



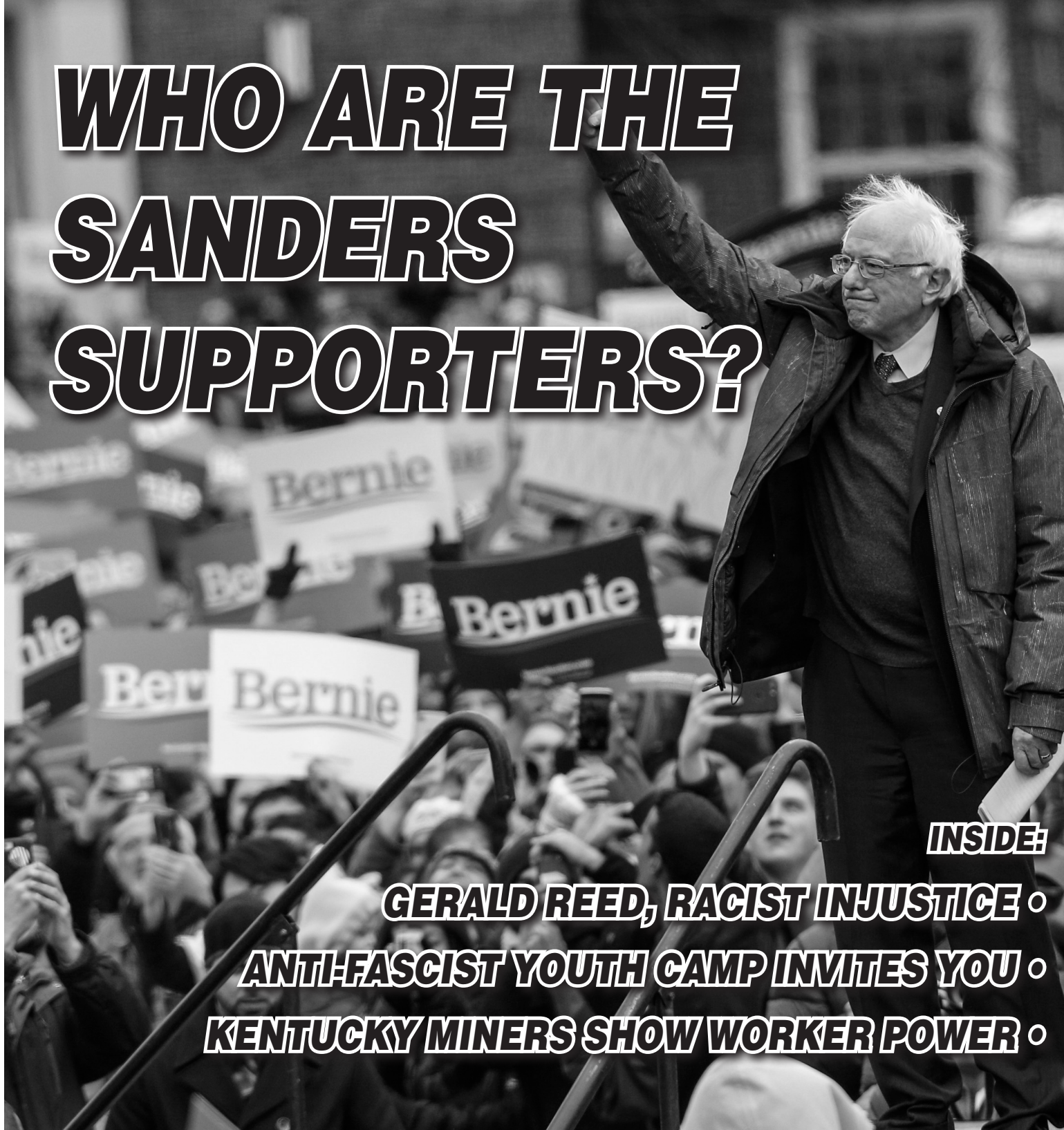
THE RED PHOENIX

NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR

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

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WHO ARE THE SANDERS SUPPORTERS?



INSIDE:

GERALD REED, RACIST INJUSTICE ○
ANTI-FASCIST YOUTH CAMP INVITES YOU ○
KENTUCKY MINERS SHOW WORKER POWER ○

CHICAGO JUDGE OVERRULES NEW TRIAL FOR CHICAGO POLICE TORTURE VICTIM



(Gerald Reed's mother speaks to the press after the verdict)

by J. Palamede on FEBRUARY 14, 2020

Chicago Judge Thomas Hennelly has today overturned a previous ruling by now-retired Judge Gainor to vacate the conviction of Gerald Reed, who has already served 30 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. Gerald Reed was brutally tortured by Chicago Police during the investigation, breaking a metal rod in his leg, and leaving him in a wheelchair to this day. While corporate media outlets will say this is his "claim," it is a claim backed up by the Illinois State Torture Inquiry Relief Commission which unanimously found evidence of torture. Judge Hennelly, taking over for Gainor after his retirement, ruled that this brutal torture did not require another trial, and sent Gerald Reed back to serve the remainder of his fraudulent sentence.

It is a case of gross corruption and systemic injustice within the city of Chicago. Bob Milan, the special prosecutor for the state in this request for a retrial, spent most of his career in the State's Attorney's office during the Daley administration, which was subsequently ruled complicit in the systematic cover-up of Chicago Police torture. Judge Hennelly, who ruled against Reed, worked under Bob Milan in that office, and is currently the Precinct Captain for the Riverside Republican Party.

Black Lives Matter Chicago, in a statement on twitter, condemned the ruling, concluding that "The era of Jon Burge, CPD torture, and coverups are far from over. See you in the streets. Fists up. This is a protracted struggle. We in this for the long haul."

National and local media outlets will no doubt continue to cover the Jussie Smollett case, which occurred on the same day in the same building, while ignoring the simple fact that the Chicago Police have and will continue to torture and murder people of color and serve as an occupying military force in the city.

To follow this developing story and movement, and learn of demonstrations and mobilizations against this racist barbarism, follow BLM Chicago (@BLMChi) on twitter.

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

AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR .ORG

NEW JERSEY COUNCIL MEETING DISRUPTED BY ANTI-ICE PROTESTORS

by J. Thalmann
on DECEMBER 28, 2019

The Essex County Freeholders convened on December 11 to decide on two policy proposals. One involved spending on parks. The other proposal was for an oversight committee for the Essex County Correctional Facility. Unfortunately for the freeholders, they were unable to conduct their agenda in peace because up to one hundred activists and community members arrived to voice their outrage. The room's small capacity of sixty was unable to hold this crowd. Their main concern was Essex County's relationship with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).



(Essex County Freeholder President Brendan Gill (left) wins 2019 "Freeholder of the Year Award.")

Essex County is the signer of a multi-million dollar contracts with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Immigrants are held in appalling conditions in the Essex County Correctional Facility, a prison that doubles as a concentration camp. ICE violates the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees by holding asylum seekers in camps like this one.

During the meeting, the Freeholders opened the floor to allow the community to respond to the parks spending proposal. "What I'd like to know about this ordinance and the 1.1 million dollars by the County of Essex for the construction of the riverbank park building. I would like to know exactly where that 1.1 million dollars is coming," asked Stacy Greg of the Resist the Deportation Machine Network (RDM). "Is that the blood money that you take from the Essex Correctional ICE contract? Is that the blood money coming off the backs of black and brown people that are being detained?"

Another member of RDM, Jay Arena, was next on the microphone. He reiterated Greg's concerns about where the money was coming from. He pointed out that Joseph DiVincenzo, the County Executive of Essex County, brags about the money he gets from his ICE contract, which is over \$40 million. He went on to assert that the county should fund its parks, schools and hospitals by taxing the rich, not trafficking human beings.

The freeholders held a vote and passed the ordinance to create the park building. Next on the agenda was the oversight committee. This time, the crowd was divided. Although all the community members in attendance opposed the ICE contract, some supported the ordinance to create an oversight committee while others opposed it.

Jay Arena told the Phoenix why he opposes the ordinance: "We don't want a better managed concentration camp. We want it closed," he said. He went on to explain that the oversight committee was being "done in lieu of closing the camp." Arena explained that the Freeholder President, Brendan Gill, has the power to end the ICE contract but simply chooses not to.

In fact, Brendan Gill was a vocal critic of ICE before holding his current office. Arena held his phone to the microphone and played a recording of Gill calling for the closure of the camp. But now that he has the power to close it, he chooses not to.

Another speaker was Estaban, an activist and member of the immigrant community. He delivered an impassioned call for Gill and the other freeholders to have mercy. "When you guys are at your dinner table with your children and your grandchildren, there's going to be fathers and mothers who are in jail. And their kids are going to be eating dinner with that empty seat. Please have mercy on the families."

In the end the freeholders passed the ordinance. Instead of ending the ICE contract, they put an ineffective bandaid on the problem. This was done to secure their progressive image while profiting off of Trump's agenda. It was clear from the behavior of the freeholders that they were not concerned at all about the fates of ICE detainees. While speakers gave their passionate demands for humanity, the freeholders looked blank, bored and irritated. Some even played on their phones. It is clear that Democratic leadership will do all it can to support Trump's agenda while adopting the rhetoric of resistance.

KENTUCKY MINERS ILLUSTRATE WORKER POWER WITH SPONTANEOUS ACT OF RESISTANCE



by Leonard Zorfass, JANUARY 15, 2020

On January 13, 2020, a group of miners from the Quest Energy, company in Pike County, Kentucky blocked the railways carrying a heap of mined coal.

Over 50 workers have been denied pay for the past three weeks totaling between \$2,000-\$3,000 a worker. The companies gave little reasoning for the delay in payment, stating only that the company faces "challenging markets." The miners who had been denied pay blocked up the railways, stopping a train of 120 cars, 100 of which were carrying already mined coal. The miners were joined by their fellow workers and members of the community who brought food and blankets in a great showing of solidarity. The company caved rather quickly, issuing checks which prompted the miners to allow the train to pass.

The significance of this action on the part of the miners illustrates much more than what was seen on the surface of this particular struggle. At a glance, one could say what was seen as a group of disgruntled workers standing up to management; something that happens every now and then and nothing more.

But a slightly deeper look at the situation reveals quite a lot about the practical education of working people working everyday to support themselves and their families.

To leverage their demands against the bosses, the miners stopped the circuit of capital from completing itself. They prevented the value of coal, created by the miners themselves, to be transformed into profit, money through its sale and delivery. While none of the miners in their statements put their actions into terms of political economy or stated whether or not they had formally studied economics they acted in a manner which perfectly shows how the worker, simply by the experience of their exploited lives, understand the system well enough to knock the wind out of it at a moments notice.

The miners had been denied upwards of \$30,000 of pay which the company clearly had, as it has now paid it out to the workers. This act shows how wages are not made by current work, but by past work. The value created by workers previously has already been transformed from coal to money, and thusly can be paid out to workers. When the miners stopped the train from carrying its payload of coal to sale, the miners then directly shut down the circuit of capital. The coal, which is mined by miners and not touched by corporate officials, must be sold so that the value of that coal can be realized as money. It is the workers who generate the value, the money, of their own wages while the bosses, capitalists, etc. manage this money, taking as much for themselves paying the workers as little as they can get away with even though the pay originates from the labor of the worker.

By denying the workers pay, the company has shown quite clearly that wages come from capital that is already on hand to the company and advanced for the worker's wage. When withheld from the worker, this money becomes a direct profit for the company; this is where the profit of the board of directors, the CEO, the foreman, and the various managers comes from.

This situation is not unique to the miners of Pike County or the field of mining. This is the general condition of capitalism of which all wage workers face, to have the value of their work stolen from them by their bosses. While actions taken by the miners in Pike County gained a victory in this particular case, the day to day exploitation continues. We have seen over the past year a great many strikes of various groups of workers, mining,

steel production, teachers, auto production and the like. And while victories are found in these actions they have not been able to prevent the conditions for their necessity.

It will only be when the working class comes together in a unified directed movement that the conditions of exploitation can be removed. The spontaneous uprisings of this and that group can attain only temporary victories. For the livelihood of the majority of Americans to no longer be in the hands of a few hundred business owners, American workers must come together as a class to defeat the capitalist class which every day, holds the flame of life and death over us all.

"Look less to the liberals, trust them less, and have more confidence in the independent and whole-hearted struggle of the proletariat."

- Vladimir Lenin, *Lessons of the Belgian Strike*



DEFIANT IRAQI PEOPLE ONCE AGAIN THE VICTIMS OF GLOBAL PROXY WAR



(Iraqi Student protests in Basra, January 8th, 2020)

by J. Thalmann, JANUARY 10, 2020

As the Trump Administration backs away from antagonizing Iran to the brink of war given his precarious domestic political situation, Iraq will almost certainly remain in the crossfire for years to come. The birthplace of civilization is now the primary flashpoint in the conflict between the United States, Iran, and their allies as world powers jockey for hegemony. Amid the chaos of escalations and blatant disregard for Iraqi sovereignty, the Iraqi parliament, reacting to mass demonstrations by the Iraqi people, made a clear statement. On June 5, Iraq's parliament voted for and declared that all American troops must leave Iraq.

Trump's response to this basic and reasonable request was vulgar and unhinged. He threatened to punish Iraq with sanctions simply for expressing the will of the Iraqi people. This threat follows a pattern of behavior from Trump that has become all too familiar. He vocally expresses the vicious rot of American imperialism whereas other politicians would try to disguise it. Trump has come out and emphatically attacked Iraq's sovereignty, Iraq's supposed democracy, and the will of the Iraqi people.

All this is not to say that Trump's beating of the war drum is anything new. The Bush Administration destroyed Iraq and killed hundreds of thousands of civilians. The Obama Administration expanded the powers of the executive branch to wage war in all corners of the world without congressional assent, bombing funerals and weddings. Now Trump and the neo-conservatives around him will seek to wage a furious proxy war against Iranian influence in the Middle East. A full blown war on Iran is possible but a heated proxy war in Iraq is more likely. Such a conflict would likely spill over into Syria and Lebanon.

When imperialists of both parties contribute to lighting the Middle East on fire, one fact remains clear—these events are not driven by mere personalities. The intensification of American imperialism is a byproduct of capitalism and its endless need for natural resources and global hegemony. The world is divided between capitalist factions in the United States, the European Union, Russia and China. The United States wishes to push Iranian capitalism aside so that business interests within the American sphere can succeed.

After the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children killed by Bill Clinton's sanctions, and after a generation of Iraqis grew up in the hellscape of the American occupation, imperialists have the audacity to make Iraq bleed more. We say "no" to the US occupation of Iraq, "no" to war against Iran and "no" to using Iraq as a battleground for regional hegemony and control of resources. Obey the will of the Iraqi people! US troops out of Iraq!

2020 INTERNATIONAL ANTIFASCIST YOUTH CAMP

International Antifascist Youth Camp

From 31st of July to 9th of August we will meet in Berlin as young people from all over the world to discuss our hopes, experiences and future. Together we aim to strengthen the public voice against a political system that favours war, rearmament, racism, fascism, environmental destruction, poverty and exploitation.

We are going through a time where attacks on workers' living standards and the poor are escalating, the gap between the rich and poor is increasing, and millions of people are forced to live without access to basic necessities, including jobs, health care and educational opportunities.

The economic and political conflicts among the world powers are deepening, the danger of a new war over the geo-political division of the world is growing every day, and state spending on weapons and militarisation are constantly increasing.

In many countries around the world, racist-fascist parties have come to power. Racist movements around the world are being promoted to crush the workers and young people's struggle for a better future. Democratic rights such as the right to demonstrate and to organise as well as the freedom of thought are being restricted in all countries.

The world's natural environment and resources are being destroyed and exploited by multinational corporations that are irreversibly destroying our living environments for future generations.

More than 70 million people have become refugees as a result of war waging imperialist countries and their collaborators, and are often also abandoned in the Mediterranean as part of a policy of clamping down on immigration

THIS CANNOT GO ON LIKE THIS!

Young people from around the world are standing up against this system, which is destroying the lives of billions of people and destroying the future of the next generation.

We believe that a world without oppression, exploitation and war is possible, where people can live equally and in unity.

We want the resources allocated to armaments to be redirected to public services, such as education, health and transport. We also want countries with soldiers stationed all over the world to withdraw immediately.

Companies that destroy the environment must stop their operation and the costs of environmental destruction must be passed on to owners of capital, not workers. Racist-fascist institutions and organisations have to be dissolved and all laws restricting democratic rights abolished.

We believe that the people of the world are one without distinction between religion, language and origin. We believe that by uniting and building solidarity we can create a world in which everyone can live without fear for the the future.

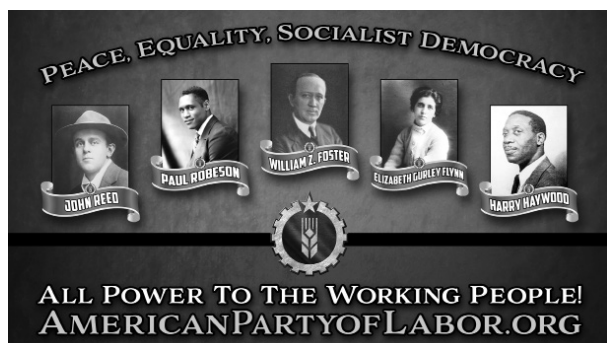
And so we invite you to join us at our youth camp, where we will discuss how we can struggle against these issues created by capitalism. Let us strengthen the fraternity and solidarity between young people across the world.

YOU CAN HELP

The American Party of Labor is accepting donations for travel funds in order to attend the International Anti-Fascist Youth Camp. To build solidarity, make the connections, and share the experiences of people from across the globe in order to provide working class journalism we need well travelled and experienced writers. We invite readers to submit content, but for consistent quality journalism we need to equip our Cadre with fresh firsthand experiences of the struggle at home and abroad. While they themselves are volunteers who work to earn a living, they also pay out of pocket for travel expenses. If you can offer even a dollar toward the cost of plane tickets to soften their sacrifice it would be sincerely appreciated.

GoFundMe fundraiser can be found below or by scanning the QR code on the right:
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/international-antifascist-youth-camp-travel-fund>

Paypal donations can be sent to:



BLACK HISTORY MONTH: THE COMMUNIST AND INTERNATIONALIST POETRY OF INTERWAR HARLEM

by J. Palamede on FEBRUARY 7, 2020

"Not to plunge into the complex jungle of human relationships and analyze them is to leave the field to fascists and I won't and can't do that."
- Richard Wright

"Let us sound the bugle-call for militancy. Let us have strong vital criticism, Marxian criticism. Let us have the poetry of the masses. Let us have an international poetry."
- William Patterson, "Awake Negro-Poets!"

**"The voice of the red world
Is our voice, too."**
- Langston Hughes, *Scottsboro Limited*

The Harlem Renaissance was a remarkable movement in black art that rose in resistance to post-World War I racial discrimination, particularly lynching, which killed nearly 5,000 African-Americans predominantly in the south, between the late 19th century and mid-20th century. These numbers are commonly understood to be quite low, as local police departments almost always participated in the events. Historian Eric Foner reports in his book *Give Me Liberty*, Vol. 2, that during this period, only one lynching occurred in Canada, and it was Americans who went north of the border for the purpose. Thus Harlem Renaissance poets wrote in response to this particularly American form of white supremacy, but their poetic expressions often took on internationalist goals and messages, deeply influenced by the communist movement. Never looking away from the crimes of the American past and present, the poets of the Harlem Renaissance often found the antidote in finding new, international roots, both in reclaiming African identity and celebrating, as Langston Hughes wrote in "Goodbye Christ," "A real guy named / Marx Communist Lenin Peasant Stalin Worker ME."

Alaine Locke enshrined this goal in the concept of the "new negro" in his works *The New Negro*, "Enter the New Negro," and others. For Locke, as he wrote in his forward to *The New Negro*, to fight against white supremacy in the US, black poets had to participate in the "nascent movements of folk expression and self-determination" in "India, China, Egypt, Ireland, Russia, Bohemia, Palestine, and Mexico." This new internationalist view, Locke concludes, was the "dramatic flowering of a new race-spirit tak(ing) place close at home among American Negroes."

To celebrate Black History Month, we present you a selection of poems from Langston Hughes and Claude McKay that resulted from these developments. At the end of the collection, we've included a further reading list, should you want to learn more on these authors, their communist militancy, and their writing. This list also includes a few editions of the poetry of Louise Thompson Patterson, a black woman poet, friend of Langston Hughes, and life-long communist, whose work has not yet been digitized.

Claude McKay:

"If We Must Die"

*If we must die, let it not be like hogs
Hunted and penned in an inglorious spot,
While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs,
Making their mock at our accursed lot.
If we must die, O let us nobly die,
So that our precious blood may not be shed
In vain; then even the monsters we defy
Shall be constrained to honor us though dead!
O kinsmen! we must meet the common foe!
Though far outnumbered let us show us brave,
And for their thousand blows deal one death-blow!
What though before us lies the open grave?
Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack,
Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back!*

"Enslaved"

*Oh when I think of my long-suffering race,
For weary centuries despised, oppressed,
Enslaved and lynched, denied a human place
In the great life line of the Christian West;*



LEFT TO RIGHT, LANGSTON HUGHES, LOUISE THOMPSON PATTERSON, AND CLAUDE MCKAY

*And in the Black Land disinherited,
Robbed in the ancient country of its birth,
My heart grows sick with hate, becomes as lead,
For this my race that has no home on earth.
Then from the dark depths of my soul I cry
To the avenging angel to consume
The white man's world of wonders utterly:
Let it be swallowed up in earth's vast womb,
Or upward roll as sacrificial smoke
To liberate my people from its yoke!*

"Courage"

*O lonely heart so timid of approach,
Like the shy tropic flower that shuts its lips
To the faint touch of tender finger tips:
What is your word? What question would you broach?*

*Your lustrous-warm eyes are too sadly kind
To mask the meaning of your dreamy tale,
Your guarded life too exquisitely frail
Against the daggers of my warring mind.*

*There is no part of the unyielding earth,
Even bare rocks where the eagles build their nest,
Will give us undisturbed and friendly rest.
No dewfall softens this vast belt of dearth.*

*But in the socket-chiseled teeth of strife,
That gleam in serried files in all the lands,
We may join hungry, understanding hands,
And drink our share of ardent love and life.*

"Birds of Prey"

*Their shadow dims the sunshine of our day,
As they go lumbering across the sky,
Squawking in joy of feeling safe on high,
Beating their heavy wings of owlish gray.
They scare the singing birds of earth away
As, greed-impelled, they circle threateningly,
Watching the toilers with malignant eye,
From their exclusive haven-birds of prey.
They swoop down for the spoil in certain might,
And fasten in our bleeding flesh their claws.
They beat us to surrender weak with fright,
And tugging and tearing without let or pause,
They flap their hideous wings in grim delight,
And stuff our gory hearts into their maws.*

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: THE COMMUNIST AND INTERNATIONALIST POETRY OF INTERWAR HARLEM

(continued)

Langston Hughes: "Beaumont to Detroit: 1943"

Looky here, America
What you done done
Let things drift
Until the riots come.

Now your policemen
Let your mobs run free.
I reckon you don't care
Nothing about me.

You tell me that Hitler
Is a mighty bad man.
I guess he took lessons
From the ku klux klan.

You tell me mussolini's
Got an evil heart
Well, it mus-a-been in Beaumont
That he had his start

Cause everything that hitler
And Mussolini do,
Negroes get the same
Treatment from you.

You jim crowed me
Before hitler rose to power
And you're STILL jim crowing me
Right now, this very hour.
Yet you say we're fighting
For democracy
Then why don't democracy
Include me?

I ask you this question
Cause I want to know
How long I got to fight
BOTH HITLER - AND JIM CROW

"Song for Ourselves"

Czechoslovakia lynched on a swastika cross!

Blow, bitter winds, blow!

Blow, bitter winds, blow!

Nails in her hands and nails in her feet,

Left to die slow!

Left to die slow!

Czechoslovakia! Ethiopia! Spain!

One after another!

One after another!

Where will the long snake of greed strike again?

Will it be here, brother?

"Goodbye Christ"

Listen, Christ,
You did alright in your day, I reckon –
But that day's gone now.

They ghosted you up a swell story, too,
Called it Bible –
But it's dead now,

The popes and the preachers've
Made too much money from it.
They've sold you to too many

Kings, generals, robbers, and killers –
Even to the Tzar and the Cossacks,
Even to Rockefeller's Church,
Even to THE SATURDAY EVENING POST.

You ain't no good no more.

They've pawned you
Till you've done wore out.

Goodbye,
Christ Jesus Lord God Jehova,
Beat it on away from here now.
Make way for a new guy with no religion at all –
A real guy named
Marx Communist Lenin Peasant Stalin Worker ME –

I said, ME!
Go ahead on now,
You're getting in the way of things, Lord.
And please take Saint Ghandi with you when you go,
And Saint Pope Pius,
And Saint Aimee McPherson,
And big black Saint Becton
Of the Consecrated Dime.
And step on the gas, Christ!
Move!

Don't be so slow about movin'!
The world is mine from now on –
And nobody's gonna sell ME
To a king, or a general,
Or a millionaire.

"Open Letter to the South"

White workers of the South

Miners,

Farmers,

Mechanics,

Mill Hands,

Shop girls,

Railway men,

Servants,

Tobacco workers,

Sharecroppers,

GREETINGS!

I am the black worker,

Listen:

That the land might be ours,

And the mines and the factories and the office towers

At Harlan, Richmond, Gastonia, Atlanta, New Orleans;
That the plants and the roads and the tools of power

Be ours:

Let us forget what Booker T. said,
"Separate as the fingers."

Let us become instead, you and I,
One single hand
That can united rise

To smash the old dead dogmas of the past-
To kill the lies of color

That keep the rich enthroned
And drive us to the time-clock and the plow
Helpless, stupid, scattered, and alone-as now-

Race against race,
Because one is black,
Another white of face.

Let us new lessons learn,
All workers,

New life-ways make,
One union form:

Until the future burns out
Every past mistake
Let us together, say:

"You are my brother, black or white,
You my sister-now-today!"

For me, no more, the great migration to the North.

Instead: migration into force and power-

Tuskegee with a new flag on the tower!

on every lynching tree, a poster crying FREE

Because, O poor white workers,
You have linked your hands with me.

We did not know that we were brothers.

Now we know!

out of that brotherhood

Let power grow!

We did not know

That we were strong.

Now we see

In union lies our strength.

Let unions be

The force that breaks the time-clock,

Smashes misery,

Takes land,

Takes factories,

Takes office towers,

Takes tools and banks and mines.

Railroads, ships and dams,

Until the forces of the world

Are ours!

White worker,
Here is my hand.

Today,
We're Man to Man.

LIBERAL PUNDITS CAN'T HIDE THE SIMPLE TRUTH: SOCIALISM IS FASCISM'S GREATEST NEMESIS

by J. Thalmann, MARCH 2, 2020

As results poured in from the Nevada caucus – showing a landslide victory for Bernie Sanders – liberal news outlets went into panic. MSNBC host Chris Matthews likened the Sanders victory to the fall of France to the Nazis. Such a comparison cannot even be classified as hyperbole. Rather than simply exaggerating reality, Matthews is throwing reality out the window. He has compared the success of a Jewish politician to the conquest of the Nazis. The sick irony is that Sanders lost members of his own family to the Nazis during the holocaust.

This wasn't the first unhinged comment Chris Matthews has made about the Sanders campaign. He has previously compared Sanders to Fidel Castro while fear mongering about the possibility of public executions in Central Park. It might seem strange that a political commentator would compare Sanders to both Castro and Hitler, considering that the two are polar opposites on the political spectrum. However, it makes sense when you consider the ideology of the American political establishment. For defenders of capitalism like Matthews, there is no difference between the perpetrators of the holocaust and those who stopped it.

To an out of touch millionaire and Washington DC insider like Chris Matthews, Communists and Nazis are equal evils of a similar nature. Either one can be invoked at random to demonize any movement that steps outside of the respectable parameters for bourgeois debate. Bernie Sanders represents a social democratic movement that is funded by grassroots donations rather than corporate money. To the liberal establishment, even this modest reform movement appears as an existential threat to their unchecked power. Therefore, they spew vitriol about Nazis and Communists without any historical analysis. Chuck Todd of MSNBC has even compared Bernie supporters to Hitler's brown shirts.



CHRIS MATTHEWS WAS ONLY THE LATEST
LIBERAL TO CONFLATE LEFT-LEANING
POLITICS AND FASCISM

These political commentators see the world through a paradigm which is fundamentally flawed and failing. They see the status quo of the United States as something sacrosanct. To them, the United States represents democracy while countries like Cuba represent dictatorship. What they fail to see is that the ruling class of this country exports dictatorship the world over to maintain its world hegemony and riches. The wealth of America's ruling class is based on the exploitation of labor, land, and resources in poorer countries. It is the communists, like Fidel Castro, who fight for the liberation of their nations against US imperialism. Similarly, it was the communists, a union of all the people in the Soviet Union, men, women, Tartar, Russian, who put an end to the Third Reich. However, the antagonistic relationship between communism and fascism is thrown aside so that these cheap attacks can be levied, and all those things that oppose american hegemony can be conveniently lumped together.

The Bernie Sanders movement is not the movement that will save the world from the hegemony of capitalism. But capitalists and their mouth pieces sure are scared of even its modest, social democratic aims. Even a more equitable distribution of imperialist plunder is an unacceptable and radical goal for mainstream american political commentators. This is why they grasp for straws and use the most sensationalist arguments they can think of. These smears might be vapid, but they expose a profound truth: for many defenders of capitalism, fascism is preferable to its greatest enemy—socialism.

TYPES OF LIBERALISM

Found in the United States

Liberal Conservatism

Laissez-Faire Capitalism
Private Property Rights
Limited Civil Liberties
No Welfare
No Unions
No Affirmative Action
Limited LGBT+ Rights
No Gun Control
Anti-Choice Abortion Rights



Libertarianism

Laissez-Faire Capitalism
Private Property Rights
Strong Civil Liberties
No Welfare
No Unions
No Affirmative Action
LGBT+ Rights
No Gun Control
Pro-Choice Abortion Rights



Neoliberalism

Laissez-Faire Capitalism
Private Property Rights
Strong Civil Liberties
Welfare*
Unions*
Affirmative Action*
LGBT+ Rights*
Strong Gun Control
Pro-Choice Abortion Rights



Social Liberalism

State-Interventionist Capitalism
Private Property Rights
Strong Civil Liberties
Strong Welfare
Union Support
Affirmative Action
LGBT+ Rights
Strong Gun Control
Pro-Choice Abortion Rights



A BRIGHT RED STAR HAS JOINED THE HEAVENS



NEXHMIJE AND ENVER HOXHA (1946).

We are deeply saddened to report that today, February 26, 2020, at the age of 99, Comrade Nexhmije Hoxha has died. In a lifetime that spanned nearly a century, Comrade Nexhmije was at the forefront of some of the most titanic struggles of our movement. A partisan fighter during World War II, she led the struggle for the complete emancipation of Albanian women from centuries of feudal-patriarchic oppression. Comrade Nexhmije was a key figure in the unmasking of Khrushchevite revisionism and the defense of Marxism-Leninism. Fighter, educator, revolutionary, Nexhmije Hoxha was all that was best in our movement. The American Party of Labor bows its head in grief and raises its fist in salute to this most exemplary of communists.



NEXHMIJE HOXHA (FEBRUARY 8, 1921 - FEBRUARY 26, 2020).

Comrade Nexhmije Hoxha and her cause will live forever!

WHO ARE THE SANDERS SUPPORTERS? AN AFTERNOON AT A SANDERS ORGANIZING



NEARLY 60 PEOPLE QUICKLY SPILLED OUT OF THE PLANNED MEETING SPACE, A 15 CHAIR SIDE ROOM AT BILL'S PIZZA AND PUB, GRAYSLAKE, IL

by J. Palamedas on MARCH 1, 2020

On Saturday, February 15th, nearly 60 supporters of the Bernie Sanders campaign, notified by little more than the BERN campaign app and facebook events, crowded into Bill's Pizza and Pub in Grayslake, IL, a northern suburb of Chicago. The Red Phoenix was in attendance to interview attendees and record their stories, and hear how their work, school, and general life experiences had pushed them towards the Bernie Sanders campaign and political involvement.

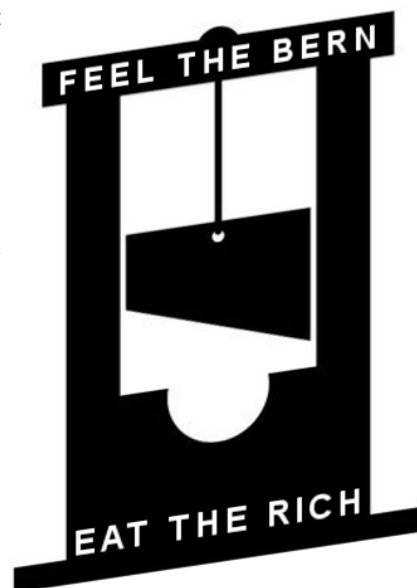
As we walked in about fifteen minutes before the meeting was to start, people were already spilling out of the small side room reserved for the meeting. A large, fake polar bear fur was ironically hanging on the wall outside the gathering, populated by many who stated that their chief reason for supporting Sanders was his stance on the environment. One such person, Christine, 72, of Grayslake, told us that "I have never participated in any campaign in my life," but that "Bernie's putting of the environment first means everything to me." For Christine, the environment overshadowed all other issues, and gave her the most pause, particularly regarding, as she said, "the world we leave behind for the generations to come."

For many in attendance, it was not just the erosion of environmental protections that stirred them to action. Janet, 63, of Crystal Lake, IL, told us that she decided to be active in the Sanders campaign, despite a recent knee-replacement surgery, because "for my whole life, I have seen FDR's welfare programs dismantled and attacked, and Bernie Sanders is the only real candidate to return to those measures." These measures, Jan explained, "brought real prosperity to my family," living on a farm in unincorporated territory south of Chicago. LBJ's "great society," building on FDR's precedent, was the only way Jan could afford to go to college as a first-generation college student, where she would major in Audiology and become a practicing school and later private audiologist. "If it wasn't for my knee, I'd be running in the streets with you," she concluded with a smile, "but here I am."

As we made our way outside to the main room to the slowly growing number of people standing outside, struggling to hear the presentation inside (the campaign had not brought a microphone or speaker system, as they didn't expect this large of a crowd), we met Hector Rosa, a staff specialist with the Illinois Nurses Association, the largest union representing nurses in the state. Hector told us that he recently had come back from a unionization effort at a Treehouse Foods factory in South Beloit, Illinois. Hector had gone, as he said, "undercover" in order to push a unionization vote at the factory for the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers' International Union. "When they found out about it," he continued, "they threatened to deport all of the immigrant workers in the factory, the majority of the workers in a place like South Beloit." The threat killed the unionization movement. This experience, and his current work with the INA, was why he was in attendance at the event. "We need a labor movement," he told us, "and Bernie Sanders is the best candidate to get us there."

The necessity of a movement outside Bernie himself was a common theme among those we talked to at the event. A social security worker from Chicago, IL, 24, who preferred to stay anonymous due to the nature and precarity of his work, told us that "after 2016, I was so depressed, I didn't get involved politically at my university, and I didn't really have any hope, but I've really admired Bernie's resurgence in 2020." But it wasn't just about Bernie for this government worker: "But, in those years between, I think, we definitely need a movement, not just Bernie." In his work in the social security office, he said he had seen "the systemic issues that can't be fixed in four years or with a vote." His union, he continued further, "has no fangs, because we can't obviously strike." This coming together of immediate working circumstances, and straddled with debt from the University of Illinois (which costs, in-state, over \$40,000 a year), pushed him towards the campaign, he told us. At the end of our interview, he happily took an "eat the rich" button offered by one of our reporters, picking it instead of a Bernie 2020 button.

As the event concluded, conversations endured and handouts were circulated in both Spanish and English on organizational meetings happening in areas across Northern Illinois. The diversity in age, ethnicity, gender, race, and politics in a county that is 75% white, in the top 10% of wealth in the state, and in which Clinton took the 2016 primary, was surprising and noticeable. Many of the young people we talked to had never been involved in traditional or left political spaces, but were moved by their own working experiences to join the Sanders campaign. As the 2020 election plays out, the DNC struggles against social democracy, and the US political order continues to settle into paralysis and stagnation, the diverse working class, quickly learning from experience in school and on the job, will wield an increasingly formidable power.



A LETTER TO THE RED PHOENIX

From Anton Haj to the editors of the Red Phoenix:

Dear editors Red Phoenix! I am a student at Raritan Valley Community College in central New Jersey.

I study English, but I might switch to creative writing. I have no plans of a career or long-term prospects; I'm not really interested in making loads of money, that's never been of much concern to me. It's a shame that one's success is directly related to their monetary worth. In a perfect world I would like to simply feel fulfilled. For me this would require much of my time to be spent creating art, writing, playing music, painting, reading, loving, making lasting relationships, exploring the strangeness of the world.

I also work at a warehouse, Amazon warehouse to be exact. I've done odd jobs for as long as I can remember, everything from carpentry to painting houses to shoveling snow, sheetrocking, etc. A job is a job, and I have no problem working. But warehousing can be strenuous and oftentimes spirit crushing in a way that no construction job is. It is bare bones manual labor for 11 hours a day and there is no time for the worker to feel satisfied or emotionally fulfilled. We are disconnected from our labor. The eyes of my fellow workers are hazy and dull, tired, sunken in. These are hardworking people who are quite frankly exhausted, and I don't mean just physically, I mean spiritually and emotionally as well. On our lunch break we grab any food we can, quickly stuff it into the microwave and eat it as fast as the body allows. This is the life of a warehouse worker. Some days the working conditions are okay, not bad. In the summer it can get quite hot and lifting heavy boxes out of the back of a truck can be dangerous if you're not used to that kind of work. Our time is regulated, tracked, and our lives are micromanaged. Our bodies become tools and ultimately are politicized. Furthermore, we are monitored and under constant surveillance in every facet of daily life. Indeed, warehouse work is the epicenter of such surveillance. This is inherent in late capitalist ideology - this is what Deleuze called "The societies of control." What Habermas called the private sphere no longer exists, and these new mechanics of coercion are forced upon us through various mediums. All this is to say that hyper modernity's brand of "freedom" is not free from artifice. Quite simply the American mentality is predicated upon the notion of unending cyclical consumption. We are told to save and squander our pennies while simultaneously being told to max out our credit cards, purchase useless commodities, spend, spend, spend. This is the contradiction of American lifestyle, but the Capitalist system functions on one such contradiction. As for universities, the intellectual rigor of the student - especially those in the humanities - is not taken seriously and oftentimes is dismissed under the pretense of it being illegitimate work or labor. This is criminal. We as a culture have a very myopic view of the arts, writers, those who don't fit into the STEM paradigm. When you write, you create something, just like a carpenter, or a woodworker. The act of writing or painting - the act of any creation -- pushes something into the world.

And look at the American politics, what a spectacle! The question of American politics is not simply about our material conditions. Ontologically, what does it mean to exist within a system, a framework, that demands infinite growth? The capitalism of hyper modernity metastasizes through polymorphous formations: data harboring, advertising, cloud computing, etc, and we need to be aware (and vigilant) of the different ways in which we're being controlled. I know this might be a shift in thought for fundamental Marxists, but it's a looming reality I think we need to critically analyze. Moreover, our culture is ruled by consumption and hedonism and I think this has left our generation in a state of perpetual anesthetization. Suicide rates have leapt more than 33% in the last 20 years. There is a drug overdose epidemic and suicides are fueling a decrease in life expectancy. This is serious trouble. It's endemic! We're seeking purpose and we're coming up empty handed; so, where do we go from here? I can only speculate. This might sound cliché, but we need to listen to each other. We need to exercise more love and compassion. I think people are stuck, very lost, they feel isolated. We need to be able to reach out and create meaningful interactions with all people. The internet has destroyed this form of communication of course, but it's imperative now more than ever. Form a band, write a play, go do performance art in the middle of the street. Create, and don't stop creating. That's my advice.

Response from the Red Phoenix:

Dear Anton, thank you very much for your letter. It is a hard reality that many students have to work while being in school - 43% of undergraduates work full-time and 46% part-time. Working in a huge warehouse such as we have in New Jersey is daunting: not only does Amazon not care about its workers' safety where numerous violations continue taking place over the course of decades, it is also a mechanical job which takes a lot of energy, while the workers are not compensated enough. Retail, Wholesale, and Department Union head commented on the working conditions: "Today, Amazon put warehouse workers in the hospital - again and one is fighting for their life in the ICU right now. Amazon's automated robots put humans in life-threatening danger today, the effects of which could be catastrophic and the long-term effects for 80+ workers are unknown. This is another outrageous example of the company putting profits over the health and safety of their workers, and we cannot stand for this. The richest company in the world cannot continue to be let off the hook for putting hard working people's lives at risk. Our union will not back down until Amazon is held accountable for these and so many more dangerous labor practices." Yes, that's true, only if Amazon (among numerous other businesses) wasn't a number one union crusher in the United States since 1994. They do that by employing firms which literally fight off any organized labor. Why? Because it's not in the interests of a business owner to pay more wages for their workers, since this part of wages would be coming from capital advanced, and the capitalist would lose profit. It is labor which creates all value found in the commodities that capitalists make billions with. Being a warehouse worker is a perfect example of this principle as outlined by Karl Marx in Capital. There are so many workers involved in the production and shipment of goods that Besos makes over \$150,000 a minute on - first of all, production of whatever it is in the box that you are moving, second of all - warehouse workers that package and ship the goods, working long hours and often lacking basic human needs like clean bathrooms and rest periods, and third of all - shipping employees that are overworked and given strict quotas to maintain profit margins. Adding all the labor which was involved in production, shipping, and distribution, together we come to a conclusion that social labor is the only common substance in all commodities. Labor is also the only substance that workers can sell, and this is why it is so daunting to be spending your hours working for something where you don't see the end product of your labor, or even see yourself in any meaningful way in your work, resulting in a feeling of profound alienation in your work, making work a "loss of [their] self," as Marx wrote in his Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844. We do it simply to survive, not to realize anything in ourselves. We are rewarded with nothing, except enough money to further the cycle of production.

With respect to the increase in suicide rates and drug addiction, it is indeed, resolutely clear that this an economically-influenced mental health crisis brought about and intensified through the capitalist system. Moreover, hyperconsumption in the global north is absolutely a problem - of which can only be rectified through proletarian internationalism.

But I wouldn't get discouraged. You said that you found a creative outlet in writing, which is great. However, it is never a task for a worker to give up on the fight for fellow humans. As you said, love is the prime mover, and love for a fellow neighbor with whom we share our breadcrumbs is what fuels our struggle against the rich -- those who suck out all our energy at the end of the working day, those that use the police to protect them, those who put money into war because it would make them richer. Through love and perception of suffering, we dialectically strengthen our desire to fight, and that fight can be expressed in many ways -- through poetry, music, or visual art, all buttressing our wider struggle as laborers against capital.

Thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

Polina B., and Xzander Stephens, Red Phoenix Staff

STATEMENT OF THE LABOUR PARTY OF IRAN (TOUFAN) ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST REGION

1:

The assassination of Qassem Soleimani by the U.S. and the Iranian and the world response to it, has prompted our Party to reaffirm its principled stance on the matter and investigate the effects of this U.S. terrorist action on Iran and the world. General Soleimani was a commander who voluntarily went to war against the Iraqi's military invasion of Iran, defended the territorial integrity of the country, and gradually became a prominent military strategist. Qassem Soleimani also took the lead in the fight against ISIS, especially at the time when the U.S. backed terrorists made their way to Baghdad with the hope of coming to Tehran. General Soleimani defeated the murderous attempts of ISIS by establishing a united front and founding the para-military group Hashad al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization Forces) in Iraq.

Qassem Soleimani, as an experienced military man and a diplomat, was a popular and respectable army general not only to a large section of the Iranian society, but also to the entire region and many world leaders.

According to documents released by the international press and by the statement of Iraqi Prime Minister Adel al-Mahdi, Soleimani had traveled to Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi government in order to facilitate negotiation between Iran and Saudi Arabia. In a press interview, al-Mahdi unmasked the U.S. lies that "We had the exact information that Soleimani had come to assassinate the Americans in Iraq".

Al-Mahdi declared: "For the record, I say that at eight o'clock in the morning, I had a meeting with General Soleimani. I wanted to give him the Saudi letter that was about the developments in Iraq and peace in the region." The fact is that the Iranian government has long been trying to put an end to the turmoil that the U.S. has created in the region. U.S. imperialism coming from 8,000 kilometers away has built dozens of military and terrorist bases around Iran, has occupied the territories of the region, is plotting and sabotaging against the formal, legal and legitimate governments of the region, and is causing tension in the Middle East. The Policy of the Iranian government in the region includes the removal of tension in the region, prevention of war and destruction, demands for the withdrawal of foreign troops from the region, and the establishment of a partnership agreement with the Persian Gulf states that guarantees security in the region. If implemented, these policies would primarily serve the national interest and the interest of the working class and the people of Iran.

Israel is the only country that benefits from the chaos in the region and wants to interrupt any attempts at reconciliation, cooperation, and peace. Continued provocative Israeli actions in Iraq, the bombing of Syria, targeting Iranian ships in the Red Sea with its missiles and accusing Saudi Arabia for it, and other Israeli acts of sabotage in the Persian Gulf are in the service of preventing the Arab countries from getting close to Iran. This proximity is of strategic importance in the region, reinforcing the Palestinian Liberation Movement, curtailing Israeli so that it fails to exploit divisions in the region for the benefit of its own expansionist and tension-creating goals. That is why political analysts reiterate that Trump has been used by his Zionist adviser and has fulfilled Israel's wish without thinking about the consequences of his actions. In the assassination of Qassem Soleimani, you see the filthy hands of Israel Zionism.

2:

The Party of Labour of Iran (Toufan) strongly condemns the Trump-ordered assassination of Qassem Soleimani, a well-known Iranian official, who had traveled to Iraq for negotiation with Saudi Arabia. This is a manifestation of state terrorism in the world. This criminal act by Trump is a clear violation of the rights of nations, universally recognized norms and standards, and a trampling on achievements of humanity and global agreements. The right to national sovereignty is a democratic right that all countries of the world are entitled to regardless of ideology, the size of country, the nature of state, religion, race, language, and so on. President Trump, by an assassination order, has thrown this important achievement of mankind into a landfill. All countries in the world, with the exception of Israel, condemned this terrorist act. Trump's hideous crime was condemned by the UN Secretary General.

National sovereignty or democratic rights are the rights that are independent of the nature of governments. Democratic rights are not divisible. Only tyrants and fascists do not recognize these universal rights in the present world. The rights of men and women are equal whether they are from working-class or from the bourgeoisie. This is also true of the national sovereignty and rights that our country Iran has. One cannot use the form and ideology of the government in Iran to deny the rights that belong to Iran as a country with a long history. When the news of the assassination of Qassem Soleimani reached Iran, the society boiled over because our awakened nation did not condone the humiliation and violation of Iran's national sovereignty. Millions of people took to the streets of many cities to protest and participate in the funeral procession. A nation that came to the streets for the love of its country in November 2019 and lost its sons and daughters in the fight against the repressive regime of the Islamic Republic, refused to undermine the interests of his country

for the sake of revenge and vengeance on the ruling regime and to dance for Trump's act of terrorism. The punishment of the Iranian government for its crimes must be determined only by the Iranian people, not by Trump or Netanyahu. This message was sent by the Iranian nation to all the world's bullies and to the Iranian sellout opposition. The people of Iran love their country, are full of national pride, differentiate Iran from the Islamic Republic, and are ready to carry out a unified resistance to any foreign aggression.

Everyone heard Trump's announcement that he will destroy Iran's cultural heritage. This is the very same man that labeled the Iranian people as terrorists. Immediately after the announcement was made, the pro-U.S. and pro-Israeli Iranian opposition, who had realized the extent of the criminality of the announcement, started to rephrase it. They claimed that Trump did not even understand his words and that he meant "religious sites", and the "Qom seminary". To say that Iranian centuries-old mosques are not part of Iran's cultural heritage: how much a brain must be infected to think so! This outrageous claim was declared by the Iranian mercenary opposition to deceive the public when all press in the world criticized Trump's announcement and defended Iran's cultural heritage and when UNESCO chief at the United Nations declared it criminal act of war. Not war, No sanction, No military aggression.



Our Party opposes the destruction and disintegration of Iran and fights against the complicity of Iranian mercenary opposition with imperialism and Zionism. Setting the account with the capitalist regime of the Islamic Republic is the duty and the work of the Iranian people. Opposing sanctions and war does not mean accepting humiliation.

3:

The Iranian regime is said to be seeking talks with the United States behind the scenes. This is a bourgeois principle of diplomacy in the world and it is not a big problem here. What matters is what comes out of this compromise. If the opposition to the assassination of Qassem Soleimani and the pressure of Iran and the world on the United States lead to the implementation of the nuclear deal, lifting of sanctions, and the return of Iran's illegally seized assets, it would naturally be in the interest of Iranian people, but if these negotiations take place for the purpose of killing time and violating Iran's rights, it will be considered a treacherous act by the regime of the Islamic Republic. Today, the U.S. imperialists and their allies have become increasingly isolated in the world and in the region. If the United States of America does not give concession in today's conditions, it will never give any concession, and the risk of war will increase. The interest of our homeland is to retreat so long as the gains listed above are achieved, and if not, all the interests of imperialism in the region must be endangered.

What is to be done?

The first step towards a political solution to the current impasse in our country is to form a popular, revolutionary front. The formation of such fronts is only possible through drawing a transparent demarcation between friends and enemies of the Iranian people. In our view, this transparency separates the ranks of those who go hand in hand with the imperialists from the forces loyal to the people. Any economic sanction and military intervention should be condemned. Neoliberal economic policies, corruption and embezzlement, and political repression should be opposed. Any political change must be considered an internal task of the Iranian people. The tie between the struggle for the democratic rights of workers and toilers and for social justice and the struggle against imperialism and its mercenaries defines the identity and character of such a revolutionary and popular alternative.

Continued on next page...

STATEMENT OF THE LABOUR PARTY OF IRAN (TOUFAN) (CONTINUED)

There is no doubt that the assassination of Qassem Soleimani and the danger of a foreign war has affected the class struggle and has given the regime a break, but these effects are short-lived. Deprived of their rights and faced with poverty, discrimination, and repression, the masses will rise again. Foreign threats have always been used by the authorities of the Islamic Republic to unite the people behind their power. These threats justify the concentration of power in the hands of a few authoritarians and transform society into a war-time society. In fact, the threats by imperialists objectively serve the continuation of despotism in Iran and reinforce the regime of Velayat-e Faqih (the rule of Supreme Leader).

The elimination of external danger and lifting of illegal sanctions are in favor of the movement of workers and toilers, and they provide the conditions for the advancement of the class struggle.

Shooting Down of the passenger aircraft.

The warmongering, aggressive, tension-creating, law-violating policies of U.S. imperialism have created an atmosphere of insecurity around the world. No one anywhere in the world enjoys the legal security and universal protection of the United Nations. Language of force and bullying are the last word. A valid law in the world has become the Genghis law: he who has more power has more right. This insecurity and tension was the rule not only in the Iran-Iraqi airspace and when an Iranian official in Iraq was assassinated or when a Ukrainian passenger aircraft in Iran was hit by missiles. In 2014, a Malaysian passenger aircraft also became a victim of the NATO terrorist atmosphere in the conflict zone of Ukraine, an atmosphere which was the product of.

4: Clear aggression and interference by NATO and the U.S. in Ukrainian internal affairs and the creation of a warlike atmosphere.

The catastrophe of downing the Ukrainian aircraft in Iran, which also killed many of our compatriots, is neither the first nor the last in the tension-escalated climate that is the product of U.S. policy. The American administration is directly responsible for these catastrophic events. As far as the regime of Iran is concerned, the lack of transparency and lying about the event has made many Iranians angry. These liars will never regain the trust of the Iranian people. The People of Iran worry when they see that the American, Canadian, and Australian intelligence agencies knew all the secrets of the regime in this event even sooner than many high-ranking authorities. The Iranian people have a right to fear such insecurity; they want to know whether the regime is competent or only boastful when they claim to have the ability to defend Iran's airspace against U.S. cruise missiles. The people have the right to demand the resignation of the regime's incompetent Islamic officials. The great Iranian nation is prepared to fight against U.S. aggression despite the domestic repression it has been facing for 40 years. Imperialists are also exploiting the chronic inadequacy and lies of the regime. As the repetition of the Syrian experience, the British ambassador participates in a student protest and President Trump sends a Farsi message to students telling them to count on the support of the U.S. administration. It is unclear what mysterious hands have informed the British ambassador so that he can participate in the protest. Now we have to wait for the work of imperialist hand-picked sharpshooter agents in Iran!

Our Party calls for the resignation of the incompetent officials. We call for a public trial for these officials with the presence of world-wide mass media. The high tension and insecure atmosphere created by Trump administration that resulted in the tragedy of downing the Ukrainian aircraft must be brought to light in the courtroom. Assassinations by the imperialists and their lack of respect for human life must be exposed in a public tribunal. We strongly condemn the U.S. intervention and Trump's speech and the shameless presence of the British ambassador in anti-regime demonstrations in Iran. These interventions damage the democratic struggles of the Iranian people for freedom because they are hypocrisies and sow the seeds of division and repression. The people of Iran, not President Trump or the British ambassador, must seek justice and force the regime of the Islamic Republic to respond to their demands. Imperialist conspiracies aimed to destroy or disintegrate Iran must be exposed and discarded.

We support the revolutionary struggle of the Iranian people against the capitalist rule of the Islamic Republic for the freedom, democracy, social justice, and respect for the right of national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran!

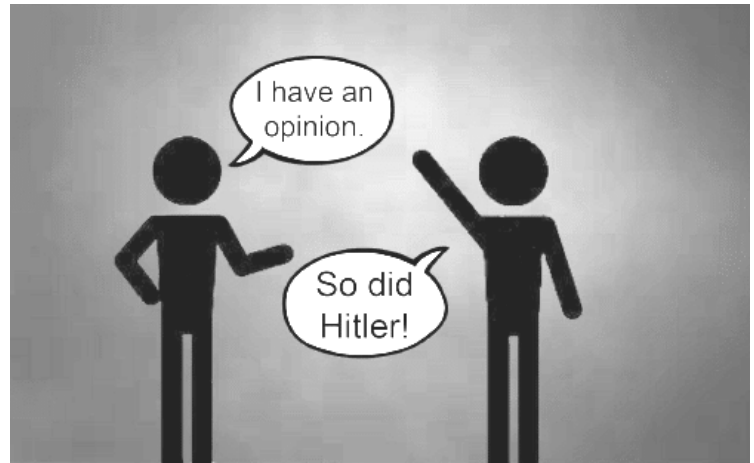
We demand that the liar and braggart Iranian authorities be brought to an open trial, and the role of the U.S. imperialist in breaking international law and creating hostilities be exposed!

We demand an end to the presence of imperialist forces and to interference in the internal affairs of the countries in Middle East!

We say "No" to war, sanctions, and to all aggression against the countries in the Middle East!

The U.S. imperialists must keep their hands off Iran and Iraq!

EDITORIAL BY ALFONSO CASAL: REDUCTIO AD HITLERUM



by Alfonso Casal on FEBRUARY 27, 2020

There is an unofficial logical fallacy, humorously named "Reductio ad Hitlerum." Taking its place alongside other, more time-honored logical errors, Reductio ad Hitlerum, entails trying to win an argument by comparing the opposing view to the late Nazi Fuhrer and his regime. Another, and perhaps even more common example, is the making of very strained analogies to the events of World War II. We've seen factory farming compared to Auschwitz, and (in a particularly twisted way) anti-hate speech efforts

denounced as "fascist."

Recently, MSNBC commentator Chris Matthews compared Bernie Sanders' victory in the Nevada Democratic primary to the fall of France in 1940. Matthews' analogy was, of course, inept and false in a historical sense; and, deeply insensitive and degrading as it was directed at a Jewish social-democrat whose family suffered during the Nazi genocide. However, going beyond the obvious objections to Matthew's immense faux pas, one can detect a deeper problem with the Reductio ad Hitlerum; a problem that speaks to the very way fascism is presented in the bourgeois media.

Fascism, is presented as an aberration. The consequence of evil men being allowed to spread their "hate." Or of a nation "seduced" by a "twisted dream." In spreading this narrative, the nature of fascism is hidden; and in hiding the nature of fascism, the ability to both comprehend and combat it is compromised. Fascism was not the result of mass insanity or the product of evil men and their hate. Fascism was, and is, part and parcel of capitalism in crisis. Fascism is the exceptional bourgeois state, the openly terroristic dictatorship of the most reactionary elements of the capitalist class, called into being when the bourgeoisie can no longer maintain control and function in the old manner. Fascism is capitalism in desperate crisis.

The Italian and German industrialists who financed and supported Mussolini and Hitler were not madmen. Quite the opposite, they were shrewd and intelligent businessmen who knew exactly what their class interest was and how to protect and advance it. To analogize every present-day situation to Nazism and fascism is to trivialize it. To see fascism as a mental aberration or as a synonym for satanic evil is to cover-up its true nature, to render it incomprehensible, and thus, insurmountable.

Simply stated, Nazism/fascism is a direct product of capitalism. And, like the system that spawns it, it can and must be correctly understood in order that it may be defeated once and for all.

"The Hitlerite party is a party of enemies of democratic liberties, a party of medieval reaction and Black-Hundred pogroms."

- Joseph Stalin, Moscow, November 6th, 1941

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."

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 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.

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.



"Man dies, but the Party never dies, Enver used to say."

- Nexhmije Hoxha



Legalize Workers - No More Detentions, No More Deportations, Abolish I.C.E.!

Guaranteed Work and a Livable Income!

Socialized Healthcare For All!

Nationalized Healthcare!

Free Education For All!

Equal Rights, Pay, and Housing For All!

End All Wars of Aggression!

Abolish Private Prisons, Free All Political Prisoners!

No Platform for Fascists!

Abolish Profit Made By the Exploitation of Labor!

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 administered 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.

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