

CLASS WAR

Internationalist News and Analysis

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Yarmouk and Gaza, Palestinians Under Continuous Attack

**Victory to Palestine!
Long live the Syrian
revolution!**



*"Yarmouk starves and we
see faux solidarity" from*

<https://sarabiany.wordpress.com/tag/yarmouk-camp/>

The trigger for the latest Zionist barbarity in Gaza was Trump's change of position on Jerusalem, which was a clear signal that the U.S. is not interested in a Palestine solution. The U.S. has junked the UN resolutions on getting a settlement before arriving at a solution for Jerusalem. That caused a massive and angry Arab response which fueled the mass Gaza protest. It licensed Netanyahu to go after Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah and Iranian forces in Syria. Netanyahu got the green light to ramp up the rivalry between Israel and Iran and he repaid Trump in kind with 'evidence' of WMDs in Iran as a pretext to break the nuclear deal and impose more draconian sanctions. This forces the EU powers to make a decision either to stick with the U.S. bloc or risk the loss of U.S. markets by moving towards Russia and China. That dilemma faces them now, (e.g.) as Nord Stream pipeline from Russia to Germany nears completion.

Gaza is a pawn in the growing inter-imperialist rivalry between the declining

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Down with Assad! U.S., NATO and Russian Imperialists Out of the Middle East!

Syrian Crossroad Moment

The remaining enclaves of the Syrian revolution face liquidation in the coming period; the last large one is now encapsulated by Turkey, which has been seeking a buffer state deal with Russia, keeping Assad out but also preparing a base for hostile action against Rojava. At the meeting in Tehran in early September the Russians and Assad would not agree to the Turkish plan. Assad prepares to use gas. Turkey is arming some locals and sending more troops and equipment in to Idlib.

For the imperialists, the organizations of revolutionary power will be smashed in either case, buffer state or offensive. Immense demonstrations are showing that the surrounded Syrian masses have no quit in them and stick by the revolution's demands. But Turkey will find the revolution indigestible and will do away with it in return for keeping Assad and Iran out, assuming that proves to be possible. In each scenario the Kurds are screwed. These prospects are principally the result of two factors: the lack of a revolutionary socialist party which would unite all the exploited and oppressed against the Assad dictatorship and its invader supporters, and the lack of international solidarity in all of the necessary forms, political, financial and military.

The inter-imperialist wrangle over who would gain the most influence over the Assad regime or in furtherance of any illusion of a post-Assad Syria never did offer for even a moment the prospect of a "no-fly zone." Liberals and 3rd camp "socialists" are still calling for this

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Abolish ICE and the CBP (Border Patrol)!

**For Mass Labor Action to
Liberate the Kidnapped
Children and Unite the
Families Now!**

**Down with Trump's Muslim
Ban! No One is Illegal!**

**Tear Down the Wall! For Free
Movement Across Borders!**

**For Full Citizenship and
Employment Rights for
All Refugees!**



*Photo: New Orleans Workers'
Center for Racial Justice*

Tearing children away from their parents is well beyond the pale of human decency. Yet the American imperialist ruling class unabashedly breaks up families and locks up children who are likely to be traumatized forever from the experience. The liberal and religious "left" cry crocodile tears for the children and seek to make Trump the anomaly, while they give the last administration's Deporter in Chief a pass and ignore the causal factors leading to mass migration, many put in place or sustained by Democratic regimes and their forbearers dating back to the Monroe Doctrine. It was in

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Editorial

In economics classes we learn that Genoa was the birthplace of modern capitalism. Highways like the “Autostrada” are privatized there. Recently a bridge over the city collapsed in a spectacular structural failure. This bridge is a metaphor for our era. Scarcely 50 years old, this bridge was even criticized as a con job when it was just a civil engineering concept. Now it has murdered a number of drivers and passengers who depended on it. No ‘act of god’ involved here. This was the work of the profit system. While cities in India and Pacific island countries and coastal China sink under rising tides thanks to the melting ice caps and glaciers, Capital celebrates the resulting new ice-free sea lanes.

But lest you think the post-modernists dream of keeping the empires’ problems out of sight in the regional extremities are coming true, the effects of declining investment worldwide are beginning to show. Even the growth of the Chinese powerhouse economy has begun to slow as foreign investment contracts. The phenomenon doesn’t get mentioned much outside of the conferences of economists and the pages of the financial newspapers because so many are kept servants and all they want you to know about is the record longevity bull market, but the results are layoffs in the BRICS countries exactly at the moment the autarchic Trump regime launches its “Easy to win”

trade war with China, Europe, Canada and Mexico. Trump’s main economic advisor is Prof. Peter Navarro, author of the bizarre “Death By China.” Navarro says his main job is to reinforce Trump’s economic intuitions (!) Trump says if he’s impeached the economy will crash. This sounds like a threat. As the trade war threatens to become a currency war, the U.S. is exporting its unemployment at the expense of the entire capitalist world system. The globalist real existing world of integrated modern manufacturing being what it is, unemployment will be returning soon. With it will come a contraction of trade and all the effects that flow from that. Jamie Dimon, head honcho at JP Morgan Chase says the next global crash is coming in 2020.

When Trump first took office we said he was behaving like a Russian agent. His behavior since has convinced many of this and within the main bourgeois parties some already want him removed for his attacks on government norms our class never had anything to do with. We, on the contrary are concerned with the plan he is foisting on the public to “improve relations with Russia,” in the persons of oligarchs he has partnered with, when the real and preponderant course of events is a slide toward war between capitalist classes and the blocs of countries they rule. Trump’s trade war with China signals that his alternative to the bipartisan anti-S.C.O. (China/Russia alli-

ance) policy is just a different path down the same slope to war. And as the party on the left holding the red flag for the workers and the oppressed, we are also concerned with what Russian electronic penetration of U.S. elections means and still portends for future contests where a fighting workers’ labor party could win important offices and make of them great soapboxes for the transitional program for the socialist revolution and for the support of every struggle of the workers and the oppressed. A recent Rutgers University symposium showed how a grammar school kid can hack the tallies in New Jersey voting machines in ten minutes, as of August.

Trump will be able to fend off Federal criminal penalty if Brett Kavanaugh is approved as a Supreme Court justice by the Senate, as he will be a swing vote to prevent any Federal legal action against Trump while in office. This confirmation is at least as weighty a historical consideration as the fate of Trump’s presidency. Kavanaugh would be the swing vote for years to come, until one of the other Justices retires or dies AND the other party is on top. **All decisions where he makes the majority will become pro-Bonapartist precedent. All reforms it could be possible to wring from the bourgeoisie will be smacked down as “unconstitutional” by the Court majority and the Democrats will say nothing or tell us “what can you do?”**

There will be a thicket of contentions over who has the Jurisdiction to bring which charges against whom in the coming months. We don’t know the precise character of the immunity granted to the Trump Organization C.F.O., Allen Weisselberg. But we think his testimony will figure in State and N.Y. City charges. Expect Trump to fire Sessions after the mid-terms, in November; Sessions is ironically the most effective of his racist henchmen. A new Attorney General will be able to stifle Mueller’s probe if it is not already complete by then. Even before the elections, Trump wants to fire Mueller but is restrained, particularly after Manafort’s flipping was announced. Even attorney Alan Dershowitz, who previously sought to find legal legs for Trump to stand on, now sees Trump’s fu-

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ture as “very bad.”

The lesson for the working class is there is no justice available in the capitalist courts. The entire system is rigged to keep the working class from winning or sustaining any gains. When the Democrats were in power and the Republicans were the obstructionists the Democrats caved. When they are out of power they say nothing can really be accomplished until they recoup “their” lost seats in Congress. Where voting rights are obstructed the Democratic leadership ignores the defacto overturn of the Voting Rights Act. Instead Donna Brazile and the Black, progressive and LGBT caucuses whine over their loss of superdelegate control of the Democratic Party convention.

Workers have long realized the Democratic Party only keeps them around for phone banking and union contributions. Working class and oppressed people have long been told voting for the Democrats is the lesser of two evils. But the labor leaders who retail this are so entrenched in the Democratic Party they refuse to consider launching a workers party. Since Anthony Mazzocchi’s death they won’t even discuss it! They point to the failure of the Labor Party Advocates (LPA) and draw the wrong lesson. Where Mazzocchi built LPA as a pressure group, we fought for LPA to run candidates on a transitional program in the 1990’s. So the real task of building a fighting workers’ labor party is on the agenda today!

The Democratic Party is so far prepared to content itself with letting Trump continue to term in Jan., 2021, and in fact they would prefer this, regardless of trendy noises they may make for November votes. He is their ideal punching bag. Some of Trump’s associates are even now heading to jail, and this will be enough for some. Democrat leader Nancy Pelosi opposes impeachment as “divisive.” This also becomes a battle within the D.S.A. which the “left” wing loses, one of a number it is bound to lose, being in denial that the Democrats are a bourgeois class rule imperialist organization they will never be allowed to control.

Just to gain a seat at the table Alexandra

Ocasio-Cortez, and Bernie Sanders, in order to keep his, were both obliged to kowtow to the legacy of war criminal and Maidan fascist lover McCain, indicating that their fake to left was to be followed by a track to the right, social-imperialists that they are.

Both parties are afraid of the consequences of the upcoming Mueller Report on Russian Interference in the 2016 Elections and the subsequent obstructions of justice to prevent the facts from being revealed, and a minor possibility exists that the report will NEVER be published. The law says the Special Counsel only has to deliver his report to the Attorney General(AG), or in the present case with Sessions recused, his Assistant. If Assistant AG Rosenstein rejects any proposed indictments against Trump, the report will have to go to the Judiciary committees in the House and Senate. If Muller has no indictments against Trump the report can be buried by Rosenstein (or his replacement.) That is the legal path but there can always be class struggle mass pressure and its consequences including legal release of the report, leaks, or hacking.

There is still the possibility that the report will HAVE TO go to Congress, exactly and only due to public outcry, since we don’t yet know what Trump’s former lawyer Michael Cohen will say in the course of unspecified “flipping” or what Omarosa Manigault Newman’s White House tapes collection say or whether Bob Woodward’s book on Trump will be meaningful to the reader masses. John Dean, former Nixon lawyer thinks the plea deal by Paul Manafort to avoid his second trial signals the beginning of the end for Trump. Likewise the chances of driving Trump from office could depend on the charges that will be brought by the Attorney General of New York State against his adult children and his businesses for tax fraud. His children not only manage the trust he supposedly placed his businesses in, but also the Trump Foundation charity, which turns out to be a decades-long continuing criminal enterprise. There may also be a division of labor on these charges, with separate charges brought by the Manhattan District Attorney, and it should be noted that Trump’s pardon powers only extend to convictions in Federal Courts.

Last year we said the evidence already existed to impeach Trump. Now he is already an ‘unindicted co-conspirator’ (in crimes Michael Cohen has pleaded guilty to) like Nixon was. The Democrats will nevertheless remain content and happy to howl about the colossal gift of Trump’s appointees while voting for such parts of his disaster capitalism program as do not make total collisions with the interests of big donor capitalists. We hear next to nothing about Tax Cut 2.0, which may be the farewell gesture of the Republican majority. This will give the rich an additional \$2.8 Trillion (taxpayer debt!!). Where will this money come from in between budgets? It would have to come from “entitlements,” such as Social Security programs and Medicare. Are Democrats noticeably upset over the anti-union Supreme Court rulings? We hear crickets listening for their opposition. For them, everything is the November elections, and the closer we get the less content we hear. Steve Bannon is surprised the “Me Too” and “Time’s Up” movement are not tearing up the streets. We said last spring that the Democrats would demobilize them, and we are not surprised.

Trump has alienated some of the twin parties’ megadonors. David Pecker, publisher of The National Enquirer has flipped on Trump and is cooperating with Mueller’s investigators. The Koch Brothers will not back his Senate candidates in some key races where the Democrat has proved to be sufficiently and effectively anti-labor. Expect more such flipping and defections.

Trump must go! We will leave it to imperialist liberals to shriek at how he is shredding the post-war alliances. We will leave it to the talking heads and experts to howl how there are two foreign policies. **For wage labor and all the oppressed the emerging picture of Trump’s pro-Russia policies are an anti-labor program of white nationalism that presumes it will be possible to split Russia from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and attach it to a U.S. scheme to attack China in WW3.** To accomplish this Trump is ready to deliver many concessions to Putin. Trump has been partners with the circle of oligarchs supporting Putin since

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they bailed out his four Atlantic City bankruptcies, and he has laundered their ill-gotten gains ever since, turning them into real estate assets in America. He has supported all the white nationalist parties in Europe and has helped maneuver Turkey into recession. This raises the possibility that Turkey will quit NATO, which would change all the geopolitics of the Mediterranean to Russia's advantage! Turkey, lately more aware of the Russia menace to Europe, is exploring its own possible alliances with Romania, Poland and others.

Trump's problem is there are no signs of division in the SCO. He doesn't want a successful revolution in Iran any more than Moscow does, but unlike Putin he is committed to opposing the Khomeini theocracy. And even though his own party is to date prepared to go to the mat to preserve his presidency, they are also not enthusiasts for his foreign policy and have levied sanctions on Russia that he has tried hard not to impose, even though they have the weight of law behind them. Many concede that his parley with Kim Jong Un was a bust. This rift is growing, but he is assuming more powers without essential opposition and not a few of the pols who are retiring this year have noted his power-hungry ambitions. He fosters divisions at home to make himself the essential decider above the conflicts of classes and races that he himself stokes. He trashes the Republican party "family values" slogan with his racist border policy, making hundreds of felonized orphans and deporting Central American parents to face the killer gangs and police they sought asylum from. **We demand full citizenship rights for all refugees!**

We say he wants to be a Bonaparte. Let Trump have Kavanaugh confirmed and he will proceed with his power grabbing plans. He has already grabbed control of tariff authority away from a supine Congress. We will not cry if he is by some fluke impeached, but to drive him from office for sure we should be trusting our own class' forces and forms of struggle! This is a bosses' government; the lawyers are just the superstructural excrescence. Strikes cut the bosses' profits and get their immediate attention. Demand they delete Trump now!

We will not fool anyone like the Avakian Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) does. The opposition to Trump from the FBI and CIA is rooted in Trump's alliance with Putin and the Russian mafia and offers no defense of any worker's democratic rights, but only the institutional rights of branches of the state. Sometimes the bosses' gunsels, like the Cosa Nostra mobsters, are at each others' throats. This is not a moment to help ANY of them! The RCP is hysterical about a phantom fascism, but they are peddling an intentional misunderstanding of what it is, and are doing so with a usual Stalinist "emergency" preference for Democrat office seekers ("refuse fascism!" just like "Drive out the Bush Regime!") So far as we can see they never fought Obama with any energy: they are the ultraleft flip side of reformism and we can't see how their "revolution" differs from Bernie's when it comes to how to arrive at socialism.

Fascism is not coming unless Trump is able to assemble a private army for terrorizing and smashing the labor movement. So long as he can get the desired anti-labor votes from his Supreme Court, he can assure the capitalist class that survival of their class rule does not depend on a militarized private mass reactionary movement. He gives himself an A-plus on job performance and says all they need is him. All his life he has been able to get over by manipulations, and his egotism does not let him trust even a small organization. This can change for the worse when Capital so decides, but so far it has not. For a more detailed discussion please see the "Redrave" article reprinted in this issue. See "[How \(not\) to smash fascism](#)". Also see online at Redrave "[Breivik is a fascist](#)".

We want to supply the public outcry class struggle to open the books! No secret reports! We know the Democrats have no plan to rid us of Trump--as they have indicated. Only revolutionary socialists can end his tenure so we especially advocate for & want "illegal" political strikes to make the fall feel like a hot summer in D.C. and rolling general strikes until he is driven from office. We certainly don't want Pence put in his place or the next-in-succession, the Speaker of the House, which is what you'll get via

impeachment(s). Only a workers government can create solutions to and end the current crisis of capitalist decay. The bosses say we have full employment, but wages stagnate. A workers government will impose thirty hours work for forty hours pay, will expropriate the big capitalists and use the assets now wasted on militarism to rebuild the environment, provide full employment at living wages, quality education and healthcare for all. This cannot be done via a parliamentary take over like that proposed by the DSA, Sanders and the reformists. Only a government of workers councils based on factory, mine, farm and office workers' own worksite committees can create the democratic basis for a socialist transformation of society.

This program, not the unprogram of impeachment is the only solution to the current political, economic and environmental crisis. This program requires a fighting workers/labor party committed to building rank and file self organization and uniting all oppressed people and working class students and families with workers at their jobs. Our class requires a class based political force that links the American workers with their class sisters and brothers internationally to build the world socialist system against the dying world capitalist system. Liberals and "progressives" who talk trash about the Democrats always offer a Third party, but that is a subterfuge, a way of avoiding the need for the workers to have their own political independence, a way to maintain a bloc with a wing of the capitalists and sustain the corporate power, the military industrial and prison industrial complex and the imperialist exploitation of the semi-colonies it is based upon.

We need a fighting workers' labor party! With such a party we would oust Trump from office with the irresistible economic pressures brought to bear on the bourgeois state by strikes from coast to coast, against domestic and multinational corporations alike. This would flush the provisions of the Taft-Hartley "Slave Labor Law" and signal a battle for the replacement of each and every labor-faker leadership who have made a fat living accommodating and defending this kind of 'legality.'

Cont. from pg. 1 Syria

despite the mountain of evidence that the revolution never had a scintilla of support among any of the imperialists. The Syrian revolution will survive, of course, as a cause among the Syrian diaspora, and despite the resettlement of whole areas by Iranians and their ethnic-cleansing militias. We are witnessing another “Nakba” and a Russophile red-brown international “left” alliance is going for the genocidal okey-doke.

We do not know what seven U.S. Senators, all members of the Appropriations Committee, discussed with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Moscow. Neither do we know what the content was of the private Donald Trump letter delivered to Putin by Rand Paul, although indications are this letter could have been a proposed plot to work around the sanctions. And of course no one but the Russians know what Trump promised in Helsinki. But we do know the Russians are confining the Iranians in Syria behind a line 50 miles from the Israeli border. This is not just about preserving Putin’s deals with Netanyahu. Russia worries about the logic of Shia extremism and what its consequences could be for its personnel and bases on the Mediterranean. The same worries would apply to their oilfields development pact with Assad, should Assad become a mere Tehran appendage. But we caution against reading too much into this. Iran remains allied with the SCO. Late development show the Russian Foreign Minister and Assad agreeing that Idlib is “*a pustule that must be drained.*” This appears to reject the Turkish buffer state, with its ‘National Army’ of Syrians.

What happens if the 12 Turkish outposts surrounding the Idlib perimeter are attacked by Assad and/or the Russians? What would NATO’s response be? What would Turkey’s response be? Would no NATO response signal the end of NATO? Trump doesn’t care for NATO, and neither does his pal Putin. There are zero good reasons for U.S. forces to be in (or overhead) Syria. We demand they come home now!

Inter-imperialist Conflicts and the “dialectics” of our opponents!

Those of us with historical roots in the old-time Socialist Workers Party (U.S.) know that James Robertson was never known as a dialectician. He was recruited by Murray Weiss out of the Shachtmanite movement, where he was tutored in Marxism by old Max, who famously said dialectics exist but don’t matter. You can find this quote in “[In Defense of Marxism](#),” which recounts the 1939-40 3rd camp faction fight with Trotsky. We bring this up because in dialectics **everything changes**, identities are a scientific convenience and things turn into their opposites. For Robertson, and behind him the Spartacist League and his international tendency, the ICL, and indeed for each of the sects that have spun off it, China remains a workers state, as fantastic as that may seem. Consequently, they snort at any discussion of Chinese imperialism. For this bunch, counterrevolution cannot triumph because the Stalinist CCP holds the monopoly of state power.

Sensational news in the Mainstream media blizzard the airwaves, so it is no accident that you have to find out via social media web pages and e-zines that China is challenging French imperialist domination of whole regions of Africa. For the Robertsonites, this is just “foreign trade.”

France’s “Regime of the Exclusive” versus Chinese Capital

From Africa 24, info we are brought up to date on an imperialist legacy of France’s colonial past. China (PRC) has given France a 5-year ultimatum to negotiate a new trade deal for 6 of the 14 African countries whose trade France continues to monopolize. Under terms imposed by “The Regime of the Exclusive” in the 17th century (!!!) the former colonies are forced to import French goods only and export only to France.

China “owns” 40% of the crude oil production in Congo. Yet Chinese capital must transit the Bank of France. This takes time and costs a bank depreciation of the Yuan total. Now the Chinese capitals want to make new rules to effect 6 of the 14 countries France still imposes

this regime upon, and the PRC has given France 5 years to abolish the terms applied to the 6 countries where China is investing big money or face steep economic sanctions. Does the ICL want to tell us this is progressive news, or is this Chinese imperialism flexing its muscles? We will be watching for more details, but we will meanwhile say we oppose all imperialism and that real national liberation for all African nations will require taking the path of the permanent revolution and seizing and nationalizing all imperialist assets, without indemnification and under workers’ control!

Class Warrior

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Why are Russia and China imperialist powers and not capitalist semi-colonies?

Developing Lenin and Trotsky on post-soviet Russia and China

There are big debates going on about whether Russia and China are imperialist powers today. This arises when it becomes obvious that the major local and regional wars around the globe, such as in Ukraine, are in reality proxy wars between the established imperialist powers led by the US, and the upstarts, Russia and China. With the rapid rise of *late-imperialist rivalry* between the US and China, this question has become urgent since it involves a policy of defeat for both sides if they are imperialist or the defence of Russia and China if they are not. Unlike much of the left that thinks that the old debates of the workers states are no longer important today, we argue here that the fundamental differences that arose over the workers states nearly a century ago carry over into the 21st century revisionist politics of new hunches of Mensheviks who substitute the petty bourgeois for the revolutionary agency of the proletariat.

The usual approach of Leninist-Trotskyists is to apply Lenin’s criteria from *Imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism*, which essentially reduces to the overproduction of capital in the great powers which requires capital export to colonies and semi-colonies to raise the rate of profit at home. The argument goes back to Marx’s *Capital* to establish the foundations of the theory, and forward to see if the theory applies to Russia and China today. The problem is therefore framed in terms of whether Russia and China today are imperialist or Lenin’s criteria. A second important question that flows from this approach, however, is not just “if” this is the case, but “how.” This is because to be consistent with Lenin’s theory, more needs explaining than the theory underlying capital export and whether Russia and China qualify in these terms. Lenin as well as explaining the rise of imperialism also argued that the world had been divided among the imperialist powers. Some have taken this to mean that there is no room for new imperialist powers to emerge, not least former workers’ states!

In summary, Lenin’s theory draws on Marx’s *Capital* to posit imperialism as a necessary stage of France capital that arises out of its inherent crisis tendencies. Driven by crises of over-production of capital at home to export capital to get access to cheap raw materials and labor, the competing imperialist powers carve up the world market among them. From that point on the world market can be re-divided among these powers only by means of trade, political and military wars until such time as wars produce revolutions capable of defeating imperialism and making the transition from capitalism to socialism. Therefore it follows that there is no provision in the theory for the emergence of new imperialist powers escaping colonial or semi-colonial servitude. They lack the pre-conditions for such a transition – that is, they lack genuine political and economic independence from imperialism. They are oppressed states and such will remain oppressed by one or other imperialist power. So not only must Lenin’s theory be developed to explain the emergence of Russia and China as imperialist, we must prove “how” this is possible. In the process we can demolish all the rival theories that arrive at false conclusions based on a non-Marxist, non-dialectical method, that is, a bourgeois eclectic, empiricist method.

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Thailand: Defeat the Coup d’etat - A Polemic and Program in response to the RCIT

The Revolutionary Internationalist Communist Tendency (RCIT) never tires of displaying their neo-Clifford understanding of the actual democratic content of bourgeois parliamentary democracy. Everywhere they invest elected governments with a democratic legitimacy. It is no accident that they have never been able to bring themselves to criticize the Workers Power (L.S.I.) position of support for Yehin in 1991. In Yehin they saw the promise of greater democratic rights and opportunities for self-organization of the working class, completely misunderstanding the true obtaining situation as a contest between two capitalist restorationist forces for the leadership of the counter-revolution against all survivors of the October revolution.

More recently we have seen the RCIT invest the Mursi government of Egypt with a similar democratic legitimacy based on a popular vote. That this election was a set up and that the real power was the deep state that has ruled Egypt at all times since 1952 makes no impression on our Vietnamese semi-Clifford. The reassertion of direct control by the Egyptian Army high command (SCAF) was for the RCIT a military coup of the character of the Greek Colonels of 1967 or the Pinochet coup of 1973. The RCIT initially called for a United Front with the Muslim Brotherhood in defense of the Mursi government. Shortening their jib after this gaffe, they still continued to call for the restoration of the Mursi government claiming it was democratically elected and called for a united front to accomplish this restoration, and failing that called for a constituent assembly to assemble democratic forces to fight the “coup.”

The May 20th coup by the commanders of the Thai army is indeed a military coup by any classical criteria. Nevertheless, we are not champions of the kind of “democratic elections” that bring pro-Thaksin Pheu Thai party politicians to power, anymore than elections that lead to Democratic Party governments. *It is not permissible for capitalists to call upon the workers to shed their own blood for the defense of the restoration of any of these “democratically elected” governments.* You cannot pass off any such call as a Leninist United Front tactic. This has nothing to do with Lenin and everything to do with Menshevism, Kautskyism and even Stalinism. We reject the agency of alien class forces and institutions as the necessary precondition for entry of the masses onto the revolutionary road.

It is non-dialectical and it is schematic in the extreme to keep repeating this idea that the workers movement must pass through a stage of bourgeois parliamentarism when concrete conditions show that the bourgeois has no expected confidence or no patience for bourgeois parliamentarism. Not only will they not fight for it themselves, but in the general world crisis of capitalism they find “democracy” unnecessarily expensive and dispose with it at their earliest opportunity. *Trotsky in 1938 thought bourgeois democracy might prove no expensive even for the bourgeoisie of the U.S.A. In the concrete circumstance of the masses even discontent with the Thaksin dynasty is still far from the restoration of the status-quo ante so to pronounce a retreat in a revolutionary advance [the word “in” should be deleted and a type in its original].*

The RCIT analysis of the Thaksin government invests bourgeois democracy with real democracy. A never had and this is methodologically of one piece with their previous errors.

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Read [Class Warrior](#)!

Theoretical Journal of Liaison
Committee of Communists

Volume 1, Number 6, June 2014

“Why Russia and China are
Imperialist Powers”

Volume 1, Number 8, April 2015

“Russia, China and the Unfinished
Permanent Revolution”

Volume 1, Number 10, April 2016

“In Defense of Permanent
Revolution in Syria”

Cont. from pg. 1 Palestine

U.S. and the rise of Russia and China, a pawn where Israel and Iran are the main regional proxies. As the focal point of the only post WW2 colonial settler conquest in the Middle East, Palestine remains at the center of the Arab revolution against the imperialist counter-revolution.

As Russia gains over the U.S. in Syria and draws Turkey, Iran and Qatar into its Eurasian bloc, the U.S. is devoid of even a Kurdistan protectorate. Trump wants out of Syria and wants to keep his promise to “*let Russia handle Syria.*” But U.S. troops are still in Syria and Assad wants them gone now (there are oil fields there) and is willing to attack. The U.S./Russia “Bromance” agreement to put their differences to one side and collaborate in a “war on terrorism” was always just this problematic in practice. But assuming no large scale Assad attacks on Deraa, the agreement now looks more likely, as Russia grumbles about its ally Iran’s intentions in Syria and across the Levant. The U.S./Russia agreement is to smash the Arab revolution. As the military defeat of the Syrian revolution looms the prospects for revolution in Iran are growing, which has to make Putin contemplate his cost projections! For now we can expect Russia’s Astana plan for a new constitution and the likely partition of Syria to embed the Russia/China bloc.

We nevertheless foresee a widening of the inter-imperialist conflict and more possibilities for full-on proxy wars developing. These conflicts are driven by bigger economic frictions that cannot be put aside. In this light, the success of el Sadr in the Iraqi elections could mean that the U.S. and Russia/China might clash over Iraqi oil, where both imperialist blocs have about equal stakes. It is possible that Iraq will once more become the focal point of their “Great Game” for the whole of Eurasia, throwing the Iraqi masses once more into the crucible.

“Moscow did not condemn Israel’s strikes, as it had in the past, instead calling on Israel and Iran to resolve their

differences diplomatically.” NYT (May 10)

Russia has been making a play to neutralize Israel for several years and has an agreement to develop offshore gas fields near Haifa. If for the moment Netanyahu plays blood brother to Trump after the embassy move, he is nevertheless seeking ways to inveigle the U.S. into war with Iran, a strategy the Zionist regime has pursued since 1990. A former Mossad general has revealed to Eliot Engel on MSNBC (5/25/18) that Israel now is engaged in a “*rolling escalation*” of attacks on Iranian forces in a war with Iran that “*already exists,*” with the aim of making it impossible for the U.S. to stay out of this war. Like Trump, Netanyahu wants to break Russia out of its alliance with China, so as to permit this war with Iran without world war. But Trump has not taken the bait yet and has only given the green light to use up some U.S. furnished military supplies on Iranians in Syria.



Only a Socialist Palestine can free the Palestinian people!

And just because we of the Communist Workers Group (CWG) oppose Iranian and Russian intervention in Syria, don’t think for a minute that we condone or refuse to condemn the Israeli escalation. Without support from Russian bombers, Iranian “Revolutionary Guards” and the Hezbollah, the people of Syria would have toasted the overthrow of Assad years ago. While Assad bombs Palestinians in the Yarmouk refugee camp Israel guns down peaceful protests in Gaza. Israel is not bombing Iranian positions in Syria to support the Syrian masses. Rather, taking the cue from Trump’s withdrawal

from the agreement with Iran, Israel is showing it knows when it is obliged to use up stockpiles of “equipment” which U.S. taxpayers (the most generous people in the world) will be required to replenish. On both sides of the aisle Democrats and Republican legislators are preparing to sell us World War 3 in hopes of securing new sales orders to keep their benefactors, the military industrial capitalists in the black. As a reward for its great death-dealing customer, the U.S. administration picks exactly this moment to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the colonial settler state! As long as they can deceive the U.S. masses they do not care that the world knows the U.S. has no more interest in Middle East peace than its pet monsters Netanyahu and Assad.

Lest anyone do any critical/historical thinking on the subject of Middle East imperialist criminality, Senator Schumer of New York introduced a bill to make **advocacy of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement a crime and to explicitly outlaw criticism of Israel,**

with staggering financial and jail penalties! This proposed law follows the enactment of a similar South Carolina statute. And if some in the Knesset right get their way, it will be illegal to even photograph the Israeli troops, since photos are used to shame them!

While branding Palestinians as aggressors, the U.S. regime simultaneously cut off aid funds for humanitarian organizations in Syria. Far from the fake left’s alternative facts mantra that the U.S. is trying to overthrow Assad, the funds cut slashes the budget of the White Helmets (Syrian Civil Defense) by one third!

For decades liberal Zionism has argued that there is no one on the Palestinian side to negotiate with as they are all terrorists. Holding high the banner of Israeli “democracy” they admonish the Palestinians and the left to use non-violent civil-disobedience in the tradition of Martin Luther King and Gandhi to address their concerns, just as their latest allies in the USA, the Socialist Workers

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Iran

Party (SWP) do. This ruse is again being exposed in Gaza, just as when Rachel Corrie was crushed to death by a Zionist home demolition with a Caterpillar backhoe. In 2018 Gazans bravely face gradual extinction due to contaminated water, limited electricity, brutally restricted access to the world, limited food and medical supplies. Today, when peaceful protests are launched at the barbed wire, IDF snipers are given orders to shoot to kill unarmed civilians. The true program of Zionism is to eliminate the Arab presence inside the green line and ultimately across the West Bank, and by making Gaza unlivable, to ethnically cleanse the refugee camps just as Assad is doing in Yarmouk.

Learn and remember that despite the apparent animosity between Israel and Iran they are both undemocratic counterrevolutionary capitalist theocratic regimes. Pragmatically and strategically they are united with Putin, Trump and Assad in their opposition to the resurgent Arab National Revolution going permanent as it runs up against the limitations of imperialism/capitalism and seeks a socialist solution. **Victory to Palestine! Long live the Syrian revolution!** We call on the international working class to rise to the defense of the Palestinian people, of the Syrian people and the working masses of the Middle East.

U.S./NATO and Russian/Chinese imperialists out of the Middle East now!

Down with the proxy regimes that divide and rule their masses!

For non-sectarian unity of all popular Arab, Iranian and Kurdish forces for national self-determination!

For an international communist movement that can intervene militarily for the Permanent Revolution throughout the Middle East!

For a Socialist Federation of the Middle East!

None of the World Socialist Forum (WSF)-affiliates or the “Tankies,” the various Marcyite tendencies, see any U.S. imperialist decline. Their pacifism vis a vis Iran is actually social-imperialism, so long as Israel does not succeed in inveigling the U.S. into a war on Iran. Social-imperialism because they defend Obama’s non-proliferation deal with Iran. This U.S. war with Iran, often threatened, is possible, but so far only possible.

Remember that Israel has been calling for it since 1990. Trump generally favors what Netanyahu wants, and this favor is not all for show, as demonstrated by his moving the Embassy to Jerusalem. And the Israelis are pushing hard, engaging as a Mossad official told NBC News’ Richard Engel in “*escalating provocations*.” However Trump is up against both the opposition of Putin and some real institutional resistance from the State and Defense Departments and the Intelligence apparatuses, i.e. the inertia of the bipartisan and previous U.S. policy. The vector sum of the war versus peace forces is not the same as it was in the ‘90s, however, and can’t be, with the willingness of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to join a war against Iran nowadays and its active hostilities against Tehran’s proxies, the Houthis. In dialectics, everything does change after all.

So it is a fake anti-imperialism of a section of the left that supports a deal between the Mullahs and those imperialist powers who forced the deal on them. The deal tells Iranians ‘You WILL burn fossil fuels for energy. You WILL NOT have nuclear weapons no matter what hostile neighbors threaten you with.’ And who among the 3rd world peoples has a right to revolution? Not the masses, according to this “left” bunch! They have only a right to approved anti-imperialist regimes of dictators and/or zealots approved by leftists of the imperialist centers. Like Code Pink and Noam Chomsky.

We don’t like nukes. But we did like the socialists the Mullahs wiped out to consolidate their betrayal of the 1979 revolution. The tankies and WSF probably would have defended the “modernizing” and “atheist” Shah if he had been Mos-

cow’s pet boy and not Washington’s.

The shift of conflicting imperialist interests back to Iran & Iraq is apparent and the likely conflict not resulting in a “war on terror” division of labor between the S.C.O. and the U.S.-led bloc like in Syria, but a big clash over major sources of oil. Trump’s clique is also wishing to privatize the Afghan war, i.e., the old time business religion of robber barons, that war is too important to be left to military morons.

We’re glad to see the statement of The [Alliance of Middle East Socialists](#). To the tankies’ charge that revolutionary ferment across the region and in Iran is all the work of the “Project for A New American Century,” the Alliance answers with opposition to monarchism, CIA money, U.S imperialism and its organizational expression, the M.E.K. We excerpt:

“We say,

- No war on Iran, no cyberwarfare, no economic sanctions that would hurt the Iranian masses.*
 - The anti-war movement must remind the world about the horrors of the sanctions on Iraq 1990-2003*
 - Iran get out of Syria right now. Your intervention is criminal. Stop direct and indirect military intervention in Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen.*
 - Solidarity with the current uprising of workers, women, unemployed youth, students, teachers, farmers, oppressed ethnic and religious minorities and the dispossessed for social justice and against the Iranian regime and its military interventions abroad.*
 - While we express support for Iranian democratic forces struggling against the regime, we do not support monarchists and the Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK) that support U.S. imperialism and receive money from the CIA.*
 - Iran, end capital punishment and free political prisoners*
 - Americans, realize that an attack on Iran will not only be devastating to Iranians but will likely lead to a wider war, with catastrophic consequences for the people of the Middle East, the United States, and much of the rest of the world.”*
- “Iran After Trump’s New Threats: Statement from Revive the Peace Movement Network”*

Cont. from pg. 1 *Immigrants*

2009 during the Obama regime that the U.S. supported, allowed and advanced the dictatorial coup against Zelaya in Honduras. A military dictatorship which today shuts down union organizing with a bullet to the head to ensure U.S. capitalist interests are secure. These conditions of oppression drive people to migrate.

Republicans and Democrats alike have intervened militarily to annex territories now claimed by the United States from Puerto Rico to Hawaii. These twin parties of oppression collude to prop up and sustain military dictatorships that protect the local Latifundistas and comprador bourgeoisie of Latin America. Decade after decade for the last hundred and sixty years there have been so many [incursions](#) and manipulations, slaughters and disappearances, enough to fill volumes.

The NAFTA agreement created the corn crisis in Mexico to the advantage of Big Agra, ADM, Monsanto, and the finance capital behind them. Cheap U.S. Genetically Modified corn flooded the market driving Mexican farmers to bankruptcy, opening the market opportunities for the cartels and the further desolation of our Mexican brethren. The workers and farmers are driven into total immiseration and poverty. Criminal enterprises and criminal brutality festers and people living in fear do their best to survive and sometimes have no choice but to run. Run from total destitution or run from total brutality; running just to have a life. The causal factor is and has been imperialist super-exploitation justified by the imperial mandate: the Monroe Doctrine and the ideological justification of slavery, slaughter of the First People, denigration of immigrants, the "White Man's Burden" since the early days of the Republic.

Capitalism has no solution to the human suffering involved in the international migration of populations because its life blood-profits- depend on the exploitation, oppression and subjugation of the masses of workers and farmers in Latin America and other countries of the global south to sustain the capitalist class's wealth and power. The international crisis and brutality of capitalism is driving



masses from their homes from Myanmar to Bangladesh, from Syria and Central America. As capitalism cannot prevent the causes of migration, its ideologues engage in xenophobic and nationalistic rhetoric and unleash brutal state repression against immigrants in order to whip up a nationalist revival of patriotism and hatred to divide the working class and mask the decay of the teetering behemoth. Right wing populism-the path to fascism-is the ruling class's last refuge against emergent internationalist working class consciousness and its corollary, independent political action.

Trump, Republicans & the Democrats

Republicans and the Democrats built and wielded the anti-immigrant state machinery that Trump is currently using. It is not really necessary to go into much detail about Trump or the GOP. They represent capitalist social reaction with few niceties. The Democrats, at least their progressive caucus, play the liberal populist card and what is left of the 'left' in the U.S. perpetuate vast illusions in the Democrats, in electoralism and the institutions of power as reformable with "good" candidates.

It was Hillary Clinton who in a 2014 interview stated that "[W]e have to send a clear message. Just because your child gets across the border, that doesn't mean the child gets to stay." Her husband, Bill Clinton, dramatically increased anti-immigrant measures such as Operation Gatekeeper, the 1996 Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act and the Illegal Immigration

Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act. Black Lives Matter co-founder and Executive Director of Black Alliance for Just Immigration, Opal Tometi, wrote that *"As a result of these laws, millions of immigrants have been victims of fast-track deportations and unjust, arbitrary detention; families and communities have been torn apart; and entire generations of immigrants have been criminalized."*

In 2010, Obama allocated \$600 million to patrolling the border which included deploying drones. The Obama administration deported a record 1.5 million immigrants in his first term under *formal removal* (which has a lasting legal consequence unlike *returns*), breaking previous records. In August, 2011, at a Christian Science Monitor breakfast Obama administration Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano bragged, *"The numbers are going to be very robust in terms of numbers of removal -- we don't fool around about this. Our border enforcement is second to none."* And she wasn't kidding. If the Obama administration's attacks on immigrants appear "humane" to liberals, it is only because it is difficult to compete on the social reaction scale with such racist, right-wing, anti-immigrant xenophobes such as Iowa nut job Congressman Steve King or budding dictator Donald Trump.

And while the Feds wage attacks on immigrants, several states have enacted or have tried to enact anti-immigrant legislation. Jeff Session's

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Alabama passed HB56 in 2011 which is considered the toughest immigration law in the United States. Its provisions deter children from going to school, deny people public benefits and the ability to rent housing or earn a living, along with a range of new immigration-related offenses with draconian penalties attached. It also involves racial profiling where state and local police officers can detain and investigate people based on a “suspicion” that they may be undocumented immigrants. In effect this is a throwback to the days of *de jure* segregation of George “Segregation Forever” Wallace’s Alabama. In 2012, the Alabama law was revised and made even harsher.

Between E-Verify checks, registering for Registered Provisional Immigrant Status (RPI) or applying for a visa, the federal and state agencies have full toolboxes with which to track and target “undesirables,” native-born or not. Even as immigrants fight to become legal citizens, civil liberties for the native born are being shredded as the government wages its never-ending “War on Terror,” which actually means a war on workers and the oppressed domestically and abroad. For the Black and Brown communities, this is a literal war being waged against their neighborhoods and their persons. A Black person is gunned down by the racist cops practically every day (at the rate of every 28 hours in America in 2014).

The “secure border” Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)

To their credit, the **Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)** have organized rallies against Trump’s deportations. DSA combines street actions and organizing (such as tenant unions,) with political support for the Democratic Party of U.S. imperialism. DSA supports “progressive” Democrats for office, such as Philly District Attorney Larry Krasner. **Only fake-socialists support cops, D.A.’s, judges, prison guards, ICE, the CBP or any other repressive agency of the capitalist state.**

Krasner has shown his true colors as he appointed rabid death penalty advocate,

pro-cop and former D.A./Justice Ronald Castille to his transition team. Krasner’s office has stonewalled on releasing documents that could help free former Black Panther Mumia Abu-Jamal who has been imprisoned for the last three decades on a frame-up. The documents implicate Castille as playing a significant personal role in Mumia’s case at the time as D.A. Castille, later on as a justice and chief justice in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court refused to recuse himself from Mumia’s appeals. Krasner’s office has publicly stated that Castille had no “*significant, personal involvement*” in Mumia’s case when Castille was a District Attorney. Krasner certainly knows which side he is on. Organizing protest rallies cannot make up for bad politics. DSA fights **not** for a socialist political program to abolish capitalism, but for the politics of the liberal populist Democratic Party that they yearn for. They dream of an Eleanor Rooseveltian “New-New Deal” and sell this to collegians. This is something Capital will not let them have absent an upsurge of the working class with a class-for-itself dynamic. Should this happen the DSA will be revealed as another ploy of reaction designed to maintain the dictatorship of Capital and its facade, the bourgeois-democratic superstructure.

DSA’s main slogan against Trump’s anti-immigrant terror is to “*Abolish ICE*”, which is fine on the face of it. It has become the main slogan for the protests and is demagogically supported by a section of the Democratic Party, and even some ICE agents themselves who prefer not to terrorize children and would rather chase national security “threats” and child pornographers. However, “*Abolish ICE*” only touches the surface and avoids the question of imperialism that drives immigrants to leave their countries; it avoids the question of anti-immigrant border security, full democratic rights for immigrants and even the anti-immigrant laws and other repressive state agencies besides ICE.

To much acclaim by reformist socialists, DSA member and Democratic Party candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez defeated longtime incumbent Joseph Crowley in the primary for New York’s 14th congressional district. Ocasio-Cortez ran on Medicare for All, free

college, jobs for all, to abolish ICE and for “*immigration justice*.” Already after her win, when pressed in an NPR interview about open borders, Ocasio-Cortez stated: “*Well, I think - I do think that we have to have a secure border. We need to make sure that people are, in fact, documented. But that doesn’t mean that we threaten people’s lives. It doesn’t mean that we kill them.*”

So much for “*workers of the world unite!*” as far as DSA is concerned. What “justice” is there in border security, immigrant deaths from trying to cross the border, guest worker status, e-verify employment authorization or waiting years for not even guaranteed citizenship, with many hurdles put in place? **We say there can be no second-class workers.** The demand for “**immediate full citizenship and employment rights for all immigrant workers and their families**” unites the most oppressed workers with the rest of the class; it does so in logic, but in fact the conscious workers have to wage the struggle for this unity. This requires launching a struggle for jobs for all. Immediately these struggles will collide headlong with the interests of our capitalist class enemy and with their defenders. We need to unite and organize the entire multi-racial, multi-ethnic working class to fight against this unjust capitalist system, and a critical part of that fight means defending the democratic rights of immigrants, one of the most vulnerable and exploited sections of the working class.

Immigrant Rights are Workers’ Rights! No Somos Illegales, Somos Trabajadores!

Anti-immigrant, along with anti-Black racism, is the spearhead of social reaction in the U.S. The defense of immigrant workers, along with Black and Brown democratic rights, is crucial for the American working class. Immigrants bring strong traditions of labor militancy and class consciousness as was demonstrated for example by the Justice for Janitors LA strike in 1990 and the International Workers May Day walkouts in 2006. Immigrants are concentrated in key sectors of the U.S. working class, particularly in the industrial working

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class. The working class in America will be incapable of uniting and making significant gains unless they come to the defense of their immigrant fellow workers.

Karl Marx wrote of chattel slavery **“Labour cannot emancipate itself in the white skin where in the black it is branded.”** This quote could be applied to Black oppression as well as to immigrants today. In the union organizing victory at Smithfield Foods in North Carolina in 2008, Black and Brown unity against anti-immigrant attacks played a major role in successful union organizing. In contrast, the South remains largely unorganized today because the CIO was unwilling to take on Jim Crow segregation during its Operation Dixie organizing drive from 1946-53. And while AFL-CIO President Trumka may invoke his Polish immigrant ancestors, anti-immigrant racism is directed primarily at those emigrating from Central and South America, the Caribbean and Africa.

As Karl Marx wrote of the British and Irish working class:

“And most important of all! Every industrial and commercial centre in England now possesses a working class divided into two hostile camps, English proletarians and Irish proletarians. The ordinary English worker hates the Irish worker as a competitor who lowers his standard of life. In relation to the Irish worker he regards himself as a member of the ruling nation and consequently he becomes a tool of the English aristocrats and capitalists against Ireland, thus strengthening their domination over himself. He cherishes religious, social, and national prejudices against the Irish worker. His attitude towards him is much the same as that of the “poor whites” to the Negroes in the former slave states of the U.S.A.. The Irishman pays him back with interest in his own money. He sees in the English worker both the accomplice and the stupid tool of the English rulers in Ireland. This antagonism is artificially kept alive and intensified by the press, the pulpit, the comic papers, in short, by all the means at the disposal of the

ruling classes. This antagonism is the secret of the impotence of the English working class, despite its organisation. It is the secret by which the capitalist class maintains its power. And the latter is quite aware of this.” (emphasis added, Letter: Marx to Sigfrid Meyer and August Vogt In New York, 1870)

The infamous, racist Postville, Iowa raid (*see the excellent documentary “AbU.S.ed: The Postville Raid”*) and deportations at Agriprocessor, Inc. in 2008 also points to the intersection of labor and the fight for immigrant rights. This raid was conducted at a time when the UFCW (United Food and Commercial Workers) were conducting an organizing campaign. There were large rallies, organized mainly by religious organizations. But what was needed was a fighting labor movement. **Massive, militant Labor, Black, and Brown mobilizations to defend the immigrant workers** against La Migra through labor actions were needed. **Organized disciplined, militant and trained Labor/Black/Brown self-defense guards** with the perspective of driving ICE out of the plants and the community were what was called for. **Labor action such as solidarity strikes** were needed both throughout the Midwest, as well as nationally and internationally to demand **no deportations and that all workers imprisoned be immediately released.** An all-out organizing campaign should have been launched to organize not only Agriprocessors, but the entire meat-packing industry which is heavily Latino and immigrant. And the surrounding communities should have been organized as well.

In the 1930's, at Hormel in Austin, Minnesota, workers organized the Independent Union of All Workers using militant, class struggle means such as sit-down strikes. This was led by Frank Ellis, an IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) organizer and by Trotskyist militants. They went on to organize much of Austin and surrounding communities “wall-to-wall”. This is the kind of organizing that is desperately needed today. It certainly isn't going to come from the servile, sellout, class-collaborationist union bureaucracy, whose ideas of “mobilizations” are rallies

and vote-herding for the Democratic Party. A general strike was needed nearly 40 years ago when Reagan busted PATCO. And here we are today with the Janus Supreme Court decision that is a direct attack on public sector unions. And the labor misleaders are doing zilch.

A new generation of worker leaders needs to be built, particularly a class struggle leadership of Black, Brown, immigrant and women workers. These are the more militant and class conscious members of the working class. Worker militants need to start organizing **rank-and-file caucuses and action committees within our unions based on a political program of irreconcilable class struggle** to organize and mobilize the workers against the assault of capital and to replace the misleadership of the labor-fakers who hold back struggle. Uniting the trade unions with the oppressed communities in struggle is necessary if we are to even begin to defend what we have. Anti-immigrant racism sows disunity within the working class and places a very vulnerable and exploited sector of workers in an even weaker position. Immigrants didn't cause the financial collapse and attacking immigrants does nothing but further the consolidation of power of the wealthy few who exploit workers throughout the world.

Internationally the capitalist crisis has seen the rise of xenophobic, racist reaction. The fascists have once again entered the political stage in Europe and the U.S. The ascendancy of wannabe Bonapartist Trump has witnessed the growth of the ‘Alt-Right’, the KKK, Nazis and other white supremacists. The fascists, if not stopped, will not only attack immigrants, but they will crush a revived labor movement and the workers and leftist political parties. The labor bureaucracy, the reformist socialists, the Stalinists, the Chavistas and the anarchists have no means of resolving the crisis of capitalism and theirs are the politics of dead-end reformism. They have no perspective of organizing **workers defense guards and militias**; of building **workers councils** and building **revolutionary Leninist workers parties** to fight to organize the workers to smash the capitalist state and

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implement workers rule, and fight for socialism on a world scale.

Imperialism and “Free Trade,” Super-Exploitation of the International Working Class

The implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the Central American Free trade Agreement (CAFTA) increased U.S. imperialist exploitation of Latin America. While NAFTA did create 800,000 jobs in the Maquiladora zone in Mexico, income inequality and poverty have risen as nearly two million campesinos in Mexico were uprooted off traditional subsistence farmlands while the real wages of workers have fallen by about 20 percent. Now Trump thinks this is not nearly a big enough bite, and his policy generally can be called one of autarchy and abrogation, overruled only by the cautions imposed by the Federal courts. Despite Trump’s new tariffs, capital is still moving to capitalist China where raw exploitation of workers is even greater. These trade agreements furthered the bosses’ assault on workers in the U.S. and throughout Latin America, and the administration believes it can get even more one-sided deals at the semicolonies’ expense.

Capitalism is a world economic system; National divisions are maintained by the capitalists so that Capital can control its sources of wealth and in the imperialist club expand their exploitation beyond their borders. It was Marx that predicted that capital would seek to commodify the world and that despite capital being national in origin, it acts on an international basis, remaking the world in a manner in which it can exploit labor, thereby uniting all workers in an international class confrontation. **The main enemy is at home and it is American capitalism, the capitalist ruling class and their Democratic/Republican political parties, not our working class sisters and brothers! We say workers of the world unite! There are no borders to capitalist nations which workers are bound to respect! The system is international, our class is international and the struggle is international!**

As our fraternal comrades in the **Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe** stated several years ago in calling for International Working Class solidarity:

“WE CALL ON WORKERS IN THE IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES U.S.A, FRANCE, AND CHINA: TAKE THE JACK BOOT OF IMPERIALISM OFF OUR NECKS! TURN THEIR COLONIAL WARS AND PROXY WARS IN AFRICA AND ASIA INTO CLASS WARS AT HOME! DEFEAT YOUR RULING CLASS’ ECONOMIC AND MILITARY INTERVENTIONS!”

Unite the international working class in struggle at home & internationally across borders!

**No one is illegal!
Tear down the fences and disband the Border Patrol! Abolish ICE!
Down with Trump’s Muslim ban!
Asylum for all refugees! For free movement of all workers across the border! No fines or fees!**

Full citizenship and employment rights for all workers!

Down with racism and racial profiling! No scapegoating of oppressed peoples! Down with English-only bigotry!

For mass Labor/Community militant actions to stop ICE raids and deportations!

**For labor political strikes to defend immigrant workers!
For labor defense guards to defend immigrants at the border and to drive ICE from the workplaces and the communities!**

Free all detained undocumented workers! Down with E-Verify!

Let workers choose where to work by demanding that all workers who do the same work get the same contract, same wages, and same working conditions, regardless of country!

**An injury to one is an injury to all!
For international working class struggle!**

Fight for full employment at full union rates and benefits for all! For 30 hours of work for 40 hours pay to spread the available work!

Nationalize major industries and the financial sector without compensation under workers control to provide adequate access to credit and to get the wheels of industry rolling again!

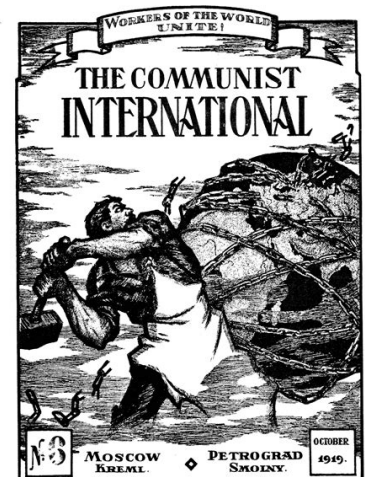
**American workers:
The main enemy is right here at home and it is the U.S. capitalist ruling class! U.S. military out of the Middle East! Defeat U.S. imperialism in Latin America, in the Middle East, and everywhere!**

Break with the Democrats and Republicans! Build an internationalist fighting workers’/labor party to struggle for a workers’ government to abolish capitalism and its system of national borders!

For a new revolutionary Workers International, the World Party of Socialist Revolution!

For socialist revolution throughout Latin & North America and the Caribbean! For a socialist federation of the Americas and the Caribbean!

(Ed Note: This leaflet was adapted and updated from a 2013 CWG-USA leaflet)



Janus Decision Attacks All Wage Labor!

The recent Supreme Court *Janus v. AF-SCME* decision marks yet another decisive moment for the American labor movement. This ruling overturned the previous 1977 *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education* decision that allowed labor unions in the public sector to collect “fair share” dues from non-union members for the union’s purpose of contract maintenance and collective bargaining. This ruling will further decimate the public sector unions which have a 34% membership rate (the private sector is 6.5% as of 2017). This will disproportionately affect women, particularly Black women, and people of color who have a higher union membership rate and who face vicious discrimination for gender, skin color, and national origin under capitalism. There have been an epidemic of attacks on workers at the state level with right to work laws or an erosion of public sector collective bargaining rights.. The trajectory back to 19th Century, open-shop ‘work harder, keep your mouth shut and work until you die’ society is far advanced. If the working class does not unite as a class for-itself, under our own banner and through our own methods of struggle, working at an Amazon warehouse will seem like a workers’ paradise compared to what is coming.

Janus is the result of an 80 year assault by anti-union, right-wing forces to undermine the formal legal rights granted labor under the National Labor Relations Act, the Wagner Act, of 1935 and subsequent legal gains of American workers. It should come as no surprise that the Koch family has been at the forefront of these assaults. As summarized in an article by Lisa Graves, The Koch family was an early supporter of the John Birch Society and made much of its early capital accumulation cracking gasoline for Hitler and Mussolini. (Also see Mary Bottari, In These Times, “Behind Janus: Documents Reveal Decade-Long Plot to Kill Public-Sector Unions”).

The right-wing billionaires, corporations

and think-tanks that are spearheading these assaults on labor do so not through open anti-unionism, but through demagoguery, appealing to the workers and presenting themselves as pro-worker. These forces find socially backward workers to file lawsuits in the name of “free speech,” “worker rights” and “workplace freedom”, referring to the labor bureaucrats as “fat cats” and “union bosses”. The minor truth to these epithets does not make the desired result visible to those who simply want a ‘free ride,’ i.e., representation without paying dues. The desired results for the big money is a legal juggernaut striking collective bargaining down! Behind Janus is a list of 80+ lawsuits against “sole representation” by any contracting party, i.e. union.



Unions suffering defeat after defeat. We need a class struggle leadership of our unions!

The labor laws themselves were generally double-edged swords. While granting formal legal rights to unions, they were in response to and designed to suppress working class struggle and direct them into legal channels which prevent solidarity strikes and secondary boycotts. These laws defanged the labor movement and channeled it into a long term dependence on the Democratic party. Purported friends of labor, the Democrats have no problem living today with the logic and content of the Taft-Hartley Act, which even Harry Truman called a slave labor law, and this cold war law prepared the future ground for Janus. After Taft-Hartley, Janus was always possible at any time until or unless prevented by a militant mass upsurge of the workers in their own self-interests. Such a mass upsurge is still what is called for to change the relationship of forces in favor of the working class. How likely this is without

a fighting workers labor party is a question for history but also for every strike that escapes the control of the class-colaborators.

The Labor Lieutenants of Capital

It is very telling that these reactionary forces are able to fill the void with their reactionary politics left by a pro-capitalist labor misleadership that has long ago abandoned methods of struggle that built the unions in favor of the Democratic Party and electoral politics. Labor’s moment of truth happened nearly 40 years ago when Reagan broke the PATCO air-traffic controllers strike. And again in the 1980’s with the Hormel strike. And again in 2011 in Wisconsin. And here we are today, with the Janus decision. The time to fight for the class collaborationist labor bureaucracy is NEVER!!!. That is a winning (or rather losing for workers) bet. You can also bet that unless the workers movement charts our own independent course, with our own methods of struggle and our own politics, that the downward spiral will continue. The unions are not going to be defended or rebuilt through the legal system or through elections. And the coming appointment of Ka-

vanaugh to the Supreme Court will undoubtedly usher in a further erosion of workers’ as well as democratic rights.

Early American socialist Daniel De Leon labelled the labor bureaucracy as the “*labor lieutenants of the capitalist class*”. The labor bureaucracy is a parasitic, privileged, pro-capitalist layer within the workers movement that identifies its interests primarily with the class enemy. They bring bourgeois ideology into the workers movement by preaching the supposed shared interests between Labor and Capital. Their idea of “struggle” is getting as many workers as possible into the voting booth to elect Democrats.

As the CWG wrote in *Class War* in 2013 about the Chicago Teachers’ strike:

“This is the bankrupt political methodology of the parasitic, pro-capitalist

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

Teachers Point the Way Forward: We Need a Class Struggle Leadership and a Fighting Workers/Labor Party

The recent wave of teachers strikes have provided a glimpse of what is possible. While not clear victories, they were not outright broken by the state either. What you saw was the usual assortment of union officials trying to shift the struggles back into the Democratic Party and elections along with a vacuum of leadership. If there had been even a relatively small number of class struggle militants with a base in the unions, these strikes could have been very different and they could have been taken to where they should have and could have gone. The Wisconsin struggle of 2011, the Chicago Teachers strike of 2012, the ILWU Longview struggle, and the teacher's struggles today were all primarily derailed by the labor-fakers who limit and divert every struggle, at every turn back into legal and electoral channels and the Democrats. Rank and file initiative and pressure resulted in better-than-pattern contract gains for teachers in multiple states. But everywhere the democrat/bureaucrat layer reasserted control, no health insurance gains were won and many were the losses of these benefits. WHICH IS THE PATTERN of bargains struck by these leaderships in both federations!

Not to fall into cliché but crisis and opportunity go together like bread and butter. The roadblock that the labor lieutenants of capital represent are now facing an existential and material threat to their own continued existence. In the public sector they will appear with their tin cups begging workers not to stop paying

membership dues as they can no longer count on the dues check off coming in the mail every month. Workers will rightly ask, "What have you done for us lately?" This is an opportunity for militant workers to build a new fighting leadership for the labor movement on the basis of class struggle and working class political independence.

The conditions of today scream of the need for a fighting workers/labor party, for a class struggle leadership of the workers movement to lead all the struggles of the workers and the oppressed:

"To win in the next round of contracts we need to pick up where West Virginia left off. We need to adopt class struggle methods to organize all worker organizations in any given industry or working for any target employer to take solid broad-based strikes. We need strike committees with a democratically elected, accountable and recallable leadership, that will replace the labor-faking union bureaucrats who will not fight. A class struggle leadership that understands that there is no common interest between Labor and Capital and that will treat the strike as the class war it is.

We need to advance demands that address the broader needs of the working class and oppressed peoples not just to gain their solidarity and because it is the moral thing to do, but because when we broaden the social basis of our struggle the entire class rises in consciousness and potential. To that end we need to incorporate the fight for Jobs for All at a living wage into every strike. Hence the demand: 30 hours work for 40 hours pay to compensate labor for increases in productivity and to share the work. We need to demand socialized medical care under workers control as a right in every campaign. Democrats will pettifog where they don't overtly fight you. We need a fighting workers/labor party, beholden to no one but us and the oppressed!" – Communist Workers Group, "WEST VIRGINIA LESSONS FOR LABOR AND THE FIGHT FOR MEDICAL INSURANCE"

Zimbabwe Elections: Government Hands Off Protesters!

For Labor Political Strikes Against Government Repression!



Opposition party supporters react after police fired tear gas. Picture: AP Source: AP

Many people, mostly the young supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, are protesting against an alleged manipulation of the vote by the elections board in favour of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF). This election takes place only months after a military coup that removed Mugabe. Mnangagwa and the then General Chiwenga took power with the support of China. The Government's rapid resort to live ammunition to dispel street protests against the wishes of the US and EU may indicate that it will use the military to stay in power with the approval of China. On Wednesday at 1700 hrs GMT "The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) announced 140 seats for Zanu-PF so far, and 58 for the MDC Alliance, ZBC state media reported. There are 210 seats in the National Assembly's lower house. A map of the electoral results of the legislative seats show the cities and the western provinces voted strongly for the MDC. This alignment shows the weakness of the ZANU-PF among the workers, the unemployed and street vendors; the base which is taking to the streets.

While the Southern African Development Community (SADC) observers say the elections were largely peaceful and

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conducted in accordance with the law, the EU/US observers say voter intimidation and media bias contributed to the sense of distrust in the process.

With the legislative results in and the official Presidential results not yet announced, the opposition supporters of the MDC took to the streets in fear that the actual results are being tampered with. The opposition claims to have won the presidential poll. Opposition supporters began protesting early Wednesday marching on ZANU-PF headquarters and challenged the police with sticks and stones while the Police and Army used whips, water cannons and live ammunition on the crowds. There are reports of deaths and injuries from the ongoing clashes. The MDC's Presidential candidate Chamisa manipulated his supporters in calling on them to celebrate his victory immediately after the vote. He set them up for repression.

Protesters are dismayed that the army, trained to kill and trained for war are being used against the people who are expressing themselves in protest against what appears to be a stolen election. Protests started early Wednesday and three are reported to have been killed with many more injured.

While the working class and poor city dwellers still have illusions in the MDC, the ZANU-PF appears to have maintained its influence in the countryside.

The socialists must find a road to the masses and appeal to the unemployed and workers of Harare to abandon the Chamisa chimera and organise a political movement to unite all workers and oppressed capable of resisting and overthrowing the military backed regime. Revolutionary socialist workers give no support to the bourgeois MDC or the ZANU-PF. It could be said the working class has no real skin in this contest between competing wings of the ruling class. While we have no faith in the electoral commission or the leading capitalist parties intent to conduct democratic elections, we defend the rights of protesters against state repression. The lesson that the electoral results cannot bring economic solutions to the ongoing

crisis or social peace open an opportunity for revolutionary socialists to expose the competing wings of the ruling class and the inter-imperialist clash over the wealth of the nation.

Last April, the heroic striking nurses were condemned and fired by the government which precipitated the calling off of the strike by the union leadership. As we wrote at the time:

“The post Mugabe military based coup government is intent on attacking workers to lay the basis for renewed investor confidence and protection of the interests of capitalists. They want to send a clear message that indeed Zimbabwe is open for business and they can guarantee massive profits for their masters. In contrast to the workers and poor masses living from hand to mouth, the bosses and their surrogates are living large and can afford to charter planes for routine medical checkups whilst the masses die due to lack of medicine, proper facilities and money.” – [Revolutionary Workers Group-ZIM](#)

The Liaison Committee of Communists (LCC) condemns the state repression and calls on workers to form their own democratic councils and militia to enforce workers democracy and fight for socialism against the twin parties and competing imperialists.

Neither the ZANU-PF nor the MDC will oppose the imperialists and build socialism. We need our own independent workers party to unite the oppressed around the demands of the class for economic justice, democracy and national independence.

The LCC calls on the international working class to come to the defense of the Zimbabwe and African working masses who are under the boot of world imperialism and their own comprador ruling class.

We fight for our Transitional Program for socialist revolution:

- **A living Wage! Workers fight for a living wage and better working conditions through mass action controlled by ordinary workers!**
- **Against the ever rising prices and**

inflation we demand a sliding scale of wages!

- **Against unemployment and destitution we demand a sliding scale of working hours to provide decent jobs for all through massive public works programs to provide housing, education and medical care for all!**
- **Organise the unorganised! Form unions of the unemployed as fully affiliated unions!**
- **Workers take back your unions!**
- **Militant workers to form class struggle caucuses in the unions to fight for this program!**
- **The government must stop the attack on the vendors!**
- **Workers to form strike committees to lead the resistance to the growing attacks on the wages and working conditions of the poor and the livelihood of the majority poor!**
- **Workers to form workers defence guards for defence against state violence!**
- **A national strike committee to organise and plan for a general strike!**
- **For a workers government on the basis of the armed people to implement decisions that benefit the workers and the poor!**
- **Nationalisation of all companies without indemnification to the big shareholders under workers control!**
- **Land to be distributed to all poor peasants together with a state bank to provide inputs to all small farmers!**
- **A workers state that defends workers, peasants and the poor masses against the local and foreign capitalists!**
- **An African socialist revolution as part of the international revolution that alone can guarantee a better life for all!**
- **A new WORLD PARTY of socialist revolution based on Trotsky's TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM of 1938 to lead the revolution to end capitalism and open the road to socialism!**

Liaison Committee of Communists (LCC), 08/01/2018

This article was published by our comrades of the [Communist Workers' Group of Aotearoa/New Zealand](#):

The Helsinki Deal and the American Empire



There is a lot of confusion about Trump's behavior in Helsinki. Is he crazy, a traitor, or dupe of Putin? Nah. It's not that hard. It's still about the [Great Game for Eurasia](#). Trump is picking a fight with China which is the main economic threat to US imperialism. China has said it will ignore the sanctions on Iran. Trump wants to test the loyalty of Putin to Xi in the hope of weakening the China/Russia bloc. He wants a new deal.

The confusion is compounded by making this about Trump-the-man and not US national interests. It's not an oligarch love fest. It's not about the [world conspiracy](#) of White Supremacists or about Trump's private business empire. It's about the future of the US Empire.

But empires are passe you might ask, thinking about historical examples like Ancient Greece or Ancient China. You would be wrong. Empire today means a capitalist empire which has its own special characteristics that can be summed up as 'state monopoly capitalism'.

As the main capitalist nations industrialized in the 19th century, they grew too big for their national markets and began to evolve strong states to aggressively expand at the expense of their rival empires. They had to [export capital](#) to escape falling profits at home. The object was to grab global resources and markets from their colonies to boost their profits by any means necessary including trade wars and military wars.

The template was set early in the 20th century as the Great Game between capitalist imperialist Britain and feudal imperialist Russia for control of Eurasia and then the world! It was the rivalry between the European powers to re-divide the colonial world that led directly to World War 1. Britain and France had stolen a march on their rivals pouring capital into pre-capitalist Russia leaving Germany and Japan behind the game.

World War 1 did not resolve this clash of interests – the Russian Revolution created the Soviet Union, and the draconian peace terms imposed on Germany created deep resentments which led ultimately to World War 2.

In both wars the US remained isolationist until its economic interests were directly threatened. In April 1917 the US reacted to the loss of its merchant ships to German submarines, and the threat of Mexico joining the Axis.

In December 1941, the US reacted to Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. But by this time the US was the dominant global power and assumed that role in framing the post-war settlement at Yalta.

The dominant US occupied Europe and Japan setting the terms of the peace by forming a military ring around the USSR and soon-to-be 'Red' China. US isolationism was over and the epoch of US as the global hegemonic power began. The mission of the post-WW2 US imperialism was to defeat the USSR and China and add them to its global domain.

Yet despite its steel ring around Eurasia and the 'cold war', which eventually brought the USSR and China to their knees in the 1990s, neither the US nor its EU and Japanese 'allies' succeeded in converting them into neo-colonies. On the contrary they re-entered the global capitalist economy largely on their own terms.

Decades of bureaucratic state planning allowed both Russia and China to develop the centralized state economies able to resist penetration and domination by the Western imperialist powers. The usual methods of imperialist penetration of capital to subordinate weaker powers to Western finance capital came up against well buttressed state capitalist regimes.

Military domination was checkmated by nuclear weapons. Both Russia and China emerged as new imperialist powers threatening to limit and even challenge US hegemony.

The US responded by doubling down on its aggressive expansionism as the neo-conservatives pushed for war with Russia and China to contain the 'red menace'. From Reagan to Bush Junior, NATO expanded to the Russian borders, but this together with wars against Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran failed to isolate the Russia/China bloc. In the East, the ring of military bases around China from Japan to Guam was reinforced.

All failed to break down the political and economic barriers to Western imperialist penetration and domination. The neo-conservative mission to recover Eurasia had timed out. Obama's 'Pacific Pivot' was largely a propaganda exercise.

Under Obama, the US Democrats pulled back on expensive military invasions, in preference for limited special ops adventures, standing by while both Russia and China expanded their imperialist spheres of influence in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

With the neoconservatives seething over the Ukraine and the Democrats stuck in the swamp of unresolved conflicts, neither could halt the erosion of US hegemony. Along came Donald Trump as a cartoon amalgam of former US presidents both isolationist and expansionist to make America Great Again. His brief was to drop the failed policies of the neo-conservatives and the globalisation of the Democrats by balancing the costs and benefits of imperialist hegemony in a period of global capitalist terminal crisis.

As Michael Klare on "[Trumps Grand Strategy](#)" points out, this brief fitted with the Russian and Chinese plan for a tripolar world.

Klare argues that Trump for all his bizarre behavior is into a serious bid to solve US imperialism's problems by joining the Putin and Xi in a trilateral deal between Russia, China and the US. He thinks that there is nothing stopping the US from ending both neo-liberal and Democratic

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‘imperialism’ as bad policy options, and that with the ‘good will’ of Putin and Xi Jinping he could persuade the US to join this deal to end the threat of nuclear war.

“However ironic it might seem, this is, of course, the gist of the Sino-Russian tripolar model as embraced and embellished by Donald Trump. It envisions a world of constant military and economic contention among three regional power centers, generating crises of various sorts, but not outright war. It assumes that the leaders of those three centers will cooperate on matters affecting them all, such as terrorism, and negotiate as necessary to prevent minor skirmishes from erupting into major battles.”

Read more: http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/176451/tomgram%3Amichael_klare%2C_trump%27s_grand_strategy/

This left-liberal analysis, drawing on [Henry Kissinger](#), at least gives Trump the credit for having a geopolitical strategy. But it is limited by its focus on geopolitics separated from the laws of capitalist economics. It does not trace Trump’s ‘strategy’ back to the limits of the post-WW2 economic expansion and assumes that it has nothing to gain from military aggression and can realize its national interests in such a peace pact.

Yet this is misreading the nature of imperialism as outlined above and assumes that with good advice Trump can join with Putin and Xi Jinping in a new epoch of world peace. This would mean that the history of wars over the last two centuries were the results of bad leadership and that all that is needed is some good leadership. Here the author is indulging in magical thinking in place of the reality that imperialist powers cannot survive in rational Kissinger-type ‘win-win’ deals but must defeat their rivals to survive the ‘zero-sum’ game.

It fails not only to account for the underlying US economic expansionism that pushed Presidents like Wilson and Truman from isolation towards globalism. It also misunderstands Putin’s and Xi’s imperialist interests in promoting their ‘globalist’ policies. And it misreads

Trump’s own ‘strategy’ of seeking new methods of restoring America’s greatness by penetrating and dominating its rivals. One can only understand his policy moves towards other imperialist powers and other nations as designed to reduce the costs and boost the gains of the US Empire.

So, for Trump it’s about how much of the globe you can still dominate by making weaker states and the worlds’ workers pay for the declining US economy. His intervention over Brexit shows he wants the UK out of EU so he can weaken both. He wants to force a re-alignment of his former ‘allies’ and ‘foes’ to see how US can come out on top.

Specifically, he is testing Putin on his alliance with China to see if he can weaken it and play them off against each other. Iran is likely to be a big test, as China is ignoring US sanctions. The EU has caved on US pressure to observe the sanctions. Will Putin follow or offer a hand to the EU to evade the sanctions? The latter is most likely as Iran is now part of the Security Cooperation Organization- the Eurasian military bloc led by Russia and China.

Can they reach agreement on the Middle East? The Syrian revolution has seen a realignment of the region towards the Russia/China bloc. The US bloc has been reduced to Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The Russia/China bloc now includes Syria, Turkey, Iran and Qatar. [Al Monitor](#) has a theory that Trump is subcontracting the Syrian war to Russia to allow a further US disengagement.

“Maxim Suchkov reports that “prior to the Helsinki meeting, Russia had been expected to deliver primarily three things: guarantee Israel’s security from what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sees as a growing Iranian presence on the Syrian-Israeli border, curb Iranian influence in the rest of Syria and open up to some kind of engagement with the United States and interested European states — all to ensure America’s own military pullout from Syria. Hence, the statements and moves Russian officials have made in the few days following the Helsinki meeting are meant to signal that Moscow has been delivering on what appears to have been its promises to each party: security for Israel, cooperation

with Iran and engagement with the West.”

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/y9r6t8l7>

This may be one part of the new tripolar deal. But what’s in it for the US? Will Kurdistan be traded for a united Korea on terms set by Trump? And how will the two rival blocs deal with the current threat of a working class uprising in Iraq? Can that be managed as part of a Tripolar world? Certainly, they will collaborate in suppressing any renewed Arab revolution as part of the war on terror. But such regional cooperation cannot survive any real test of the core interests of the rival great powers.

This, as ever, is the Great Game between the great powers. It cannot be a “win-win” game. There can be no benign tripolar deal that unites Israel and Iran any more than their imperialist backers. Facing an unstable crisis ridden global economy the rival imperialisms are inevitably locked into a “zero-sum” game. Today it is between the US and a reborn Russian empire, in a bloc with the new Chinese empire, with the EU powers pulled in both directions.

The imperialist powers are driven by falling profits into trade and military wars which download their crises of falling profits onto the backs of their rivals and everywhere onto the backs of the working people. Workers everywhere must organize internationally to get ahead of the game and fight all such imperialist maneuvers.

Protesting Trump is a start, but it will go nowhere unless it becomes a global anti-imperialist movement against all imperialist trade wars, hot wars, genocides, climate collapse, and for a global socialist revolution. And for that to happen we all need to wake up and realise that for humanity to live, capitalism and all of its destruction to lives and planet, must die. We must organize internationally for survival socialism!

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The following is Part 1 of a three part series reprinted from our comrades of the [Communist Workers' Group of New Zealand/Aotearoa \(CWG-A/NZ\)](#). Parts 2 and 3 can be found online.

Reclaiming Marx

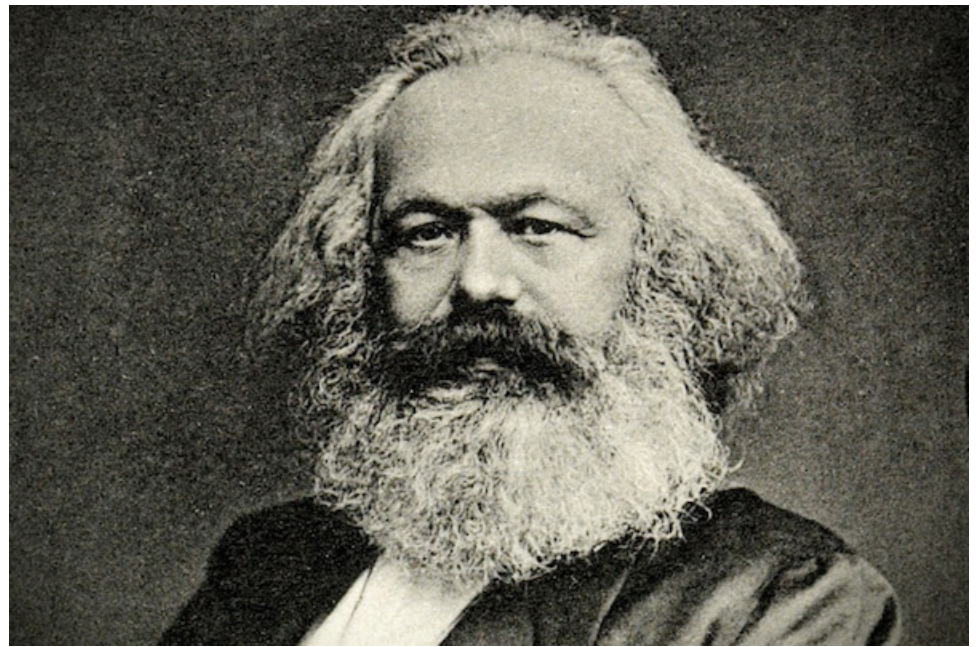
Part 1 of 3

"I am not a Marxist"

A famous dead white man indulges us by coming back from the grave on his 200th birthday for a bit of celebrity haunting. Why? Should we be impressed when the interest in Marx is on the rise among academics, students and journalists? Not only in the liberal bourgeois press such as the Guardian, [1] or The Daily Blog, [2] in myriad 'left' journals, like Jacobin, [3] but also in the US colleges where The Communist Manifesto [4] is the most read book in college libraries. Not only that the ruling Chinese Communist Party has held an official celebration and funded a statue of Marx erected in Trier, Germany, his home town, upsetting some of the locals. [5]

Yet if Marx was alive today I don't doubt that he would react much as he did shortly before his death in 1883. "Just as Marx used to say, commenting on the French "Marxists" of the late [18]70s: "All I know is that I am not a Marxist."" [6] This rebuff was the last of many times that Marx castigated various "self-proclaimed" Marxists for misrepresenting his ideas in their attempts to 'improve' or 'update' them. Let's see why Marx found this necessary. But to do that we have to reclaim Marx from the grave robbers.

Any evaluation of Marx cannot be left to the superficial idea that "Marx was right" without setting out what it means to be "right". It means knowing how he used the scientific method to understand capitalism and how he applied this knowledge in a program for revolutionary communism. His dispute with the French 'Marxists' in 1883 was over their practical demand for wage increases, without making it clear that the struggle for higher wages must lead to the overthrow of the wage-system itself. Class struggle was not about adjusting to capitalist exploitation but developing the class con-



sciousness needed to overthrow capitalism and arrive at communism. But how do we decide who was right on this and other questions?

To know who was, and is right today, the evaluation of Marx 200 years after his birth needs to be based on how well his ideas have been tested in practice and proven correct or not, rather than the ideas of 'self-proclaimed' Marxists, no matter how well intentioned. Here I am not dealing with anti-communists, hostile to Marxism. We can leave the aversion to Marx of people like Ana Stankovic to stew in its own juice. [7]

We should also make passing reference to life President Xi Jinping whose celebration of Marx is grotesquely contradicted by 'socialist' China's restoration of capitalism and rapid rise as the world's second biggest economy and chief rival of US imperialism. Such blatant caricatures of Marxism are so grotesque as to be already headed for the dustbin of history. [8]

More dangerous is the social/liberal left that pays its respects to Marx's life work only to disarm him and inoculate workers against his revolutionary message. But most dangerous are the self-proclaimed Marxists or all shades, Stalinist, Maoist and fake Trotskyist, who drag his name in the mud rendering him a common liberal. How do we decide between Marx and anti-Marx? One example: the Anti-Capitalist blog does a good job decon-

structing Yanis Varoufakis Introduction to a new issue of the Communist Manifesto which covers Marx with faint praise while trying to bury him -Yanis to Karl, with love. [9]

Marxism vs pseudo Marxism

Marx considered himself to be a scientist whose critical ideas had to be put into practice by the class struggle to test and develop them. It was the class struggle that would prove his, rather than his political rivals and opponents, right or wrong. Remember the 11th thesis of the Theses of Feuerbach: "The philosophers have only interpreted the world... the point, however, is to change it." [10]

Marx's critical theory of capitalism was of an historically limited form of society based on the exploitation of labour that must sooner or later exhaust its potential to develop the forces of production (using labour to increase productivity) as they were in contradiction with the social relations of production (capitalist ownership of the means of production). This would ultimately destroy the forces of production including throwing living labour out of work and necessitating a proletarian revolution to overthrow capitalism and replace it with socialism. [11] To activate his theory a program of action was necessary to represent and advance the interests of the proletariat. The Communist Manifesto of 1848 was the result. Here Marx and Engels described the

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overthrow of bourgeois rule by the revolutionary proletariat which would open the road to communism. Marx and Engels saw the Communist Party not as substituting for the proletariat, but as part of the proletariat, embodying the program and separated from other workers' parties only by its program advancing the historical and international interests of the proletariat.

The first major test of Marx's program came in 1871 with the Paris Commune when the working people of Paris rose up against the bourgeois government after the defeat of the Emperor Louis Bonaparte (Napoleon's great-nephew) by the Prussians. Already by that time Marx was convinced that the proletariat has succeeded the bourgeoisie as the revolutionary class. The failure of the 1848 attempts by European bourgeois classes to make their "French" revolution against their 'ancient regimes' collapsed in embarrassing deals with the feudal ruling classes. [12]

This default on the part of the European bourgeoisie left the proletariat with the responsibility for completing the task of developing the forces of production in the name of socialism. For the first time Marx spoke of 'the permanent revolution' signifying that the proletariat had to step onto the stage of history and take over the task of the reactionary bourgeoisie of completing the bourgeois revolution and creating the conditions for socialism. But how to do

this: reform or revolution? It was the Paris Commune of 1871 that put the Marxist program and the various reformist programs to the test with a bloody ruling class vengeance. [13]

The lessons of the Commune were clear. First, disproving the reformists it was proof that the bourgeois state had to be overthrown by proletarian armed force or it would physically wipe out all working-class opposition. Second, disproving the anarchists, the overthrow of the bourgeois state had to be replaced by an armed workers' state to defend the revolution. The Marxist program was amended in the light of these lessons but the defeat of the Commune ushered in a period of capitalist reaction. The First international collapsed after bitter in-fighting with Bukharin and the anarchists. And Marx had to fight the retreat of 'Marxists' back to reformism, most notably at Gotha in Germany in 1875. [14]

Marx's "Critique of the Gotha Program" was an angry attack on those who followed Lassalle's "falsification" of the Communist Manifesto. But it was largely futile and the Marxist party was only revived when the Second International was founded in 1889. Engels carried forward the defence of the program until his death in 1895. Then the task of defending and developing the program became that of the next generation of Marxists – in particular, Kautsky, Lenin, Luxemburg and Trotsky to name

the most important. We can judge whether Marx would have disavowed or accepted these new leaders as worthy of real Marxism starting with their position on the lessons of the Commune, and then what they did to apply the theory and practice of Marxism in the 20th century. [15]

- [1] Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/may/05/karl-marx-200th-birthday-communist-manifesto-revolutionary>
- [2] Wayne Hope <https://the-dailyblog.co.nz/2018/04/30/karl-marx-200-years-on-exclusive-interview/>
- [3] Jacobin Magazine <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2018/05/karl-marx-marxism-capital-political-economy>
- [4] Communist Manifesto <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/>
- [5] Statue in Trier <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JiM-5Mwkl4>
- [6] "I am no Marxist" https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1890/letters/90_08_05.htm
- [7] Ana Stankovic <https://larviewofbooks.org/article/i-am-not-a-marxist/>
- [8] Xi Jinping <https://www.ecns.cn/2018/05-05/301479.shtml>
- [9] Yanis Varoufakis <https://anticapital0.wordpress.com/penny-arcade/>
- [10] Theses on Feuerbach <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/theses/theses.htm>
- [11] Karl Marx, Revolutionary Scientist <https://situationsvacant.wordpress.com/2016/10/28/karl-marx-revolutionary-scientist/>
- [12] 1848 The Bourgeoisie and the Counterrevolution (in four parts) <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/12/10.htm>
- [13] Marx on The Paris Commune <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/>

[works/1871/civil-war-france/ch05.htm](https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1871/civil-war-france/ch05.htm)

- [14] Marx Critique of the Gotha Program <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1875/gotha/index.htm>
- [15] Rebooting Lenin <https://livingmarxism.blog/2013/04/03/rebooting-lenin/>

Anarchism has witnessed a renewed resurgence. In the "The Last Warning" (1937), Leon Trotsky wrote of the betrayals of the Spanish anarchist leaders during the Spanish Revolution:

"The Anarchists had no independent position of any kind in the Spanish revolution. All they did was waver between Bolshevism and Menshevism. More precisely, the Anarchist workers instinctively yearned to enter the Bolshevik road (July 19, 1936, and May days of 1937) while their leaders, on the contrary, with all their might drove the masses into the camp of the Popular Front, i.e., of the bourgeois regime.

The Anarchists revealed a fatal lack of understanding of the laws of the revolution and its tasks by seeking to limit themselves to their own trade unions, that is, to organizations permeated with the routine of peaceful times, and by ignoring what went on outside the framework of the trade unions, among the masses, among the political parties, and in the government apparatus. Had the Anarchists been revolutionists, they would first of all have called for the creation of soviets, which unite the representatives of all the toilers of city and country, including the most oppressed strata, who never joined the trade unions. The revolutionary workers would have naturally occupied the dominant position in these soviets. The Stalinists would have remained an insignificant minority. The proletariat would have convinced itself of its own invincible strength. The apparatus of the bourgeois state would have hung suspended in the air. One strong blow would have sufficed to pulverize this apparatus. The socialist revolution would have received a powerful impetus."

The following is reprinted from our comrades of the [Communist Workers' Group of New Zealand/Aotearoa \(CWG-A/NZ\)](#)

How to Fight Fascism in Aotearoa/New Zealand

Fascism is back on the agenda with a vengeance. Not merely because [two Canadian 'alt-right' activists](#) want to spread their message in Aotearoa. Of course 'alt-right' is a euphemism for fascism. But when someone actively attempts to stop refugees from Africa and the Middle East from reaching Europe by attacking their boats there is no denying fascism is 'alt-right'.

Today, capitalism is dying and is thrashing about destroying everything it touches. It deserves to die, but not to take us with it.

Fascism is the political response of last resort against the overthrow of capitalism by the working class. It will not give up its fight peacefully, logically, rationally, but resorts to undemocratic and illegal actions, wars and genocide.

Yet it wants its working class enemy to fight peacefully and respect bourgeois human rights – including 'free speech'. Never mind the right to life of African refugees. It wants fascism to be normalized as just another ideology that deserves equality before the law. Meanwhile it builds and organizes a reactionary social movement against refugee rights, workers' rights and socialist revolution.

The denial of a platform to fascists is a longstanding question, first raised with the rise of the fascist movement in Germany in 1920, rapidly followed by Italy and then Spain. If you look at these movements it's clear that they took advantage of the pacifism and disorganization of the workers to put up resistance to its armed shock troops.

Remember Bertolucci's film, *1900*, set in Italy during the early 1900s. The communists were a powerful political force but no match for armed fascist bands that attacked their union halls and murdered labour leaders defeating their movement. In Germany the same methods



were used to weaken, divide and destroy the labour movement. Revolutionary leaders like Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht were assassinated and workers armed uprisings put down.

The fascists succeeded because workers were divided along ideological lines. Social Democracy was committed to parliamentary socialism and the rule of law. It looked to the state to protect them from fascists, denying the fact that the state supports fascism in defending capitalism against socialist revolution. Since social democracy prefers fascism to communism the Communists were isolated. Fascists even appealed to workers and declassed petty bourgeois as 'socialist' to deceive them.

Fascism is the militant, violent, undemocratic and unlawful instrument of brutal bourgeois class rule. It doesn't defend bourgeois freedoms even while it attempts to hide behind them. Its main purpose is to smash the working class as the only class that can overthrow capitalism and build a new society free from exploitation and oppression.

Therefore, since we must learn from history or die, it is stupid to ignore that lesson and fall for the ploy that fascism is somehow an aberration that is equally at home on the 'alt-right' and 'alt-left' against the law-abiding, pacifist, moderate middle. That is to separate the symptoms of fascism from its cause.

The only language that fascists understand is that of force – class force. Either they use that force against us and

win the class war, or we organize our own class force and defeat fascism in its embryo before it gains the upper hand.

Marxists do not call on the bourgeois state to ban fascists because we have learned that historically the state sides with fascism to smash the working class. We organize as a class to use every bourgeois freedom that advances our class interests in socialism. That is why we do not fetishize 'freedom of speech' when it disarms us in the face of the rise of fascism.

Those who want to survive capitalism's decline and fall need to work out where their class allegiance lies now before it is too late, and build a working class anti-fascist movement to defeat fascism on the streets.

See also

<https://situationsvacant.wordpress.com/2017/01/27/how-not-to-smash-fascism/>

Leon Trotsky summary of key writings on fascism: What is Fascism and How to Fight It. <https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/works/1944/1944-fas.htm>

First published: <https://situationsvacant.wordpress.com/2018/07/13/how-to-fight-fascism-in-aotearoa-nz/>

No to the UI Labor Center Closing!

Down with All the Cuts and All Tuition Increases!

For working class struggle to defeat the cuts and defend public education!

The Communist Workers Group (CWG-USA) strongly condemns the University of Iowa's decision to close down the 67-year-old University of Iowa Labor Center, as well as the closing of the University of Iowa Center on Aging, Confucius Institute, Iowa Center for Assistive Technology Education and Research (I-CATER), Iowa Center for Higher Education (ICHE), Office of Iowa Practice Opportunities, and the UI Mobile Museum. We also strongly condemn the cuts to other University programs and the pending layoffs of over 30 employees. **On principle, the CWG generally opposes any cuts to public education or services that benefit students, the working class and society. We are for the expansion of public services.**

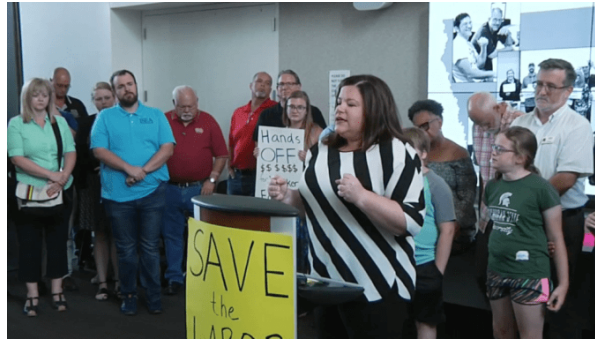
The gutting of Chapter 20, Iowa's collective bargaining law, was a major defeat in a long list of attacks on public sector workers. The closing of the Labor Center and the other recent cuts are just the latest in a string of reactionary attacks at the state level by the GOP governor Reynolds and the state legislature. The privatization of Medicaid management, public mental healthcare facility closings, perpetual tuition increases for students, the fetal heartbeat anti-abortion law (which is now in the courts)....all these attacks have led to a decline in the quality of life in the state. Even the farmers, the traditional GOP base, are facing hardships due to Trump's trade war. As Trump imposes social reaction at the national level, attacks are waged at the state levels on social gains. And the Democratic Party offers no solution. Their unwritten slogan is 'we are not Trump.' Critically, with implications for many years to come, some Democrat Senators are considering jumping ship to support Trump's Supreme Court nominee Kavanaugh.

The CWG wrote in "[Free, Quality Public Education for All!](#)":

"This school year marks the eighth anniversary of the generalized crisis of the capitalist system. This is what the kept bourgeois press calls the 'Great Recession of 2008-2009.' But we notice that the cuts go on and the recovery does not include rehiring what

are now long-term unemployed. The mushrooming growth of the precariat who exist at a subsistence or lower rate of pay is counted as a reduced unemployment statistic. College students graduate with overwhelming debt and few job prospects. The full-time working population has seen their wage package stagnate while their benefits and hours have been under continuous attack. Thus adjunct faculty finds they have greater workloads for less pay and many suddenly find themselves unemployed. This is the future in store for many university workers in Harreld's promised program of changes."

The response of the trade union bureaucracy to the recent cuts in Iowa has been to narrowly focus on the closing of the Labor Center, abandoning the fight to save **all the jobs and defend all public education programs**. The pro-capitalist labor misleaderships have fallen back on the toothless methods of phone calls, petitions, press conferences and public hearings (i.e. the bankrupt liberal idealist methods of "speaking truth to power") in order to try to save the Labor Center.



The labor bureaucracy's response to the gutting of Iowa's public sector collective bargaining law (Chapter 20) was a few rallies at the state capitol, dead-end lawsuits through the capitalist courts and their primary arena of non-struggle: the elections and the Democratic Party. What was needed was a general strike by public and private sector unions. Nearly 40 years after Reagan broke the PATCO air-traffic controllers strike, a signature event in the decline of labor, the craven, class collaborationist union misleaders are no more ready or willing to lead struggle than they were then. They are like the captain of a ship being battered on a reef in a storm, paralyzed from any action except to mouth protest and call on those (the Democratic Party) to save them, who will not and cannot save them.

The CWG wrote in 2015 in "[Free, Quality Public Education for All!](#)":

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

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

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

The CWG has absolutely no faith that University of Iowa President Bruce Harreld, College of Law Dean Kevin Washburn, or the Iowa Board of Regents will reverse the decision to impose the cuts absent mass pressure. The CWG also places no faith in the legal system, the courts, the elections, the Democratic/Republican parties or politicians; or in the good-faith or reasonableness of the bosses, the University and state administrators making these decisions. **We place all faith in the University workers, private sector workers, the students and faculty to stop these attacks by mobilizing the power of the organized working class for struggle.** We appeal to militant workers, students and faculty to come together in solidarity to save the Labor Center and oppose all these attacks. The power of the working class lies in our organization, solidarity, militancy and leadership.

We call for the three unions at the U of I (AFSCME Local 12, UE-COGS Local 896, SEIU Local 199) to initiate a **democratic Inter-Union Action Committee with an elected and recallable leadership**. The Inter-Union Action Committee should draw in other local unions, students,

Cont. from pg. 20 Public Education

faculty, and private sector workers to lead the struggle and to build the fight to stop these cuts and all future cuts, as well as to fight student tuition increases. **Rank-and-file trade union militants need to build action/struggle committees at every worksite!** We call for making contact with Iowa State and University of Northern Iowa unions, workers and students to urge them to do the same in the interests of coordinated mass struggle. We call for trade union militants to **fight to transform the Iowa City Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO Central Labor Council) from a Democratic Party sandbox into an organization of struggle.** The CWG calls on the labor movement to use this as an opportunity to defend our unions and to **organize all the University workers: student, merit, P&S, adjunct faculty and temp; with full union rights, wages and benefits. And expand this organizing to the low-wage private sector for a mass campaign to unionize workers “wall to wall!”**

In 2013, it was the Black University of Missouri football players who initiated a labor strike to protest racism on campus. Recently, West Virginia and other teachers across the U.S. have provided a glimpse of what is possible not through the negotiating table or elections, but through workers struggle. Collective bargaining in Iowa for public sector workers occurred at the time because of “illegal” public sector workers strikes, particularly teachers. Collective bargaining was a double-edged sword designed to suppress strikes and channel workers struggle into safe, legal waters, while granting (defensible) formal legal worker rights as a compromise.

The labor movement was built through class struggle and can only be defended through class struggle methods. **The unions were forged through mass picket lines that meant ‘don’t cross’; through sit-down, general and solidarity strikes; through secondary boycotts (“hot-cargoing”), flying picket squads and workers defense guards; through defiance of the cops, the courts, and the strike-breaking injunctions.**

The 1934 Minneapolis Teamsters strike is an example of what is needed today. It was a signature event and one of the catalysts for building the modern labor movement in the U.S. and we encourage all workers and students to study this history. American Trotskyist James Cannon wrote of the [1934 Teamsters strike](#):

“Our people didn’t believe in anybody

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

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

It is through organization, solidarity, discipline, militancy and leadership that workers and youth can win. As the British miners once said, **“the only illegal strike is the one that loses!”**

The CWG fights to win the multiracial and multiethnic working class and youth to a **class struggle political program** for quality education and public services as part of the fight for a rational socialist society and world:

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

Make the capitalists pay! Nationalize the private schools and charter schools under workers control without compensation! Seize their endowments! For worker, student, faculty and community control of public education!

Cops and campus security out of schools and the unions! No to racist Stop and Frisk! Organize labor, black and brown workers self-defense guards via the Inter-Union Action Committee against racist cop, fascist and vigilante terror!

Abolish the ROTC! NSA, CIA, FBI plants and military off campus! For academic and internet freedom! Expose all COINTELPRO-type programs! Hands off all whistleblowers!

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

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

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

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

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

Build a class struggle leadership of our unions! No political blocs with the Democratic Party! Break with all the capitalist parties: Democrats, Republicans and Greens! Build a fighting workers/labor party to fight for a workers government based on workers councils and a workers militia! For a rational, centrally-planned socialist economy based on human needs!

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

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.



Protest Israeli Deportation of Frank Romano!

Protest Destruction of Bedouin Towns!

French law professor Frank Romano has been arrested by Israeli police as reported by [MENAFN - Gulf Times](#):

“Three Palestinians, including a 12-year-old, were shot dead by Israeli fire in new clashes along the Gaza border yesterday (Class War Ed. note, reported 9/15) the health ministry in the Hamas-run enclave said.

The ministry said 12-year-old Shadi Abdel Aal was shot east of Jabalia in northern Gaza ...The Israeli army said an estimated 13,000 people were involved in ‘riots at different locations, some of them burning tyres and throwing Molotov cocktails.’”

Meanwhile, “scuffles broke out between Israeli forces and dozens of pro-Palestinian activists at a village slated for demolition in the occupied West Bank.

An Israeli bulldozer sought to close off a route to the Bedouin village of Khan al-Ahmar by dumping rocks and earth on it, sparking a protest that led to small clashes. Three people were arrested, a police

spokesman said.

Activists said among them was a French law professor, Frank Romano, but the police did not confirm his arrest.”

From the [Palestine Chronicle](#):

“Romano has been supporting residents of Khan al-Ahmar for the past several days, since the beginning of an open sit-in at the village following the Israeli High Court’s approval of demolition.”

However, Prof. Romano was indeed arrested and was held for 3 days and subjected to torture by the Israelis. We encourage you to listen to Derrick Blair’s interview with the law professor at (<https://soundcloud.com/now-its-the-news/interview-with-frank-romano-on-his-arrest-in-the-west-bank>). Romano continues the fight, though he doubts he will be allowed to return to either Gaza or Palestine /“Israel.” We call for the release of all Palestinian prisoners and the dropping of all charges against them!

Free Salah Hamouri!

From the [International Middle East Media Center](#) we received the following appeal:

“There are currently 5,820 children, women and men in Israeli jails, of whom 446 are in administrative detention jailed without charge. One of them is “French-Palestinian lawyer and human rights defender Salah Hamouri who has been imprisoned by Israel without charge or trial for over a year. On 23 August, 2017, Hamouri’s home in Kufr Aqab, Jerusalem was attacked and invaded by Israeli occupation forces – only three days after he had taken and passed the Palestinian bar examination to become a lawyer. He was ordered to administrative detention – imprisonment without charge and without trial – that has since been re-

newed” Salah Hamouri is a human rights activist who defends in particular the cause of Palestinian prisoners. Salah’s current sentence runs until September 30th. We demand that his sentence will not be renewed once again. The punishment of administrative detainees is a real psychological torture for themselves and their loved ones. There is no guarantee that he will be released.”



Free the Russian Anti-Authoritarian Protesters! Free the “Pension Reform” Protesters!

We note with outrage the repression and denial of human rights by the Russian state! Our Russophile opponents choose this moment to ignore realities and defend the poisoning of figures known for opposition to the Putin regime in Salisbury, UK. Police beat protesters and arrested some 300 in mass rallies across Russia against a planned rise in the pension age. Witnesses accused riot police of using excessive force and even of arresting children as thousands of supporters of jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny took to the streets.

We also note how German doctors say “there is a “high plausibility” that a member of the Russian protest group Pussy Riot, who was taken ill in Russia last week, was poisoned. Speaking at a press conference Tuesday, Pussy Riot founding member Nadezhda Tolokonnikova said that Pyotr Verzilov was probably the victim of an “assassination attempt,” alleging that multiple law enforcement agencies in Russia have been “trying to find a way to get to Pyotr.” See also:

<https://www.nme.com/news/music/two-pussy-riot-members-arrested-2377039>

<https://news.avclub.com/pussy-riot-releases-statement-on-apparent-poisoning-1829149863>

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/europe/hundreds-arrested-in-russian-protests-over-pension-age-1.3623446>



Drop all Charges Against Kavanaugh Protesters!

We are no fans of Senators, who in all cases are agents of the ruling class, nor of lobbying them, which is based on illusions that the capitalist politicians can be swayed by cooler heads making ethical, moral or logical arguments. We say policy is changed by mass action in the streets. Historically the ruling class is frightened whenever masses of protesters show up in their playpens.

We have no faith in the Senate even if it were composed of a Democrat majority. We remember Biden's treatment of Anita Hill and we see him trying to rewrite his history as he positions for another White House run. And while the Supreme court nominations have long been the last thread of argument from liberals as to why the working class can oppressed should vote Democrat, we see the result of their undying love of their "two-party system:" a charlatan mob-associated president and the prospect of 30-40 years of a rightist Supreme Court majority ruling against every attempt at reforms and benefits to the masses. Marx said the bourgeoisie are their own gravediggers. To which we, like Lenin and Trotsky before us add that without the socialist revolution the casket will not wind up in the ground.

State repression of protests at government offices is more frequent in the Trump era but nothing new. It is no more acceptable now than it ever was; your ostensible representatives want you locked up if you don't agree with their parties' games. Even with the limitations of what the AFL-CIO Economic Policy Institute calls "silo consciousness", where the sit-in participants are focused exclusively on Kavanaugh's threat to abortion rights, we see embryonic breaks from the class dictatorship of Capital, and so does the ruling class. Thus the police bring the zip ties, the modern handcuffs. Defend the Kavanaugh protesters. They are on their way to understanding Trump's drive to become a Bonaparte!

Prison Labor Strike: Down with Racist Prison Slavery!

"While there is a lower class, I am in it, while there is a criminal element, I am of it, and while there is a soul in prison, I am not free." - Eugene V. Debs

We support the nationwide prisoners strike which began on the anniversary of George Jackson's execution, which continued through the 1971 Attica Uprising anniversary, and we support the strikers 10 demands. We reject the authority of the capitalist state to apply its "justice" as all "crime" is at its origin a consequence of class rule. The CWG specifically and the socialist revolution historically and generally call for the abolition of prisons.

We see prison labor as super-exploited by the state enterprises and by private, for-profit prison corporations. This is a modern legalized slavery with profits available to be shared by capitalist shareholders of prison corporations. Prisoners are segregated from society for behaviors, often as not on a racist basis. Once inside the worth of their compulsory labor is stolen from them at a rate not equaled anywhere else in the U.S. Prisons in the U.S. are barbaric by any standard of developed countries. Consequently we call for prisoner unionization and prevailing rate wages for the incarcerated. As the class struggle intensifies, it is important to see our worker sisters and brothers "inside" as deserving of all the rights we seek for ourselves on the "outside," and this includes the formation of workers councils, workers militias and workers control of the manufacturing processes in the prison-industrial complexes across the country.

Thousands of prisoners in at least 20 prisons participated in the strike, including solidarity strikes by detained immigrants in Tacoma, Washington as well as prisoners in Nova Scotia, Canada. A spokesperson for the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee stated that **"the retaliation and repression was instantaneous and constant. Leaders were picked off, one by one, and thrown into solitary in anticipation of the strike that was coming."** We say Prison Officials and Guards, Hands Off the Prisoners! We demand the AFL-CIO see the screws for what they are, which is an arm of state violence, and not workers by any definition. We want both the labor federations to kick the guards "unions" and Police Benevolent Associations out of the labor movement!

Ronald Brooks, who has been incarcerated for 20 years at the brutal Angola Prison and who faced retaliation, stated in a video



"We are anti-slavery and are organizing to turn our jails and prisons into places of human redemption, healing and higher learning." For more information see:

<https://incarceratedworkers.org/news/prison-strike-updates-week-four>

<https://www.thecut.com/2018/08/prison-strike-dates-support.html>

<https://www.unicornriot.ninja/2018/mcf-stillwater-prison-officials-create-humanitarian-crisis/>

World-wide protests against the butcher Assad: Azaz (northwest Syria), France and NYC.



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 !!!

“To imagine that social revolution is conceivable without revolts by small nations in the colonies and in Europe, without revolutionary outbursts by a section of the petty bourgeoisie with all its prejudices, without a movement of the politically non-conscious proletarian and semi-proletarian masses against oppression by the landowners, the church, and the monarchy, against national oppression, etc.—to imagine all this is to repudiate social revolution. So one army lines up in one place and says, “We are for socialism,” and another, somewhere else and says, “We are for imperialism,” and that will be a social revolution! Only those who hold such a ridiculously pedantic view could vilify the Irish rebellion by calling it a “putsch.”

- V.I. Lenin, *“The Irish Rebellion of 1916”*

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Class War (Paper of the CWG-US)

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Labor Donated