



# THE RED PHOENIX

## NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR

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PEOPLE!

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# U.S. DECLARES WAR ON WORKING CLASS!

## Trump Tax Plan: For the Rich, On The Worker

By: L. ZORFASS  
December 21, 2017

Before becoming President of the United States, Donald Trump made his name as a ruthless capitalist with an inflated ego and brutish business practices. Throughout Trump's time as a capitalist exploiter, his actions towards the working class included massive suppression of organizing workers, kicking working families from their homes for profitable development deals, wage theft, and the breaking of labor laws. Given Trump's grooming as a capitalist in ruling class society, it should be no surprise that as President he continues to brutalize working families for profit. While Trump has already reversed labor laws, the proposed "Trump tax plan" which was promised to be a break for the worker and their families, is instead preying on them.

On November 29, 2017, Trump made his way to the state of Missouri to promote his tax plan which was passed by the Senate nearly a week later. The first claim Trump made in his speech was that this tax plan was in favor of the working people of America, that it would mean tax cuts for workers and be "hard" on rich people, such as Trump himself. This is absolutely false. The lowest tax bracket, \$0-19,050 will see a direct 2% increase in their taxes every year. Those in the next tax bracket see a moderate cut of 3%. This minor tax cut will be removed by 2023 when it will be replaced by a tax raise on those making over \$40,000 a year and an increase on all tax brackets in 2025. What the average American working family will see between 2018-2023 if the tax plan is passed, is a slight reduction in Federal Taxes given they file their taxes with the Standard Deduction as opposed to the Itemized Deduction. In fact, the proposed tax plan does away with Itemized Deductions. This means that the majority of deductions a person might claim on their taxes have been almost completely slashed, giving the worker fewer options for deductions and greatly reducing the amount of money the worker would receive for their tax return. According to the Tax Policy Center, the savings Trump claimed would go to working families will do so only in the smallest way possible. By 2019, less than 20% of these savings will be found within working families who make less than \$87,000 a year. A 3% tax cut becomes almost meaningless when the chances of a substantial return are nullified. Another major attack on working people through this tax bill is the continued attack on public education. With these deductions on state and local taxes being nullified, this now means that working people can no longer deduct the amount they pay in taxes for schools. All the while, private and charter schools continue to get subsidies and state funding. This is effectively defunding public schools while using tax dollars to fund private schools. This effect on tax breaks on public schools is not just a major attack on public schools themselves but a major attack on the millions of working people who send their children to public schools.

If trillions of dollars from the worker, the loss of deductions, and an impending tax height wasn't enough, buckle in. The new tax bill is even going after the American worker's healthcare. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that upwards of 13 million people could lose their healthcare as a result of the tax bill. This is in addition to the 23 million people who lost their healthcare due to the Trump Administrations healthcare cuts earlier in 2017. The tax bill will dispose of the individual mandate penalties put into place by the Affordable Care Act. Some people will drop their insurance now that there is no penalty for not having health insurance. This will cause a rise in premiums, which in some states could mean an increase of between \$1,500-1,700. While the wealthy can shop around for insurance, the poor, the working class, and especially seniors will be hit hard by these premium increases. The new tax bill will also increase the Federal Deficit by \$1.45 trillion. This will give the incentive to cut spending to lower the deficit and, as always, Medicaid and Medicare are first on the chopping block. There are already talks of raising the age and income level to qualify for Medicaid and Medicare, which would leave many working poor and many senior citizens in the lurch.

But where does this leave the rich? After all, Trump claimed many times this tax plan would be hard on rich people like him. Trump even says that he has many rich friends who are angry at him for the bill. This is absolute nonsense. Trump believes the working person to be stupid and easily fooled. Most wealthy, under the proposed tax plan, would see their taxes lowered from 35% to 21% just by 2019. This is the largest tax break in history, and it is not for the masses of working people, but for the already grossly wealthy. These tax cuts for the rich are made up for by the loss of deductions a working person can claim on their taxes. Just by slashing the deduction to \$10,000 for State and Local Taxes, over 44 million people will be affected, resulting in an estimated 1.4 trillion dollars of new tax revenues built on the backs of working people. By limiting the tax deduction on State and Local taxes, this change is expected to drain money from large high-tax cities, lowering property values, giving less money to the public fund for the city to provide public works, such as roads and schools. Working people who have a mortgage at less than \$750,000 will no longer be able to claim a deduction for that mortgage. Students will not only be taking on debt from student loans but expected to pay taxes on them as if loans, scholarships, and grants were income. Already, the wealthy on average pay only 15% in taxes because they afford elite tax lawyers. Not to mention the trillions the rich hide away in offshore accounts. Even the estate tax has been lowered so that heirs to property, money, assets/securities won't have to pay a cent unless the value of those assets exceeds \$22,000,000, and then the rate is on a sliding scale. To increase direct profits for the rich, the American working class as a whole will be charged for the difference. While the workers see minor cuts that will be replaced by an increase in just a few years, the richest will be making trillions more in profit.



**TOP 1% GET 80 PERCENT OF  
THE PLAN'S TAX CUTS BY 2027**



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EDITORIAL  
Words and more words.... by some people...

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Trump Tax Plan: - Continued from page 1

There is, however, another winner to the Trump Tax Plan: foreign capitalists. During his campaign, Trump often spoke of the "globalists" who are attacking the white blue collar workers in America. This became a rallying cry of reaction-ary sentiment. The far-right has used the term "globalist" as a codeword for "non-white capitalist" and most often, a Jewish capitalist. This kind of divide between people is simply another means for the upper-classes to divert blame from the rich, and divide the international and domestic working class along lines of ethnicity and national origin. While globalists certainly exist, they exist not because they are ethnicity X or Nation Y conspiring for control, but because they are capitalist who exports their capital across the globe in order to generate profit from speculative finance and currency markets, and exploit workers in countries with lower Labor-Power. Trump himself is a globalist, with capital assets across a number of continents. However, Trump has betrayed the honest, angry, and scared working family who needed something to blame for their wretched condi-tions. Trump and his fellow capitalist cohorts were certainly not going to attack themselves, only use the rhetoric to di-vide and divert the American working class. As it stands, for-  
eign investors of more than \$6.5 trillion worth of American investment fund shares and equity, along with nearly 35% of American corporate stock. With lowering of the corporate tax rate to 20%, foreign capitalists, the "globalists" Trump spoke of, will find themselves an increased profit of \$52 bil-lion a year. Globalization, post-cold war global capitalism, has integrated world markets, making a profit in the United States an international affair. While American working fam-ilies have their deductions slashed and their minor tax cuts dissolved and raised in just a few years, foreign investors will be making billions.

The proposed tax plan given by Trump and the Republicans is, like most legislation passed in a capitalist society, an at-tack on working people. Deductions will be cut. Millions, literally MILLIONS, will lose healthcare. The slight reduction in the tax rate is fleeting at best, only waiting to be replaced

by even higher taxes for working people. In the meantime, the rich find themselves making, even more, money off of the working class as a result of dramatic tax decrease. Foreign capitalists will also profit from this decrease. Ev-eryone is making money from this tax plan except for the American worker who already has up to 300% of the daily value that they create stolen from their wages. Trump has lied to a devastated working class to make himself and his fellow capitalists across the globe richer. In doing so, he has empowered the far-right who, despite claiming to be against globalists, back the plan as it makes their more affluent supporters richer. After all, while there are reaction-aries amongst the working class that support the alt-right movement, the movement itself is mostly made up of up-per-middle-class Americans who gain profit from the blight this tax plan puts on the working class. The global capital-ist class is attacking workers in the United States, and the proposed tax is just another nail in the class coffin that is suffocating all working class people. The proposed tax plan is just another means of ammunition for the class war of the capitalist class against the workers, the mass of people. Let us unite against such attacks, from now until the capital-ist class that preys on the working people of American and world is scourged from our land!



WHY MARXISM-LENINISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY UNITED STATES?

By: J. PALAMEDA  
October 30, 2017

The heightening of the ecological, economic, and social crises of capitalism during the summer of 2017 from Charlottesville to Houston cast a new urgency on the work of the rapidly consolidating left in the United States. As the left reawakens to popularly reclaim the legacy of Nat Turner, Tom Paine, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Harry Haywood, Eugene Debs, William Z. Foster, Huey Newton, Sacco and Vanzetti, and countless others, the age-old specters of Lenin and Stalin are treated with increasing hesitancy. The cop-electing opportunists at the Democratic Socialists of America have led the way, ditching revolutionary politics completely and asserting that American socialists should not get "hung up" on questions from the supposedly distant past. It is an appealing rhetoric for those who want to seek egalitarian politics without abandoning completely the counterrevolutionary mythos of the bourgeoisie: a faith in reform, a deep fear of "tyrannous" working class movements, and a refusal to endorse militant self-defense and revolutionary activity.

But the question of Lenin and Stalin's relevancy—the question of why we should be Marxist-Leninists in the United States—is a good one. Marxism-Leninism is a science, and if the political conditions of the United States are so radically different from those that faced Lenin, Stalin, Ho Chi Minh, Castro, Hoxha, etc., then we should seek to radically evolve it to American circumstances. Yet, the struggle in 2017 to protect and empower ourselves against an emboldened reactionary right and an increasingly aggressive police state has revealed similar enemies and allies from the historical struggles of American and Russian Leninists, and similar failures and success of liberal and Marxist solutions. The liberals blame the left for their total inability and unwillingness to mobilize working class Americans, and actively endorse militarism and imperialism. Social democrats claim a "political revolution" is sufficient to mobilize workers, address the violence of American police, destroy systemic racism and sexism, and unseat the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie in the halls of government. The struggles we face today in the United States with imperialism, mobilizing and organizing revolutionary cadre and workers, the undermining threat of reformism, and the general insufficiency of extant popular left platforms to address these issues are the very same struggles Leninism was forged in during Civil and World War. Marxism-Leninism is not only relevant to American circumstances, but essential. An American Leninism is not foreign as the reformists would have us believe, but rather a system of political organization, mobilization, and discipline keenly capable of realizing the aims of three centuries of American revolutionary experience.

Joseph Stalin's Foundations of Leninism effectively implements a working definition of what Marxism-Leninism was, is, and would be. It is useful specifically for Americans because the text is written in retrospect, addressing the very question of implementation and relevancy that now faces American socialists. For Stalin, the major contribution of Leninist thought to the Communist ideology that nearly toppled European capitalism in 1848 was its integration of imperialism into Marxist revolutionary tactics. "Leninism," Stalin reviews, "is Marxism of the era of imperialism and the proletarian revolution. To be more exact, Leninism is the theory and tactics of the proletarian revolution in general, the theory and tactics of the dictatorship of the proletariat in particular." It is not enough, for Lenin and Stalin, to fight for socialism. Socialists in the era of imperialism must consider self-defense and the forging of a party capable of uprooting the deeply entrenched bigotries created by capitalism as a foundational task. The last several months have proven this analysis to be critically important in 2017. We will not reform away the Ku Klux Klan. We will not vote out police departments that joke about racist murder and render rapists the real victims. Nazism and centuries-old antisemitic pogroms were destroyed by the Leninist party, just as the back of American slavery was broken by centralized militant struggle. So it must be with the racist and sexist rot in the political heart of the United States.

The necessity of these time-tested considerations was made patently clear by the nearly immediate implosion of the social democrats in the United States. At their much publicized party conference in Chicago in early August of this year, the Democratic Socialists of America voted the cop-supporting liar Danny Fetonte into their ruling council, and after much outcry, committed to keeping him. It took his own resignation and laughable disillusionment with the party to remove him from party leadership. How can a party that is complacent with being ruled by a publicly acknowledged agent of the police hope to defeat centuries-entrenched racism in America? Lenin considered a similar question when he wrote to American workers in 1918. From Lenin's perspective, the American left was split into two camps. First there were the social democrats, who "defended 'their' imperialist governments and today limit themselves to platonic 'protests' against military intervention." And second, there were the Communists, "a growing number of people who have taken the communist path, the path of Maclean, Debs—." It is a great irony and tragedy that those who now claim to idolize Eugene Debs and seek to abandon "foreign" Marxist influence would be the same group to elect those who threw Debs in jail after much platonic, "robust" discussion (as the DSA statement defending Fetonte claimed). Leninists, not the social democrats who pick "their" cop over the experiences of thousands of victims of police violence across the country, must pick up Debs banner.

The defeatism that led the liberals to pick favorable imperialists during World War I is the same defeatism that leads social democrats today to claim their brand of social democracy is the only thing that can claim a majority in American society. Seeking a revolutionary movement that creates a majority in its service and actions is unthinkable for the social democrats, because to do so would imperil their political and class position. Lenin identified this problem, arguing that the social democrats in Russia could only "strive for liberty and legality, since without these the domination of the bourgeoisie is incomplete, is neither undivided nor guaranteed. But the bourgeoisie is more afraid of the movement of the masses than of reaction. Hence the striking, incredible weakness of the liberals in politics, their absolute impotence" ("Two Utopias").

So long as the social democrats in America continue fighting for a so-called "political revolution" through attaining a democratically elected socialist majority, they will remain an impotent flea on the back of bourgeois liberal parties in America. A socialist majority must be won by a revolutionary party of working class people that "will be able rapidly to gain the sympathy and support of the majority of the toiling non-proletarian masses by satisfying their needs" ("Concerning Questions of Leninism"). The Marxist-Leninist party did just this, forging a mass socialist movement that withstood foreign intervention in the Civil War, the crucible of industrialization, and a genocidal Nazi invasion. In the name of winning over as many people as possible, the social democrats shove critical issues under the rug and elect cops, insuring they will never win anything more than a dependent relationship with imperialists. Service, an authentic, centrally decided working class platform, and militant activism win majorities, not opportunism.

Marxism-Leninism is not a foreign non-issue to those struggling in 2017 for the liberation of the working class in the United States. Leninism grew in and conquered remarkably similar issues to those we face today from the challenge of uprooting a reactionary history to addressing the poisonous allure of liberal reformism. It was not social democracy that inspired the 19th century labor unions to wage militant strikes led by the continually imprisoned Eugene Debs, nor was it a desire for a democratic majority that put a gun in Huey Newton's hand. Instead, what drove the revolutionaries of American history from Tom Paine to Harry Haywood was a desire to forge a new political order through a revolutionary working class party. Wherever resistance movements struggle against imperialism, wherever communities buckle under the weight of police violence and gentrification, wherever a democrat tells the people to wait for educations, jobs, and housing, and wherever a social democrat claims a cop can lead a revolution, we say emphatically: **Lenin lived, Lenin lives, Lenin will live.**





# WHY DOES THE PSEUDO-LEFT HATE GROVER FURR?

By: VICTOR VAUGHN  
November 19, 2017

Grover Furr is an American professor and author. He has taught at Montclair State University in New Jersey for over four decades, and has written essays, articles and books on Soviet history in both Russian and English. Though his body of work covers a wide variety of topics, his most famous writings study the period of Soviet history under Joseph Stalin, particularly regarding controversies around the Moscow Trials, the Katyn “massacre,” the events in Poland in 1939, the murder of Sergei Kirov, the Ukrainian famine and Khrushchev’s “secret speech.” Furr’s research on the history of communism, Soviet history and the historical falsifications told against socialism is some of the most remarkable, ground-breaking and enlightening in the world. He uses a very precise and admirable document-based approach to research that is exceedingly valuable and hard to find elsewhere.

This approach, unsurprisingly, has won him more than a fair share of enemies and critics, not only on the right but the left as well. Those on the left who attack Grover Furr are the most peculiar of his critics. Professor Furr is someone that sets about examining historical allegations used to attack socialism, and in his published books and articles finds and publishes objective documentary and archival proof that it is not true, or at least deceptive. In other words, he spends a great deal of time and effort countering bourgeois propaganda about Marxism-Leninism. What has been their response? To attack him. One would think someone who speaks Russian, has translated Russian documents and has access to the archives would be of interest to those looking to learn about the history of socialism. One would further think, that a sincere person who considers themselves a socialist or a Marxist would thank Grover Furr for finding proof that a large portion of what we are told about Stalin and the U.S.S.R. are lies.

We live in an age where most Marxist or progressive academics who dare to challenge the status quo are fired, sidelined, driven out of academia or simply deemed irrelevant. Only a fool would pretend that academic repression isn’t a reality. Yet, when it comes to the brave, bold and challenging works Furr has published, critics universally dismiss them without reviewing the evidence he presents. In discussions, I have never heard them say, “No Professor Furr, I disagree with your thesis statement, and wish to make a counter-thesis. Here are my facts, arguments and sources backing it up.” Instead, what I hear over and over

is his work dismissed as “absurd,” “insane,” or Furr himself labeled as a “crackpot” or “Stalinist.” There is almost always an attempt to link his methods of research to anti-Semites and fascists, or even outright call him a “Holocaust denier,” implicitly comparing Soviet history with Nazi Germany.

Why do his critics almost universally behave in this manner? The answer is simply: because they can’t refute anything he says.

For all Furr’s research has contributed to our understanding of Soviet history and to refuting the lies told about life in socialist countries, his critics and opponents have not offered any meaningful refutation of his works or even engaged with the evidence contained therein. When pressed to sum up his theses, the evidence he presents to support them, and then to offer counter-evidence and refutations of their own, silence fills the space. Very few, if any of his critics are capable of defining what specific points of his works they disagree with or can prove false. Often they assert things that are already addressed in the article in question. The opponents of Furr’s research, whatever their ideological differences may be, all share one common thread that over time is rendered impossible to miss. For all their ranting and raving, not a single one directly challenges him on the sources or attempts to refute his argument. There is a concrete reason for this – opposition to Furr’s research comes from knee-jerk anti-communism.

The pseudo-left’s endless venom towards Furr’s work is entirely (no, not partially, or even mostly, but from what I have seen, entirely) devoid of counter-criticism, counter-evidence, contrasting research or engagement in any way, shape or form with Furr’s work. At the present time, there are no scholarly refutations of Grover Furr’s work. Hostile reviews, on the other hand, are plentiful. Nor is there any lack of critics who chant “give us more evidence,” demanding a larger amount of evidence to their satisfaction – which of course, is a level of evidence that will never exist, no matter how much of it there is. Another consistent pattern with his critics is that they assume that an author must be able to prove the meaning of their research to the satisfaction of a hostile or skeptical critic in order to be considered valid. If the author fails to accomplish this task, it proves that he or she doesn’t understand what it means, and furthermore their failure to do so is definitive proof that the entirety of the research is consequently meaningless.

The debate on Grover Furr is always about form – the person, his writing style, his alleged motives, his allege

dishonesty or lack of qualifications, and never about content – the evidence presented, what it shows, and whether it’s true or not. The infantile pseudo-left responds to science with provocation, facts with hostility, reason with insults, ideological questions with personal attacks, and the deep questions posed by Furr’s work with shallow criticisms. This is not to say that anyone who has criticisms of Furr’s work is automatically opposed to socialism. Far from it – criticism is an essential part of being a Marxist-Leninist. But by and large the criticisms of Grover Furr are not made from a principled standpoint.

“No one takes Grover Furr seriously” is the refrain. Yet, John Arch Getty, Robert Thurston, Lars Lih and many others have praised Furr’s work while disagreeing with his politics. One does not have to completely share Furr’s worldview to find a great deal of value in his essays, articles and books. In fact, any serious researcher, Marxist or not, can learn a great deal from the evidence he gathers to back up his viewpoints, evidence that is almost never studiously read or studied by those who violently denounce it. If the idea that Furr is not a serious academic is a legitimate position to take, then there should be criticisms of his scholarship. Perhaps not surprisingly, I haven’t heard a single argument as to why Grover Furr is an unacceptable source of information other than his opinions aren’t popular. If his arguments themselves cannot be addressed, then his critics have no right to reject the citing of his work.

Much is made of Furr’s “academic credentials,” or alleged lack thereof, to write about the subjects he chooses. He is an English professor they say, and therefore cannot be considered an authority on history. These noble knights dedicated to the defense of “credible” capitalist academia you see, must speak out against Furr. Yet, these same people have no problem with the works of Noam Chomsky, a linguist who writes an endless parade of books on a wide variety of subjects outside of his field, such as criticizing U.S. foreign policy, economy, science, immigration and the Cold War. Anyone who is familiar with Chomsky’s work knows his views are fairly traditional anarchism combined with Enlightenment-era classical liberalism. They are not friendly to socialism, and certainly no threat to anyone in the ruling class. Speaking out against imperialism in of itself is not a particularly radical act, especially when you’re not criticizing it from a Marxist perspective. Many far-rightists and libertarians speak out against U.S. foreign policy as well. Why the double standard? What is the difference between Furr and Chomsky? Quite simple, really. Chomsky is the poster boy of left anti-communism, of a “safe” and

defanged leftism deprived of anything not acceptable to the bourgeoisie. Meanwhile, Furr’s research attempts to refute popular anti-communist propaganda instead of accepting it. The pseudo-left would rather back the petty-bourgeois cause than the proletarian one, because they are “radicals” stuck in that method of thinking.

It is absolutely inarguable that the modern view of the history of socialism has been shaped by those who despise it, and yet phony leftists have no trouble upholding the most vile smears against Soviet, Eastern European and Chinese history. In an atmosphere where the highly dubious works of Robert Conquest and Richard Pipes are upheld as a dogma and treated as material to be seriously engaged with or even refuted, Furr’s work is singled out by both reactionaries and the pseudo-left for outright dismissal and slander.

When denial is not enough, general charges are invented, such as the allegation his presentations of history are “conspiracy theories.” This has also been used to describe the works of other Marxist-Leninist scholars, such as William Bland. I stress again that until there are refutations, one cannot accept these charges. After all, with all the history of capitalist plots we’ve learned, can one seriously accept this level of argumentation? Are the facts true, or not? Blanket cries of “Stalinist” directed against Furr mean nothing. If critics have counter-evidence, then let them step forward and present it. This should not be an unreasonable demand for a Marxist – or for anyone, really.

When Furr speaks of opposition conspiracies within the Soviet Union, or of holes and outright falsifications in the official story of Katyn, these are treated with the utmost skepticism. The idea that the defendants of the Moscow Trials may have actually been involved in terrorist conspiracies to overthrow the Soviet government and assassinate officials is seen as nonsense. Yet, when we are presented with stories of a heinous conspiracy involving J.V. Stalin and a substantial number of other high officials to themselves assassinate Zinoviev, Bukharin and a number of others through judicial means, then this “conspiracy theory” is adopted as the default correct position. It follows that it is easier to go along with the dominant narrative – that is, that of the bourgeoisie – regarding the history of socialism than it is to objectively challenge these ideas.

With the fake left, the formula could not be more simple: U.S. Cold War propaganda is upheld, pro-communist scholarly research is not. Every charge against the socialist countries is true; every defense of socialism is akin to Holocaust denial. Those who would agree, at least in words, that the history of the Soviet Union is falsified by capitalist scholars and reactionaries, and that socialist leaders are routinely subjected to outright slander are declared “insane,” their research or conclusions “absurd,” and derided as “crackpots” or “Stalinists.” The critics do not review the evidence or engage with the thesis; they merely dismiss it. They do not present counter-evidence; they merely assert it. Furr’s fake “left” opponents claim that Furr is “not credible scholarship” only because they don’t agree with it. Furr is only a “crackpot” because they don’t like what he has to say. In their view, scholarly research that counters the bourgeois propaganda narrative of history should be cast aside, silenced, devalued, delegitimized, hidden from the public view and ultimately, destroyed.

It seems to me the “left” needs to look in a mirror and stare itself straight in the eye, and ask: what have we come

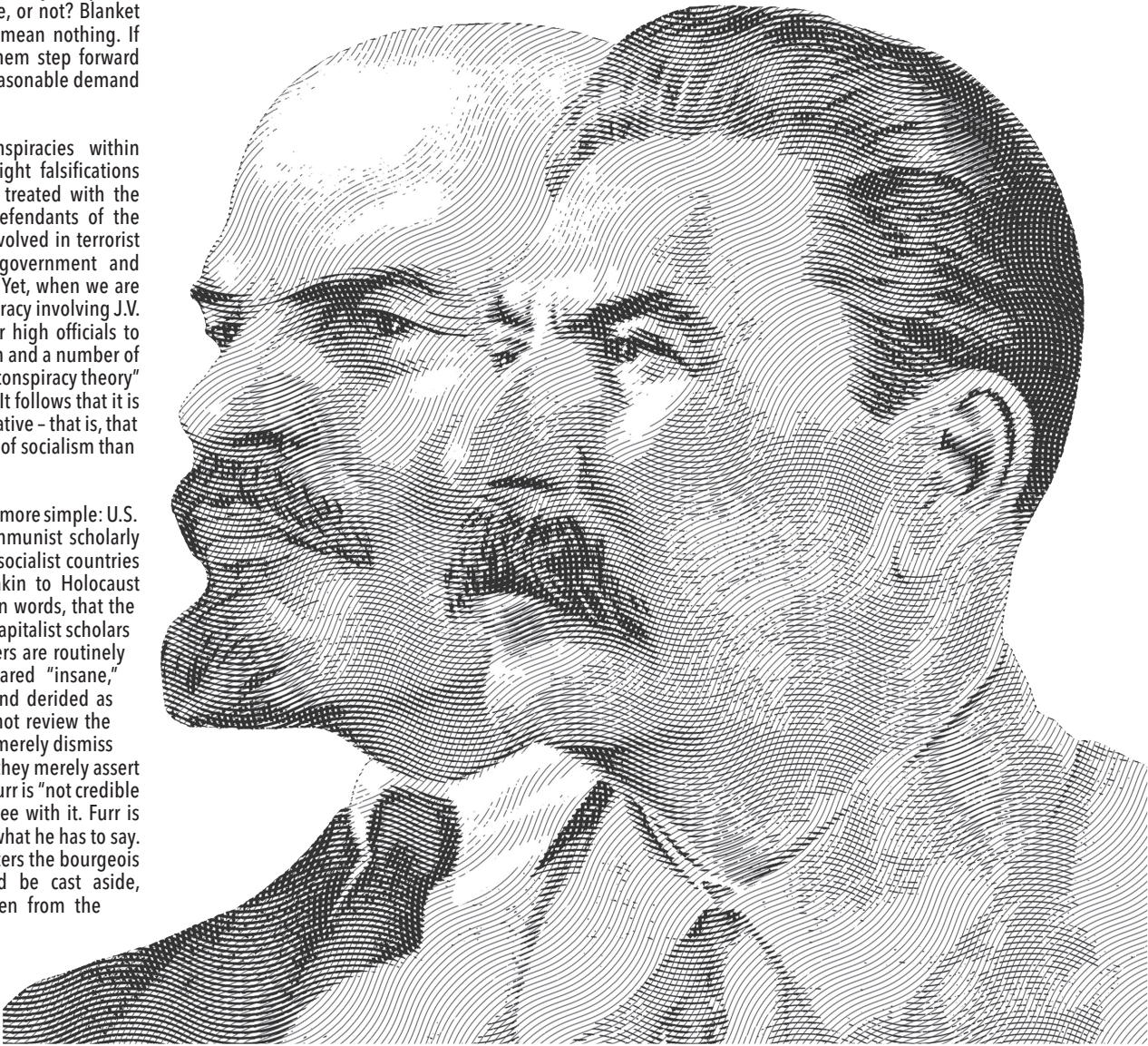
to, if we cannot refute these works? What exactly does it say, when the entire pseudo-left cannot refute someone who is supposedly “a crackpot with no academic credentials?” What does it say, when they cannot even define the actual content of his work when asked, yet they have already declared it false on the whole? What does it say, when they have no evidence to counter Furr’s claims, but rely on attacking Grover Furr the person?

Any allegations that his works are “below criticism” are disingenuous. If they are worthy of such hostility, then they are worthy of honest criticism. If only all of us checked their facts and cited their sources for all to see like Furr does, rather than rest on our own preconceived notions and prejudices, perhaps the American left wouldn’t be in such a precarious position these days.

The pseudo-left’s hatred has nothing to do with honesty. This is because of anti-communism, not political disagreement, not ideological difference, not a problem with Furr’s research or his conclusions, not an issue with his methods, or legitimate criticism of his evidence. It is a liberal and reactionary view that anything anti-Soviet and anti-Stalin must be true, while anything that challenges that view must be attacked, smeared,

demonized, ridiculed and silenced. When evidence is not engaged with or dismissed, and the person themselves is slandered, it is not principled disagreement, it is not ideological difference – it is hate and prejudice.

The question stands: why does the pseudo left hate Grover Furr? The answer becomes plain: they hate Grover Furr precisely because his works challenge the hegemony of the Trotsky-Khrushchev-Gorbachev-Cold War anti-communist anti-Stalin paradigm, the dominant paradigm of the bourgeoisie. In other words, they hate Grover Furr because he is a good communist in an age filled with fake ones. They hate Grover Furr because he is an honest researcher in an age filled to the brim with propaganda. They hate Grover Furr because he has evidence for the conclusions he draws and presents it openly, rather than relying on emotionalism. They hate Grover Furr because he challenges the bourgeois anti-communist understanding of Soviet history. These days pseudo-leftists are not just dishonest or liberal; they are avowed anti-communists.



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PEACE, EQUALITY, SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY  
ALL POWER TO THE WORKING PEOPLE!



# TO LEARN FROM AN UNDOCUMENTED WORKER

By L.ZORFASS  
December 4, 2017

The following comes from an interview with Antonio, an undocumented worker from Mexico who has resided and worked in the United States for the last six years. He works as a day laborer, mainly in construction.

It's no secret that there are many undocumented workers living in the United States. Usually, they are referred to as "illegal immigrants," a term which considers a human being themselves to be illegal. The presence of undocumented workers angers the right greatly, as their nationalist ideology has them shouting that it is unfair that undocumented get to live with the "benefits" of American life. American liberals often celebrate undocumented workers because they "do the work Americans do not want to do". These statements are two sides of a single coin. Both stem from racism, nationalism, and the division of workers by the ruling capitalist class. In both cases, undocumented workers are "the other" and do not deserve to the so-called benefits of living in the United States. For the conservative right, this means access to social benefits, for the liberal right, this means the right of respect and dignity. As we will see, undocumented workers have neither under their current conditions.

Antonio: I came seis (six) year(s) ago. Mi familia came little after that.

**L. Zorfass: How did you find work?**

Antonio: I stand with others at the square, try to get picked up for someone who needs work.

**L. Zorfass: What kind of work do you do?**

Antonio: Building houses and big buildings in the city part of town.

**L. Zorfass: The others that stand with you at the square, they all do similar work?**

Antonio: Si, si. A lot.

From the get-go, it is clear that kind of work undocumented workers do in an urban environment; work that is necessary for the continuing and growth of modern life. It is these undocumented workers who are building the houses the average American lives in, and building the towers of finance for the ruling class. This work, construction, is the kind of work the liberals dignify as "beneath" Americans even though only 35% of construction workers in the United States are undocumented workers [1]. It is an insult not just to those who toil in construction, but to labor as a whole. Blue collar work is what the entire infrastructure of the country is built on, yet the liberals who shed crocodile tears for the "poor immigrant" consider this "grunt work" that no one would want to do; the very work they themselves need to live daily. Construction work and construction workers must be celebrated, for the work they do is necessary for us all to live and work.

The work of the undocumented is, of course, not just limited to construction work. In terms of necessary labor for the maintenance and growth of the productive base of the United States, the agricultural sector is also filled with undocumented workers. The vast majority of workers -78%, according to the most recent National Agricultural Workers Survey - are foreign-born and crossed a border to get here (NAWS, Farmworker Justice) [2]. Again, the work designated as "beneath Americans" is the very work that is needed to sustain Americans. As we will see further on, the anti-immigrant policies of the current Trump administration are causing problems for the agriculture capitalists and the possible food supply for the United States.

**L. Zorfass: May I ask what your working conditions are like?**

Antonio: This job is 12 hours every day in the sun. We get a break for lunch, 20 minutos.

**L. Zorfass: Would you mind if I asked how much you're getting paid?**

Antonio: Five dollars for the hour.

We often hear from right-wing commentators that immigrants are "stealing jobs" from Americans. This is nonsense; an American boss willingly and purposefully fires documented workers to hire undocumented workers. Why? Because an undocumented worker is paid less and is not subject to standing U.S. labor laws. Any worker works part of the day for themselves, and part of the day for the boss. This is called surplus-value and it's where the boss' profit comes from. The average minimum wage for a documented worker working an eight-hour day in the United States is \$7.25 an hour. The job that Antonio was working when this interview was given would last two weeks, 10 hours a day, at five dollars an hour. Antonio also said it's a \$13,000 job containing six undocumented workers. For two weeks, the documented worker working two weeks on a \$13,000 dollar job is generating a surplus-value of 373% against their wages. For six undocumented workers working 10 hours a day, for 5 dollars a day, five days a week, that is generating a surplus-value of 433% against their wages. There is an 86% increase in profit in the two-week period for the boss (if the boss hires six undocumented workers, rather than six documented workers, for a two week period, where the cost of the job is \$13,000). Undocumented workers are not stealing jobs from anyone; they are being given them for a higher profit margin for the boss as they are exploited for a higher rate. 86% higher in this particular case.



**L. Zorfass: Could you tell me about your living conditions?**

Antonio: Mi familia is five. We pay 950 dollars a month for a room and kitchen. A lot of violence on our streets.

**L. Zorfass: Do you have to worry about ICE?**

Antonio: Every day. Our neighbors are here legally and they were arrested by ICE for two weeks. I'm afraid when I get home my family will be gone.

**L. Zorfass: What about medical care?**

Antonio: There is a clinic. We do not go unless an emergency. The round-ups (ICE) can get us there.

So, here are the "benefits" the undocumented worker gets from living in the United States that the conservative right complains about: living in the most cramped of living quarters, worrying about their children facing violence right outside their door, having to live in fear every day that you'll come home and your family will be rounded up by ICE, who have increased their arrests by 38-40% since the February 2017 due to the Trump Administration's immigrant policies. The fear is so great that an entire family is afraid to go to a doctor, as they may be arrested rather than being treated. According to Antonio, ICE raids even happen against documented workers who simply "look the part." This also, of course, affects the bosses who hire undocumented workers at highly exploitive rates. If 78% of agricultural workers are undocumented, what will happen to food production and profits if most or all are arrested? Agricultural production will come almost to a halt. The country will be short of food, profits, will fall greatly, and the remedy will be to hire documented workers who are exploited but at a lesser rate than undocumented workers. Not to mention the expenses employers will have to pay out in order to conform to labor laws. Profits and food supply would fall dramatically if the terror against undocumented agricultural workers continues.

**So one may ask, why do they come here if they live under such squalled conditions, live in constant fear, and are so exploited? Antonio answers this quite simply:**

Antonio: Your country owns our country. You have all of our stuff. The drug gangs that ruled at home? They did it to send their drugs here.

It's not hard to understand that someone would want to come to the country that owns their stuff. 88% of Mexico's GDP is from Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). 44% is owned by the United States [3]. It is reported that Mexican drug cartels send 64 billion dollars worth of drugs into the United States, according to Mexico's former Public Safety Secretary Genaro Garcia Luna. Mexican poverty is wealth for the United States and this is why so many Mexican citizens find themselves risking their lives to get into the country. It is not to steal jobs or social services. It is to get a piece of the pie stolen from them by American imperialists. In order to get the smallest amount of that, undocumented workers from Mexico have to risk everything, including their lives, just to live in poverty.

Workers of all the world must unite. It is only the way to stop this tyranny over the laborers of the world. American workers find themselves exploited and in poverty, and then find themselves on the streets so that the bosses can hire undocumented workers to exploit even more. Undocumented workers come to the United States because of the poverty and conditions international capital has created for them in their own country. Both documented and undocumented workers must unite for the same cause against capitalism, or each will find themselves in continued worsening conditions all for the profit of the same people: the capitalists.

# STUFF AND SOMETHING AND OTHER GOOD STUFF...

By J.J. JAMESON  
December 4, 2017

**Main thingy about the article.....**

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# PEACE, EQUALITY SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY & All Power To The Working People!



**AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR.ORG**

**The American Party of Labor is...**  
a revolutionary working class organization. Our aim is to abolish the capitalist system and all its horrors by replacing it with socialism, a system based on the principle laid out by Marx, "from each according to his ability, to each according to his work." This is the first phase toward the higher phase of communism, defined by the principle "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs."



*Let the "socialist" snivellers croak, let the bourgeoisie rage and fume, but only people who shut their eyes so as not to see, and stuff their ears so as not to hear, can fail to notice that all over the world the birth pangs of the old, capitalist society, which is pregnant with socialism, have begun.*

**Lenin, Prophetic Words (1918)**

**Why is Marxism-Leninism the Best Answer? Can't We Regulate Capitalism or Try to Create Some Kind of Third System That Isn't Fully Communist or Capitalist?**

One must understand there is an important fundamental difference between Marxism and other so-called anti-capitalist or "third way" theories. Marx, unlike many thinkers of his day, did not just see a problem with capitalism and start proposing an alternative system. Instead, he and his compatriots analyzed capitalism itself to understand how the system worked. Marx's ideas for revolution are based off of that analysis, not ideas he dreamt up on his own. Solutions to the problems of capitalism can only be reached by understanding and observing the system itself, not by dreaming up some wonderful Utopian alternative. As for regulating or restraining capitalism, this has been done many times before.

Oftentimes the governments of capitalist states must restrict the private sector for various reasons. The problem is that political power is still stacked in favor of the ruling class, and if you slap regulations on big business, they have every avenue and all the resources necessary to see those regulations overturned in the long run. What truly led to the collapse of the old socialist bloc was not that these countries followed Marxism-Leninism, which was ultimately too radical, but rather quite the opposite- that these nations all came under the impression that they needed more and more market style reforms, until they had more or less become capitalist countries.

Nowadays, ideas such as "21st century socialism" would have us do basically the same thing, if not less - regulate capitalism, nationalize some industry, and try to maintain a welfare state- without expropriating the ruling class, without giving the nation a clear direction for the future, and worst of all, without putting the working class in power. This kind of idea can only lead to temporary gains for the workers.

**How is the American Party of Labor Different than Other Socialist, Communist, or Left-Wing Parties or Organizations?**

First of all, the main difference is that we see the solution to the problems of the working class in revolution and the seizure of state power by the working class and its political organizations. The methodology by which we strive for revolution is Marxism-Leninism-that is, the scientific methodology of social/economic revolution first devised by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, and contributed to by figures such as Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin and the late Albanian leader Enver Hoxha. This does not mean, however, that we look at these figures the way religions look at their own prophets, nor do we see their every written word as some kind of Holy Scripture or their every action as blameless and divine.

That being said, we critique their actions from the Marxist methodology of historical dialectical materialism, analyzing actions and events in their historical context, taking into account the benefit of hindsight and trying to avoid idle speculation about what could have been if certain events had or hadn't happened, etc. Because we uphold the general line of these figures, from Karl Marx to Enver Hoxha, we consider ourselves "anti-revisionist," and it is in this way that we differ from most communist parties or organizations in the United States.

## Who Can Join? How Do I Get Involved?

Every working person who is sick of being abused by capitalism, is open to our plan for change, agrees with our Program and Platform, who lives in the United States and is over the age of 18 is welcome to join.

We recommend that you check out our publications page to get a more in-depth look at the Party. Another good place to look is our online library. The cornerstones of our Party are the works of Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, and Enver Hoxha.

You can find everything that you should know about us here, and you can join online or contact us and connect to members in your area.

If we don't have a presence in your city, we'll get to know you and help you establish one.

**Legalize Workers, No to Raids & Deportations!**

**Jobs & Income Now!**

**Increase Access To Education & Services!**

**Nationalized Healthcare!**

**End All Current Illegal Wars Of Aggression!**

**Equal Rights, Pay & Housing For All Regardless of Race, Religion or Sexual Orientation!**

**Abolish Profit Made By The Exploitation Of Labor!**

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American Party of Labor  
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Labor donated.

## Our General Line.

1. The American Party of Labor comes from and represents the American working class. From time to time and place to place there may be individuals who are admitted to the Party who do not have a working class background, or are not currently considered to be working class by Marxist-Leninist ideology and principles. Such individuals are exceptions to the general rule, as they have in effect transcended their class through conscious application of Marxist-Leninist ideology.

2. The American Party of Labor maintains that value in society is produced by human action within the material world. That is to say, value is created by the consumption of labor power. The working classes, which have only their labor power to sell for their daily sustenance, therefore make production possible. We call for the reorganization of society to provide the means of production to the working class to be administrated either under an elected or selected management or collectively through a council system.

3. The American Party of Labor demands the abolition of private property and that all means of production be in the hands of the working class. Profit under capitalism is extracted surplus value from the consumption of labor power and constitutes a theft from the working class by the capitalist ruling class. Under our system, the working class will be paid the full value of their production less the necessary deductions to support the state and its various cultural, economic and social support projects.

4. The American Party of Labor demands that all oppressed nations within the context of the American Empire, including, but by no means limited to, Indigenous peoples, Native Hawaiians, Guamanians and Puerto Ricans (within the context of Puerto Rico), be given national self-determination as to whether or not they wish to remain in the American socialist state, which shall be constructed on the remnants of the United States. We call for the end of the so-called commonwealth system in all U.S. imperial possessions. The nations in these political organizations should either choose to become a U.S. state or an independent country.

5. The American Party of Labor demands the cancellation of all current debt held by developing countries to the U.S. These loans were not made with the intention of helping the people of these countries, but rather to enslave those countries with debt.

6. The American Party of Labor is a party against all imperialism. We are opposed to all wars of aggression on the world stage and all other threats of war and military intervention. We call for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from abroad. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with all occupied peoples and with all nations living underneath neo-colonial regimes. We call for the end of foreign aid to Israel, Colombia and other outposts of capitalist and imperialist aggression.

7. The American Party of Labor is an internationalist party. All peoples around the globe struggling for their emancipation from their own systems of exploitation are our allies. We extend our hands to all revolutionary organizations guided by Marxism-Leninism worldwide and to national liberation movements of exploited peoples of all countries because our cause is one and the same.

8. The American Party of Labor demands the U.S. withdrawal from NATO and other imperialist alliances.

9. The American Party of Labor stands fully against the militarization of the U.S.-Mexican border. It supports the rights of immigrants and the ending of neo-liberal policies in other countries, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, that drive sustenance farmers off their lands and to the United States due to a lack of economic opportunity in their native countries.

10. The American Party of Labor has a more generalized list of our demands and positions in a separate document called the Party Platform.