

CLASS WAR

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How to Free Catalunya, and How Not To

Catalunya has declared independence from the Spanish state, raising once again the specter of proletarian revolution in this country. This takes place as the world situation, characterized by capitalism's existential crisis of falling profits, seeks to download its crisis on weaker nations and the proletariat everywhere. As the imperialist powers compete to increase their hold over the finite resources of the world, the national bourgeoisies scramble to share in the booty. The Catalan bourgeoisie cannot win this fight against the Spanish imperialist state, but the workers and other oppressed can.

Here we argue for a Leninist/Trotskyist party and program to guide workers to fight against imperialist oppression, and to organize and mobilize councils/soviets and militias to take power and transform the struggle for national self-



Riot police attack crowd during referendum
Photo: AP

determination into an international federation of socialist republics. Failing to follow this course, leaving the fate of the movement to the various parties, whether bourgeois or ostensibly "workers," will result in another in a century long string of failures (think of

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SOLIDARITY WITH THE IRANIAN UPSURGE!

FOR PERMANENT REVOLUTION IN IRAN, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA!



(1) The new uprising in Iran is of world-historic significance. It proves that the masses are ready and willing to fight to overthrow capitalism in its death throes. The Iranian workers and poor farmers refuse to pay for the terminal crisis of global capitalism with their lives and their living standards. Marxists understand that this uprising is overdue and can only end in socialist revolution or barbaric counter-revolution. But we are not alone in this historic perspective. An Iranian man, aged 111 years, speaks of being born at the time of Iran's (then Persia) first step toward bourgeois revolution that took place in 1906. [He said](#) "I knew this day would come, I stayed alive for it". He lived through the whole epoch of imperialism in Iran during during which its national development was held back by the rivalry of the Great Powers, aided by their national bourgeois agents, and the treacherous petty bourgeois 'democratic' left, in the contest for control over Eurasia as the key to world domination.

(2) When Lenin wrote "Imperialism; The Highest Stage of Capitalism" in 1916, Iran's place in global capitalism was already subordinated to imperialism. Lenin defined imperialism as a system

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For Working Class Independence From All Capitalist Parties:

Break with the Democratic/Republican Parties of Capitalist Exploitation, War & Racism! Build a Fighting Workers/Labor Party!

The Pale-Pink Democratic 'Socialists' of America (DSA)

Social democracy has seen a resurgence in the U.S. as the word socialism has gained popularity as workers and youth seek answers to capitalist exploitation, war, climate destruction and racism. Unlike the opportunists of Socialist Alternative (Soc. Alt.) who cheered on social-imperialist Bernie Sanders campaign against Hillary, while at the same time denying they were supporting him, the Democratic Socialists of America were able to capitalize on the Sanders surge big-time. DSA has tripled their membership to 22,000 plus since the 2016 election. Not that DSA are the better opportunists, but political honesty has a charm all its own. DSA



DSA member Seema Singh Perez won city council as a Democrat in Knoxville, TN. Here she poses with police Chief David Rausch. She thanked Rausch for "being always supportive and available to help me learn more."
Photo: Oakland Socialist blog.

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Editorial

Bosses' Mores, Bosses' Parties, Bosses' State

We expect bourgeois politics, in the form of the U.S. Government, to 'get over' its pretense of listening to the masses about sexual harassment, possibly by spring. In November, 2016, scarcely six weeks after the revelation of Trump's remarks about his celebrity groping rights on the Access Hollywood videotape, we saw the first Democrat backers of the call for the January 21 Womens' March say '...we have to learn to live with the Trump Administration....' This was at the November Delegates Meeting of the NY Central Labor Council and the speaker was a Local 1199 Delegate who was also a Democrat NY State Assemblywoman. The politicians will 'get over it' by means of their control of the news cycles, by their handouts to the press. They will do so regardless of whether the indignant masses tear up the streets demanding action. As so often happens now, "the consent of the governed" will have disappeared again, on this issue even more than others, and the rule of the bosses' state will be shown to rest on nothing but its bodies of armed men. These will be defending the daily dictatorship of the bosses on every worksite, where a woman is expected to know her place. This is the conclusion to be drawn from the combination of the language of the 14th Amendment and the failure of the Equal Rights Amendment to be ratified. Women do not ultimately get equal protection under the law, so far as the Constitution is concerned. It's a bourgeois state, after all.

Nothing makes the argument for workers control and workers self management

more than rape and harassment! Under workers self management no one will have to deal with the unwanted pressures of someone with a title, or a power relationship in hierarchies. Most titles will disappear and such socially necessary management as the workplace needs will be elected. If class society will not instantly disappear, it will begin to disappear instantly....the whole premise of social being will be that nothing will have to be secret and managers will not be permitted to hide sociopathic threats with the excuse that workers want to invade his or her personal life! Production will be social and based on need, and what society does not need is the reproduction or defense of sexual oppression! What will be secret in the workplace? We can't think of a thing....mores will change and social appreciation of human sexuality will develop away from the distorted development it has now....removing the authority question that is driving anti-social behaviour....where rape, bullying, harassment, nuclear form of anti-social power assertion is present day conditional "employment" in capitalist America. A poll finds that 80% of workers feel management is unnecessary! We're sure at least 80% of management is unnecessary and sexual privileges are 100% unnecessary.

We won't try to scientifically discern why the number of reported rapes declined in the first years of the 21st century. We think at least a couple of factors you won't hear the talking heads discuss could be involved. There was tremendous real unemployment and underemployment in the years after the 2008 stock market crash and women felt this disproportionately. There was a great increase for at least the first few years in

the exploitation of employed labor, led by 'givebacks' by unions and spreading across the class as a whole. This created a scared psychology in all those who had to step over the homeless on their way to work or even just see them out the window of the bus. Who was going to report their boss to the authorities under these conditions? Where many shop stewards--if you have a union!-- are far from militant and where the authorities and their laws are no help if you can't afford top legal talent. Sexism has new clothes in the ideological projects of the MAWA right... Consider, for instance, Betsy DeVos' claims on campus rape and consider how fraternities and football teams typically get a free pass. Could it be the activism of the women on campuses is responsible for the uptick in rape reports nationally in 2017?...Rape and rapists are being outed in many settings (Art, forums, support groups.)

Politicians are especially anxious to get this episode over with, even as they echo the "Me Too" cries of 'no going back.' Every political director in the AFL-CIO knows that one reason you go into politics is to be able to keep a 'bimbo' in the state or federal capitol, and getting caught trying to turn a page or aide into one is suddenly not protected. How inconveniently unpleasant! If you're a Democrat, you have to quit now. If you are a Trumpster, you keep up your denials, or you just don't run next November. In either party's case, we recommend the Dan Johnson example. Save the rest of us a headache. And the expense of the hush money payoffs from the taxpayers' treasury, the total of which we don't get to hear.

Consider the women who came out at last around the acts of Bill O'Reilly, Bill Cosby, Harvey Weinstein, et.al., how the power relation, psychological factors and economic incentives kept them from reporting. Stonewalling at the very top also covers for the many accused in Trump's own camp, beginning with Ayles and O'Reilly, while attempting to take law completely out of the social equation by fostering the idea that the guilty are and can only be those who have confessed. We reject all this. It is a transparent veneer for vote calculations for their holy grail, the proposed slashing of the bosses' taxes. The two parties pretend there are pro and con sides on this question

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but this is only about apportioning blame after it is an accomplished fact. Female heads of households whose earnings rank them in the bottom two of the proposed tax brackets will discover how large a gift they will be required to make to the capitalist class and its government. Merry Xmas!

Planter Scamps Highfalutin' and Low

We believe the women. We also believe America's most famous gay historian, Gore Vidal, who said we have a one party government with two right wings. Women are under attack from both sides; the Democrat Franken groped from the left and the Trumpster gropes them from the right. The TV personality and icon of southern liberal gentility, Charlie Rose has at latest count the same number of female accusers of his sexual peccadilloes as the MAWA Judge Roy Moore of the nickel plated belly gun and autobahn style cowboy hat. Among misogynists the latter has the edge, having picked up a 14-year-old when he was 32, something his lawyer tried to palm off on MSNBC on "Velshi and Ruhle" as culturally acceptable in Alabama. We think this is nonsense, as evidenced by the thunder of the #MeToo speakout on Twitter! Moore was rejected much more than Doug Jones was elected and Black women get the deserved credit. But women will get no place with the bourgeois state, no place in 2018, 2020 or ever. Capital's suits have made plain that they considers reforms fiscally unaffordable and undesirable as a matter of philosophy. Until we have a fighting workers Labor Party scaring the wits out of these old white millionaires.

The Boom in Fraud

The triumphalism of the capitalist "representatives" of Trump's party on the White House lawn celebrating the passage of the robber baron tax law continues on Wall Street in complete defiance of economic "fundamentals." Employment is trending down over the last 3 years in absolute numbers of workers. The low official unemployment figure quoted every month is an increasing undercount and it is not arcana but the finding of the January 5th "Current Employment Statistics Survey." Talking heads on "news" TV stations ask whether Team Trump will proffer their "infrastructure" plan next. But after increasing the national debt by \$1.5 trillion with one supersize signature, the ques-

tion is how they would pay for a trillion dollar infrastructure plan. The answer is pure Hitler, minus the Volkswagens (without a new war drive manufacturing is not coming back, no matter what Wal-Mart says they will invest in.) They are out to swipe your "entitlements," such as Medicare and Social Security, and you can quote Paul Ryan on that. The Democrat "resistance" to this is a fake. They contend they do not have the votes to prevent the grab and therefore there is nothing that can be done until they do have them. That means consigning the masses to whatever fate the MAWAs and allies have in store for us for another year. In the meantime the Democrats have stifled impeachment talk in their own ranks.

Of course the lawmakers have sufficient evidence to impeach Trump and Pence now. What they would rather do is get elected in November and to the exclusion of any other consideration. And into this insanity-- as plausibly defined by all 12-step programs as continuing to do the same and expecting different results-- Chelsea Manning, once the sole Iraq War hero, now goes wrong and announces she will contest the Maryland Democratic primary. This class collaboration is how the planet runs out of time! A fighting workers labor party would be organizing strikes, sit down strikes, rolling strikes and general strikes against both the plans of this bosses' "administration" and its continued existence!

Touting the lowest unemployment rate since 98-2001, the ruling class apologists and talking heads on PBS, MSNBC and FOX never tell you 30% of the US workforce would not survive but for the public assistance. [The national center for child poverty](#) reports, "...about 15 million children in the United States – 21% of all children – live in families with incomes below the [federal poverty threshold](#), a measurement that has been shown to underestimate the [needs of families](#). Research shows that, on average, families need an income of about twice that level to cover basic expenses. Using this standard, 43% of children live in low-income families." (see National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) at <http://www.nccp.org/topics/childpoverty.html>)

A new theme of the rightists, a fake "populism" feature, is championing your wages(!) They blame the presence of immigrants for 40 years of wage stagnation.

Their solution is mass deportations and a border wall, while claiming their tax law will bring back factories and investments in job growth. This is racist hysterical nonsense and looney tune economics! Wages have been flat because U.S. labor leadership, tied to the Democrats has not allowed the U.S. working class to fight the kind of battles that are needed to win the money! Investment is down because Capital finds hedge funds (speculating on your debt) more profitable than the production of use values. We have a labor leadership that has surrendered to the wages system. Wage earners should not be sold cheap for the few pennies of tax relief, if any. Any savings will go out like the tide to utilities and medical providers, while those on Medicaid will find they have to work for their benefits, irrespective of their health!



Ahed did not begin speaking her mind yesterday. Here she is at age 12 .

The fearless youth is now an international symbol of unrepentant humanity.

We support the international effort to free the Palestinian teenager Ahed Tamimi!

Free all Palestinian Prisoners!

Ahed is marked as an enemy of the Zionist state for having slapped an armed IDF occupation trooper right in front of her house in the West Bank village of Nabi Saleh! We pledge to never be desensitized to the routinization of the racist crimes of the Zionist occupation. The eloquent plea of her kid sister, the arrest of her cousin Noor and the vicious rubber bullet head wound to their cousin Mohammed, makes one tale of horror compounded by the arrest of Ahed's mother, a U.S. national charged with breeding murderers in the vituperations of the Zionist press.

Citizens? Don't Make Me Laugh! Capital Kicks Puerto Rico When it's Down

We call for independence for Puerto Rico.

The island nation could scarcely do worse “on its own” than as a colony/dependency of the U.S. ruling capitalist class. The historical position of the socialist revolution on colonies is that the question whether an oppressed nation should strike out on its own is a question for the oppressed nationals to decide. Yet history has shown that every colony that takes the capitalist road to independence ends up subordinated to imperialism. The colonial treatment of Puerto Rico again poses the question of Permanent Revolution. Puerto Ricans must decide the question. Will they fight for an independent socialist Puerto Rico, with or without joint action with workers on the continent and across the Caribbean?

The majority of Puerto Rican workers reside in the continental U.S., but they too will have to decide whether the racist treatment they suffer as a matter of ruling class ideology is too much to bear, or whether they will cast their fate with the mainland working class. The racism inflicted upon Puerto Ricans, ---in light of Trump's recent remarks about “shit-hole countries” and his repeated remarks made while playing with his balls at his golf course that “Puerto Ricans are lazy and want everything done for them” and that they brought the calamity on themselves--- clearly is both bourgeois ideology and colonial oppression. Readers should note that Puerto Ricans living on the island cannot vote for the President of the U.S.A, and have only non-voting representatives (!) and no senators. Their “citizenship” does not fundamentally differ from the status of the colonials of Guam, the Marianas Islands or the Virgin Islanders. For the vanguard workers, this question was settled long ago, ---even before the 1950 uprising for independence---and we stand with them!

The life of the industrial working class has been disrupted to the point of dislocation. We can cite many examples but think one will illuminate the gravity: Puerto Rico is one of the only sources for the production of intravenous saline fluid. The disruption of the pharmaceutical



Photo: Andres Kudacki for TIME

and medical supply industry caused by the effects of the hurricanes has resulted in a shortage on the mainland now of this critical medical supply.

Dr. Rita Jew, director of pharmacy at the University of California San Francisco's Mission Bay hospital, speaking of the post-hurricanes supply situation stated *“It really doesn't speak very well to our healthcare system at this point. A lot of people are referring to this like it's almost like we're in a third world country, and there's some truth to that. These are basic supplies that we have taken for granted. It's kind of like we're rationing water in the US.”*

You can bet a planned economy of a workers state would be throwing massive resources to rebuild Puerto Rico as well as the rest of the Caribbean that was devastated. We would understand interdependence and produce for use, not profit. Likewise, the anarchy of production of capitalism, where private capitals produce only what they can make a killing on, will be made a thing of the past.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/jan/10/hurricane-maria-puerto-rico-iv-bag-shortage-hospitals>

And this!!!....,

<https://theintercept.com/2018/01/10/puerto-rico-electricity-prepa-hurricane-maria/>

It is hard to decide what was the most offensive of the insulting responses to this

disaster. When Secretary Zinke picked an electrical contractor from his home town with TWO employees to restore the electric power service in Puerto Rico, some idea of the ruling class racism can be fathomed. The insulting response of the U.S. to the two hurricanes emergency reveals how Puerto Rico is principally a base for naval forces to project into the Atlantic and Caribbean sea lanes, as planned in the 19th century by Admiral Mahan. The lives of the masses, in peacetime especially, have not mattered much to the Anglo bourgeoisie except as a cheap labor and tax haven paradise, and they certainly revealed themselves this time.

So far, during the entirety of the 21st century, Wall Street hedge fund managers have been robbing the country, enslaving the population by saddling them with impossible compounding interest based debts (~\$12k per inhabitant). The staggering PROMESA (Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act) enforces an austerity regime to wring the payments (\$70B) out of the island's life. Already plagued with a 45% poverty rate and 12.4% unemployment, insufficient infrastructure, damaged for-profit healthcare and environmental contamination from military and industry, then global warming went to work this year with a vengeance. After two hurricanes smashed the island most of the way back to a 19th century existence, Donald Trump flew in, tossed rolls of paper towels at the locals and congratulated the federal emergency suits who were busy

Cont. from pg. 4 Puerto Rico....

partying in San Juan. Four months later and the power is not restored to 40% of the population, with many who have service not on the grid at all, but surviving with generator power.

We say the Leninist criteria for nationhood are met and surpassed and beyond dispute. Irrespective of the question of nationality, union sisters and brothers stateside rallied aid and planeloads of able tradespersons and medical bodies to put roofs on gutted homes, clear roads, vaccinate, distribute water, set up generators and feed the hungry and isolated. What they discovered were unreported deaths by the hundreds, buried in backyards, while still others died in remote hospitals and clinics for lack of prescription meds or refrigeration of them, and some died for want of air conditioning. You would not learn much about what they found from the national leaderships of the AFL-CIO and Change To Win, however. This is already old news for them.

Bosses and U.S. politicians quickly made problems of themselves, as they typically do. There were renewed calls for the abolition of the Jones Act of 1920, and the lemmings of many U.S. "left" groups took up the repeal cry. Senator John McCain, the ancient "tailhook" has been sponsoring a Jones repeal for some time and the Koch Bros. had sponsored a University of Puerto Rico study which claimed the law's requirement to ship goods between U.S. ports on U.S. flagged vessels (cabotage) drives up prices of necessities on the island. **This was proven false** by the rival and factual study commissioned by the Seafarers International Union (SIU). In complete contradiction of the Koch Bros., the Association of Building Contractors and the American Legislative Exchange Council's claims that the unions are wrecking the recovery efforts and profiting from it (!), the SIU showed that the attack on the Jones Act is a cover for price gouging on the island! Naturally a free Puerto Rico would decide its own trade policies and laws. But in the real obtaining present, to abolish the Jones Act is to do NOTHING for Puerto Rican independence while attacking the Seafarers International Union sailors. Bourgeois politicians of both parties, including the Mayor of San Juan, always find ways to attack the union move-

ment. Shame on ostensible socialists for this obtuseness in service of the class enemy!

Human faces, human costs

Over 5 million Puerto Ricans are estimated to be living in the continental United States, including NYC, Florida, Philly, New Haven, and Chicago. They work in critical industries such as transportation as well as in civil sectors, hospitals and universities. While suffering declining rates of unionization, Puerto Ricans are concentrated in key unions such as the Transport Workers Union (TWU) and the hospital workers of Local 1199. These workers are a link for joint class struggle between the United States working class and the militant Puerto Rican labor movement, which launched a general strike in 1998 against privatization as well as in May of 2017 against austerity and the crushing debt. A revolutionary workers party would marshal these workers for an all-out offensive leading from recovery concerns and immediate needs of today and wage catch-up, battles for full employment and socialized medicine, through sit down strikes and factory occupations and nationalizations under workers control and self-management preparatory to the conquest of all political power by the working class!

It is in the interest of the U.S. working class to defend Puerto Rico's right to self-determination and to support the independence movement. It is the duty of the vanguard workers to explain how there is no progressive capitalist path out of the crisis and that only a socialist Puerto Rico united in a Socialist Federation of Caribbean nations can break free from exploitation by imperialism. Who will cancel the debt? What party can deliver jobs for all, education, an environmental clean-up and quality socialized healthcare? Puerto Rico needs its own revolutionary workers party, a Puerto Rican section of the new world party of Socialist Revolution required to save the human species from proxy and inter-imperialist wars, pollution and starvation.

What does U.S. democracy have to offer its colonies? Representatives that can't vote and Governors that can't govern. In discussions leading up to his formulation of the Transitional Program, Trotsky questioned whether even the U.S. ruling class could afford bourgeois democracy.

Then as now the answer was no democracy so far as Puerto Rico is concerned, and thus we raise the call for the organization of Workers Councils and a national congress of them to decide every matter of Puerto Rican national life. To deliver all political power to the workers councils' government, a nationwide workers militia needs to be formed, with training provided by veterans and leaders elected by the worker ranks.

Down with PROMESA! Smash the hedge funds--Cancel the debt!

Remedial Reparations! Billions in Federal Dollars for restoration now!

Puerto Ricans must decide their own national fate!

Repeal the "Compact of Permanent Union"!

U.S. Military and Federal Police off the island!

Down with the Wal-Martization of the economy!

For workers councils and a workers self managed, planned development!

For a national congress of workers councils! For workers control of wages and prices! Build unions and factory/shop floor and neighborhood wage and price committees!

Jobs for All! 30 hours work for forty hours pay! Free quality education and health care for all! Nationalize the super-exploiter bosses, big pharma, big oil, big box without compensation and under workers' control!

For a revolutionary workers party based upon the program and method of Trotsky's Transitional Program! For a new workers international! For united class struggle across the Caribbean, throughout the Americas!

For a workers and farmers government! For a Socialist Federation of the Caribbean!

For world socialism!

For New October Revolutions!

The following is reprinted from our comrades of the Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-ZIM).

This leaflet was distributed at the "Marxism 2017 Conference, Crisis in Zimbabwe and Global Capitalism One Solution – Revolution Celebrating 100 years of the Great October 1917 Russian Revolution" held November 4th in Zimbabwe organized by the International Socialist Organization – Zimbabwe and other left and radical movements and unions:

1) World imperialism is facing its terminal crisis of falling profits and climate change. There is no way out for the human race other than the overthrow of global capitalism and creation of world socialism. For that reason workers and oppressed in every country have to subordinate their national struggles to the international workers' struggle.

2) For imperialism to survive it downloads its crisis onto the semi-colonies and the oppressed people of the earth. All of the hardships faced by the masses are caused by the degeneration of a rotten capitalist system that no longer develops, but rather destroys, the forces of production.

3) Africa demonstrates how the world is being re-partitioned between Chinese imperialists on the rise and the US/EU imperialists on the decline. China (and Russia) are not friends of Africa but the new colonial powers. They prop up the anti-worker regimes as their agents in pumping out raw materials and surplus value from Africa. They send capitalist enterprises to Africa to build infrastructure projects primarily to support extraction of raw materials and staff these enterprises with expat construction workers, engineers, doctors and support staff. Promoted as 'win-win' deals and in Marxist terms "Use Value" exchanges the outcome perpetuates the stunted industrialisation and parasitic underdevelopment model western imperialism practices, with a smile.

4) Zimbabwe is one of the most oppressed semi-colonies. Its crisis is the downloading of China's crisis. It is investing in infrastructure, cancelling loans and bailing out the regime to

hold down the people while it extracts minerals (diamonds), crops (tobacco) and cheap labour etc. "At present the only policy document is Zim-Asset, which covers all areas, but without specific prioritisation. Zim-Asset requires an estimated US\$28 billion, which is not available." (June 29 2016 The Herald) In contrast the \$4b promise of Chinese FDI will not afford Zimbabwe a breakthrough to a "modern development." It will afford a continuation of the current Chinese extraction model, building infrastructure to aid extraction of resources. The \$4b for Agricultural development is intended to double tobacco exports and replicate the tobacco model to grow soy, cotton, and livestock products for export. Trading western imperialism for eastern imperialism leaves Africa undeveloped.



5) Workers and the oppressed must organise to fight back and refuse to pay the costs of the imperialists' crisis. Spontaneous fightbacks must be coordinated and organised by the rank and file in the unions, nationally and regionally, and on the streets and in the schools to defend the masses from economic exploitation and state repression. Workers and the poor masses should not wait for elections to be held next year. The issues of factions in the ruling party and coalitions in the opposition are just machinations of imperialism in search of a better way of controlling the masses. For this a mass workers party, and other popular organisations such as workers councils and workers self-defence squads are necessary.

6) A mass workers party has to be independent of the imperialists, the compradors and the middle class. It can only do this by building an internationalist revolutionary workers party on the Bolshevik model. 1917 and the lessons of October prove this. Unless workers defeat the class enemy within

the workers organisations there can be no class independence. These lessons must be translated to the Southern African situation.

7) The Bolshevik party activates a transitional program that develops revolutionary consciousness by raising immediate demands necessary for living, food, housing, health, education, continuing to advance the struggle for maximum demands for the defeat of imperialism, its comprador client regime in Zimbabwe, and for the formation of a workers' and small farmers' Government, i.e. permanent revolution. True national independence can only be achieved by the spread of workers revolution across the Southern cone and the formation of a federation of socialist workers states of Southern Africa taking the road of the October revolution.

8) A Workers' and small farmers' Government is necessary to socialise the means of production and create a socialist plan to rebuild the economy on the basis of workers democratic control in industry, agriculture, transport, finance etc. Only by this means can the working people take control of and develop the economy to meet their basic needs.

9) Zimbabwe cannot succeed as a socialist republic within one country and must join forces with all Southern African states and a wider union of African socialist republics to create a new division of labour for development. For that reason in every country international solidarity is forged by the formation of a revolutionary international party as the general staff to lead the revolution and defeat all the imperialist general staffs.

10) A union of African socialist republics as part of a global federation of socialist republics is necessary to overcome national divisions, to unite and defend the world revolution, end mass poverty, oppression and the collapse of the ecosystem, and to save humanity and nature.

[Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe \(RWG-ZIM\)](#)

Cont. from pg. 1 Catalunya

the 1917 Catalan general strike against the Moroccan war and the draft as our starting point of historical convenience.)

In dialectics we employ affirmations, negations and negations of negations, both positive and negative. Mention dialectics, never mind performing their investigations and mental exercises, and you'll throw the anti-program and anti-party fake left into rages and anti-democratic maneuvers. As workers the world over begin in uneven ways to radicalize again, the fake left gets more desperate to keep consideration of the revolutionary program of the working class and what its organizational requirements are out of discussion and out of view.

Still other forces, nominal champions of the workers, seeing the radicalization such as has mushroomed again in Catalunya, prescribe programs revealing how little they understand revolutionary dynamics and how little heed they have paid our heroes, the most essential leaders of the Bolshevik revolution, Lenin and Trotsky. And we have met such fakers telling workers dialectics is hocus-pocus you will never understand. We will explain ourselves right now!

Recently a leading light of the Lambertists in the U.S., i.e. Socialist Organizer (their minimalism is the definition of objectivism itself; for them the class is not subjectively revolutionary so the minimal program reigns in the mass movement until the consciousness develops), castigated an opponent as coming from "the bizarro world of dialectics." Even that bunch would not argue with Engels that dialectics exist in nature, irrespective of human agency or approval. But we will argue that human agency is necessary to stop human destruction of nature! If nature is not to have the last laugh on humankind, the revolutionary program and party are the necessity the dialectic calls for. At their World Congress this fall the [Lambertists](#) greeted the Catalan Republic as a fact resulting from mass consciousness. Thus we get the following reassuring brilliance from these erstwhile Trotskyists...



Photo: Liz Castro @ Wikimedia Commons

"We are confident of the fact that the result of 1 October, which affirmed the reality of the Republic in Catalonia, will – regardless of events – continue to represent a first step that will be followed by others.

We are confident of the capacity of the workers and youth, in Catalonia and in every region of Spain, to find the path to organising, which will allow them to assert their rights."

The Spain of the Bourbons and what's left of their empire, the Spain of the Castilian language, Francoism and fascists past and present, the Spain of a multinational capitalist bourgeoisie and their political parties, their 1978 Constitution and their Social-Democratic and Eurocommunist conciliators, this Spain is negating Catalunya's national-democratic right to self-determination. This is a right that is a component part of the bourgeois revolution, such as other, richer nations carried out in centuries past, before the imperialist epoch.

The Catalanian masses are again rising to attempt to throw off the Madrid yoke. But so far their chances are no better than in past risings. Their dilemma of dilemmas is the question of which class can successfully lead them across the finish line. At the moment their regional parliament, the Generalidad, has been suspended by order of the Cortes and direct rule imposed under Article 155 of the 1978 Constitution, after Barcelona declared independence. Eight Ministers of the Generalidad are in jail and

President Puigdemont is in Brussels, having been placed under arrest while attempting to win support for the national project from European Union suits who have already made plain they are not in favor. Not incidentally, neither are either the ins or the outs of the U.S. ruling class regime. U.S. liberals tell us that Putin supports Catalan independence (Kurdish, Texan and Californian independence too.) This just tells us Putin's mob is not making any money in Catalunya. We demand the immediate release of ALL

Catalan political prisoners, irrespective of party. Madrid is jailing people for their ideas! We must not let this pass. After the election of 12/21 we find the situation almost exactly as before: the independence coalition of parties has 70 of the 135 seats and King Felipe VI is rejecting anything but unity and rejecting the indicted Puigdemont's call for talks. The ministers are still in jail.

Breaking Away From Failure Mode

Trotsky's Transitional Program of 1938 includes organs of workers democracy across working class society and lays out the revolutionary tasks of each type of committee of the workers councils (Soviets.) None of these are mentioned by our opponents! Workers democracy was the beacon of the Paris Commune and is what we celebrate. The Petrograd Soviet, with all its proletarian committees embracing the life of the whole class is what we celebrate. And the 1917 Military Revolutionary Committee delivered All Power to the Congress of Soviets, not to any multi-class obstacle of bourgeois democracy. We marked that centenary in November. We are not calling for power to Puigdemont, who can't have it and wouldn't keep it if he got it, another lesson of 1917.

Instead of the fight for class-political, workers' independent organs we got a Constituent Assembly (hereafter CA) demand from the ardent "Jacobins", the un-reconstructed "ex"-Morenoites of

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the FLTI--- before the repression or the plebiscite vote! This is not Trotskyism or Leninism but Mao/Stalin “revolution,” revolution that ties the proletarians to the national bourgeoisie. When what are called for are the independent organizations of class-political self-expression of the working class as a whole, these “Jacobins” offer another multiclass ‘democratic’ barricade in the revolution’s path.

If your intention is to fall into Puigdemont’s PdeCAT trap the CA is the place, but communists’ task is to clarify class lines--that is done on the streets and barricades and by building soviets. Let the petty bourgeois call for a CA as a halfway house, but let them expose themselves when like in 1917 the fakers always try to steer the masses into the CA. To activate the transitional demands we have to call for workers independent soviets/councils, workers militias, and for all power to these organs as the foundation for a workers state. So far, the masses have not been demobilized by the Civil Guard repression and direct rule and so it is still incorrect to call for a CA, and so is the other “dialog” trap proposed by bourgeois reformism. In a situation where the masses take the streets demanding the release of all political prisoners, we see more confrontation than consciousness. Here a revolutionary party might have contested Rajoy’s December elections, depending on the tempo of struggle and psychology of the masses, but in the party’s absence an abstention campaign that popularizes the program of such a party is what is called for. The misapplication of the CA demand by the FLTI is a Morenoist style error. As many times as Moreno invoked a CA as a cure-all, the RCIT error is now worse, on the order of methodological in their recent Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa, where they call for Constituent Assemblies in every country!

We see the RCIT (Revolutionary Communist Internationalist Tendency) making the same error: consider in Catalunya....,

“The mass movement must control its leaders so that they implement the will of the people and that they not betray or undermine the liberation

struggle! The leaders of ERC, CUP, ANC, Omnium Cultural (footnote) and other mass organizations should be pushed to organize the popular resistance which must focus not on parliamentary games but on the resistance on the streets and the workplaces.”

“In our opinion, the strategic goal of the struggle should be to prepare for a popular uprising to defeat the Article 155 regime and to drive out the occupation forces of the Spanish state! For a revolutionary Assemblée Constituent (Constituent Assembly) to elaborate the constitution for the República Catalana! The RCIT is convinced that the perspective of the independence struggle should be the formation of a República Obrera Catalana (Catalan Workers Republic) as well as the creation of an Iberian Socialist Federation and the United Socialist States of Europe!” [1]

AND... This class agnosticism is what they call a socialist program!...

“The RCIT calls all authentic revolutionaries to join us in the struggle for a Catalan Workers Republic and a socialist program!

*Larga vida a la República Catalana!
Long live the Catalan Republic!*

Build the CDR as popular councils of action! For a congress of delegates of all mass organizations to coordinate the resistance!

Build self-defense units against the Guardia Civil thugs!

Organize a general strike!

Prepare for a popular uprising against the threat of foreign occupation by the Spanish state!

For a Revolutionary Constituent Assembly!

For a República Obrera Catalana (Catalan Workers Republic) For a Socialist Iberian Federation! For the United Socialist States of Europe!” [1]

Here we see the RCIT at their typical game. They call for the revolutionary party in passing, but their real obsession is the convocation of a CA. Now a CA can be a good thing to convene when the mass movement must make a retreat under repression: it can make a great stand for democratic rights in the court of world opinion. But it is not an item on any mandatory equipment list of the socialist revolution irrespective of the state of the struggle!

If this were not bad enough, look at the above citations and see what they would have militants do! Are they calling for a fight for dual power, self-organized workers’ revolutionary organs? Apart for the call for arming the Committees for the Defense of the Referendum, what is it the RCIT wants to come out of the General strike movement? To fight Article 155 by putting pressure on semi-social democratic nationalist electoral parties and cultural organizations!!!? This is a class agnostic approach!!! What does the Transitional Program of 1938 say is the urgent task? Not to pressure the rotten, legalist and Castilian chauvinist leaders of the CO and UGT union federations, but to recall them, replacing them with ever more militant layers of young workers!!! The task is to organize the entire working class to seize power, including the layers that inevitably escape representation by trade unions, into workers councils, not to pressure popular mass organizations whose leaders sometimes emit independence sentiments!

Another Hydra head gets this wrong--no surprise!

Getting Permanent Revolution wrong, the ICL (the Spartacists) quote from Trotsky’s History of the Russian Revolution. What they use is applicable to an underdeveloped country such as Russia was in 1917, and shows they don’t really know which class’ revolution they want this to be.

“In order to achieve liberation and a cultural lift, the oppressed nationalities were compelled to link their fate with that of the working class. And for this they

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had to free themselves from the leadership of their own bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties—they had to make a long spurt forward, that is, on the road of historic development.”—The History of the Russian Revolution (1932)

It is the working class who are oppressed. Catalunya has a mass working class majority. Cultural development of the workers or any other Catalan social class is not the problem. **Seizing the industries is! The ICL provides no programmatic guidance whatsoever. Where is the propaganda for sit-down strikes? Where is the call for soviets and all their component committees? For armed pickets and their training and centralization as workers defense guards? To write that your tendency upholds Leninist-Trotskyist tradition and forget to suggest what workers need to do is dilettantism! To call for national self-determination and the socialist revolution without the bridge of transitional demands is to embrace the failed social-democratic min/max methodology (see WV nos. 1119 and 1121). There never would have been a history of the Russian revolution without a transitional program, popularized among the masses by Bolsheviks.**

The mis-named Spartacists, long known for dismissing national liberation as an especial task of the revolutionary movement, have lately staged a “Back to Robertson!” shakeup on the question of their orientation to the right of nations to self-determination. So far we are still supremely suspicious of what this will mean in practice from those who could get this question so wrong on so many continents and in their own imperialist backyard too.

Lenin and Trotsky understood the national question contains a basic contradiction it is up to the workers’ international revolutionary party to solve. On the one hand the workers of the oppressor nations, Spain in the first place, but also France and all of the E.U. countries, have to come to realize that their own class interests are tied up indissolubly--by the modern world market--with the working masses of Catalunya. And this means the solidarity of the oppressor nations’ workers with the Catalans’ is required

for success of their own struggles. Then in the course of the national struggle the Catalan workers, assured of this internationalist solidarity, will come to see the bigger picture, the necessity for the world socialist revolution and their important, if subordinate part in it. This may seem to be “ABC” to Marxist intellectuals conversant with writings of Lenin and Trotsky, but tendencies who have worker members on the continent need to show us they are making the effort to make this consciousness replicate itself in our social class. We don’t see or hear of it yet. This is a question that qualifies or disqualifies revolutionaries!

Lenin says in *What Is To Be Done* that the Social Democrats fight the “possibilists,” not cave in to their notion of what is practicable but raise the masses’ demands irrespective of practicability in the immediate present. Here we see LCT (Argentina) being schematic, taking the opposition to nationalism out to lunch and opposing raising the demand for independence **at all**. [2] They say “No To Independence!”

Dialectics again: Not bizarre but natural...

No national bourgeoisie can do otherwise than negate national liberation in the epoch of imperialism. The Catalan national bourgeoisie themselves, through their parliamentary parties and political agents will negatively negate Catalan national liberation, itself the negation of Madrid’s negation of Catalunya’s right to self-determination. They lead the masses-- into the arms of the police, of Madrid, Maastricht, and NATO. They have already begun to do so, even as Madrid jails their leaders momentarily. Thus, militant workers do not see their false colors yet and are mostly not helped by the national chauvinism of their class sisters and brothers elsewhere in Iberia or Europe.

We are in favor of a complete break with the bourgeois nationalists because they are already helpless and will leave the working class vulnerable to the fascists. What’s more, any possible “independence” strategy of the capitalists will now already require the support of either a far more powerful capitalist country (as Puigdemont sought from Brussels) or that of a major imperialist power who will expect never-ending

returns on investment. AND in the imperialist epoch that began with World War One there is ZERO CHANCE of a peaceful separation a la Norway’s separation from Sweden in 1903. That is the historical record, not a theoretical abstraction. The historical record shows the total validity of our theory, Permanent Revolution. As matters stand, without the working class armed and organized in its own historic interests, the Catalan bourgeoisie stands ready to shed the workers’ blood to get their income taxes reduced or more favorable contacts to spend them. For the average worker, that’s no deal at all.

The traditional mass parties of the workers movement in Iberia, the PSOE and PCE, i.e. the social democrats and Eurocommunists, are no help at all, showing no sign of support for the indisputably mass movement. What law attaches them to their shameful adherence to the Constitution they supported alongside the Franco Falangistas in 1978? Twenty-first century Kautskyism does nothing and will do nothing to achieve socialism, while the ex-Stalinists’ reversion to Menshevik politics tells the Catalans that the time is not yet ripe and/or now is not the time. Not time they say for Catalan independence, not time for workers republics anywhere and not even time for the fall of the monarchy, forgetting what they said in 1931 when “Narisota” (Alfonso XIII) was driven into exile! With Trotsky, speaking of our epoch and referring to the entire planet we say the time and the conditions are ripe and even overripe! So says the [Transitional Program](#).

If Catalans would be so fortunate as to achieve a mere juridical independence from the Bourbons of Madrid, a prospect at all times unlikely! without mass working class independent political struggle against all your bosses, you will find that this legislative independence declaration by the politicians of your local/national bourgeoisie puts nothing in your pay envelope. You will find you are still fighting the same bosses whether Catalan or Castilian. You will be fighting the demands of French and German banks who do not wish your independence project well. The EU prefers the armed might of Madrid do the dirty work of compelling/acquiring and channeling, from the relative wealth

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of the Catalan recovery, funds to cover the debts created by the 2008 world recession. Since Madrid has been coming up with its bailout payments to the banks, they will expect the same from an independent capitalist Catalonia. If you leave the task of national self-determination in the hands of the Catalan bourgeoisie you will be counting the days before Madrid employs the fascists to destroy all your gains and organs of struggle. Only worker's self-management in planning the economy and fighting for international socialism will provide an escape from this trap.

The ruling class remembers (100 years on) that national self-determination in the age of imperialism is posed on the streets as a class question; which, in order to resolve the contradictions which gave it rise-- how they tried to negate the national program before it became internationalist and socialist, replacing the legislative, parliament and constituent assembly dodges with the dictatorship of the democratic workers assemblies, which wield both legislative and executive power executed by the workers organs themselves. The memory of October 1917 still haunts the ruling class. They fear the Catalan masses because they know consciousness is mutable and that today's unfulfillable dream of economic salvation via capitalist self-determination can quickly turn into revolutionary proletarian political socialist consciousness--and they know that type of consciousness spreads with action across national boundaries, negating the capitalist's states.

We think Podemos' position of 'neither independence nor article 155' is ridiculous....The question history has always asked of Podemos was whether they were going to learn the lesson of the Greek experience and solve the problem of how to lead the masses to power. PODEMOS was supposed to be the expression of the "Indignados", the Iberian oppressed. Podemos is now displaying for all the world to see how little they understand the condition of the oppressed masses or how to get out from under it...they proffer a dare nothing program when class political independence is the only way out.... They have become the Spanish state's imperialist left. They bury the class

contradiction the moment history calls on them to illuminate it! They maintain the illusion that it is somehow desirable to enter halfway house traps short of the socialist revolution.

We are not nationalists and we champion a free association of Iberian Socialist Republics. We know there are only ten roads through the Pyrenees to Europe. So when the right to independence for Catalunya has been truly realized then the Socialist federation of Iberian republics will be able to work in a qualitatively greater collaboration than at any moment in the history of the Brussels Europe. The Federation can carry out the plan to achieve democratic equality, supersede it and meet the Marxist goal *From Each According to their Ability, to Each According to their Needs* in ways the bourgeois leaders never dare dream of.

Now they are facing a pre-revolutionary situation the moment the workers set out on the class independent path and however it manifests itself at the beginning. This government in Madrid will try in every way to smash the deal Poder Popular and the Monarchy, with the acquiescence of the PCE and PSOE, struck in 1978 to recognize the 1939 victory of the fascists. They are old hands at imperialist leftism.

The Catalans know the fascists are still there as a political force aimed at themselves, the Basques and Galicians and every state in the western NATO bloc has come out against Catalan independence. Liberalism in the USA as represented by MSNBC has fixated on Putin's support for Catalan independence as part of a plan for the disintegration of the US bloc (they say this about his support for Brexit, for an independent Kurdistan, etc., with never a thought to the validity of ANY national grievance!)...but Catalans don't have to think about this just because people in Washington (out of power) have the Trump-Putin 'Bromance' on their minds, and for the moment the US leaders are preoccupied with their own anti- DPRK hysteria, so this issue will be left to Brussels and Madrid so long as they can use the small relative uptick of the Spanish economy for collection purposes on the bailout funds the IMF Eurogroup extended to Madrid in 2012.

Just like the PSOE and the Eurocommunists, Podemos is committed to making the payments and we think the Catalan National bourgeoisie will go on making the payments too, and these will come out of the workers pockets.

We say Podemos has turned out worse than and is even a laughable new left fun house mirror version of SYRIZA, but the anarchist CGT leadership in Catalunya is hardly any better. They support one day general strikes they do not organize (they've called for them before), and they tell their members to search their own consciences as to whether to walk out, after receiving the legal blessing of the Spanish Superior Court in Catalonia. They have expressed themselves as against nationalism, which is well enough, but anyone can see they will not break with their Madrid fellow bureaucrats of the CO and UGT. The CNT leadership, likewise gives off militant rhetoric but did not condone the Nov. 8th strike. They left it up to their affiliates. These are not unions controlled by the rank-and-file, and this control is the battleground before our social class, i.e., to remove and replace the "labor lieutenants of Capital," to use the apt phrase of De Leon.

Madrid has suspended the Generalidad. Workers are you going to miss the Catalan Parliament? Composed as it was of the representatives of the Catalan capitalist ruling class which itself is not an oppressed class. Indeed it is the exploiter class of the Catalan workers and migrants from the rest of Iberia and plays hand in hand with the bankers of Paris, Brussels and Berlin(?) Now you are back where you were last summer!

Madrid is wrong in shutting down the Catalan Parliament, but as nominal 'democrats' they're wrong attacking the right of nations to self-determination too. What we have to ask the workers is what has this parliament ever done for you? We say the workers should constitute their own mass assemblies that put their own stamp on the struggle for national liberation. To win, the workers must make the revolution permanent. The national revolution can only be completed by the workers revolution which itself negates national borders as proletarian internationalism and

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CNT workers in Barcelona during the Spanish Revolution

worker's control spreads internationally, i.e., a pan-Iberian revolution as part of a revolution for a socialist united states of Europe!.

Free all arrested protesters and voters.

Down with Madrid's Repression in Catalonia!

Defend the right to self-determination of Euzkadi and Galicia!

Smash the 1978 deal! Down with the Monarchy!

Defend immigrant rights! No human is illegal!

Defeat Article 155 in the factories, the ports, airports and streets!

Build a new international revolutionary party of the workers and oppressed to fight for world socialism, the last, best and only hope for humanity!

Build the factory committees!

Build the workers assemblies and workers defense guards!

Prepare the revolutionary general strike!

Cancel the debt!

30 hours work for 40 hours pay!

Free tuition and open admission to all educational institutions!

Free dental care as part of socialized medicine!

For a sliding scale of wages and prices!

Fight for Pan Iberian working class united actions, for a pan-Iberian revolution!

Nationalize without compensation and put under workers control the commanding heights of the economy: industrial and finance capital, arms, metallurgica, autos, trains..., all large enterprises regardless of 'ownership'!

Abrogate secret Spanish treaties, publish them and quit NATO now!

For a revolutionary workers government based on a workers militia and workers councils! For a socialist United States of Europe!

[1]
<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/long-live-the-catalan-republic/>

<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/collection-of-articles-on-catalunya-s-independence-struggle/>

<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/big-decision-for-catalonia/>

[2]
<http://lct-revolucionproletaria.blogspot.com/2017/10/por-el-derecho-de-la-autodeterminacion.html>

http://lct-revolucionproletaria.blogspot.com/2017/10/autodeterminacion-y-represion-en_76.html

International Labor Defense

Free Rakem Balogun! Feds Hands Off GMF & All Black Political and Social Justice Organizations!

In a move that harkens back to COINTELPRO capitalist state repression, the FBI and the ATF have targeted and arrested Rakem Balogun in Dallas. Balogun is one of the founders of the Huey P. Newton Gun Club (HPNGC) as well as a prominent member of the Black nationalist Guerilla MainFrame (GMF). Chillingly, the FBI has designated GMF as well as Balogun as "Black Identity Extremists" (BIE). This label means intimidation and arrests today, and FBI/ATF killing of black activists tomorrow. ***It was the FBI who murdered Black Panthers Fred Hampton and Mark Clark.***

The HPNGC is a black self-defense/open carry organization that legally trains the black community in firearms and that also patrols neighborhoods. They were founded in response to racist police terror against the black, brown and poor white communities.

The black, brown and immigrant communities are facing the brunt of decadent capitalism. It is urgent that the multi-racial working class come to the defense of the democratic rights of all those who are under attack. The black community must not be left isolated on its own.

The CWG encourages donations to the Rakem Balogun Defense Committee.

<https://www.guerrillamainframe.org/home/blog/free-rakem-balogun>

HPNGB:

<https://hueypnewtongunclub.org/home/blog/free-rakem-balogun>

Read Class Warrior!

***Theoretical Journal of the Liaison
Committee of Communists (LCC)!***

[Class Warrior Volume 1](#)

[Class Warrior Volume 2](#)

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in which imperialist oppressor countries dominated colonial oppressed countries. However a handful of countries were 'transitional' or in between which included Persia, China and Turkey. He called these [semi-colonies](#):

"...countries which, formally, are politically independent, but which are, in fact, enmeshed in the net of financial and diplomatic dependence."

Just as the Russian revolution proved the theory/program of Permanent Revolution correct, so did Iran's future development. The constitutional reform of 1906 limited the powers of the Shah but could not escape the "net of financial and diplomatic dependence" without breaking free from British, German and Russian imperialist rivalry for control of Persian oil. Iran's national revolution was never completed because it was caught in the post WW1 grip of imperialism's attempts at redivision of the world in the face of international revolutionary upsurge. The Russo-Persian treaty of 1921 protected the Soviet revolution from White incursions from the south while granting shipping rights in the Caspian Sea to Persia. Such was the redivision of the world which removed Russian imperialism from the scene replacing it with the power of the Soviet Union up until Stalin's deal with the Anglo-American bloc during WW2.

(3) Iran took advantage of the post WW2 redivision and the wave of decolonisation, but like most of the colonies fell short of completing the national democratic (bourgeois) revolution. That succeeded only in China where the capitalists refused the offer to share power with the Maoist CCP and fled to Taiwan, and belatedly in Cuba where the US refused to share power forcing the Castroites into the arms of the Stalinist USSR. In 1951 Mossadegh's National Front, committed to oil nationalisation, won a parliamentary majority and overturned the absolute power of the constitutional monarchy but failed to go all the way to throw out the national bourgeoisie in a socialist revolution. The result was a hugely popular anti-imperialist bourgeois government that nationalised the oil industry. However, the popular workers and poor farmers movement lacked a revolutionary Bolshevik-Leninist Party

capable of breaking the popular front. Mossadegh attempted to negotiate with the imperialists while they imposed production and trade sanctions as well as a naval blockade. US and British agents created divisions in Mossadegh's support and in 1953 they conspired to stage a coup to restore their ownership and control of Iranian oil and to restore Reza Shah Pahlavi as Constitutional monarch.

The coup attempt failed initially, as the National Front and the Tudeh (Communist Party) took to the streets and the Shah fled to the US. The US and Britain planned a second attempt. This time the coup succeeded mainly because Mossadegh demobilised his mass support and the Stalinist Tudeh party was lulled into the complacency by the apparently victorious popular front which included its rival Islamic movement presaging its reactionary role in 1979. Losing support in parliament, Mossadegh then staged a referendum to dissolve parliament and strip the Shah of his remaining powers; a left constitutional coup which lost him more support. Foreshadowing Allende in Chile in 1973, Mossadegh did not mobilise his support nor call for their resort to arms. All that was needed then was to neutralise Tudeh by infiltrating provocateurs into the party to provoke a 'communist insurrection' losing Mossadegh more support, and finally instigating pro-Shah officers under General Zahidi to arrest him and take control of the government.

(4) We summarise our position on the 1979 anti-imperialist revolution and the counter-revolution by the Islamic bourgeoisie of the bazaar:

"The tragedy of the 1979 revolution showed that Iran was ripe for revolution but lacked a revolutionary leadership. The workers and poor peasants were the force behind the anti-Shah revolution, but were led by liberals and Stalinists who allied with the Islamic national bourgeoisie who by 1981 had turned on the most advanced workers and exterminated many thousands of the best militants. The failure of the socialist revolution can be clearly blamed on the role of the Stalinist Tudeh party which followed the fatalist Stalinist line of making a democratic revolution in alliance with the 'progressive'

bourgeoisie to kick out the imperialists. The Stalinists refused to learn from their betrayal of the revolution in China in 1927 when their 'ally' and honorary member of the Comintern, Chiang Kai Shek, turned on the Communist Party and massacred its leadership." <http://redrave.blogspot.co.nz/2009/06/iran-for-revolutionary-party.html>

Again this serves to demonstrate that unless the workers lead the poor peasants to revolution then the reactionary national bourgeoisie will use its leadership of the anti-imperialist popular front to turn on the workers and oppressed and smash the socialist revolution. The lessons of October have still not been learned. The Stalinists, Guevarists, renegade Trotskyists and Mudjadaheen (Maoists) put their trust in bourgeois democracy rather than the revolutionary workers and poor peasants. Again and again, the workers and poor peasants rise up but lacking a revolutionary Marxist party they are defeated by the reactionary bourgeoisie, serving directly or indirectly the interests of one or other imperialist power.

(5) The Islamic Republic and its near-40 year dictatorship and episodic resistance to it has, up to its present situation as part of the Russia-China bloc, gone to war in the Middle East to repartition it from Iraq to Lebanon. It is trying to solve its semi-colonial crisis at the expense of lesser semi-colonies and the working peoples of the Middle East and Iran. At least twice now, after the Astana parley and after Sochi, the world has been spun a tale of a Syrian settlement. All that has been settled, from the point of view of the Iranian rulers, is that Syria will have to pay for the intervention in support of Assad! And meanwhile, the continuous expansionary policy has introduced Iraqi, Syrian and Yemeni masses to the behaviors of "volunteers" from the dreaded Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps. These not only mete out repressions and steal everything in sight in "liberated" areas, but have their fingers in every sort of economic enterprise wherever they are, all with the blessing of the theocrats. As a result (as a cartoon on Facebook puts it) it is pumping capital and mercenaries into Iraq and Syria and Yemen in a subordinate role to Russia and China, mending its bridges with Turkey

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and Qatar, and starving its own workers and peasants. So the determinants of the uprising are a history of semi-colonial uneven and combined development and facing a global crisis which creates all the objective conditions for revolution but which still lacks the vital subjective condition of a revolutionary Bolshevik-Leninist Party. With only two alternatives, ultimately, the Iranian masses must find the road to Leninism to be able to carry their revolution through, because the only other alternative is worse reaction than they have experienced to date.

How the struggle is developing and the two imperialist blocs

(6) We read that ninety percent of Iranians are feeding themselves with the equivalent of food stamps, and that these are slated to be further cut. Where 27% of the Gross Domestic Product was devoted to social welfare and a basic floor akin to the Brazilian Bolsa de Familia for all in 2008, a [World Bank study](#) now crows how this has been “reformed” down to 3% today. Youth unemployment is massive, double digit inflation has become a permanent fixture and the government minimum wage is 1/3 of the official ‘minimum necessary income’ for a family of three. This condition prevails as a result of the costs of the theocrats’ wars taking place during a global crisis of capitalism, and especially since Iran has been backing Assad’s counterrevolution with both blood and treasure. An uptick in international investment was supposed to result in improved standard of living conditions, as was the re-election of Rouhani, whom the western press calls a “moderate.” But while the shares of stocks have been sold, nothing got better on the street. In the last month, gasoline prices have doubled. Where [Germany and Spain](#) were the big investors after the 2009 protests (over the fake election results), today the [money floods in from China](#):

“China is financing billions of dollars’ worth of Chinese-led projects in Iran, making deep inroads into the economy while European competitors struggle to find banks willing to fund their ambitions, Iranian government and industry officials said....The Chinese funding, by far the largest statement of investment intent of any country in Iran, is in stark

contrast with the drought facing Western investors since U.S. President Donald Trump disavowed the 2015 pact agreed on by major powers, raising the threat sanctions could be reimposed.

Iranian officials say the deals are part of Beijing’s \$124 billion Belt and Road initiative, which aims to build new infrastructure — from highways and railways to ports and power plants — between China and Europe to pave the way for an expansion of trade.”

The masses revolt is general and not limited to the largest cities. The Government claim made to the U.K. “Guardian” that the demonstrations have faded is spurious. The revolt combines economic and political demands and calls for the ouster of the theocrats and Grand Ayatollah Khamenei have been taken up across the country. [Zamaneh Media](#) reports that the second half of 2017 has seen a spike in labor walkouts over non-payment of wages and mass layoffs. The protests are not limited to the industrial workers, who have suffered the worst of it, but have spread to all wage labor sectors. Zamaneh reports the state repressions have hit national minorities harder, also, such as the many Kurds who are miners. This although our orientalist “left” assures us of either a., there is no working class there, or b., that this is just the latest in a string of C.I.A. put-up jobs on the Middle Eastern and North African masses. We’re here to tell you there exists a ‘pre-revolutionary situation’ in the language of Bolshevism. We condemn in advance any attempt to foist a popular front on the Iranian masses. They are rightly sick of the leaders who bring them nothing but wars, poverty and union-busting repressions. When once they realize that these conditions are dumped onto them by an enemy social class, they too will recognize and reject any “half-way” schemes, whether popular fronts or Constituent Assemblies, and the state those support.

(7) Left reformist factions and fake Trotskyists necessarily are exposed and defeated by dialectics. If the protest movement sustains, and grows over into permanent revolution by forming workers councils, occupying factories etc., and it actually begins to challenge for power, we can expect the pro-Assad left to jump to the defense of the regime as they did in Syria. These faux leftists are so fixated on their unipolar world view and blinded

by their western orientalist-chauvinism that all they can see, whenever an angry populous in the semi-colonies rise up against despotic capitalist regimes, is the nefarious hand of the CIA. The faux left, (actually much like the Voice of America, which suggests hardline clerics are behind the protests!), believes the regime can be reformed/ improved. Or this “left”, the people themselves are not capable of revolution--so they must be the tools of Wall St. Thus when Trump lauds the uprising, at no political cost to himself or his brand, the fake left sees an army of spies and provocateurs at work.

The regime has launched an offensive to stop the protests. This may drive them underground as in Syria where armed militias emerged to defend the uprising from violent repression. It will be difficult (not impossible) for the fake left to present the protests in Iran as the work of the CIA and/or Islamic radicals. Of course they will try to say it is a “color revolution,” i.e., an anti-corruption, pro-capitalist one, but not many will buy this for long. They cannot defend the regime in their more usual way, claiming that the regime is secular and democratic, being fully backed by Erdogan and Putin (albeit with caution, Putin’s plans rely on keeping an alliance with Iran irrespective of leadership)! Naturally the Iranian masses have little time for these western petty-bourgeois. Color this revolution RED! We call on workers everywhere to down tools and engage in labor actions in solidarity with the Iranian uprising!

(8) Following the government-sponsored pep rally RT news declared the uprisings to be over and “like any violent protests” unacceptable. Shades of Marikana! The faux left gave the ANC a free pass and for the last 6 years they have given backhanded if not outright support to Assad. This is the nexus of the SCO/BRICS (Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Brazil Russia, India, China, South Africa) bloc which rallied to the emergent Russia/China imperialist bloc the various capitalist semi-colonies trying to break free or remain viable while free from US/EU imperialism. So alongside cheers from the World Social Forum/LINKS assemblage, from Chavez gifting Assad the Bolivarian sword to Iran supporting Assad against the Syrian Revolution, the semi-colonial comprador

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capitalist classes (Bolivarian, Southern African, and Iranian...) act to stop the wave of proletarian revolutionary aspiration seeking to make the national democratic revolution permanent-- that is, socialist. The Stalinist left alongside LINKS, the Castroists and the faux Trotskyists of the PSL and WWP, have chosen to support one imperialist bloc over the other. A hundred years after October and they repeat the social-imperialist treachery of August, 1914.

The common determinant in the current wave of protests is the austerity due to the global economic crisis being downloaded onto the semi-colonies by the imperialist powers. As in every uprising since the Tunisian eruption at the beginning of the "Arab Spring," we see spontaneous uncoordinated revolts not organised by any bourgeois faction or outside influence. In Iran, blame is directed at the regime, not sanctions, etc., hence slogans opposing intervention in Syria and Gaza represent a proletarian internationalism, not a CIA plot. This is evident in the demand of the [head of teachers union](#) who calls for an end to the regime (he was jailed by the regime for 5 years so cannot be a CIA stooge) So the regime is unlikely to be able to bury this uprising by taking the line that US/Israel etc., are to blame. Hence the imperialist left defence of the regime is already exposed as bankrupt!

We do not disdain to make our view of what needs to be done known:

For international labor solidarity with the Iranian masses! For labor actions and labor political strikes to defend Iranian trade unionists and workers! Down with the clampdown on social media! Drop all charges and free all arrested protesters!

For Permanent Revolution in Iran! End the regime! Smash the bourgeois/ clerical state!

Set up workers councils and militias, split the army, no return to the Shah, unite the revolution with the resistance in Syria and Palestine!

Down with imperialism including both the U.S./E.U. bloc and the SCO with Russia and China! Down with the bourgeois/clerical lackeys!

International workers' support for reopening of the Iranian revolution joined with the Arab Revolution!

For the right to self-determination for the Kurdish People! For a socialist Kurdistan!

For a Bolshevik Leninist Party that does not cede the leadership to Stalinists, Maoists, Bolivarians and Guevarists! For a workers and poor farmers state! For a federation of socialist republics of the Middle and Near East!

For a new, revolutionary Workers' International, based on the method and Trotsky's 1938 Transitional Program: "Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International"!

LCC historical documents on Iran:

<http://www.cwgusa.org/?p=1800>

<http://redrave.blogspot.co.nz/2015/06/mena-yemen-and-arab-revolution.html>

<http://www.cwgusa.org/?p=1049>

<http://redrave.blogspot.co.nz/2012/02/defend-iran-against-imperialism-and-its.html>

<http://redrave.blogspot.co.nz/2011/11/defend-iran-against-us-eu-and-israel.html>

<http://redrave.blogspot.co.nz/2010/03/us-and-chinese-imperialism-hands-off.html>

<http://redrave.blogspot.co.nz/2009/06/iran-for-revolutionary-party.html>

<http://redrave.blogspot.co.nz/2015/07/for-workers-socialist-federation-of.html>

RCIT:

<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/long-live-the-popular-uprising-in-iran/>

Sources:

<https://chinadigitaltimes.net/2018/01/ministry-truth-no-reporting-iran-protests/>

<https://en.radiozameh.com/articles/spike-in-labor-protests-in-iran-is-changing-the-political-milieu/>

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/iran/overview>

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/12/01/asia-pacific/chinas-investments-iran-surge-coming-western-nations-flounder/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/30/>

[iran-protests-trump-tweets](#)

<https://twitter.com/SMohyeddin/status/948505462596603904>

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/domestic-economy/65339/iran-2nd-biggest-fdi-destination-in-mena>

International Labor Defense

Drop All Charges and Free All Iranian Protesters!

Regime Hands Off Union of Teachers Leader Hashem Khastar!



As militant working class demonstrations have erupted in Iran, the regime has begun cracking down hard. The regime security forces arrested many students. Teacher's union leader Hashem Khastar, a long time opponent of the regime, was arrested and then released. We are calling on the international working class to come to their defense.

Please send urgent protests to:

Ministry of Science, Research and Technology
Email: cisc@msrt.ir

Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei
Twitter: [@khamenei_ir](#) (English) or [@Khamenei_fa](#) (Persian)
Email: info_leader@leader.ir or contact@leader.ir

President of the Islamic Republic of Iran: Hassan Rouhani
Email: media@rouhani.ir
Twitter: [@HassanRouhani](#) (English) and [@Rouhani_ir](#) (Persian)

<https://twitter.com/AmirTaheri4/status/949319246328279041>

<http://www.socialistworld.net/index.php/other-topics/solidarity/9588-iran-student-activists-arrested-in-iranian-regime-crackdown>

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since its inception has had few qualms about supporting the Democratic Party of U.S. imperialism, either through outright support to political candidates or otherwise. No need for the tortuous and twisted logic that the reformist social democrats of Soc. Alt. have to employ in denying their support for a capitalist party or candidate. If what you want is world socialist revolution, you want to look somewhere else!

Workers and students don't be fooled! With capitalism in crisis all the hucksters and useful idiots **are engaged by** the ruling class to shore up faith in their **"representation" con game**. Knowing youth are no longer afraid of socialism the ruling class is acting quickly to keep a growing layer of young workers and students from straying too far from "legitimate political activity." That's where the DSA comes in. Feeling just a little redder than your pink parents who pushed for Hillary, DSA has a place for you, not too far left and still in the capitalist Democratic Party and you can still come home for a white Christmas. This is how to achieve nothing! Just like at the end of Occupy and after Wisconsin, the Democrats show up to corral the discontented off the streets and into the elections for capitalist candidates. They will not fight for socialism, they won't fight to expropriate Big Pharma, Big Oil and Big Agra. Instead they use the discontent of the masses to promote themselves on the back of half steps they never intend to win, cannot win and dare not organize you to win for yourselves.

It was revolutionary German Communist leader **Rosa Luxemburg** who stated that **"social democracy is nothing but a stinking corpse"**.¹ This was in response to the collapse of the social democratic 2nd International into social chauvinism by supporting their own ruling classes in the first imperialist World War and the **German social democrats hostility to the Russian Revolution**. It was the **Freikorps**, the predecessors to the **Nazis** in Germany, that were unleashed by the Social Democratic Party (SPD) government who **murdered Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht and crushed the 1919 German workers revolution in blood**. This is the historic role that social democracy has played, ultimately as counterrevolutionary defenders of

the capitalist system. European social democracy in this era of capitalist decay has waged attacks on the working class, on social gains and on immigrants.

Social democracy was only possible in Europe through the super-exploitation of the colonies and semi-colonies and the pressure of social revolutions. The European working class advanced and won reforms through class struggle and organized their own mass working class political parties (albeit reformist bourgeois workers parties). It was necessary for the capitalist ruling class to shore up social democracy as an anti-communist bulwark against the **"spectre of communism"** in the wake of the Russian Revolution and in the aftermath of WW II, where the Red Army victory over the Nazis resulted in social overturns of capitalist property relations in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. The existence of the bureaucratically degenerated (Soviet Union) and deformed workers states (Eastern Europe) and the post-war social revolutions (China, DPRK, Vietnam, Cuba) that also resulted in deformed workers states forced the bourgeoisie to make reformist concessions to the working class. With the lack of a class conscious workers movement and a mass working class party and divided by racism, the U.S. ruling class never found the overhead of social democracy necessary. The U.S. has a minimal social safety net, for example lacking a universal healthcare system, unlike every other major industrialized nation. With the 2007-08 capitalist crisis and the capitalists still seeking to recover their lost rate of profit, with a greatly weakened trade union movement, and the dearth of class struggle, the U.S. ruling class is not going to grant any major reforms such as universal healthcare. There is no room for major reforms short of attacking the capitalist system itself. And they certainly are not going to be won through Sanders, or the Democrats or otherwise except through sharp, mass working class struggle against the capitalist system. DSA is a political obstacle to struggle.

As we wrote in *Class War, Vol. 3, No. 1*, **["Snakes Bite: Healthcare in Capitalist America Kills"](#)**:

"DSA has been growing dramatically, riding the momentum of a renewed interest in socialism and the popularity of the Sanders' campaign. That well-

meaning workers and youth subjectively wanting to fight for socialism are joining DSA is undeniable. The leadership of DSA, which is where it counts politically, are little better than the left flank of the Democratic Party. "Democratic", as in Democratic Party, is a very appropriate title for DSA, but they miss the mark by a wide margin on the "Socialists" part. DSA has their origins in the Cold War anti-communist, social imperialism of the Socialist Party (who supported the U.S. in the Vietnam War), which split eventually into the DSA led by Michael Harrington in the early 1970s. Part of the social democratic Socialist International, the political step-child of the Second International (ed. DSA at their recent convention disassociated from the Socialist Intl.), DSA has been entrenched in the Democratic Party from the start, supporting Mondale, Jackson, Kerry, Sanders and Obama through the decades of exploitation, war, racism and poverty. DSA never let such things as imperialist bombings by Democratic Party administrations (Clinton, Obama) or cutting welfare (Clinton) interrupt their support for the Democrats. Harrington quite clearly stated his politics and those of the DSA: "I share an immediate program with liberals in this country because the best liberalism leads toward socialism.... I want to be on the left wing of the possible (New York Times, "Michael Harrington, Socialist and Author, Is Dead", August 1989)." Harrington saw that "the left wing of realism is found today in the Democratic Party (Newsletter of the Democratic Left, March 1973, p. 5)."

And also from the same article:

"DSA serves to prop up working class illusions in the Democratic Party of U.S. imperialism; the party of Hiroshima/Nagasaki, Bay of Pigs, Vietnam, and the current MENA wars; a political party of exploitation, war, poverty and racism. DSA is providing a left cover for a political party of the ruling capitalist class under the banner of 'socialism' and are a political obstacle to building a class struggle workers' movement and a class conscious working class. DSA bolsters illusions in electoral politics, reinforces pro-capitalist ideology

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within the workers' movement and promotes liberal bourgeois reformist politics at the expense of a working class political program that points the way towards workers rule."

DSA Fake-Socialist 'Tagtails' of the Democrats

DSA is currently a muddled, mishmash (much like the bourgeois Green Party) of various political tendencies as can be expected from a fast-growing social democratic party with a liberal political program. So different branches reflect the political terrain they operate on, with some locals more to the left than others.

But make no mistake. The DSA leadership is very much tied to the Democratic Party. They brag about it:

"Aren't you a party that's in competition with the Democratic Party for votes and support? No, we are not a separate party. Like our friends and allies in the feminist, labor, civil rights, religious, and community organizing movements, many of us have been active in the Democratic Party. We work with those movements to strengthen the party's left wing, represented by the Congressional Progressive Caucus...

....For now, we will continue to support progressives who have a real chance at winning elections, which usually means left-wing Democrats. "
- dsa.org, "[Aren't you a party that's in competition with the Democratic Party for votes and support?](#)"

In December of 2016, DSA endorsed Keith Ellison for Chair of the [Democratic National Committee \(DNC\)](#) with the following statement that pretty much sums up their politics:

"Great change is needed within the Democratic Party. The DNC's gross mishandling of the primary election between Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton demonstrates the need for a reinvigorated party that appeals to working-class voters of all races, ethnicities and genders. Hillary Clinton's electoral loss to the most unpopular candidate in history — Donald Trump — clearly highlights the urgency of change....

....Transforming the Democratic Party

*leadership from servants of Goldman Sachs to servants of everyday workers will be extremely difficult. **We do not know if it will ultimately be possible [ed. our emphasis].***

What we do know is that positive change never comes from politicians acting alone, but always from masses of ordinary people taking politics into their own hands. We will get the party we need when we build a majoritarian progressive movement..."

This is in stark contrast to early **American socialist Eugene Debs**, who knew which side of the class line he was on:

"It is as foolish and self-destructive for workingmen to turn to Republican, Democratic, and Progressive parties on election day as it would be for them to turn to the Manufacturers' Association and the Citizens' Alliance when they are striking against starvation wages. The capitalist class is organized economically and politically to keep the working class in subjection and perpetuate its power as a ruling class.... Every vote cast for a capitalist party, whatever its name, is a vote for wage-slavery, for poverty and degradation. Every vote cast for the Socialist party, the workers' own party, is a vote for emancipation...." - "[Debs Attacks 'the Monstrous System' of Capitalism](#)"

We would add that any vote for a capitalist party or politician is a vote for imperialism.

For all the talk of socialism in DSA study groups, it is liberal politics that dominate. DSA Boston members (Ewen-Campen and Scott) are running for city council in Somerville, Massachusetts on the typical liberal demands such as a "green future", "strong and fair local economy", "[dignified wages](#)", "responsible growth", and [affordable housing](#). Per the Boston DSA, Ewen-Campen and Scott "received a higher level of endorsement" from DSA with assigned volunteers, despite their politics being levels below even good old-fashioned municipal "sewer socialism." DSA has also latched onto the Democrats' Medicare for All demand which abandons the historic workers political demand of free, quality healthcare for all. Instead they support a continuation of for-profit capitalist health care.

At "MEDICARE FOR ALL" rallies in Iowa City on May 20th, **DSA and Our Revolution lined up a host of Democratic Party state senators, assembly persons, local county supervisors and wannabe Democratic Party hacks.** These are the people the fake socialists are supporting and they are leaving the direction history takes, and your fates, up TO THEM!! This rally was organized to "take the fight to the Senate" to defend the ACA and then build upon the ACA success. Nary a word for free quality healthcare for all, while what is needed now is hard class struggle, not deputizing the creations of the political donor class to somehow do our bidding in secret meetings!

Oakland Socialist (which has **opportunistically** formed a Debs Caucus within DSA, see below), commented on a *Counterpunch* article about the Democratic Party, Sanders and Sanders' single-payer healthcare bill:

"Is their memory so short that they've completely forgotten what happened in 2009, with a Democratic majority in congress and a Democratic president? Have they forgotten all the hearings on health care reform, where they refused to allow any single payer advocates to testify? Have they forgotten how they got some of those advocates arrested for agitating in favor of single payer? Why do they think it is that the Democrats are only piling on now, when they are in a minority, meaning that there is absolutely zero chance of the bill passing? No chance whatsoever. Zero. Did they ignore what happened here in California just a few months ago, when the speaker of the House in Sacramento killed the single payer bill? Then, the leader of the "progressive" caucus of the Democratic Party in California....

....We are being taken for a ride again. The Democrats are simply riding this issue back into a majority in 2018 and into the White House in 2020....

....In other words, dangle the carrot before the horse again. Anything to prevent the outbreak of starting down the road of political independence through a mass working class party.

"Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." How about fool me 200 times? That's what the union bureaucracy and other liberal

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reformists are participating in. And meanwhile, these same liberals are completely ignoring the twin issue of hospital consolidation and the fact that single payer would only exacerbate that. As [this article](#) explains, what's really needed is socialized medicine.”

- Oakland Socialist, “[Sanders single payer bill: ‘Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice...’](#)”

DSA is in essence placing a false socialist label on Democratic Party liberalism. What good is socialism if it is not a living, breathing program of the working class? And Karl Marx’s International Workingmen’s Association, the First International, was very clear on the question of working class independence and for a workers political program:

“Against the collective power of the propertied classes the working class cannot act, as a class, except by constituting itself into a political party, **distinct from, and opposed to, all old parties formed by the propertied classes.**” -<https://www.marxists.org/history/international/iwma/documents/1872/hague-conference/parties.htm>

“However, our politics must be working-class politics. **The workers’ party must never be the tagtail of any bourgeois party; it must be independent and have its goal and its own policy.**” - <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1871/09/21.htm>

DSA is corraling leftward moving youth and workers into a collaborationist popular front with the capitalist ruling class. In essence, the same thing that the labor bureaucracy has done for decades and we all know how that has worked out!

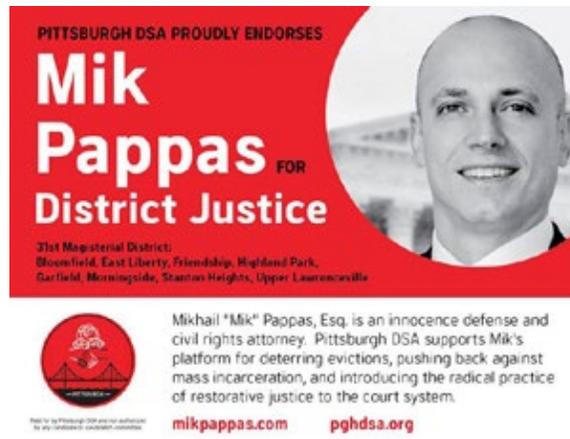
Trotskyists wrote about these popular front, class collaborationist lashups that we are seeing today with the DSA, Our Revolution, Sanders, and the Democratic Party. Only the actors have changed:

“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



DSA member Pappas ran and won district judge in Pennsylvania. Just like the racist cops, the courts are institutions of capitalist state repression and cannot be reformed to serve the working class or oppressed.

The Capitalist State

DSA’s political methodology is not to organize the working class for the conquest of state power, but the typical liberal pressure politics on the capitalist state and the capitalist parties and politicians. Reformism is not merely electoral fetishism. Street protests do not a revolutionary make. The Marxist definition of reformism is the belief that

the capitalist state can be reformed to serve the interests of the working class and build socialism. Historically, there have even been reformist with guns, such as the Sandinistas, who after conquering power were willing to junk all the social gains made at great human sacrifice by fortifying the bourgeois state against socialism with a bourgeois parliamentary election, to much acclaim of U.S. liberalism and today’s ‘Sandernistas.’ DSA tells you to refuse this lesson from modern history.

In Iowa City where reactionary Senator Joni Ernst was holding a town hall, DSA was promoting a “WELCOME JONI RALLY” on the basis of letting “*Joni know that it’s time to put the PEOPLE over corporate profit*”. One would have thought that “Joni” Ernst was known by all as a bought and paid for shill for capital. In the days of speaking truth to power we would put her in the stock and hung a sign around her neck, i.e., anti-socialist. In truth, we want those who want the socialist revolution to know that cross-class political projects are guarantors of the political dictatorship of Capital! Nothing but! DSA has trouble understanding that whole Labor vs. Capital thing, apparently. Likewise there are those who propose to fix the ills of structural racism with more Black mayors, such as with the Chamber of Commerce’s labor peace candidate Tishaura Jones in St. Louis, even now after the experience of 50 years of the capitalist parties’ Black mayors!

As if electing the cop “union” organizer Danny Fetonte to the DSA National Political Committee at their last convention wasn’t bad enough, the **Pittsburgh DSA local has endorsed attorney Mikhail Pappas for district judge**. For Marxists, the **cops and the courts are the core of the capitalist state**.

It was [Frederick Engels](#) who stated that the “*public power exists in every state; it consists not merely of armed men but also of material adjuncts, prisons, and institutions of coercion of all kinds.*” Judges issue strikebreaking injunctions and the cops try to enforce them. That is when they are not sentencing black youth to long prison terms. And that is even assuming black youth make it to court

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and are not executed on the street by the racist cops!

DSA Caucuses: From Ostensible Socialism, into the DSA and for the Democrats in 2018!

Several left-wing caucuses have formed within DSA, forming a chain from ostensible socialists and anarchists, through DSA straight to shackles of the Democratic Party. While welcoming Democratic Party liberals into their ranks, DSA makes sure to have the machinery in place to exclude the Reds. DSA has anti-communism written into its [constitution](#) that allows the DSA National Political Committee (NPC) to revoke charters for locals or youth sections *“if a majority of members of the Local is under the discipline of any self-defined democratic-centralist organization.”* **Democratic-centralist means Reds in DSA terms.** So, a little bit of workers democracy is fine, as long as it doesn't go too far! What the hell kind of socialist organization is DSA? This is as far from Leninism as one can hope to get. What hope can anyone calling themselves a communist going into this melange reasonably have? Democratic centralism

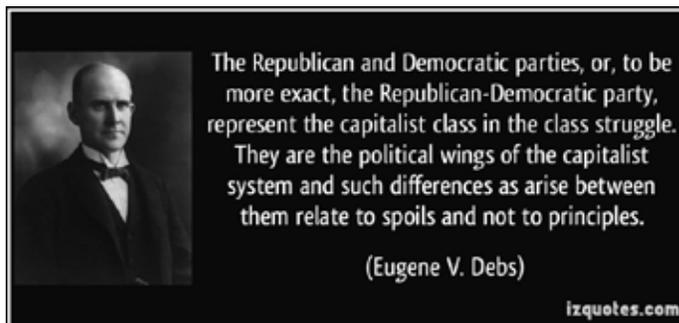
means your vote is a promise and that the majority decision will be carried out by all members. A fake socialist organization that exists to satisfy the needs of the enemy social class cannot possibly permit democratic centralism, which is democratic and effective by definition!

The [DSA Spring Platform](#) caucus that is largely apolitical and focused more on logistical and democracy questions, does have this little gem of an insight into internal 'democracy' within the DSA:

“Yet in the absence of organized tendencies key political questions are resolved largely based on staff and elected leaders interpreting what the “mainstream” political views of DSA are, and key strategic differences within the organization are never discussed explicitly. This results not only in undemocratic decision-making (similar to the way the absence of political parties undermines the

effective aggregation of political preferences among a given electorate), but also produces limited clarity among DSA's membership about the key issues facing the organization and strategic incoherence around DSA's political decision-making.”

Here they are confessing to the reproduction of the norms of capitalist rule, where **“...key strategic differences within the organization are never discussed explicitly....”** They confess to undemocratic decision making a la the class dictatorship of who else(?), the capitalist ruling classes of different electorates. Do the members have 'limited clarity?' That's by design, in another class' interest. This is not a plan for any future workers' combat party. **There are very good reasons for reformist fake-socialist leaders to hate the workers democracy of democratic-centralism.**



The [DSA Praxis](#) caucus is also largely apolitical, although they mention socialism and such, with their platform focused on logistics such as “regional structure”, “base building”, “national training” and so on. Even their “FIGHTING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE & SOCIALIST FEMINISM” plank degenerates into logistics.

Some anarchists have jumped on the DSA bandwagon with their [DSA Libertarian Socialist Caucus](#). Anarchists who usually froth at the mouth the moment a workers party is mentioned, have no problem with the Democratic (Party) Socialists. Their political program talks of radical democracy, individual self-determination, solidarity, direct action, mutual aid and so on, **completely sidestepping the question of the independence of the working class from the bourgeoisie.** Smashing the capitalist state like the anarchists of yesteryear is not on their agenda either,

nor *“in the seizure of state power by a political party, but rather in the creation of independent institutions in civil society that give the working class and ordinary people direct power over their lives. Thus they [ed. Libertarian Socialists] tend to advocate the creation of worker-owned firms, radical trade unions, workers' and neighborhood councils, popular assemblies, credit unions and alternative banking systems, community land trusts, and other more directly democratic non-state institutions...”* This is a utopian, candyland plan Democrats will allow polite discussion of, i.e., community gardens and pizza collectives ad infinitum, while capitalism turns the atmosphere into a toxic gas dump. Fetishizing individualism (“individual self-determination”!) and a less-developed order of social production to somehow satisfy human need is not a real world option, but this is what they insist upon instead of revolution. This petty-bourgeois politics finds a home in DSA. No one should be surprised.

The [Eugene Debs Caucus](#) of EBDSA (East Bay DSA) has formed with a stance for class political independence. They call for a mass working class party and for DSA to run independent working class candidates. They rightly point out that DSA *“cannot run independent working class candidates and support any Democrats at the same time. If we support some Democratic Party candidates, then we are in effect supporting at least the “progressive” wing of the Democrats, which is not an independent wing of that party. There is a reason the Democrats have been labeled “the graveyard of social movements””.*

It is not just a question of independent working class candidates, but also a question of political program. If independent politics means just raising the politics of the liberals like Fight for \$15 or some type of affordable housing, then that does nothing to advance class interests, but instead builds illusions in the liberal wing of the ruling class. As Trotskyists, the CWG subscribes to the method of [Trotsky's Transitional Program](#) (also see [Class Warrior, Volume 1, Number 5, November 2013](#),

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“BART Strikes: Method of Trotsky’s Transitional Program”) that seeks to bridge the gap between the immediate felt needs of the working class and the necessity for socialist revolution, to raise class consciousness and point the way forward to working class’ historic task which is the abolition of the wage system. Capitalism has long ago objectively outlived progressiveness. The conditions for socialism exist, but what is lacking is the subjective factor, the class conscious working class organized in **revolutionary workers parties and a revolutionary workers International armed with a revolutionary political program.**

Entry into mass working class parties by revolutionaries to wage a political struggle to win over revolutionary elements is a tactic, so long as the organization is politically independent of the capitalist class. But entry into DSA as long as they are in a class collaborationist alliance in the Democratic Party by those claiming socialism is **unprincipled and opportunist.** With DSA, what you will be doing is work for an organization that is advancing a liberal bourgeois political program and propping up Democratic Party politicians on the podium for the next elections. This is the political price paid for collaboration with liberal Democrats, the subordination of working class politics. Historically, this is the role popular frontism (class collaboration) has served. And the leadership in DSA is not going to tolerate much criticism of this class collaboration.

*“The question of questions at present is the People’s Front. The left centrists seek to present this question as a tactical or even as a technical maneuver, so as to be able to peddle their wares in the shadow of the People’s Front. In reality, the People’s Front is the **main question of proletarian class strategy** for this epoch. It also offers the best criterion for the difference between Bolshevism and Menshevism. For it is often forgotten that the greatest historical example of the People’s Front is the February 1917 revolution. From February to October, the Mensheviks and Social Revolutionaries, who represent a very good parallel to the ‘Communists’ and Social Democrats, were in the closest alliance and in a permanent coalition with the bourgeois party of the Cadets,*

*together with whom they formed a series of coalition governments. Under the sign of this People’s Front stood the whole mass of the people, including the workers’, peasants’, and soldiers’ councils. To be sure, the Bolsheviks participated in the councils. But they did not make the slightest concession to the People’s Front. Their demand was to **break this People’s Front, to destroy the alliance with the Cadets, and to create a genuine workers’ and peasants’ government.***

All the People’s Fronts in Europe are only a pale copy and often a caricature of the Russian People’s Front of 1917, which could after all lay claim to a much greater justification for its existence, for it was still a question of the struggle against czarism and the remnants of feudalism.” - Leon Trotsky, “The Dutch Section and the International” (15-16 July 1936), in Writings of Leon Trotsky (1935-36), [emphasis in original]

So are these caucuses within DSA going to help organize for popular front Democratic Party rallies? Think they will be carrying DSA signs calling for a break from the capitalist parties and for a working class party? Sooner or later, and most likely sooner, such a faction would be told to ‘*shut up with the commie politics and toe the class collaborationist line*’.

The CWG recommends to any individuals or factions within DSA who are seeking socialist answers to capitalist exploitation, war and racism to quickly coalesce whatever subjectively revolutionary forces exist in DSA, particularly youth who have been newly radicalized, and get the hell out. Remaining as a faction of DSA only serves as left cover to class collaboration. Starting today will not be too soon for a balance sheet and public declaration. To fight for class-political independence and world socialism, join the CWG!

(Endnotes)

1 Speech by Rosa Luxemburg to the founding conference of the German Communist Party (KPD) (Der Gründungsparteitag der KPD, Europäische Verlagsanstalt, 1969, p.194.)

DSA, the November 2017 Elections, and Beyond

The November 2017 elections saw at least 15 DSA members win local political races, most either as Democratic Party or independent candidates. Seema Singh Perez who won city council in Knoxville, TN, on her campaign website stated that Knoxville has “a spirit of entrepreneurship, this should be encouraged and facilitated with business and educational support.” This is not working class politics, but outright bourgeois liberalism.

No doubt DSA will be ramping up soon for the 2018 mid-term elections as a prelude to the 2020 presidential elections. The Iowa City chapter of DSA has already endorsed Democratic Party SEIU labor bureaucrat Cathy Glasson for governor in Iowa. In the face of the ushering in of the social reaction of the Trump administration, there will be strong political pressures to support the so-called “lesser-evil” Democrats. The Mensheviks such as Socialist Alternative were incapable of “*swimming against the stream*” as they opportunistically supported Sanders, if not formally, at least in practice. Chomsky always advises his political step-children to support the Democrats. Usually in the swing states, but in the last election, he made a [special plea for Hillary](#). There is no reason to believe that the DSA will be any different than the other left posers.

The [DSA Refoundation Caucus \(RC\)](#) has formed since we wrote the previous article on DSA. They claim to be a “left radical caucus” of revolutionary Marxists who “*wish to see DSA grow, flourish, and become a mass, independent socialist party in the United States.*” They say they stand against reformism, yet build illusions in the reformability of capitalism like calling for “*community, democratic control of police in working class and poor neighborhoods*” and “*rent control.*”

The RC’s class independence summed up: “*Though there may be short-term gain in running socialists on Democratic ballot lines, we believe that any attempts to reform the Democratic Party is ultimately harmful.*” **In another statement, the RC says** “*Independent socialist candidates should take priority over Democratic candidates or socialists running on the Democratic ballot line. Socialists who do run on the Democratic Party ballot line should only do so to strategically overcome ballot access hurdles and to force the Democratic Party machine to respond in a way that clearly shows where their class allegiances lie...*” **So much for revolution.**

The following is translated and reprinted from our comrades of the Grupo de Trabalhadores Revolucionários of Brazil (GTR-BR).

Brazil 2018 elections: Break with the Popular Front! For an Independent and Revolutionary Alternative!

The 2018 presidential election in Brazil is set to take place in the greatest period of instability in the country since re-democratization in the 1980s.

The global crisis of capitalism with the fall in the rate of profits that broke out in 2008 -- which has provoked great instability around the world -- did not spare Brazil. In 2011 the crisis hit the country hard and in 2015 and 2016 Brazil had the biggest recession in its history. Dilma and the PT got re-elected in 2014 by denying the existence of the crisis and promising that the country would "grow again." The fall of GDP, high inflation and unemployment, increased misery and reports of corruption, increasingly amplified dissatisfaction among workers and poor people. The bourgeoisie and the media, who did not mention the depth of the world capitalist crisis, started an offensive against the PT (The "Workers Party"), with the main weapon being the Lava-Jato ("Car-Wash") operation, saying that the problem of the crisis in the country was the PT and corruption. With a parliamentary maneuver, supported and orchestrated by the allies of the PT in the government, especially the current president Michel Temer's PMDB, her erstwhile allies fomented the impeachment of Dilma.

But the crisis, corruption and the offensive of the "Car-Wash" did not stop with the PT. After the fall of Dilma, the bourgeoisie that ruled in alliance with the PT in its 14 years of government and maneuvered to overthrow it, are now also targets of the "Car-Wash". Even the PSDB, which was not part of the Lula / Dilma governments, and is the largest right-wing party in opposition to the PT, and that before the PT administration was itself in power for 8 years, is touched by the scandal. All those who have governed the country in the last decades are under the eyeball of the "Car-Wash".

In spite of the political crisis, with moments when his government seemed to be coming to an end like the leak of the recording of the conversation between Temer and the owner of the JBS (the meat manufacturer under investigation for corruption--bad meat transl. note--see ref. link below), the revelation of the president's involvement in corruption keeps on spreading. Temer has managed to approve "reforms," such as labor, austerity measures such as the spending ceiling PEC (a "PEC" is a proposal of constitutional amendment--ed.), High School Reform and to conduct pre-salt oil auctions. However, the Social Security Reform, the main proposal of "A bridge to the future" program that spells out Temer's actions as president after the impeachment of Dilma, is very difficult to carry out for the current government. Temer has also maintained the Lula / PT's "progressive" policy of approaching Russian and Chinese imperialism and the



December 12, 2017 Sao Bernardo do Campo homeless workers encampment

BRICS. He visited China a few months ago and came back "impressed" with the country's interest in investing in Brazil. Temer now proposes the "reconstruction" of Syria, putting Brazil in support of the dictator Assad who massacres the Syrian people and tries to end the revolution.

The media and the bourgeoisie, who support "Car-Wash" and attack the government, say that the continuation of the political crisis and corruption is what makes it impossible for the government to approve the economic measures they support. They are not against the economic measures that the government wants to implement, especially the Pension Reform, which is considered the great villain of the public accounts deficit. But they think the Temer government is not able to approve them. The PSDB,

which at its December conference decided to leave the government, made a point of reassuring its commitment to the Pension Reform.

Faced with the greatest economic crisis and political instability the Brazilian institutions are already discussing the electoral process that will choose the new president and national congress in October, 2018. PT and PSDB have been in power for the last 23 years and PMDB was in all the governments since the re-democratization, and each are in crisis, worn out with reports of corruption, the austerity measures they apply and with very low popularity. The bourgeoisie is divided. Small parties try to present themselves as alternative, many are physiological parties, renting legends and adventurers, but also the extreme right ideology sees a possibility of ascent, in addition to interventionists who call for a military dictatorship.

In the re-election of Dilma, the PT denied the crisis and promised the "return of growth". Now the PT says that the crisis has been caused by the current government and promises to return to investments and economic growth if Lula is elected in 2018. During Lula's caravans across the country in recent months, he maintains that his government "did more for the workers", that his government "invested", that it is necessary to "make Brazil grow again" and that for these feats he is now persecuted by the media and "Car-Wash".

Many workers are hopeful that with the return of Lula to the presidency of Brazil, the pre-crisis conditions may return, that is: "investments" and full credits. But we know that this is not possible. ***Withdrawal of rights and attacks on living conditions of the working class are the only way out for the bourgeoisie and imperialism. What could happen to an eventual new Popular Front government that will have to approve measures to attack the working class, who have worn out Dilma and now Michel Temer?***

However, Lula's candidacy is one of the great, and many, unknowns for the 2018 elections. Lula is threatened by the "Car-

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Wash”, which promises to condemn him making his candidacy impossible. What can happen if Lula is prevented from contesting the elections? The PSDB elected the current Sao Paulo governor, Geraldo Alckmim, as party chairman and everything is headed for him to be the legendary candidate next year, with a divided and rather worn party. But a strong bid, which will have lots of money. Alckmin has so far been free from corruption and certainly the candidate of greater stability for the bourgeoisie.

In polls for the 2018 elections appearing in second place, behind Lula, is the far right candidate, Bolsonaro. A federal deputy for the PSC (the Christian Social Party), he is known for his extremist statements and defense of the military dictatorship. However, he is now leaving his current party and is having difficulties closing agreements with the parties he is in unity discussions with. All these are “nanny” parties.

But beyond the traditional right and the reformist left, in the electoral debate for “an exit to Brazil”, reactionary sectors appear to be saying that they have the best “exit,” like the declaration, months ago, of an army officer saying that in case of “chaos” the military must “act”.

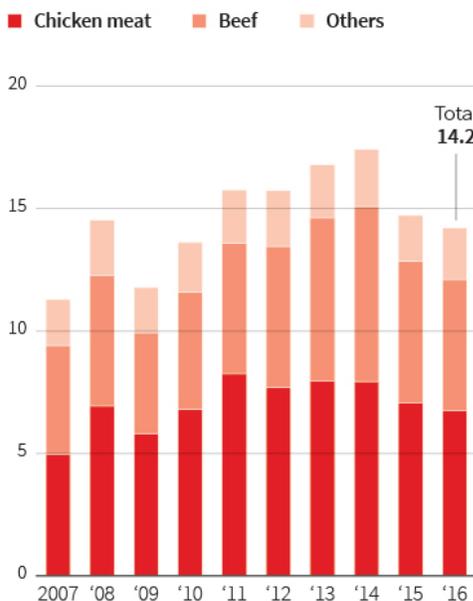
The PT is the largest leftist party in the country. It was built in the workers’ struggles against the military dictatorship in the 1980s and generated great expectations among the entire working class of Brazil. The PT’s alliance with the bourgeoisie and a popular front government that ruled for the bourgeoisie, big banks and corporations and imperialism, show that we should not put our hopes in bourgeois elections. In these elections the workers need an alternative to any popular front. **It is necessary to stand against alliances of the PT with the bourgeoisie; this is the main reason for the PT’s betrayal of the workers. For the PT to be on the workers’ side, it is necessary to break with the bourgeoisie.** However, the PT has never left its alliances with the bourgeoisie and nothing indicates that it will leave them in the 2018 elections. On the contrary, it is increasingly linked to the bourgeoisie, especially to the “coupists” who also try to defend themselves against “Car-Wash” prosecutions. During Lula’s

Scandal threatens Brazil’s meat exports

Brazil’s meat exports are threatened after police, in an anti-corruption probe criticized by the government as alarmist, accused inspectors in the world’s biggest exporter of beef and poultry of taking bribes to allow sales of rotten and salmonella-tainted meats.

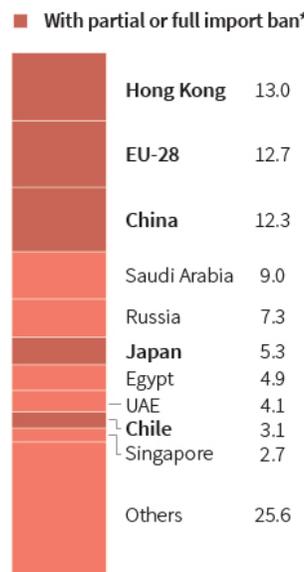
BRAZIL’S MEAT EXPORTS

2007-2016, in billion US\$



MAIN EXPORT DESTINATIONS

2016, as percentage of total



Note: Canada, Mexico, Switzerland and South Africa have also restricted meat imports from Brazil. Sources: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, AgroStat, Reuters. *As of March 22.

Staff, R. Carrera, 20/03/2017

REUTERS

caravan across the Brazilian northeast, he joined on the platform with figures connected to the “colonel” of Alagoas, Renan Calheiros (PMDB), a well-known corrupt oligarch who was in the PT government and is also accused in the “Car-Wash” investigation. Lula also publicly stated that it is possible for the PT to make alliances with the parties that defended Dilma’s impeachment.

PSOL and PSTU, the largest parties on the left that opposed the popular front government, say that a leftist alternative is needed in the elections. Everyone claims to defend a “Left Front” in the elections. PSOL defends a slate as an “alternative” to Lula / PT and is already discussing names to nominate. However, the major currents of the PSOL are not against alliance with the bourgeoisie and many cases have already occurred in past elections and occur in the workers’ and students’ movement, such as the PSOL alliance with the PPL (Partido Patria Libre) in the elections to the Poa prefecture in 2016. The PSTU in the last elections rejected the Left front and launched its own candidacies, but in the union movement it makes alliances through bureaucratic blocs with the union

bureaucracy linked to bourgeois parties like the PDT, Solidarity, PPL, etc. **In fact, whether opportunistic or sectarian, PSOL and PSTU propose an alternative to the PT, but not an alternative to the Popular Front.**

Among private sector workers, especially the metallurgists, the workers who are blinded by the PT / CUT and the union bureaucracies, with the help of the PSOL / PSTU, through the “Brazil Metalworking Front.” Just as PSTU / PSOL support the bureaucratic bloc with the union bureaucracy in the workers’ movement against “labor reform” and social security cuts, they support the same bureaucracy in the organization of metallurgists. In the factories of the San Jose dos Campos (SJC), controlled by the PSTU, workers of several factories made a move and went on strike. The union leadership kept all the strikes isolated by factory, with economist guidelines and left the so-proclaimed “unity” and “fight against Temer and the reforms” for the Bloc it has with the bureaucracies and the “National Days of Mobilization”. Recently it has been proved once again that diverting

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the struggle into bureaucratic blocs with the trade union bureaucracy serves to demobilize and demoralize the workers' struggle. This was on top of the betrayal where the CUT and other central bureaucracies disregarded the general strike of 5/12, which had been agreed among themselves against the Pension Reform. The same had already occurred in the General Strike on June 30th, which was boycotted by most of the plants, and by the CUT.

Another sector of the left that is quite numerous and has great influence is the MTST (Movement of the Homeless Workers), and its leader Guilherme Boulos (GB), and the sectors around him. Even the mainstream of the PSOL prevented its party congress in early December from deciding on a presidential candidate, because they want to persuade the leader of the homeless workers to be the candidate for the party. The MTST is the largest housing movement in the country. The occupation "People without Fear" in Sao Bernardo do Campo (SBC), started on a large plot occupied by a few hundred people in December. In a week, the occupation expanded to 8 thousand families! The "People without Fear" occupation of SBC is a great expression of the social crisis we are experiencing. What is the outcome for the homeless movement?

The main housing policy of PT governments was the Minha Casa Minha Vida program. This program was part of the PAC (Program for the Advancement of Children), which included other sectors of the economy, was based on the public financing of works of large contractors, through PPPs (Public Private Partnerships law projects) and concessions. Big construction contractors have never made so much money. They are the same ones who won a lot in the contracts with Petrobras and in the cartels that negotiated with the government, today denounced in the "Car-Wash". The boom in the sale of commodities and the large inflow of revenue enabled the PT to apply neoliberal policies in the country with some concessions. For MTST and its leader GB, demanding from the government My House My Life is the solution to the housing issue and is the solution for the more than 8,000 families in SBC and the millions of homeless in Brazil. GB, on several occasions, has

appeared on the platforms with Lula and the PT.

In the big cities of Brazil, with millions of unemployed, homeless, and workers losing rights and living conditions --in the interior and small cities the indignation of the poor people is increasing with an unbearable condition of life-- it is not difficult to hear of the revolts of those who set fire to prefectures and burn politicians' effigies. In the countryside there is a real civil war. Landowners and their paramilitary groups decimate indigenous populations and massacre rural workers and small farmers. Recently, in OESTE BAIANO, the people of a city invaded a farm and destroyed the entire hydraulic/electric system for irrigation, which left the river without water to supply the population. The end of public services, as one of the government's key measures to cut spending, has hit heavily the municipal, state and federal civil servants, who have initiated several strike movements across the country.

Last October we saw the left holding events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. The uncertainties and instabilities that permeate the debate over the 2018 elections should bring to the fore debates such as the 100 years of the Russian revolution, the need for the Brazilian revolution and the Bolshevik party for an independent and revolutionary response from the workers to this crisis. Not what is happening; the examples and teachings of the Russian Revolution have remained only for "feast days." On the contrary, the "revolutionary" left says that the socialist revolution in Brazil is not possible!

Capitalism cannot solve the crisis without fascism and barbarism. The Popular Front is not capable of fighting fascism. On the contrary, it creates illusions in bourgeois democracy, demobilizes and demoralizes the workers and opens the way to fascism.

Workers need to break with the bureaucracy that drives trade unions and union centrals. Workers who have made great movements and strikes in recent years need to move forward to the formation of committees of workers and oppressed who can take in their hands the course of the movement itself and strike, resuming their traditional methods

of struggle such as pickets and general strike. Not to mention, for example, in the teachers' strike in Rio Grande do Sul (RS) that for years the union leadership has kept workers on strike away from the workplace, preventing and / or discouraging picketing at school doors. This happened during the 94-day strike of this year (2017) and even in 2016, when the students formed a true united front and occupied the schools! Or what has happened in the mobilization and construction of the General Strike, in which the summits of the union centrals decided to carry out the general strike in meetings between four walls--in the same way that they regularly 'go-through-the-motions'!

MTST and its leaders must break with the bureaucracy and the bourgeoisie. To advance in the construction of committees of workers and oppressed people and self-defense organized to fight against the bourgeoisie and imperialism.

For a Congress of Workers elected on grassroots committees to discuss and decide the course of the fight!

For a government of Workers' Committees!

In the 2018 election, support for workers' committees to launch their candidates as tribunes against the Popular Front!

For a revolutionary workers party that organize the vanguard workers to fight for workers power!

For a new revolutionary workers international based on the method of Trotsky's 1938 Transitional Program!

[Revolutionary Workers Group of Brazil \(GTR-BR\)](#)

Sources:

<http://fortune.com/2017/09/14/jbs-batista-brazil-temer-corruption-insider-trading/>

Video of general strike action: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-brazil-politics-protests/brazil-protesters-police-clash-in-first-general-strike-in-decades-idUSKBN17U0EX>

International Labor Defense

An Injury to One is an Injury to All!

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

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

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

Drop All Charges Against All J20 Protesters!

In a further erosion of democratic rights, 213 protesters against the inauguration of Trump were arrested in Washington DC on January 20th, 2017 and charged under the Federal Riot Act (FRA). 194 of the protesters currently charged and awaiting trial face up to 60 years in prison for less than \$50,000 worth of damage (of course the prosecution alleges more). The FRA is being used to paint anyone that attends a protest where property damage occurs as guilty. In addition to the FRA charges, additional charges have been tacked on for “urging to riot, conspiracy to riot, individualized property damage, and for over half the group, assaulting an officer or resisting arrest (Defend the J20 Resistance).” The extra-judicial executions of black youth on the streets are augmented by the full force of the capitalist courts to crush dissent. Make no mistake about it: this is part and parcel of the growing Bonapartist police state aimed directly at the workers movement. The heavy-hand of the state will be wielded against militant labor strikes just as quickly as against social protests.

Six of the defendants were brought to trial in November and they were found not guilty by a jury. With the FRA, the prosecution doesn't even feel the need to try to tie individual acts with any of the defendants. Without these draconian laws, the prosecution would be unable to prove any of the defendants committed any of the alleged ‘crimes’. Instead Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Kerkhoff has argued that the defendants were “*playing a role in the violence and destruction*” for simply being there. Kerkhoff even admitted that they had no evidence against these six. Of the testifying cops Officer Michael Howden, was caught lying on the stand. The first six defendants include independent journalist Alexia Wood. With the prevalence of online media, the capitalist state is sending a clear message to journalists that they had better watch out.

The other five defendants were Brittne Lawson, Oliver Harris, Michelle “Miel” Macchio, Christina Simmons and Jennifer Armento. The rest of the protesters still face trial. Even if found not guilty, this is still a clear message to the masses. These repressive actions will also be used against workers strikes.

In July of 2017, Trump's Department of Justice served a search warrant on DreamHost, the web-hosting company for the Disrupt J20 (www.disruptj20.org) website. The warrant demanded the IP addresses of the 1.3 million people who visited the site, as well as more detailed information. The Trump administration has done something like this before, when the Customs and Border Protection agency of Homeland Security unsuccessfully ordered information on a Twitter account. Trump is continuing the erosion of civil liberties that the Obama administration continued from Bush.

The ruling class is waging a one-sided class war against the working class and society, eroding democratic rights and gutting the social gains of the past. Given the dearth of proletarian leadership and the weakness of the workers movement, they more or less have a green light and intend to keep it that way as they grind society down in their quest for ever more profit. They need you to shut up, stay off the streets with your protest signs, slave at work and accept the crumbs they have to offer. What we need is a class struggle workers movement to sweep this social reaction away and start winning some battles.

Hands Off the J20 Protesters!

Drop All Charges Immediately!

For Class Struggle Defense of Democratic Rights!

Drop All Charges! Free Red Fawn!



Standing Rock Dakota Access Pipeline protester Red Fawn Fallis faces trial starting January 29th on felony charges of civil disorder and firing a firearm. She faces 10 years to life in prison.

A medic, she was aiding injured protesters on October 27th, 2017 when she was targeted by a group of cops who tackled her to the ground. A gun went off (no one was hurt) and that forms the basis of the frame-up charges.

Donate to Red Fawn's defense:

<http://indi.com/freeredfawn>

<https://nativenewsonline.net/currents/red-fawn-fallis-released-half-way-house/>

Free Cyntoia Brown!



Cyntoia Brown is serving a life sentence without parole in Tennessee for shooting a man who bought her for sex. She was 16 at the time, a victim of child sex-trafficking, who had been raped and abused many times.

The child predator, Johnny Allen, purchased her and took her to his home where she said she feared for her life as he had a lot of guns. Cyntoia's case represents the brutality and violence of capitalism where anyone can be forced into prostitution and sex slavery, often while still a child.

Cyntoia has been the subject of a documentary, *Me Facing Life: Cyntoia's Story*.

<https://www.essence.com/news/cyntoia-brown-child-sex-slave-documentary>

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 !!!

“In this situation, the proletariat, of Russia is faced with a twofold or, rather, a two-sided task: to combat nationalism of every kind, above all, Great-Russian nationalism; to recognise, not only fully equal rights, for all nations in general, but also equality of rights as regards polity, i.e., the right of nations to self-determination, to secession. And at the same time, it is their task, in the interests of a successful struggle against all and every kind, of nationalism among all nations, to preserve the unity of the proletarian struggle and the proletarian organisations, amalgamating these organisations into a close-knit international association, despite bourgeois strivings for national exclusiveness.

Complete equality of rights for all nations; the right of nations to self-determination; the unity of the workers of all nations—such is the national programme that Marxism, the experience of the whole world, and the experience of Russia, teach the workers.“

- Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, The Right of Nations to Self-Determination, 1914

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Website: <http://www.cwgusa.org>

Class War (Paper of the CWG-US)

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Labor Donated