circles that even the Labour Party “left” has entered into. Along with the anti-Jewish sentiments one finds under their carpet, the dirty open secret is how they support imperialist wars maintaining the “special relationship” between Britain and the U.S.A. Many reformists in the U.S. point to the rise of Corbyn and liken this to the mass support for the Democrat Bernie Sanders. We think there is more identity here between these two than the Sanders supporters would want to acknowledge.

These two are social imperialists. What we mean by that is the generation of an illusion of championing a socialist “political revolution” by means of bourgeois electoral contests, while in fact supporting imperialist military, investment and political projects aimed expressly at crushing anti-imperialist revolts by workers and peasants overseas. We will discuss some of the economic theory supporting this political identity further below.

While the vanguard of the Mexican-American population, overwhelmingly working class, blocks and disrupts Donald Trump’s ‘know-nothing’ rallies, the true “Carlton Cliques” of the SWP seek to recruit Trump supporters, hawking their press and Pathfinder literature with ‘tables’ at Trump events. One variety of Barnesites-without-Barnes rallies to the reformist *North Star* e-magazine. In its latest number, [Louis Proyect](#) retails a reformist wet-dream where Bernie Sanders can form an independent third party that runs for offices and presumably president in 2020 to effect their “political revolution.”¹ We can assume this means that Bernie’s politics will get a branding as “progressive” for some supporters and “socialist” for others. For unrepentant Barnesite-of-old Proyect, such a party would be all about defense of his own “middle class.” Proyect dreams of the social imperialist past, the 1932-72 era spanning the New Deal to the end of the Bretton Woods Agreement.

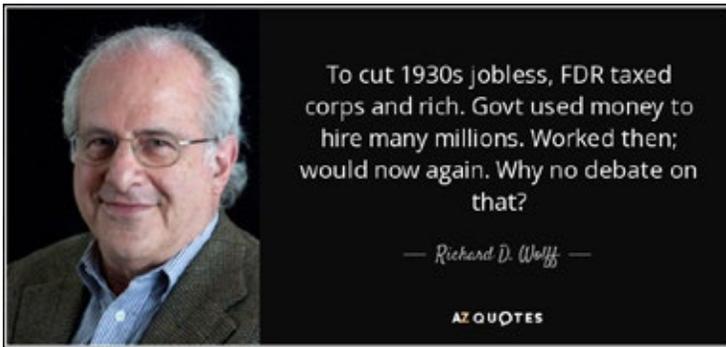
We in the labor movement have had to deal with the pro-imperialist bureaucracy of the AFL-CIO and Change to Win federations from the Meany era down to the Trumka-Hillary crowd we are saddled with today. They have uninterruptedly handed us the idealized vision of rising living standards without connection to the real world situation where U.S. imperialism is in decline and confronted with new rivals, economic and military, in the form of the China-Russia alliance, the Shanghai Cooperation

Organization (SCO), the BRICS project, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB.) These counters don’t weigh for Proyect, who is dreaming. What matters is the belief in reform. We say that lasting reforms cannot be won from imperialism in decline. Not in Britain and not in the U.S.A. Ranked alongside Proyect’s dream are the more serious offenders, the reformist economists who know what Marx said and wrote and still peddle a patch-up for capitalism or a socialism arrived at by parliamentary cleverness, legislative stealth or triangulations. We see Richard Wolff saying the answer to capitalism’s ills are to be found in the Basque Mondragon experiment, in ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Programs), worker cooperatives and smoking a lot of pot on Fridays.

Wolff idealizes the New Deal. Wolff does not tell you that the New Deal hid behind the wall of Smoot-Hawley tariffs and sold “recovery” until the real recovery came along with the war clouds and employment at producing “the Arsenal of Democracy”. But what Wolff does tell you is just as nationalist. He calls for municipalities to invoke eminent domain against runaway employers who seek cheaper wages overseas. Lest you think this “Marxist” is suggesting seizing the means of production, a joke among Bernie supporters, Wolff supports burdening the tax-payers with buying out the fleeing bosses with ‘fair compensation.’² We say thanks for nothing, Wolff.

Likewise, Professor Jack Rasmus of St. Mary’s College in Moraga, CA, wants to sell us reformed capitalism, contending just like the New Dealers that the cause of economic crisis is not the Law of Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall (TRPTF), but insufficient consumption by the masses. We wonder what world is responsible for such an ivory-tower view, because all the masses we know spend everything they get and borrow every dollar they can to try to hold the line of their living standard at some level where they can reproduce themselves and house, clothe and feed their offspring. The masses are consuming all they can and should their children wish to be educated for 21st Century employment, they have to incur colossal debt to pay for it. Therefore the underconsumptionist view embraces an idealist picture where a \$15 minimum wage will be a panacea if only it were adopted.

The Bernie crowd almost universally endorses the “Fight for \$15” campaign. We declare that a Living Wage is determined by the area standards of the labor movement in its struggle with Capital. The “Fight for \$15” is only the latest version of the Democrat



Richard Wolff sells New Deal liberalism as solution to capitalist misery. Marxists fight for socialist revolution!

Party promise to the ruling class to exclude many millions of U.S. workers from the American Dream with a new, revised, sub-living minimum wage. Labor lieutenants of Capital, like the Trumka AFL-CIO bureaucracy, endorse the “Fight for \$15” and underconsumptionism out of one side of their mouth, even while admitting that this is a sub-living wage; they admonish class struggle militant rank-and-filers that more is not achievable. This last part is what makes them valuable to the ruling class. They support the “Fight for \$15” exactly to forestall or prevent a fight for jobs for all at union wages. They lamely answer Marxist critics saying the proof of the impossibility of delivering more in the pay envelope is the existence of what are in fact ‘sweetheart’ contracts where **union members** make less than \$15 per hour. The union bureaucrats cynically pose as the heroes of these most oppressed workers; they will get them a big bump up to \$15. When? Someday.³

The real record of reformism is a collapse into the Democratic Party leaderships’ arms every four years. The real record shows the “Fight for \$15” takes no account of inflation during the years it will take to win and gain this wage and they have been calling for \$15 since 2012 (in some places, before then.) Furthermore, the bureaucracy is urging you with no subtlety to vote for the Democrat office-seekers who say they will give you the \$15 in 2020 or 2022! Where union representation has been one of the demands of this movement, this has turned into a separate fight to no one but the reformists’ surprise, and where the workers have won a cost-of-living allowance, this was also won after another battle. No automatic applications of COLA’s to contracts appear in the Democrats’ national plans and no mention of any is to be found in the Administration’s new overtime law. We recall all the ‘Obama is our best bet’ verbiage of bureaucrats and reformists at the January, 2009 Workers Emergency Recovery Conference, and we have to ask, “How is that working out for you? Do you think **everybody** has amnesia?”

You can be sure that the bureaucrats’ idealized

vision of the 1930’s includes a big rise in dues checkoff dollars, but what this vision absolutely excludes is the truly mass organizing drives, general strikes and sit-down strikes and factory occupations which were the true history of the 1930’s. The economic emancipation of the oppressed black and brown populations is not

in fact on their agenda even as they promote black and brown “pro-labor” operatives of the Democratic Party. These will be future minions of a new Clinton administration that promises to be more aggressively imperialist.

Professor David Harvey gives Capital classes at New York University and is the darling of self-styled Marxists in and around the Occupy Wall Street movement. Professor Harvey is the sophisticates’ underconsumptionist. He uses Marx against Marx and derates the centrality of the Law of the TRPTF from Marx’s explanation of capitalist crises in Volume III of Capital. Harvey doesn’t care if you become a Marxist, he says. He just wants you to know what Marx wrote (i.e., according to him.) The Law of the TRPTF has a fundamental existence irrespective of these self-styled opponents of Wall Street and in fact was the cause of the rise of the hedge funds that were the mechanism the capitalist bourgeoisie used to tank the U.S. and world economy for private profit in 2008. Profit we may add from looting banks that were deemed by them and their political operatives to be “too big to fail.” This put the public and in particular the tax-paying working people on the hook for debts upwards of \$60 trillion. To expect lasting reforms that ameliorate the living conditions of the working class or even of Project’s beloved “middle class” from the political institutions who legalized this staggering robbery is certifiable self-delusion. But that is the hope-for-the-best mantra of Bernie-ism which does nothing to acknowledge, never mind resist the slide toward inter-imperialist world war. Inter-imperialist world war and not consumer spending is the capitalists’ last resort for restoring the rate of profit.

World wars destroy capital, solving for a time the problem of non-productive capital, both fixed and variable, which is to say destruction of factories and people. We should point out that inter-imperialist world war and the permanent arms economy were the signature events of the heyday they are pining for.

Reply to *The Militant*

Forty-five years ago the many-times SWP candidate Hedda Garza told us that the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) was in the anti-democratic grip of Jack Barnes and his clique of friends from Carlton College. The occasion was the ruling by the National Executive Committee that the Proletarian Orientation Tendency was to have no representation on the National Committee of the party, that the tendency would be barred from organizing a tendency in the Young Socialist Alliance and that it was to dissolve itself forthwith.

This amounted to an expulsion of leaders like Barbara Gregorich and Phil Passen and began the series of volcanic paroxysms expelling everyone who had any idea that Marxism was an allegiance to the historical program of the working class, and eventually even the supporters of the sectoralist, single issue program Barnes, et. al. rode to the top of the heap in 1971. Hedda warned us that Barnes had little understanding of the socialism of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky, and that Barnes was a “power-trip manipulator.” As we write on May 21st, a byline London May 23rd [article in “The Militant”](#)¹ illuminates these manipulators in the act.

Nothing appears in “The Militant” without the approval of Jack Barnes and Mary-Alice Waters. No phrase, nor hint of a change in any political position can appear in its pages without the endorsement of the surviving members of the “Carlton Clique.” Where a signed article appears, you may detect a signal that a retreat path of deniability is in place, even though the clique is actually committing to print its real feelings.

Cloaked in the May 23rd article by Jonathan Silberman, ostensibly concerned with the existence and expression of anti-Jewish prejudice in the British Labour Party, Barnes and Waters use pages of the once-highly-regarded “Militant” to smear the pro-Palestinian Boycott Divestment Sanctions (BDS) campaign as “anti-Jew” and part of a rising tide of such evil across the world. Of course Silberman (read Barnes!) did not mention that BDS has recently been banned in Britain and France, (and we expect that Hillary Clinton will do the same in the U.S., if she can).

Nor is there a word of protest about the judicial persecution of pro-Palestinian activists, notably in Austria and the U.S.A. That the palpable, inhuman race prejudice against millions of Afghan, Iraqi and Syrian refugees run out of their towns by Washington’s and London’s wars is being expressed at the highest levels of the European bourgeois states and by figures like the “know nothing”

Cont. from pg. 13 The Militant...

Donald Trump² is not a subject for special notice for these self-styled liberators of the working people. When you realize that the Barnes-Waters leadership has junked the party's former (1971) position calling for a democratic, secular state of Palestine and reduced its Pro-Palestinian position to a call for a mere "contiguous Palestine" in line with their reversal legitimizing the existence of Israel³, then you realize the Barnes clique has driven from the SWP ranks anyone who would remember Trotsky's pre-war warning that Zionism would not and could not liberate the world's Jews.⁴

The American SWP has been on a long trajectory politically downward from the revolutionary Trotskyist party it once was. It is quite ironic that the SWP is talking about opposing anti-Semitism, considering they long ago cast aside the Trotskyist program to actually defeat the fascists. In a 1961 letter, SWP leader Joseph Hansen, abandoning the [1938 SWP position](#),⁵ made it clear that the SWP respected the so-called democratic rights of the American Nazi Party fascist leader George Lincoln Rockwell:

"Finally, in everything the New York local did, it stressed the fact that Rockwell's democratic rights were not being challenged. On the contrary. The counterdemonstrators were similarly exercising their democratic rights.

Aside from the question of principle involved in this, it would be a great political mistake to permit our worst foes to maneuver us into the position of seeming to deny democratic rights to others, no matter who, and to claim them only for ourselves." - ["Letter from Joseph Hansen to Larry Trainor"](#), February 6, 1961, Boston

Hansen then went on to deny that Rockwell and his American Nazi Party, all decked out in swastika armbands, were real fascists:

"Another point of difference concerns the estimate of the Rockwell outfit. Does this represent incipient American fascism? I do not think so. The real American fascists look more like Mayor Hague, Senator McCarthy possibly Senator Goldwater. It can be put down with absolute assurance that in no case will they wear Nazi uniforms, swastikas, and praise Hitler. To picture Rockwell's outfit as representing American fascism thus helps create the illusion that the real fascists, when they show up, will be identifiable with similar ease..."

A CWG member recalls being at a demonstration in Boston in 1975 against the fascists, where the SWP formed a cordon through the street telling anti-racist protesters to go to the *peaceful rally*. The

SWP of 1975 was very clear about invoking the equal application of the bourgeois democratic right of free speech in the face of fascist provocation and terror, even creating illusions that the cops and the capitalist state are the forces to stop fascist violence:

"While opposing government denial of free speech and assembly to anyone, the antiracist forces should vigorously call for government arrest and prosecution of racists or right-wingers who carry out any acts of violence. A call for the arrest of rightist terrorists is not a call on the government to restrict democratic rights, but rather to enforce the democratic right of everyone to equal protection under the law against physical attack. (emphasis added)" - ["Free Speech and the Fight Against the Ultraright"](#), Malik Miah, August 1975

And then there is this gem from the same time period in a critique of the Spartacus Youth League (SYL):

"But the SYL's argumentation hardly justifies its view that the struggle against fascism will be advanced by placing attacks on the democratic rights of fascists at the center of antifascist propaganda and action." - ["An Example of Sectarian Adventurism in the Struggle Against Fascism Introductory Note"](#), Fred Feldman

We do not dispute the judgement that the Spartacists are ultra-left. Their reading of Cannon's claim that the party is the vanguard absolves them in practice from forming united fronts.⁶

Feldman's jibe at the SYL demo at SF State College shows that for the SWP the Spartacist's ultra-leftism is the main lesson and even the whole subject. For Feldman, the horrendous crimes of fascism are nothing for working class youth to fixate on in the era of American exceptionalism. Feldman and the SWP will be satisfied so long as no one is denying the fascists their democratic rights. This means the SWP would be happy to sell you a pamphlet quoting Trotsky saying 'acquaint their (fascist) heads with the pavement' but then tell you not to expect any real danger the police would not handle or that fascists in the U.S.A. would ever be seen wearing their Nazi regalia. Ask anyone who has spent any time in prison about the Aryan Nations or the National Socialist Movement!

Historical materialism is clearly not for the SWP. Our tendency and all its forebears have always said "SMASH FASCISM IN THE EGG!" We tell the working class what its historical line of march is, i.e., what "our line" is, at all times, even as we seek united fronts where the consciousness of the present day is mediated. In contrast, both the SWP and the Spartacists defend the gospel that the party is the vanguard. For the SWP

this means there is ONLY the question of democratic rights, and therefore the line of the party in the mass movement is none other than the line of the mass movement. And where there is no mass movement the party does not intervene. This is the opportunist flip-side of the Spartacist's sectarianism. Ultimately these two phenomena are united by the petty-bourgeois majority influence and composition of the two leaderships who have for decades recruited in their own image.

Like the SWP of the '30's and 40's we say no platform for fascists or anti-Semites! We reject Barnes' idealist Libertarian position defending free speech rights for fascists, racists or anti-Semites. The SWP, like the Spartacists, have abandoned Trotsky's Transitional Program. They just did so first and dishonestly and did so without fanfare (in 1971). Therefore, if present day practice is an indicator of what the program of Barnesism is, the party has retrieved the Hansen idealization of a free speech without class content in an opportunist adaptation tailing the Chomsky and Gandhi pacifist sentiment of a section of the masses who have been sold this suicidal politics by the ruling class.

We have participated in shutting the fascists down from Berkeley to Kansas City to Philadelphia and have done so alongside Jewish and Palestinian militants. We note that Jack Barnes no longer cares for the UN resolution that equated Zionism with racism. We stand with the defenders of Rasmia Odeh and Michael Proebsting. We wonder whether Barnes, et. al. are defending their torturers and prosecutors.

Unlike the SWP, the CWG salutes Jewish Palestinian rights activists such as Hedy Epstein who passed away recently.⁷ She escaped Nazi Germany in 1939, but lost most of her family in the Holocaust. It was the Anti-Defamation League that characterized Hedy Epstein as an example of "*anti-Israel campus activism [that] would meet both the United States government's and Minister Sharansky's definitions of anti-Semitism...*"

The pro-E.U. Austrian government, which in the recent period has been appeasing and almost lost the presidential election to Joerg Haider's Freedom Party, a neo-Hitlerite outfit that caused France to boycott Austria in years past, is charging Michael Proebsting with illegal anti-Semitism for a speech he gave in support of the Palestinian liberation struggle. This is grotesque and would be transparently cynical except for the present circumstances where the thrust of European anti-Semitism is focused on anti-Arab hysteria. Austria along with the countries of the European Union have voted to explode the Schengen Zone agreement by signing on to the plan to confine Arab and Afghan refugees in Turkey in return for an accelerated Turkish application process

for admission to the European Union. At the same time the Austrian government resorts to judicial frame-up of Comrade Proebsting, it violates international treaties and angers the Italian government by closing the Brenner Pass. When the SWP leadership cries wolf about a worldwide rising tide of “anti-Jew” anti-Semitism and attempts to blame Palestinians for it, we say the Barnes clique has achieved a new mark in its crimes against socialism.

(for the Communist Workers Goup support for the Palestinian liberation struggle, see [Class War Supplement, July 2014](#)).

(Endnotes)

1 *The Militant*, “The stakes in UK debate on Jew-hatred in Labour Party”, Jonathan Silberman <http://www.themilitant.com/2016/8020/802050.html>

2 Trump’s racist reaction: “Later Sunday, Mr. Trump, who leads the Republican presidential field entering the Super Tuesday primary, defended a Mussolini quote posted Sunday on his Twitter account: “It is better to live one day as a lion than 100 years as a sheep.”” <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/feb/28/trump-goes-on-defense-over-mussolini-quote-david-d/> “Shocking, Trump told Yahoo News that he would consider requiring Muslim-Americans to register with a government database, or worse, mandating that they carry special identification cards that note their faith.” <http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/20/opinions/obeidallah-trump-anti-muslim/>

3 *Louis Proyect: The Unrepentant Marxist*, “On the SWP’s turn toward Israel”, Louis Proyect <https://louisproyect.org/2015/03/29/on-the-swps-turn-toward-israel/>

International Viewpoint, “ISO rebuts SWP (US) charges of anti-Semitism”, Lichi D’Amelio <http://www.internationalviewpoint.org/spip.php?article1647>

4 “On the Jewish Problem”, Leon Trotsky, July 1940 <https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1940/xx/jewish.htm> “The attempt to solve the Jewish question through the migration of Jews to Palestine can now be seen for what it is, a tragic mockery of the Jewish people. Interested in winning the sympathies of the Arabs who are more numerous than the Jews, the British government has sharply altered its policy toward the Jews, and has actually renounced its promise to help them found their “own home” in a foreign land. The future development of military events may well transform Palestine into a bloody trap for several hundred thousand Jews. Never was it so clear as it is today that the salvation of the Jewish people is bound up inseparably with the overthrow of the capitalist system.”

5 “How Teamsters quelled fascist thugs”, libcom.org <https://libcom.org/blog/how-teamsters-quelled-fascist-thugs-07052012>

6 For more reading on the Spartacists abandonment of the Transitional Program see Jan Norden’s critique. The CWG disagrees with the Interna-

tionalist Group on fundamental political questions of the present period ranging from the restoration of capitalism in China and other former workers’ states and the rise of Chinese and Russian imperialism. <http://www.internationalist.org/indexoftransprog0498.html>

7 “Remembering Hedy Epstein”, Kenn Orphan, May 2016 <https://kennorphan.com/2016/05/26/remembering-hedy-epstein/>

Also see:

“6 Holocaust Survivors Who Fight Against Israel’s Treatment of Palestinians”, Katie Halper, August 2014 <http://www.alternet.org/world/6-holocaust-survivors-who-fight-against-israels-treatment-palestinians>

Cont. from pg. 19 California...

even phonier union which never holds membership meetings and which is also owned and controlled by Blanning and Baker LLC., gave up its months’ long resistance to the governor’s demands. Unlike PEGCs, the CAPS members tried to put up a fight holding unsanctioned rallies and marches on the negotiating days and which saw an insurgent rank and file campaign challenge the entrenched leadership. The membership rejected the “generous” 15% over three years minus the 2.8% medical pension take-aways, in particular because they were keenly aware that their salaries were upwards of 45% behind those of their peers working in private industry and municipal government and universities.

An activated rank and file insurgency which showed the organization was split 50-50 dislodged long term e-board member David Miller who for twenty years rotated through the various officers’ seats doing the bidding for Blanning and Baker LLC. Of five opposition candidates, the three who gained seats on the board in 2015 were in a minority and could not sustain the rank and file’s vigorous campaign for a decent contract. Working in a minority, the opposition was not able to overcome the influence of the board majority which brought the same rotten tentative agreement back for a second ballot. Worn down, the membership caved for the 15% minus the take-away for an effective 12.2% over three years, leaving many members over 30% behind their target for the pay parity Blanning and Baker and ex-President David Miller and Current President Patty Velez have been promising they could deliver with their non-confrontational style of backroom coddling of Democratic politicians while groveling at the feet of the governor.⁴

What for some of the higher paid workers is tolerable at best, becomes an onerous burden for the 93,000 lower paid SEIU

Local 1000 administrative and service workers. ***California HR is demanding a higher percentage contribution from lower paid workers to achieve a fixed total dollar contribution from each worker toward pre-funding their retirement medical.***

It should go without saying that these higher percentage contributions in pretax dollars hurt the lower-paid workers more. We remember when the union leaders told us to “Share the Pain” during the banking system collapse which taxpayer debt bailed out, as if the collapse was partially our fault for having vacations, pensions, and medical benefits; so now the Democrats assisted by the union leaderships are chipping away at whatever we have left.

No support for the Democrats, for working class independence!

These same labor fakers are now selling us Hillary Clinton as a champion of labor even though Clinton tells us that the 2008 crash was due to too much bad consumer credit! So not only were we paid too much, the money we borrowed to make up for our slack wages then became the fall guy for the global capitalist crisis which was actually caused by the tendency of the rate of profit to fall and the rise of speculation by big capital, not the burden that workers took on borrowing from loan shark payday lending and overpriced credit cards and inflating ARM mortgages used and sold to us to ‘help us’ make ends meet!

Doing such important work for the capitalist Democratic party deserves good pay(!) and the leadership of SEIU Local 1000 has been trying to belly up to the trough at our expense for years. Finally they have joined the well-heeled. Historically, the membership of SEIU Local 1000 held its leadership to the standard of rank and file union membership pay for the union officers. But this month the bureaucracy won its claim to six figure salary stipends despite not being able to recoup the losses of the furloughs or deliver a decent contract.⁵

Nevertheless, pressure from the membership has resulted in Local Union 1000 and I.U.O.E. Local 39 Bargaining Unit 13 holding out for a better deal as we write in July, but instead of mobilizing the ranks for mass rallies and strike preparations of all kinds, the leadership plays its well-choreographed part in a script already rehearsed by Blanning and Baker LLC.

(Endnotes)

1 Verizon: Unions ratify new agreements

NEW YORK – Union leaders from the Communications Workers of America (CWA)
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and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) informed Verizon today that union members have ratified the tentative agreements that were reached in May. The new contracts, which cover about 36,000 employees primarily in Verizon's wireline business, will run through Aug. 3, 2019.

"We're pleased that our employees ratified these new agreements," said Marc Reed, Verizon's chief administrative officer. "The terms are good for our employees, good for our customers and good for our business. The Company's key objectives for this round of bargaining were in the areas of healthcare, post-retirement costs and workforce flexibility. These agreements achieve all of those objectives. The Company will realize cost savings and cost avoidance through healthcare plan design changes, increased healthcare contributions, Medicare Advantage plans for our retirees, maintaining limits on post-retirement healthcare costs, and freezing the mortality table for lump sum pensions using the GATT rate. In addition, the agreements allow for greater flexibility in call sharing to better serve customers, and give us the ability to offer special buyout incentives to associates. Under these contracts, our union-represented employees continue to receive competitive wages and excellent healthcare and retirement benefits. The new contracts go into effect immediately." (emphasis ours)

Media Contacts

<http://www.verizon.com/about/news/verizon-unions-ratify-new-agreements>

2 The Sacramento Bee, "California state engineers reach contract deal with Jerry Brown"

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/the-state-worker/article33021210.html>

3 PEGG, "PEGG Informer"

<http://pegg.org/wp-content/uploads/Informer-06-15.pdf>

4 The Sacramento Bee, "California state scientists' tentative contract contains 15 percent in raises"

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/the-state-worker/article34131309.html>

5 The Sacramento Bee, "SEIU Local 1000 board approves \$143,000 stipend for top leaders"

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/the-state-worker/article86943102.html>

The Fudget fiddles while Capitalism burns

The NACTS budget is really a fudget for trying to hide the growing [weakness](#) of NZ's neo-colonial economy behind a veil of spin. The Key regime hopes to promote business confidence in a climate of falling profits by 'tax cuts' made possible by cuts to public spending on the 'social wage' and by 'dividends' created by privatising state assets and plundering public resources such as water and fisheries. The NACTS cannot even pretend that NZ's GDP growth is based on a return to profits in the private sector when the basis for growth is \$30 billion in handouts to rebuild Christchurch and billions more to farmers to intensify dairying. Moreover the coming crash of the world economy must bring about a massive destruction of value in fixed assets and commodities as well as workers living standards before profits can recover.

So the coming crash has nothing to do with 'wrong' policies that have shifted wealth from production of value to unproductive consumption (wrongly labelled 'financialisation' today) for the benefit of the 'banksters' and rentiers. These are the necessary effects of a deeper underlying cause of crisis which has to do with the failure of capitalist production to produce sufficient profits to justify investment in new production. The failure of profits drives money away from productive investment to speculation in already existing assets - land, gold, or any bet on financial 'derivatives' which looks like holding their value'.

Do not mistake the current panicked rush to buy company 'bonds' that earn more than negative interest rates or betting on commodity 'futures' as the causes of the current economic stagnation. These are mere symptoms of hot money speculating on the latest bubble. While neoclassical economists including Keynesians share the assumption that the market can return to equilibrium (i.e. stability) Marxists see all these signs as a vindication of Marx's theory of crisis which predicts growing chaos and disequilibrium until the capitalist system breaks down and is replaced by a socialist system.

Marx on Classical Political Economy

Marx developed his theory of crisis out of a critique of classical political economy of Smith and Ricardo. Capitalist growth resulted from the three 'factors' of the economy, land, labour and capital, each earning a 'reward' (rent, wages, profits) for its economic contribution. Each was seen as productive, because while labour was productive of value, both land and capital was necessary for its production.

Crises which interrupted the 'equilibrium' of these three 'factors' combining to ensure 'fair shares' resulted from 'interference' of one or more at the expense of the other(s). Since classical economics reflected the interests of capital, it was land and labour demanding excessive 'shares' that put pressure on the share of capital causing falling profits. Therefore, the classical explanation that crises of falling profits could be overcome by cutting the share of land (rent) and labour (wages) was no self-righting market solution, but actually a class struggle between the three classes over the share of value produced by wage labour.

Marx critiqued this theory as bourgeois ideology masking the actual social relations that determined the shares of these "revenue classes" based on the exploitation of wage labour. Wage labour could only be exploited because it was dispossessed of the ownership of land and capital allowing capitalists to treat labour-power as a commodity. The wage was the exchange value of the labour time necessary for labour-power to reproduce itself. But its use-value to the capitalist was that without land and capital, labour could be forced to work longer hours than necessary to create surplus-value out of which rent and profits could be expropriated. As proof he gave the example of Mr Peel who migrated to the Swan River (Western Australia) with money, machines and men. The men 'shot through' to the bush to carve out their own land as 'independent' owner-occupiers working for themselves, leaving him with two factors, land and capital, but not the vital one - labour-power. The result: Mr Peel could not become a capitalist and instead became a land agent and property speculator.

Marx continually warned that if the working class failed to break with bourgeois ideology it would continue to wage it's "revenue class war" for 'fair shares' rather than overthrowing the 'wage-system' itself and with it the inherent inequality of capitalist production relations. (See [Critique of the Gotha Program](#)) But revolutionary consciousness did not fall from the sky. The rise of trades unions put limits on profits so that capitalists could not force up the rate of exploitation to overcome the TRPF caused by a relative rise in investment in machines that did not produce value. As a result surplus capital that could not be invested in production was exported from the imperialist countries to the colonial world to find cheap raw materials and labour as 'counter-tendencies' (CTs) to the TRPR.

By the early 20th century the failure of the market to prevent crises and restore equilibrium saw capitalism enter its full-

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on imperialist stage where capitalism relied increasingly on state backed global monopolies fusing productive and banking capital as 'finance' capital. This led to the rise of Labour and Social Democratic parties advocating that workers as the majority take control of the state to regulate the market and ensure 'equal shares' without the need to overthrow capitalism.

It was no accident that these reformist parties emerging in the imperialist countries where a layer of privileged workers could benefit from the super-exploitation of colonial empires as reformist governments legislated for 'fair shares' in the colonial plunder. Lenin called these parties "social imperialist" because they paid for their 'socialism' a home by supporting imperialist super-exploitation abroad.

Enter Keynes

While accepting that capitalist social relations were here to stay, Keynes and his followers adapted neo-liberal economics to take advantage of the monopoly capitalist state. Keynes was responding to the capitalist transition from 'competitive' to 'monopoly state' capitalism. Far from interfering with market equilibrium and causing crises, capitalist states were now necessary to overcome crises. The market no longer determined prices based on market competition (or class struggle at the level of 'revenue classes') but monopolies based on giant global cartels backed by powerful imperialist states. By over-riding the market the state could theoretically prevent future crises and even turn war spending into public works!

Lenin as the leading Marxist of the day extrapolated Marx's theory of crisis to explain that imperialism was necessary to overcome the limits of the national economy in countering the TRPF. The export of capital enabled firms to locate new sources of cheap resources and cheap labour to process them. As a result new sources of value from the colonies acted to counter the TRPF and postponing the demise of the capitalist system.

However imperialism could not overcome the inherent limits to capitalist growth. The 'underdevelopment' of the forces of production in the colonial and semi-colonial world based on the extraction of 'absolute' surplus value from cheap labour-power could not stop the decline in capitalism's growth potential and re-emergence of the TRPF that would manifest itself in an increasingly destructive struggle between the imperialist powers to plunder the earth's diminishing resources.

The destructive decline of global capitalism

into world war and depression posed the need for socialist revolution for Lenin and Co. But Keynes and the social democrats (Fabians, Labourites and Stalinist economists like W.B. Sutch in NZ) regarded Bolshevism as a greater evil than unregulated capitalism. They proposed that the state reform the market by intervening to prevent crises and thus restore 'fair shares' along with capitalist stability.

Yet the recent history of the global economy since the Great Depression of the 1930s proves that it is not Keynesian policies of state intervention that overcame crisis but depression and world war. This is why Marxists refer to the 'welfare' state as the 'warfare' state. The post war boom was made possible by the massive destruction of old technology and workers living standards allowing the introduction of new technology increasing labour productivity (rate of exploitation) and restoring the conditions for profitable production, albeit temporarily. Thus the post-war boom was no more than a relatively brief period of real GDP growth before it once again faced the TRPF. By the late 1960s the boom gave way to stagflation as price inflation and wage inflation undermined real profits. Once more boosting consumption failed to restore investment in unprofitable production.

The proof that Keynesianism failed was recognised by the collapse of social democracy into neo-liberal economics marked by the destruction and restructuring of capital as the state attempted to restore the conditions for profitable production. In Aotearoa this was the basis of the "Rogernomic" counter-revolution by supply side monetarists who took over the Labour Party. In the US and Britain it was a similar counter-revolution the drove social democracy to the right opening the road to Reaganomics and Thatcherism then echoed by the Clinton and Blairite "third way" camp.

Vindicating Marx

The recent history of capitalism has proven that Marx was right. The capitalist state cannot stop crises because it cannot control investment. The state is not class neutral sitting above the class struggle but the instrument of capitalist class rule. The flaw in Keynes is that no matter how much money the state prints, it will not be invested in production unless the rate of profit is restored. But the capitalist class will not forego its control over capital and the working class will not to accept a massive attack on wages, conditions and rights.

The end of the post-war boom and onset of neo-liberal counter-revolution proved that only depression and war works to restore capitalist production. The neo-liberal

counter-revolution did activate CTs to the TRPF. Massive accumulated social wealth in state assets were devalued and privatised. Unions were smashed and wages and conditions driven down. The privatisation of state assets and cuts in social spending reduced taxation on profits. The restoration of capitalism in Russia and China returned these former bureaucratic workers states to the world economy and created new sources of surplus-value that allowed the rest of the world to survive the 2008 crisis.

But none of these CTs was sufficient to overcome the general law of the imperialist epoch - that capitalism can no longer develop the forces of production in general and must become increasingly destructive to survive. The crisis of overproduction of capital due to the TRPF that began in the 1980s has yet to be resolved. The excess capital that could not be profitably reinvested despite the various CTs mentioned, were diverted into financial speculation in existing assets. The Asian Crisis of '98, the Dotcom crisis of 2000 and the GFC of 2008 all demonstrate that once created commodities that are bought and sold may increase many times in price but never in value. Money invested in speculation on existing values does not produce value or profits only asset bubbles. To restore profits all these bubbles must be burst.

If we look at China today we see a virtual laboratory test of Marx vs Keynes. China kept the world economy afloat since 2008 as the world's most efficient producer of commodities. But it is now facing its own TRPF and rather than restructure or destroy non-performing firms and driving down wages and conditions, the state is using Keynesian spending to boost consumption. But all this has done is to create a debt mountain in China well in excess of the global subprime debt of 2008. The massive accumulated global debt of multi trillions has yet to be destroyed and continues to mount. That is why we are facing a cataclysmic terminal crisis that combines a new global depression with world war, exacerbated by climate catastrophe. Either capitalism must die, or we, as workers, and as humans, face extinction.

Never before has the need for the world's workers to unite behind a program for socialist revolution been more urgent. Never before has the need to read and understand, and then act on Marx been so urgent. Never before has the need for a new world party of socialist revolution based on the method and program of the 1938 Transitional Program become so urgent. The cry of revolutionaries of "Socialism or death!" now becomes common sense.

Reprinted from Communist Workers Group-New Zealand/Aotearoa (CWG-NZ)

For International Working Class Defense of All Class War Prisoners and Victims of Capitalist State Repression!

Revive the International Labor Defense!

The Communist Workers Group (CWG-US) is calling for all anti-racist, anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist workers and working class organizations to convene an international conference in order to revive the traditions of ***international class struggle defense*** of the masses against capitalist state repression, persecutions and attacks. The urgent need for a broad organization uniting disparate formations in defense of the working class and oppressed can be seen with the arrest of Black Lives Matter activists; the persecution of Rasmeah Odeh, Marissa Alexander, Purvi Patel; the continuing incarceration of Mumia Abu-Jamal; the mass arrests and persecution of workers throughout MENA and worldwide.

It was the International Labor Defense (ILD), organized by the Workers Party (later Communist Party - USA) as the American section of the Comintern's International Red Aid, that carried out principled defense work on behalf of class war prisoners, including Sacco and Vanzetti and the Scottsboro Boys.

There are lots of calls for socialist unity today. The obvious first step to such unity would be a broad international defense organization that 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!***" An organization that places no faith in the capitalist courts, government agencies or labor boards to achieve justice and that calls for the united international working class in alliance with the oppressed to come to the defense of all victims of capitalist state repression, utilizing effective class struggle methods. This would mean building legal campaigns with financial and moral support, especially from within the trade unions, while advocating and initiating targeted labor-led boycotts, hot cargoing, local, national and international job actions, leading to mass mobilizations and political strikes that liberate our jailed comrades.

James P. Cannon writing to Eugene Debs outlined his conception of class struggle defense:

"The main problem as I see it is to construct the ILD on the broadest possible basis. To conduct the work in a non-partisan and non-sectarian

manner and finally establish the impression by our deeds that the ILD is the defender of every worker persecuted for his activities in the class struggle, without any exceptions and without regard to his affiliations." - "[ILD Will Grow Quickly](#)", James P. Cannon, July 1925

We do not subscribe to a magician's interpretation of the idea that "*The Truth Shall Set You Free!*" Clearing houses for information on repression meted out to worker militants around the world already exist, are supported by the trade union bureaucracies and are subverted by the ruling classes in that they are toothless and have no fighting principles or political program for putting an end to the rule of the oppressors. Put another way, they speak without authority to the question of ***why*** our sisters and brothers are continuing to be victimized. Some identify capitalism and imperialism as the problem, but don't show how capitalist class interests require repressions in any way that illuminates effective pre-emptive labor tactics. We aim for nothing less than freedom for all political prisoners.

A truly non-partisan and 'International Labor Defense' that fights to liberate class war prisoners will unite all working class forces in United Front actions, not around a minimum democratic program that relies on the ruling class to honor its feigned love of democracy, but to initiate, join, promote and lead action campaigns to free all class war prisoners regardless of their political affiliation.

An effective non-partisan 'International Labor Defense' will coordinate locally, nationally and internationally to fight in the unions and all workers organizations for labor unions and federations to do more than perfunctory statements of support and pro-forma cash contributions to this or that case. A truly non-partisan 'International Labor Defense' will assign itself the propaganda task of exposing the capitalist class' victimization of the workers, unemployed, poor and oppressed and take up the organizational task of uniting workers and their allied organizations to take real, timely and massive actions to free our fighters.

The CWG-US is making this public call and appealing to a broad array of Marxist, labor and worker organizations to organize to make this a reality.

Free all class war prisoners!

Historical issues of Labor Defender: <https://www.marxists.org/history/usa/pubs/labordefender/>

Ruling Class uses California as a template for take away contracts

Would-be reformers of American Capitalism like to point to "progressive" California for cutting edge leadership. Once implemented in California the rest of the nation can't be far behind. And so it is with the latest round of state worker contracts. The state of California workers are "serviced" by about 12 unions (give or take a few based on the what class-conscious workers make of the legitimacy of some organizations the state has sanctioned to negotiate on behalf of state workers.)

The ruling class knows it cannot pull off in California what it did in Wisconsin by limiting collective bargaining rights, requiring annual union recertification and negating the dues check off. Not because the California workers matched the Wisconsin workers for militancy, rather it is because there are 10 times as many and the threat of igniting Wisconsin ***times ten*** forced the ruling class Democrats to seek a more devious path to reduce the wage package of public workers. If they can get the concessions they want from the trade union bureaucracy, then the unions are not a major obstacle and become in a sense corporatist or business unions, the classic term being the labor lieutenants of capital as a fitting term for the pro-capitalist trade union bureaucrats.

As the fiscal year 2017 opened July 1st, the largest union, SEIU Local 1000 and the Stationary Engineers of Local 39 are still holding out for a "Great Contract." But the Democratic Party has other intentions for state workers and they have been revealed by Governor Brown's Human Resources negotiators and capitulated to by the labor aristocrats in the state system, the Engineers represented by PECG (Professional Engineers in California Government) and the Scientists represented by CAPS (California Association of Professional Scientists), two non-AFL-CIO, non-Change to Win outfits sanctioned by the Dills Act, which represent 13,000 and 3,000 workers and supervisors respectively.

Brown's intention, since being elected again has been to hold the Schwarzenegger cuts in place and thereby maintain the austerity imposed on state workers and social program dependents after the 2007-8 economic collapse. Despite 100% trade union electoral support for Brown, he maintained the illegal Schwarzenegger furloughs which reduced state workers' salaries by 15% for up to three years.

Schwarzenegger's furloughs were carried out across the nation, and while industries bled hundreds of thousands of jobs per month, public workers found themselves

under attack. Not only were wages frozen but retrenchment diminished services. Wages reduced by furloughs could not keep up with the debts incurred in the housing scam. Millions of workers “steady” public service pay checks could no longer pay the mortgage lenders, let alone pay for their children’s college.

The progressive dream and promise of the California Master Plan for free education for all is nowhere in the Democratic Party agenda. Typical of Governor Brown’s solutions has been his effort to privatize public education by opening more spots for out of state students and make them pay higher fees while making university access for in-state students less and less accessible. Brown’s budgets sustains a building boom that profits the likes of California Regent and developer Richard Blum, owner of Blum Capital and husband of Senator Dianne Feinstein.

So a few years into the Global Crisis of Capitalism and the California Democrats passed some regressive sales tax legislation and beefed up the state coffers for a time; this temporary fix while a boon for developers like the well-heeled Blum has not been beneficial to the public workers or those who use the public resources like schools, roads, air and water. The Federal fix for the crisis was to make the taxpayers suck up a [\\$7.77 trillion bailout of the banks](#). Considered too big to fail, the ruling class used your deep pockets and those of your grandchildren to sustain the stock market, creating another fictitious bubble of enormous proportions which has business pundits betting on its pending collapse date like an office football pool.

This pending collapse is why Brown and the Democrats want to squirrel away the “tax surplus” instead of writing decent contracts which make the state workers whole from their sacrifices recommended by the union leaderships during their “Share The Pain” campaign, telling the workers to ‘do their part’ by accepting wage freezes, furloughs and giving back holidays.

Everyone knows that the recovery never happened for main street, that the ‘fabulous’ job creation was really a shift to low income jobs and a “gig” economy where workers find it harder and harder to qualify for health care, pensions, and often find themselves owing the IRS for their own Social Security contributions because the bosses have turned them into “independent contractors.”



Ousted Banning and Baker hack David Miller shmoozing with Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi

Because the capitalists understand the fictitious nature of the latest stock market boom and the inevitability of collapse they are using the labor aristocracy in PECG and CAPS, foremost their supervisory layers, to ram through the take-away contracts. Brown has used these two Bargaining Units to set a new lower bar for labor. The new Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) increase the time needed to vest for full medical and retirement benefits. Furthermore, they kill the heretofore sacred cow of 90% employer financed medical pension.

Brown demands that the workers make a contribution to their retirement medical benefit package. ***Starting with this MOU a percentage give-back for every wage percentage gained is taken to prepay medical pension benefits. This is what they hope to establish as a pattern nationwide for all workers who still have pensions.*** Once this contribution item is introduced as an acceptable negotiating point, the bosses will try to get additional percentages in each forthcoming contract fight. On the East coast in the private sector, the Verizon bosses have just put the same scheme over on the Communications Workers of CWA and the Electricians of the IBEW.¹ See how they crow about it to [their shareholders!](#)

The professional engineers of Bargaining Unit 9, workers organized in PECG, a business union totally controlled by the for-profit firm Blanning and Baker LLC., were chosen to be the point of the wedge because of the backroom friendship Bruce Blanning has with the Governor. His corporation runs the Association of California Young Democrats, the youth wing of the Democratic Party, made up of active politicians holding state and local offices. Chosen because PECG’s best paid senior and supervisor members will hardly notice the 2% give back from its 8% salary increase over its three-year contract.

“The three-year deal with Professional Engineers in California Government, or PECG, is retroactive to July 2, 2015, said Bruce Blanning, the union’s executive director, and gives its 13,000 members a 5 percent raise in July, 2016 with a 2 percent raise one year later. The deal expires June 30, 2018...”

*“...The agreement also requires that employees contribute to their retiree health benefits with an employer match,” Blanning said, “but it defers those payments until mid-2017 and would be a consideration when contract talks resume in the spring of that same year.”*²

The following is how PECG explained this deal to the membership which had to be polled twice to gain a quorum (!) to pass this take-away contract.

“Under the new MOU, health plans and state contributions to premiums are not affected. However, on July 1, 2017, employees will begin paying 0.5% of salary (pre-tax) into a fund intended to start reducing the “unfunded liability” for retiree health care. This amount is scheduled to increase to a total of 2% of salary by July 1, 2019, although, as noted above, PECG will be back in negotiations in early 2018 to address that as well as the other compensation items.

*There are two changes for future hires. Current employees become fully vested in the retiree health plan after 20 years, with the state’s contribution based on the 100%/90% formula. For employees hired after January 1, 2016, the full vesting will increase to 25 years and the state’s contribution when they retire will be based on a lower 80%/80% formula.”*³

For lack of socialized medicine the Democrats are counting on their ‘friends in labor’ to soak the workers and make them pay the insurance companies whose bills were previously paid by the State. This is the wage grab of the ruling class’ austerity program. They gave PECG 8% and took back 2% over a three-year contract and got Blanning and Baker LLC. to tell the workers it was a victory. Then they went on to sell it to the scientists.

Next the long-suffering scientists in Bargaining Unit 10, members of CAPS, an

International Labor Defense

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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.

Workers Struggle in Haiti: Victory to the Haitian Working Class! Reinstate All Fired Workers!



Photo courtesy of Workers Struggle

The CWG demands immediate rehiring with full retroactive pay and benefits for Telemarque Pierre, General Coordinator of Apparel and Textile Workers Union (SOTA-BO), Clergé Félixon, Cadet Mackenzie and Adrien Jean Anslou, trade unionists of the Textile Factory Union Platform-Batay Ouvriye (PLASIT-BO) of the Palm Apparel garment workers, fired for protesting for a higher minimum wage in Haiti. The union is demanding that the government institute a minimum wage of 500 Gourdes (\$7.94) for an eight-hour workday.[1] This demand is even far below the \$12.50 per day that the Workers Rights Consortium reported in 2008 that a working family with one worker and two dependents needed per day to live.

The imperialist super-exploitation of Haitian workers by garment factories contracted by American corporations such as Levis, Hanes and Fruit of the Loom, is backed by the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and by the U.S. Embassy (as revealed by WikiLeaks in 2011.)[2] In commenting on the leaked documents, *The Nation* noted that “*What emerges is an extraordinary portrait of Washington’s aggressive management of Latin America’s first sovereign nation—and*

its bare-knuckled tactics on behalf of US corporate interests there.” This was not only the Bush era, but the Obama administration too, while Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State working with the corporations against the wage increase.

2016 saw angry protests directed at corrupt and now former Haitian President Martelly, the United Nations and against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who helped put Martelly into power. At one of the protests, an unemployed worker stated: “*You see all these people here? It’s because of what Mrs. Clinton did five years ago that we are facing this situation.*” [3] A Haitian rights activist and New York radio show host, Dahoud Andre added, “*A vote for Hillary Clinton means further corruption, further death and destruction for our people.*” Haitian born activist attorney Ezili Dantò wrote, “*Five years ago, after the catastrophic Haiti earthquake, the international community – a self-defined ‘Core Group’ under the leadership of former President Bill Clinton – took over Haiti recovery and reconstruction and announced they would ‘build Haiti back better.’ But this was a euphemism for land grabbing, privatization, occupation and imperial plunder.*”[4]

The class struggle fight for higher wages needs to go beyond bread and butter demands and link up to a revolutionary working class political program to expropriate both the national and imperialist bourgeoisie and

achieve national independence via workers revolution throughout the Caribbean and the Americas. The victory for workers’ rights, for bourgeois democratic rights, for national liberation, can only be achieved by the leadership of the working class at the head of the oppressed masses. These tasks are bound up with and only achievable through socialist revolution. This is Trotsky’s theory of Permanent Revolution, that in the colonial and semi-colonial countries, in countries of combined and uneven development, that the indigenous bourgeoisie is too weak and too tied to their imperialist masters and social backwardness to carry out the historic tasks of the bourgeois democratic revolution. These tasks can only be achieved by the working class as part of the struggle for socialist revolution.[5]

Immigrant workers from Haiti and the Caribbean and Latin America bring traditions of militant labor struggle and are a bridge for the American working class for united struggle across borders. Right now, Puerto Rico, a colony of the United States, is facing a crippling debt crisis that is being taken out on the working class and the whole society as budget cuts will lead to gutting of public services from schools to hospitals to even public health measures, such as fighting the Zika virus. Haitian workers should join their struggle with the working class in Puerto Rico to oppose U.S. imperialist measures, linking the struggle with the millions of Puerto Rican and Haitian workers residing in America, along with the entire working class for international class struggle.

Down with the discriminatory anti-Haitian citizenship laws, from New York and Florida to Santo Domingo!

For factory committees, neighborhood committees, workers councils and councils of the unemployed! For workers’ militias!

For an internationalist revolutionary workers party in Haiti and Puerto Rico as sections of a new revolutionary workers international, the world party of socialist revolution! For a revolutionary workers’ government!

For Permanent Revolution from Haiti to Puerto Rico to Mexico!

Down with the anti-socialist Castro government and its capitalist restoration project!

For a socialist federation of the Caribbean!

We reprint the solidarity call from the Textile Factory Union Platform-Batay Ouvriye (PLASIT-BO) below: <http://www.workersstruggle.org/solidarity/#more-519>

We denounce the repression against our comrade. We say, “an injury to one is injury to all of us.” We’re calling on our friends and comrades, brothers and sisters in national and international organizations to demand the reinstatement of Telemarque Pierre in his post immediately.

To do so, contact the companies and agencies below:

Premium Apparel (factory): premium@agacorp.com
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MAST), Haiti : maffairesocial@yahoo.fr

In addition, you can contact the following:
AGA Corporation (Premium is its subsidiary):
 7209 NW 41 St., Miami, FL 33166-6711
 305-592-1860

Gildan (the international clothing brand that contracts with Premium):
Jason M. Greene, Director of Supply Chain:
 843-606-3750
 Corporate office (Montreal): 514-735-2023; toll free 866-755-2023; info@gildan.com
 Customer Service (Charleston, SC): 843-606-3600
 Twitter: @GildanOnline; [facebook.com/GildanOnline/](https://www.facebook.com/GildanOnline/)

Use #RehirePierre #SolidarityForever #500Gourdes

Send statements of solidarity directly to the textile workers, and let them know of your activities: batay@batayouvriye.org

[1] Workers Struggle, “Call for Solidarity: Demand Reinstatement of Union Organizer in Haiti” <http://www.workersstruggle.org/solidarity/>
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[2] The Nation, “WikiLeaks Haiti: The Nation Partners With Haiti Liberté on Release of Secret Haiti Cables” <https://www.thenation.com/article/wikihaiti-nation-partners-haiti-liberte-release-secret-haiti-cables/>

[3] New York Times, “High Hopes for Hillary Clinton, Then Disappointment in Haiti” http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/15/us/politics/hillary-clinton-haiti.html?_r=0

[4] Ezili Dantò, “Five years later: Haitians step up their fight for independence and democracy” <http://sfbayview.com/2015/01/five-years-later-haitians-step-up-their-fight-for-independence-and-democracy/>

[5] Leon Trotsky, “The Permanent Revolution & Results and Prospects” <https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1931/tpr/>

Down with Egyptian State Repression!

For International Labor Solidarity with Alexandria Shipyard Workers!

On May 22nd and 23rd, the majority of the 2,500 workers at the Alexandria Shipyard Company engaged in a sit-in to protest working conditions. Now 26 “strikers” face charges at the hands of the Egyptian government of al-Sisi. The strongman al-Sisi, you will recall, has replaced Hosni Mubarak, ousted by the SCAF (Supreme Council of the Armed Forces) in 2013. Since 1952 the SCAF has played a direct role, sometimes ruling from behind the scenes as in the period of the Morsi presidency. Their role has been to assure the suppression of the national democratic revolution through control of the workers, sometimes by direct violence or more often with the the anti-strike laws.

Today the 26 Egyptian civilian workers face a military court on charges of “instigating strikes.” *The international working class needs to come to the defense of our Egyptian class sisters and brothers.* The so-called strike was actually a protest, a sit-in, “...to demand payment of the national monthly minimum wage of LE1,200 per month, overdue profit-shares, annual Ramadan bonuses and health insurance coverage...,”¹ that did not even shut down or disrupt operations. It was actually the lockout of the workers on May 24th by the company, backed up by the fist of the Egyptian military that did this.

The workers face up to a year in prison along with possible fines under Article 124 of Egypt’s Penal Code. Their lawyer, Mohamed Awad of the Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights (ECESR) stated “they did not engage in any form of strike action, not even a partial strike or a slowdown.” Awad stated “If anybody is obstructing the company’s operations, it is the company’s administration, which continues to lockout its workers...[Awad quotes the 2014 Constitution, ed.] *civilians shall not stand trial before military courts except for crimes that constitute a direct assault on military installations, the Armed Forces, its camps or all else under their authority... including military factories.*”

In addition to repression against militant Egyptian workers, student protesters have been beaten and tortured into giving false confessions. Nineteen-year old student Abdel Baseer Abdel Raouf is facing execution, while students Omar Mohamed and Sohaib Saad have been given 25 year sentences by a military court.² The regime has charged over 160 students in military courts in the last 2 years after declaring universities to be “military institutions.” According to Human Rights Watch, as of April, 2016, 7420

Egyptian civilians have been prosecuted since in the military courts since al Sisi’s expansion of their social role in October, 2014. “In May 2015, six men were hanged following verdicts handed down by a military court in August 2014, despite evidence that some had been in detention at the time of their alleged crimes.”³

The Egyptian state has a history of conducting military tribunals to quash labor and social struggle. In 1952, early in the Nasser era, 567 striking textile workers at the privately owned Misr Spinning and Weaving Company in Kafr al-Dawwar were arrested and 29 tried by a military court for striking and instigating riots. Eleven were sentenced to long prison terms and two sentenced to death by hanging, with no appeal. In recent years, military prosecutions have been invoked also. In 2010, workers protesting safety conditions at Helwan Engineering Industries Company, as well as workers in Petroject in 2011, faced military trials under anti-labor laws.⁴

The military police state of al-Sisi is a regime that the U.S. government could love and does love. As militant workers are being prosecuted in Egypt, 85 members of the House of Representatives have called for a total ban on immigration of refugees! In November of 2013, Secretary of State John Kerry travelled to Cairo. As the New York Times reported, “In substance as well as tone, Mr. Kerry’s visit to Egypt reflected the Obama administration’s determination to work with a military leadership that ruthlessly put down protesters from the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist movement that put forth the successful candidacy of President Mohamed Morsi, who was ousted on July 3.”⁵

And of course the U.S. has sent hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to the al-Sisi government, along with military aid. After the lifting of the arms freeze imposed after Morsi was removed, the blocked hardware and moneys were sent in bigger quantities. The U.S. imperialist government knows as well as the SCAF that the powerful Egyptian working class is their Achilles heel, and that labor unrest in Egypt could ignite the whole region. So we find in the 3/31 Guardian the following announcement... ,

“The White House announced on Tuesday that Egypt’s Abdel Fatah al-Sisi will soon receive 12 F-16 fighter jets, replacement kits for 125 Abrams tanks, 20 Harpoon missiles and \$1.3bn in annual military funding suspended...” (after 2013.)⁶

Cont. from pg. 21 Labor Defense (Egypt)...

What is needed is international class struggle defense of the MENA masses, through popularizing their struggles and organizing mass protests, labor boycotts and labor political strikes to defend all the victims of capitalist state terror.

For the immediate release of and dropping all charges against the Alexandria Shipyard workers!

Free all students! Abolish the death penalty!

For workers struggle to smash anti-labor and repressive laws!

For international labor actions in defense of Egyptian workers and students!

We print below the solidarity call from Egyptian Solidarity Initiative along with the link:

<https://egyptsolidarityinitiative.org/alexshipyard/>

Workers from Alexandria Shipyard are on trial in an Egyptian military court for taking strike action to demand better pay and conditions at work. They were arrested after staging a sit-in at the yard to call for payment of bonuses, permanent contracts for 36 temporary workers who should by law have already received them and to allow workers to receive promised promotions. Military police surrounded the workers who took part in the sit-in and arrested 13 of them together with a clerical worker.

What you can do:

- Sign the international petition in solidarity with the Alexandria Shipyard workers [here](#)
- Use our social media [banner](#) and [icons](#) to spread the message online
- Pass a resolution in protest at the trial through your union branch
- Read more [here](#) on how military trials are being used to rush through unjust verdicts based on 'evidence' obtained through torture
- Download a copy of our background briefing on the Egyptian workers' movement [here](#)

(Endnotes)

1 Mada Masr, "The 4 times in Egyptian history civilian workers were tried by military courts"

<http://www.madamasr.com/sections/politics/4-times-egyptian-history-civilian-workers-were-tried-military-courts>

2 Egypt Solidarity Initiative, "Egypt's military courts make a mockery of justice with trials of students and shipyard workers"

<https://egyptsolidarityinitiative.org/2016/06/19/egypt-military-courts-make-a-mockery-of-justice-with-trials-of-students-and-shipyard-workers/>

3 Human Rights Watch, "Egypt: 7,400 Civilians Tried In Military Courts"

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/04/13/egypt-7400-civilians-tried-military-courts>

4 *Ibid.*, see 1 above

5 New York Times, "Egyptians Following Right Path, Kerry Says"

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/04/world/middleeast/kerry-egypt-visit.html?_r=0

6 The Guardian, "Obama restores US military aid to Egypt over Islamic State concerns"

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/mar/31/obama-restores-us-military-aid-to-egypt>

Hands Off Black Lives Matter! Drop All Charges!

Rising up against unrelenting police murders the Black Lives Matter movement has invigorated a generation of youth who are committed to ending institutional racism in their lifetime and they do not appear to be willing to wait until they get much older!. As youth take to the streets and challenge the racist institutions of the state, many activists are targeted, jailed and victimized for speaking out. As this happens in a period where there are no mass industrial labor actions and the Cold War model labor leaderships clearly do not wish to see a revived civil rights movement, youth have had to take on these class battles, largely undefended by labor and otherwise on their own. We demand the immediate release of all protesters captured in the anti racist protests as well as those mobilizing opposition to the Republicans and Democrats.

The California criminal justice system was all too ready to use "felony lynching" charges against anti-racist activist Jasmine Richards for coming to the rescue of a fellow protester at a peaceful anti-police terror march. The ruling class in California was getting so much bad press for being the first state in the nation to charge a black woman with lynching that Governor Brown had to change the name of the law in July to cover the ruling class embarrassment at using this classically racialized word to arrest and jail a young black woman who had no intention of murder

and was only helping to prevent a comrade from being taken into the hands of the known thugs in blue. While thugs in blue carry out brutality daily with little to no correction or oversight Ms. Richards got 90 days and is required to go to therapy for anger management. We think she should get a medal! **We demand the overturn of her conviction now!** As her lawyer said "This was an obviously political prosecution."

Community activist Kathy Wray Coleman was targeted and arrested at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland while protesting against police violence against women!! With the pretext of an outstanding warrant for arrest on a ludicrous charge, Cleveland police waited for the national spotlight to strong arm Ms. Coleman on national TV. Such is the competition among branches of the bourgeois state to most effectively spin Black Lives Matter as a terrorist plot against the state. Ms. Coleman was charged with attempting to harm the local police when she sped out of her own driveway after visiting her just-foreclosed home. The police had arrived because neighbors reported the front door open. **We call on all labor and civil rights organizations internationally to denounce the victimization of Kathy Wray Coleman. We demand all charges be dropped now and restitution be made for her good name and lost time!**

Revive Class Struggle Defense!

"There were [initially] 106 class war prisoners in the United States -- scores of IWW members railroaded in California, Kansas, Utah, and other states under the criminal syndicalist laws. We located a couple of obscure anarchists in prison in Rhode Island; a group of AFL coal miners in West Virginia; two labor organizers in Thomaston, Maine -- besides the more prominent and better known prisoners..."

They were not criminals at all, but strike leaders, organizers, agitators, dissenters -- our kind of people. Not one of these 106 prisoners was a member of the Communist Party! But the ILD defended and helped them all."

- James P. Cannon, The First Ten Years of American Communism. (NY: Lyle Stuart, 1960), pg. 163

Defend Zimbabwe workers!

The largest mass demonstrations and strikes of teachers, doctors and nurses, in years erupted in July in Zimbabwe against the imperialist imposed poverty, corruption, police violence and the Mugabe regime's bankruptcy that has led to the inability to pay civil servants. Civil servants are even now talking about launching a nation-wide strike if they don't get paid on time.¹ Notably also, the military is not getting paid either. *All Africa* reported "RURAL Teachers' Union of Zimbabwe (RTUZ) says government must increase members' salaries from the current \$400 to \$725 with effect from August failure of which will result in industrial action."²

Ignatius Chombo, the government's Home Affairs minister stated that those engaging in strikes would face "the full wrath of the law" and he meant it. As of July 14th, about 300 have been arrested, beaten and "disappeared" for the "crime" of protesting. Among the arrested and charged was Evan Mawarire, a pastor and leader of the #ThisFlag protest movement. Initially charged with "inciting public violence" for advocating peaceful protest, the state tried to up the ante by changing the charge to "subversion" which carries a possible 20-year sentence when he appeared in court. This was too much even for the courts and they dismissed the charges.³

The international working class must demand that the Mugabe government keep their hands off the protesters and workers!

Hands off Evan Mawarire! Drop all charges and for the immediate release of all arrested!

Victory to the Zimbabwe workers!

(Endnotes)

1 Daily News, "Civil Servants Plan to Strike" <https://www.dailynews.co.zw/articles/2016/07/21/civil-servants-plan-to-strike>

Al Jazeera, "Taxi drivers' protest turns violent in Zimbabwe"

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/07/taxi-drivers-protest-zimbabwe-160704203417427.html>

2 All Africa, "Zimbabwe: Teachers Demand Wage Rise, Threaten Strike"

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201607200102.html>

3 The Guardian, "Zimbabwe protest leader calls for more strikes against Mugabe rule"

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/14/zimbabwe-protest-leader-calls-for-more-strikes-against-mugabe-rule>

Drop all charges! Free Bilal Kayed! Free the Toulouse 4!



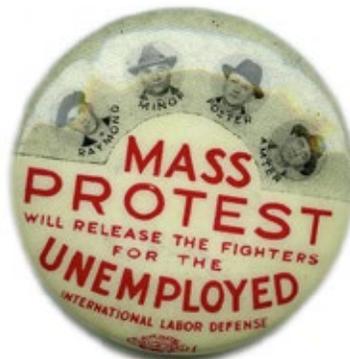
Photo <http://samidoun.net/>

While Hillary Clinton and the Democratic Platform Committee declare their undying love for the murderous gang that passes for a leadership of the Zionist colonial settler state, France has made the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions campaign illegal, exploiting the anti-Arab hysteria in the aftermath of asymmetrical warfare attacks in the metropolis by some of the enemies France has made being the henchman of U.S. imperialism.

We call for the immediate release of the Toulouse 4, the BDS activists arrested moments after the new law was passed, and we demand that the Zionist government free Bilal Kayed, who has served the sentence they pronounced upon him judicially and who is now on hunger strike against additional six months of the "Administrative detention" meted out to himself and some 750 other Palestinians among the 7000 in Israeli jails! The illegal occupiers must know that all Marxists on all continents stand with the Palestinian people for their national liberation and that for peace, Jewish workers will turn against "their" capitalist class and its American-funded, racist police state.

Samidoun, "30 June, Toulouse: Rally in support of the 4 accused BDS activists"

<http://samidoun.net/2016/06/30-june-toulouse-rally-in-support-of-the-4-accused-bds-activists/>



Des Moines Workers Fight for Housing Rights and Against Prisons

A newly formed DES MOINES WORKERS' ALLIANCE organization has taken root in Iowa. They are currently organizing a campaign to fight for the homeless. Their demands are:

- The end of brutal evictions of homeless camps
- Increase in funding for low-income & free housing
- The usage of vacant properties to house the houseless

They plan on holding a march on the city council on July 25th to demand housing rights.

They have included the fight for housing in their six-point direct action point program, along with demands for worker control of their workplaces, direct aid, and an end to police violence.

"...WE AIM FOR COMMUNITY CONTROL OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS. WE WANT AN END TO GENTRIFICATION AND ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR ALL.

Our neighborhoods should be under our control, not the Chamber of Commerce. We will fight the developers and the municipal bureaucrats who want to drive us out of our neighborhoods with high rent and high prices. Empty homes should be occupied by people who need them, not sold to the highest bidder. Our neighborhoods are ours to run...." - <http://www.dsmworkers.org/>

They also have established a "Rev. Bob Cook House For Prison Abolition" that acts as "an organizing space for these people against the unjust system of incarceration, supporting organization within prisons and building a movement on the outside against prison."

The CWG defends and supports workers who take actions to house the homeless and defend prisoners.

It is time for the working class and oppressed to start to build the class struggle action committees and organizations that are desperately needed to defend our class. It was the socialists and the communists who built the unemployed councils and organized the rent strikes during the Great Depression and it is time to revive those traditions. A fighting class struggle workers/labor party would embrace these committees as fighting auxiliary organizations of the working class and oppressed.

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 !!!

“It is the specific question of LaFollette and LaGuardia. The movements backing them are not dreams, but the genuine, homespun authentic American type of ‘Farmer-Labor’ and ‘Labor’ Party. And what sort of movements are they? About this no elaborate argument is needed. Are they ‘anti-capitalist’? Not one of their leaders would dream of pretending so. They are dedicated heart and soul to the preservation of capitalism.... Are they ‘free of all entanglements with capitalist parties’...? How absurd: their chief task in 1936 was to gather votes for Roosevelt. Do they run genuine representatives of the proletariat for office? LaFollette and LaGuardia are the answer.”

“The Farmer-Labor Progressive Federation and the American Labor Party are both vicious muddles of class collaboration, Popular Frontism, outworn Populism and atavistic liberalism, the docile instruments of labor bureaucrats and careerist ‘progressive’ capitalist politicians.”

“Support of these movements at the present time in actuality represents the perspective of the liquidation of independent working-class politics. That is the long and short of it.”

—“A Manifesto to the Members of the Socialist Party,” *Socialist Appeal*, 14 August 1937

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