

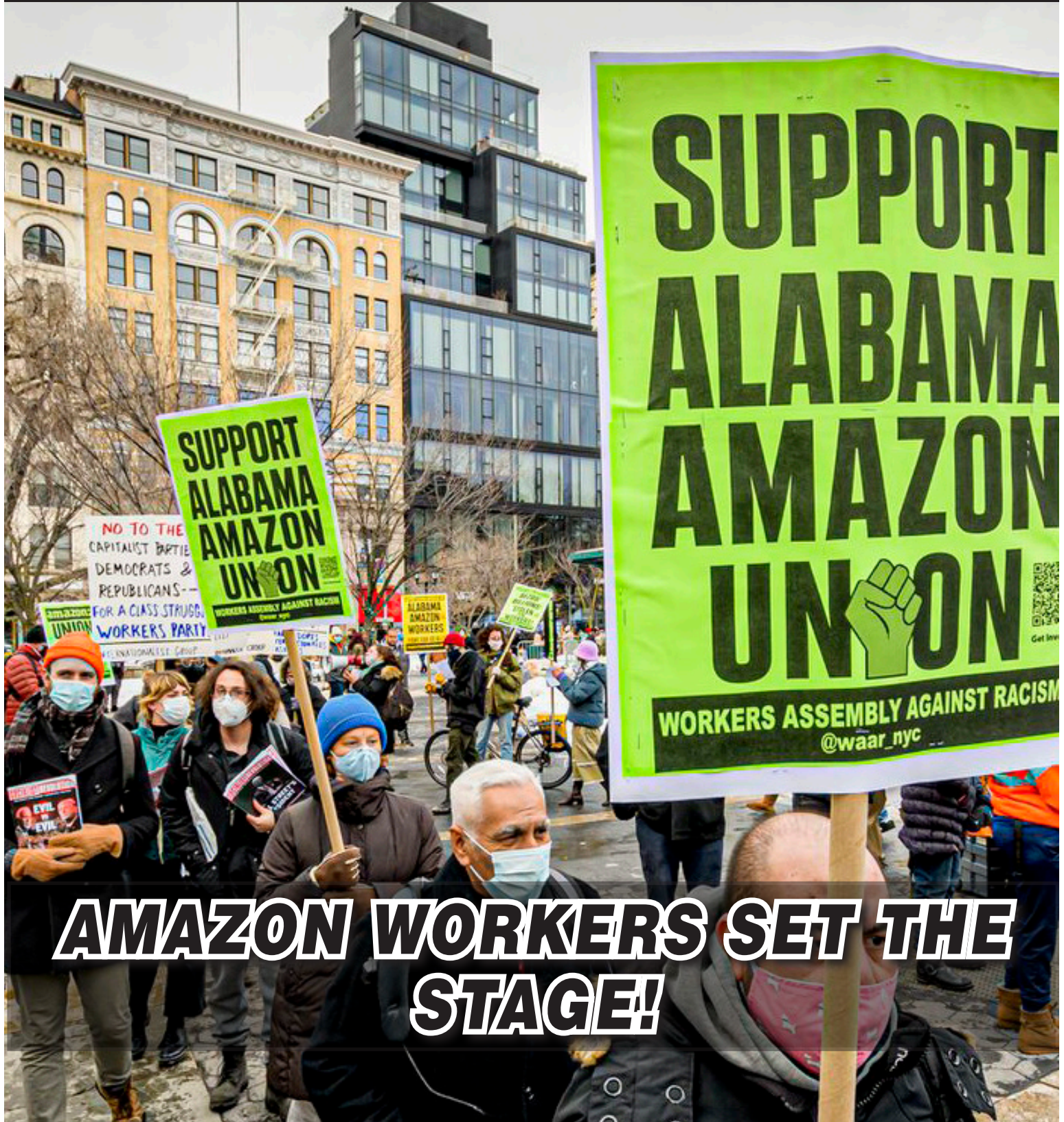


THE RED PHOENIX

NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR

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

AmericanPartyofLabor.com ★ Issue #18 ★ February / March 2021 ★ Please Copy and Redistribute



AMAZON WORKERS SET THE STAGE!

INSIDE AN AMAZON WAREHOUSE DURING "PEAK SEASON"



An Amazon Sortation Center

By Roland, March 22, 2021

My first day at Amazon, when we self-administered drug tests, took our ID pictures, and got general information, showed me quickly the kinds of people, like me, who Amazon was exploiting with their signing bonuses and promises of high wages. The first person I met when I entered was an 82 year old man, Tony, who moved with the help of a walker and could hardly bend over to pick up his coat off the ground which they made him remove to take his ID picture. He told me he was a widower, and that his pension, from construction forklift driving, had run out. Lashonda, 36 of Joliet, IL, a recently divorced mother, and told me as we were touring the facility that "no matter how bad it is, I need the money, to get back at that son of a bitch in court." Child custody percentages are often decided by income, she claimed. Jacob, 19, who I replaced on the line to train on the first day, was clearly overwhelmed by the work assigned to him, scanning and building pallets, and he told me he had received almost no training outside the incredibly dry online training videos all Amazon employees have to watch before being hired. While I was doing the training at his position, he was scolded by a "blue vest," (leadership and management wear different color vests) Amazon's "educational" middle managers, after another worker had complained that his pallets were too unstable to haul, and could fall on top of what Amazon calls "water spiders," or workers who haul completed pallets.

My second day I met a laid off trade worker, Bill, 52, who had previously been a sewer maintenance worker in the City of Chicago. We were both taken away from our scanning and pallet building to sort in the expensive box section (where all items over \$1000 in value are sorted). At the time, we two were covering an entire pallet building lane, of about 8 subsections. Ideally, each one of these subsections is meant to have a worker. Both of us were lifting packages over 100 pounds ourselves, even though Amazon dictates that anything over 40 pounds should be team lifted. Both of us had helped an older woman in an adjacent lane lift vacuum cleaners, weight sets, and small furniture.

"This is typical," he told me. "Just as we feel like we're doing some good, we get transferred to where the real money is." He told me this was his 30th day on the job, which meant he'd receive the first half of his signing bonus, but his voice was hardly celebratory. "Here, you never feel like you've accomplished anything, at my old job at least you started a job and finished it, saw it progress." He was particularly angered that day for being shifted, because a young orange vest (management), perhaps 20 years old, had done it. "That

"As we sat there sorting boxes neither of us could ever afford, I saw so clearly how the rich had divided and conquered us, and fanned the flames of bigotry and hatred between workers."

lane is going to go to hell," he concluded, and he was right. When we returned several hours later, no one had scanned our boxes, and hundreds of boxes were piled up at each station.

At the expensive box sorting, I met with Jeremiah, 23 of Joliet, IL, and a seasoned Amazon veteran. He let me know right away that I better plan to work two hours more than I agreed on my contract, due to what Amazon calls "flex hours," or mandatory hours added onto shifts based on "market activity." As I was a two-shift (of four hours each) worker, which he thought was funny, the foolish actions of a new associate, I would be required to work from 8am - 1pm, and 1:30-6:30, not the 8-12, and 1:30-5:30 I had originally agreed to.

But this was all well known to Jeremiah, a few other things were on his mind that day. First, a fellow worker on the line, who had autism, had reported his friend to management for sitting on the conveyor belt while it was off, which he was fired for after management looked at the video surveillance. "They'll

never do anything to him," he said bitterly, "even though he doesn't work, because HR needs to check that disability box." As we sat there sorting boxes neither of us could ever afford, I saw so clearly how the rich had divided and conquered us, and fanned the flames of bigotry and hatred between workers.

Second, and most urgently, Jeremiah was worried about his grandmother and bringing COVID-19 home to her. "Amazon doesn't give a fuck, it's that sample, it's a whitewash, they want us here sorting boxes, that's it" he said, with frustration in his voice, "that's what I'm most worried about, my grandma." Social distancing was only loosely possible in the facility, and we were supplied with only one pair of gloves per day and given box scanners that clearly had not been sanitized, and sometimes were even warm and damp with the sweat of another worker.

I worked at the facility for a few more days, nodding to Bill and Jeremiah in the break room with chairs on either side of a plastic temporary table. Almost no one spoke to each other, and simply sat opposite each other, eating and drinking what Amazon had sold us (for a bargain), looking at our phones, reading about the virus, the contested election, and texting with friends and family. I quit that job, never seeing the signing bonus, because at the end of the day, I didn't need it. It wasn't worth the commute, or the back pain, or the feeling of standing only by the grace of caffeine.

"Work, at its most fundamental, should not destroy the worker. Work can be an enriching, empowering, and rewarding act. But it can only be so when the product of that work doesn't belong to another."

I quit because, ultimately, I was not like Jeremiah, Bill, Lashonda, or Tony. I did not need to work there, I didn't have to break my body, exhaust my free time, slowly kill myself physically and spiritually, for Amazon. I didn't need the money for a divorce, college textbooks, an exhausted pension, or for my wife, or grandmother. It was simple privilege that I could quit, there are millions of Americans who need that money for so many reasons as the social safety net continues to disintegrate, and it is those people, honest and good-hearted working class Americans looking to support their family or friends, who Amazon exploits the most.

As a former Amazon employee, I send my unflinching solidarity to the workers in Bessemer, Alabama, voting to unionize. Only together, with the combined strength of all my former co-workers, and the thousands of Amazon workers around the country, can we begin to take back control of our lives. Work, at its most fundamental, should not destroy the worker. Work can be an enriching, empowering, and rewarding act. But it can only be so when the product of that work doesn't belong to and enriches another at terrible cost to us. I became convinced during my time with Amazon that only a union, of all workers like Lashonda, Bill, Tony, and Jeremiah, can begin to challenge the tremendous corporate power on display in Amazon warehouses.

Roland On His First Day Of Work At Amazon



BALTIMORE WORKERS MARCH IN SOLIDARITY WITH AMAZON UNION VOTE

By: Ted Stracket, Red Phoenix Correspondent Baltimore, March 31, 2021

Saturday, March 20th, a series of nationwide solidarity demonstrations were held in support for the Amazon workers of Bessemer, Alabama who are attempting to unionize to secure safe working conditions, hazard pay, and the provision of personal protective wear. On March 30th, the workers of the Amazon plant will be holding their vote by mail, even though initially the company fought to push the vote to in person—in the middle of the worst pandemic in recent history and in one of the worst affected areas of the country.

In Baltimore, MD, two demonstrations were held to spread awareness, to support and encourage the brave workers of Bessemer, and to expose the greed and corruption of the one the largest monopolies in the country owned by the wealthiest man in the world. The Ujima Peoples Progress Party of Maryland organized the first rally outside the Amazon distribution Center on 27350 Mathison Way, which lasted around 90 minutes. Several organizers from UPPPM and from the teamsters, teachers', and retail workers' unions spoke at the event. Each speaker underlined the connection between Bezos' wealth and the exploitation of Amazon workers, and the way workers across the country, in every field, are run ragged for little personal gain and enormous gain for bosses and middle managers! As the speeches continued, workers from the Amazon plant came outside to see just why a couple dozen people had assembled on the other side of the highway with banners and flags, just why so many cars passing by were honking their horns and rising their fists out the window in support.

"March 20th was a day of pride and national working class unity that showed, with little doubt, that while moderates, politicians, and corporations attempt to be on right side of history, only the organized working class can make history, as it did in Bessemer."

The second march, planned in the early afternoon to go from city hall in Baltimore to a nearby Whole Foods on the waterfront, began with a minute of silence for the victims of the massacre of 8 people, including six Asian women at a massage parlor in Atlanta, Georgia. The intersection of white supremacy, capitalist greed, and state violence has ever been on the minds of working people post-George Floyd, and that day was no different. The representative of the hosting People's Power Assembly loudly condemned the police response, "We have to call hate for what it is! And reject racism whatever shade it takes!" Many organizations delivered presentations before the march began, with a speaker on behalf of the NAACP announcing that "No one should be a billionaire when people can't afford their rent, medicine and anything beyond basic human need is out of the question." Reverend Anne Chambers railed against the busting of unions, racial chauvinism, and condemned the fight for fifteen for not going far enough and linking the impotence of our government to the historical power of the people, especially working people.

As the march began, Andrew Concon of the People's Power Assembly, when asked as to why he and his organization organized that day's march, responded that the victory of the Bessemer workers to unionize would have a "domino effect leading to national action." Another member of the DSA responded that the hazard pay, protective wear and safe workplace that the workers of Bessemer are organizing to defend are "the bare minimum" that many US workers are still denied. The recurring theme of that day across the wide political spectrum of those attending was that even the victory of striking workers in a union



Protesters in Baltimore During the March 20th Solidarity Demonstrations

busting state would not be enough. In the wake of the George-Floyd movement, and the failure of the Bernie Sanders campaign, the working class movements have begun to see to a person the magnitude of the work that lays ahead.

Throughout the whole march, one of the most striking things was that we received no jeers, no boos, or expletives from traffic passing by, beyond general apathy, there were many cheers and fists raised in solidarity and support for our demonstration of support for workers half the country away. Naturally the police dogged the march for closing down East Fayette and President streets downtown. Arriving at the Whole Foods on S. Central, the march, which had attracted the attention and, to a lesser degree the participation of pedestrians along our route. Chants of "unions yes, Bezos no!" and "When workers rights are under attack, stand up fight back!" rang through the towers and apartments of downtown Baltimore. Russell with People's Power Assembly spoke on the need to put the pressure on Amazon to allow workers to unionize and to encourage Amazon workers around the country to unionize, and workers of every workplace to do the same. To cheers and pictures with the organizers from passing shoppers and commuters, the march concluded with loud chants of "Union-busting? Shut it down! Baltimore is a union town!"

Walking back to city hall, I talked with Andre P of the Socialist Unity Party and we agreed, after talking about our different organizations, that the working class proved on days like today that it will fight beyond the ballot box and will form its own organizations to do just that, even though a degree of sectarianism and division in those organizations, recent events have fostered a greater desire for cooperation in establishing working democracy in the United States against poverty, hunger and avoidable crises. Solidarity across the nation has reaped its rewards as the community of Bessemer, a town in the deep south, now leads the way. The Retail Wholesale and Department Store union declared recently that over a thousand Amazon workers around the country contacted them about the forming of a union for their own stores. March 20th was a day of pride and national working class unity that showed, with little doubt, that while the puppets of the bourgeoisie posture on the right side of history, only the organized working class can make history, as it did in Bessemer.

SACRAMENTO RESIDENTS RESIST GENTRIFICATION AND RACIAL DISPLACEMENT



By Peter Charles Kraljev, Red Phoenix Correspondent Sacramento March 16, 2021

Oak Park is a neighborhood on the south side of city of Sacramento, from 1900 to the 1960s, it thrived economically and culturally, home to the Park Meat Market, and Arata Bros markets; Steen's Corner Saloon; Azevedo's Women's Apparel; Janek and Scurfield canvass goods, Citizens Bank of Oak Park; the Ben Franklin variety store; and many others. The street's arts and entertainment could be found at the Victor Theater (Guild Theater), the California Theater, the Belmonte Gallery or the outdoor theater and pavilion at the park. Oak Park was also the where the Sacramento branch of the Black Panther Party was headquartered and their "Service to the People" programs were very active in the neighborhood.

Oak Park was considered Sacramento's "second downtown," achieving all this despite being the "redlined" part of town. This prosperity began to decline in the 1970s and 80s when the Interstate freeway expansion program physically divided the neighborhood and left sections isolated leading many of the wealthier families to move to the suburbs. FBI crack downs on the Black Panther party brought an end of the "service to the people" programs as well as discouraging any other community or political organizing in the neighborhood. These losses reduced the neighborhood's sense of community and access to social services leading to an increase in crime and poverty. It began to recover in the early 2000's, it was not the same as its former glory, but had become a decent place to live.

Oak Park's growing prosperity has not gone unnoticed by capitalists looking for yet another area to gentrify, replacing people with profit. Grounded Real-estate, Oak Park Area Association of Realtors, and The University of California Davis Medical Center have been buying up land and developing the area. At first glance this seems to be good, but if you take a stroll around town and talk with the residents all the hallmarks of gentrification are there: rising rents, local business being driven out by franchises, and life long residents being pushed out in favor of affluent Bay Area commuters.

Our Correspondent in Sacramento spoke with Eliza Deed, a fair housing advocate, who is creating "Speak Out Oak Park," a docuseries that represents Black history within Oak Park and the dynamics between the black population, gentrification, revolution, and community past and present.

Eliza Deed first took interest political activism and housing advocacy when she was homeless in San Diego. There was a homeless shelter she stayed in where the staff frequently pocketed money and took home donations meant for the shelter and the homeless and discriminated against members of the LGBTQ+ community who tried to stay there. Deed kept her head down and didn't speak up but maintained a binder of all the illegal actions going on and related evidence. She brought the binder to the city council but nothing came of it, she didn't

pursue the issue as she was unfamiliar with the arcane legislative process and did not know what else to do. Years later when living at "The Trees at Madison," a local apartment complex, she was up for eviction due to a misspelling on a money order. This time, Deed did not back down, did her research learned her rights, and reached out to tenants' rights organizations and fought this eviction and she has been a housing advocate ever since.

"We can't allow ourselves to be erased and our oppression hidden" she concluded, "right now we can't do much against these real-estate titans but we have our voices and right now our voices and our stories are the revolution, we need to let people now what's happening and what they are losing before its lost and inspire them to action."

Eliza Deed, Speak Out Oak Park

She no longer lives at the Trees at Madison and has been an Oak Park resident since 2019. She spoke to us about how all the businesses of Broadway Way and Martin Luther King Blvd. used to be full of black owned and locally operated small business but now it's all big chain stores. A retail complex known as 40 Acres (a reference to "40 acres and a mule" a slavery reparation proposal) used to host all black owned business, but now only 2 underground book stores and the Guild Theater are still black owned.

Since moving in she has had 6 police calls on her from her downstairs neighbor who said she does not feel safe but would not specify why. Deed reached out to the previous tenants of her apartment and they all confided that same downstairs neighbor frequently called the police on them as well. Deed reached out to Sgt. Matt Young of the SacPD who told her that in recent years there has been high amount of police calls for non-criminal things such as "looking suspicious" or an unoccupied car while the people making the calls are mostly anonymous the calls are almost always on Black people and Oak Park is one of the most heavily policed areas.

Eliza Deed told our correspondent all about how Grounded Real-estate, Oak Park Area Association of Realtors are buying land and developing the area and while they are improving the neighborhood they have no interest having the current residents around to enjoy it. The houses they sell and apartments they rent are far too expensive for locals to afford and is instead going to bay area yuppies and hipsters who in turn call the police on the locals for "looking suspicious".

"We can't allow ourselves to be erased and our oppression hidden" she concluded, "right now we can't do much against these real-estate titans but we have our voices and right now our voices and our stories are the revolution, we need to let people now what's happening and what they are losing before its lost and inspire them to action."

If you would like to know more about Speak Out Oak park check out the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SpeakOutOakPark/>



Get Active!
The People Liberate Themselves

ICMLPO: ALL WORKING WOMEN OF THE WORLD! LET'S UNITE AGAINST EXPLOITATION, VIOLENCE AND FASCIST AGGRESSION RISEN WITH THE PANDEMIC!

It plays an important role in the political, economic and social life of the country. It held its 9th Congress in 1982 and delegations from various women's organizations from 17 countries were present.

What was the path the Communists set out for the women? They said that there were two basic preconditions for the emancipation of women:

The first was that she must be freed from wage slavery. As with all working people, without this, women would still face class oppression and all the ills of capitalism: insecurity, unemployment, inflation, imperialist wars, household bondage, lack of public care for her children, etc. The people's revolution in Albania has long since abolished wage slavery, so this first condition has been fully met.

The second pre-condition was that women engage in productive social labor. This provides the economic and social basis for equality, allowing women to be independent and equal participants in the struggle for socialist construction. This condition has also been fully met.

Women have, for several years now, comprised 46% of the work force. This latter condition had to be organized.

At the time of liberation women were not prepared for industrial work, aside from some training in handicrafts.

They had to have their self-confidence built up after centuries of being considered mainly chattel. They were 90% illiterate. Today they are active in every field of industry and agriculture that is not injurious to their health. Half of all students are women and girls, and they are being educated in all the various fields of learning, including higher education.

The main ongoing tasks for the complete emancipation of women are to continually raise the participation of women on an equal basis with men in social productive labor and in the whole political and social life of the country, to deliver women from the drudgery of household chores, and to strengthen and promote relations of democracy and equality in the family.

Housework will not be completely eliminated for individuals until it is completely socialized, which requires a higher level of industrialization than Albania has attained at this time. But an educational campaign is being waged for the sharing of household tasks by the entire family. It is even written into law. The Code of the Family, enacted in June, 1982, calls for the equal rights and duties of family members and requires that "spouses assist each other in the fulfillment of all family and social tasks." Increasing numbers of bakeries, laundries, and dining halls are being built. Electricity is available over the entire country and more household appliances are steadily being supplied. Considerable funds have been laid out by the state for women to be able to attend schools, courses, to take part in various political and cultural-artistic activities, or to lighten the burden of child rearing and household work by setting up social institutions and extending the service network to the remotest village. Albanian mothers have free health care, generous maternity leave, birth clinics and nurseries and kindergartens for children, including child care centers at most work places.

Both education and legal action are used to overcome backward attitudes toward women, fitted to suit the time, place and concrete conditions of every region. Hangovers from the past have been more pronounced in



"If women's liberation is unthinkable without communism, then communism is unthinkable without women's liberation."

- Inessa Armand

the more remote mountainous areas. Persuasion and education are given priority over legal action.

In 1967, a plenum of the Central Committee of the PLA was held on just two questions, one of which was "On the Further Deepening of the Struggle for the Complete Emancipation of Women." In that same year, Enver Hoxha said in a speech,

"The Party and the whole country should rise to their feet, burn the backward canons and crush anyone who would dare trample on the sacred law of the Party on the protection of the rights of women and young girls."

After that speech, many infant betrothals were dissolved voluntarily by the parents. Now it is written into law that no marriages can take place without the consent of the two parties involved, and penal action is taken against violation of this law.

A further example of the educational work done is that Enver Hoxha has recommended that family income be handled by wives. He said,

"Having money in her keep, the wife will not only manage it better, but she will also have equal voice in the discussions with her husband."

The new Constitution of Albania adopted in December, 1976, states:

"Equal pay is guaranteed for equal work."

"No restriction or privilege is recognized on the rights and duties of citizens on account of sex."

"The woman enjoys equal rights with man in work, pay, holiday, social security, education, in all social and political activity, as well as in the family."

Under the conditions in Albania, the participation of women in the entire life of the country has become an objective necessity. The efforts, the physical and mental energies of women, too, are necessary to promote the increasing revolution, to strengthen the people's state power and further democratize it through the line of the masses. The efforts of women are necessary too, for the strengthening and defense of the homeland against any enemy through the training of the entire population.

Comrade Enver Hoxha has raised before the whole society that "the Party and the working class should measure the advance toward the complete construction of socialist society with the deepening and progress of the women's revolution within our (i.e. Albania's) proletarian revolution. If the women lag behind, then the revolution marks time."

But the tremendous advances made by women in Albania are attested to by their ever-increasing role in the entire life of the country. Today women comprise 30% of the membership of the Party of Labor of Albania. They make up 30% of the deputies to the People's Assembly, the highest government body in the Land. They are 41 % of the People's Councils at all levels, 30% of the Higher Court, and some 44% of the Leaders of the organizations of the masses. Certainly, in no other country in modern history have women attained such a high degree of participation in the social and political life of the nation.



International Conference of
Marxist-Leninist Parties and
Organisations (CIPOML)

THE HISTORY OF WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION IN SOCIALIST ALBANIA



**From: New Albania: A Small Country. A Great Contribution. (1980)
Originally published by the USA - Albania Friendship Association.**

The emancipation and advancement of women are glorious achievements of Socialist Albania.

Before liberation, the suppression of women was brutal, despite the fact that in the national folklore of Albania the woman was often treated as a dignified figure, represented in lovely colors and with special tenderness, particularly as a mother. In reality, the woman was divested of every economic right. She could not have a say in family gatherings, nor could she have a voice in the marriage of her sons and daughters. When a young bride, she did not have the right to call her husband by his first name, but had to speak of him as "he". In some areas, women, no matter how young, were addressed as "old women" by their husbands. When travelling, the husband would ride while his wife had to follow behind him on foot. The "lashrope", from the bride's dowry that parents had to give their daughters, would be carried along by them when fetching water, going to the mountains for firewood, laboring in the fields or taking wheat to the mill. It was a symbol of medieval backwardness and feudal cruelty toward women.

Women were assigned separate places apart from the men, both in the church and in the mosque. Even at home they had their separate place in the waiting room where, from latticed windows, they were permitted to watch their husbands celebrating at weddings or other family celebrations. Even on mourning days men and women did not come together. Muslim women had their heads covered with a kerchief and, in the towns, they wrapped themselves in veils or black cloaks. In the towns Christian women also veiled their faces.

In some regions whenever a woman was spoken ill of, after having her hair cut off, she would then be mounted backward on an ass and paraded through the streets. An old canon said, "The husband is entitled to beat his wife, to bind her in chains when she defies his word and order."

Young women not only had nothing to say about their marriages but they were often sold, even when infants, for future betrothals. Women had a personal name, but after they were married, they were referred to as so-and-so's wife, so that their names fell into disuse.

And since descent in the female line did not count, their names were not considered worth remembering.

It was against this background of centuries-old tradition, based on the unwritten laws of the canons, that the Communist Party issued the call to women to join the partisan forces of the national liberation war to drive out the fascist invaders. Albanian women had on occasions over the years fought alongside their men for freedom from national oppression, but the mass response to the Party's call was epoch-making.

The fascists and traitors to the country, left nothing undone to estrange women from the Party, the National Liberation Front and the partisan army. Women were persecuted, imprisoned, deported, tortured and even hanged. But nothing shook them. They stood united in revolutionary combat around the Communist Party of Albania. They saw in the

program of the CPA, at long last, the path for their own liberation.

Women joined the Communist Party, where they were assigned to posts of responsibility in the partisan detachments. They were commanders and commissars, and secretaries of Party cells. Of the partisan army of 70,000, - 6,000 were women. Today too, they are cadres in the armed forces.

Thus, they played a leading role in their emancipation. After liberation, the strength, bravery, maturity and patriotism of the Albanian women burst out with unexampled, ever-increasing vigor. The Party had set up women's councils everywhere, and the Anti-Fascist Women's Union was set up in 1944. The magazine, "Albanian Woman", became a powerful force in the mobilization of women. Today, the Women's Union of Albania is a strong organization, having 600,000 members.

It plays an important role in the political, economic and social life of the country. It held its 9th Congress in 1982 and delegations from various women's organizations from 17 countries were present.

What was the path the Communists set out for the women? They said that there were two basic preconditions for the emancipation of women:

The first was that she must be freed from wage slavery. As with all working people, without this, women would still face class oppression and all the ills of capitalism: insecurity, unemployment, inflation, imperialist wars, household bondage, lack of public care for her children, etc. The people's revolution in Albania has long since abolished wage slavery, so this first condition has been fully met.

The second pre-condition was that women engage in productive social labor. This provides the economic and social basis for equality, allowing women to be independent and equal participants in the struggle for socialist construction. This condition has also been fully met.

Women have, for several years now, comprised 46% of the work force. This latter condition had to be organized.

At the time of liberation women were not prepared for industrial work, aside from some training in handicrafts.

They had to have their self-confidence built up after centuries of being considered mainly chattel. They were 90% illiterate. Today they are active in every field of industry and agriculture that is not injurious to their health. Half of all students are women and girls, and they are being educated in all the various fields of learning, including higher education. The main ongoing tasks for the complete emancipation of women are to continually raise the participation of women on an equal basis with men in social productive labor and in the whole political and social life of the country, to deliver women from the drudgery of household chores, and to strengthen and promote relations of democracy and equality in the family.

Housework will not be completely eliminated for individuals until it is completely socialized, which requires a higher level of industrialization than Albania has attained at this time. But an educational campaign is being waged for the sharing of household tasks by the entire family. It is even written into law. The Code of the Family, enacted in June, 1982, calls for the equal rights and duties of family members and requires that "spouses assist each other in the fulfillment of all family and social tasks." Increasing numbers of bakeries, laundries, and dining halls are being built. Electricity is available over the entire country and more household appliances are steadily being supplied. Considerable funds have been laid out by the state for women to be able to attend schools, courses, to take part in various political and cultural-artistic activities, or to lighten the burden of child rearing and household work by setting up social institutions and extending the service network to the remotest village. Albanian mothers have free health care, generous maternity leave, birth clinics and nurseries and kindergartens for children, including child care centers at most work places.

Both education and legal action are used to overcome backward attitudes toward wom-

en, fitted to suit the time, place and concrete conditions of every region. Hangovers from the past have been more pronounced in the more remote mountainous areas. Persuasion and education are given priority over legal action.

In 1967, a plenum of the Central Committee of the PLA was held on just two questions, one of which was "On the Further Deepening of the Struggle for the Complete Emancipation of Women." In that same year, Enver Hoxha said in a speech,

"The Party and the whole country should rise to their feet, burn the backward canons and crush anyone who would dare trample on the sacred law of the Party on the protection of the rights of women and young girls."

After that speech, many infant betrothals were dissolved voluntarily by the parents. Now it is written into law that no marriages can take place without the consent of the two parties involved, and penal action is taken against violation of this law.

A further example of the educational work done is that Enver Hoxha has recommended that family income be handled by wives. He said,

"Having money in her keep, the wife will not only manage it better, but she will also have equal voice in the discussions with her husband."

The new Constitution of Albania adopted in December, 1976, states:

"Equal pay is guaranteed for equal work."

"No restriction or privilege is recognized on the rights and duties of citizens on account of sex."

"The woman enjoys equal rights with man in work, pay, holiday, social security, education, in all social and political activity, as well as in the family."

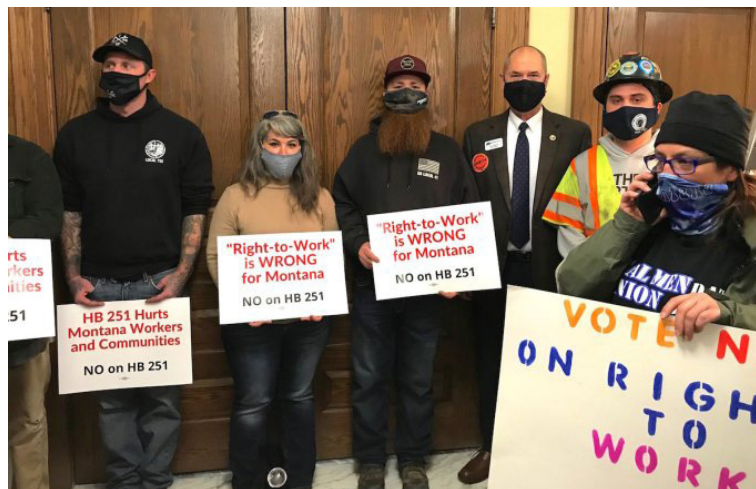
Under the conditions in Albania, the participation of women in the entire life of the country has become an objective necessity. The efforts, the physical and mental energies of women, too, are necessary to promote the increasing revolution, to strengthen the people's state power and further democratize it through the line of the masses. The efforts of women are necessary too, for the strengthening and defense of the homeland against any enemy through the training of the entire population.

Comrade Enver Hoxha has raised before the whole society that "the Party and the working class should measure the advance toward the complete construction of socialist society with the deepening and progress of the women's revolution within our (i.e. Albania's) proletarian revolution. If the women lag behind, then the revolution marks time."

But the tremendous advances made by women in Albania are attested to by their ever-increasing role in the entire life of the country. Today women comprise 30% of the membership of the Party of Labor of Albania. They make up 30% of the deputies to the People's Assembly, the highest government body in the Land. They are 41% of the People's Councils at all levels, 30% of the Higher Court, and some 44% of the Leaders of the organizations of the masses. Certainly, in no other country in modern history have women attained such a high degree of participation in the social and political life of the nation.



FROM ISTANBUL TO ALABAMA AND MONTANA, WORKERS STAND AGAINST NEOLIBERAL LEADERSHIP



In Mid-February, 2021, local service workers in the Kadıköy municipality of Istanbul went on an impromptu strike after the collapse of a five-month long collective bargaining process with the city government. In snow and on the street, the service workers are not only fighting for their welfare, but are going against the same traditional organizations meant to achieve just those ends. They say, as many UAW workers said in the US in 2019, "we don't recognize the agreement that was signed without us." The service workers are striking for a much-needed wage hike, the enforcement of the working day, and for worker participation in decision making.

As the workers of Istanbul bravely take to the streets and fight for their rights, here at home, our proletariat is not sleeping. In deeply conservative Montana, where the state court is attempting to rebuff a popular referendum legalizing recreational cannabis, the Republican-controlled legislature has been compelled with their Democratic colleagues to vote down a Right-to-work law as union workers lined the gallery and stood outside the chambers. At the same time, Amazon workers in Bessemer, Alabama, another Right-to-Work state, have collectively agreed to vote to form a union, a vote that will be held-in person, in the middle of a pandemic, at the behest of the company itself. It is no accident that Amazon would seek to endanger its workers in the same state with deep union-busting laws. As of the writing of this article, the vote will

move forward, to the awkward praises of President Joe Biden. Talk, unlike labor, is cheap, and until the White House declares its support for the PRO act—a federal law that would effectively end Right-to-work laws and strengthen collective bargaining rights—it pays to remain vigilant against chatter. We will not hold our breath for the candidate running on a living wage and the president that rejects it.

Right-to-work laws have their roots in class warfare, and mean nothing more than right to profit for corporations, and continued precarity for workers. After the passing of the Taft-Harley Act, a law that bound and gagged unions, and purged its leadership and rank-and-file of communists (passing after a season of national strikes in 1945-46 where workers refused to return to the days of Depression as the country faced another crisis), after the success of Taft-Harley, reactionary legislatures all over the country furthered this bill with Right-to-Work laws that allow companies to hire employees without granting them the right to join or form a union. These laws, bosses and politicians claim, bring more freedom and money to the worker. As unemployment holds steady during pandemic, do workers in "Right-to-Work" states really have more money, freedom, or stability? No—terminations and lost hours remain a problem in just those states where there are hallowed "Right-to-Work" laws as unemployment festers. Capitalists will continue to ship jobs overseas to sweatshops and create competition between American workers, this is the ultimate goal of these laws. An unemployed auto worker in Chicago is no problem for bosses when they can pay another worker in Atlanta to do the same job at half the price, or even better, to the developing world to continue the neo-colonial project. There is no humanism, there is no concern in the hearts and minds of the ruling class, there is only profit. This has and will always be their primary motive.

And still, there are cries, even from workers that unions are the real enemy, that all unions are corrupt and will remain corrupt, they are proud to work in a "Right-to-work" state, while it is precisely union busters to blame for purging unions of its best and brightest and making unions vulnerable to the level of bureaucracy observed today. It is the same reason that your vote in the ballot box is a waste of paper, it is not who you vote for or which party you've joined, if any, the main mover in our society is profit: someone is bleeding you dry and that someone has a name and a class interest. What a wonderful democracy is it, when your vote can mean nothing if your job is outsourced to someone more desperate that'll work for less as you don't get to work at all.

If we are forced to "choose" between more and more unemployment and outsourcing and securing living wages, safe workplaces and worker participation in decision making—then we are not discussing a fair political point, we are not having a sensible debate, we are calling to trial the existence of a whole system that is irreparably based on exploitation and oppression.

Solidarity with striking workers around the world!

Support the PRO act!

Fight for the right of all workers to organize!

Workers' democracy now!



AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR .ORG

PROCLAMATION OF THE XXVI PLENARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MARXIST-LENINIST PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS(ICMLPO)

The analysis of the international situation, and the tasks that the Marxist-Leninist parties and organizations must fulfill in this context, has been the central theme of the XXVI Plenary Session of the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations, ICMLPO, held the first days of February this year. The plenary also learned about the work that its members are carrying out in each of their countries, in order to advance in the process of organizing the social revolution of the proletariat, to put an end to the system of capitalist exploitation and establish the society of the workers: socialism.

The discussions at this meeting expressed the ideological-political unity of the parties, based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism, the coincidence of views regarding the elements that characterize the world scene and how we Marxist-Leninists must face the present situation.

The workers and peoples are facing a time in which the economic crisis of capitalism and the Covid 19 pandemic have been the reason for the owners of capital and the capitalist state to implement policies of labor flexibility, lengthen the working day, reduce salaries, lay off workers in the public and private sectors to protect and benefit their large companies, increase the levels of exploitation of the workers, and cause an increase in unemployment, underemployment, poverty and hunger for millions of men, women and young people on the planet. Hunger and poverty are increasing, but so is the wealth of a handful of billionaires, corporate owners and shareholders of powerful international monopolies.

The international capitalist order is also characterized by the intensification of inter-imperialist conflicts, by the efforts that the powers – such as the US, China, Russia, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, etc. – are carrying out to win positions in world geopolitics, to protect and / or expand their areas of political-economic influence. These contradictions have various manifestations, but one of the most dangerous aspects is its billions in military spending. With Joe Biden taking office as president of the United States, although he will make changes in the foreign and internal policies of his country, he will not substantially change the imperialist essence of the United States; the multilateralism proposed as an element of his foreign policy will not diminish the inter-imperialist rivalry, but will increase it.

We point out that in various regions of the world, the right wing and fascist forces are gaining ground, raising nationalist, chauvinist and xenophobic banners; state policies that seek social control are growing, violating the rights of the workers and peoples. Populism

The world is experiencing very complex circumstances; among the efforts that the international bourgeoisie is proposing in order to get out of the situation, the Davos Forum has proposed the Great Reset. This would seek to prettify capitalism with apparent social policies that make the exploitation of the working class less harsh.

As exploitation and poverty are growing, the workers, peoples, youth and women are joining forces and fighting. Overcoming the barriers imposed by governments to prevent them from expressing themselves, the struggle of the workers and peoples on all continents is growing: they are demanding work, health care, wages and democratic rights.

In this context we, the member organizations of the ICMLPO, are making efforts to fulfill our political responsibility, to put ourselves at the head of the workers and the peoples, to promote and organize their struggles; to develop their class consciousness, which will allow them to understand that the cause of the problems that affect them today is in the present-day capitalist-imperialist system, and that the solution to these problems comes from the social revolution of the proletariat.

February, 2021

Communist Party of Bénin

Voltaic Revolutionary Communist Party

Revolutionary Communist Party of Côte d'Ivoire

Democratic Way – Morocco

Tunisia Tunisian Workers' Party

Revolutionary Democracy Organization

Labour Party of Iran

Workers Front of Pakistan

Labour Party (EMEP)

Communist Party of Albania

Workers' Communist Party – Denmark

Workers' Communist Party of France

Organization for the Construction of the Communist Workers Party of Germany

Movement for the Reorganization of the Communist Party of Greece 1918-1955

Communist Platform – Italy

Marxist-Leninist Group Revolution – Norway

Communist Party of Spain (Marxist-Leninist)

Revolutionary Communist Party – Chile

Revolutionary Communist Party – Bolivia

Revolutionary Communist Party – Brazil

Communist Party of Colombia (Marxist-Leninist)

Communist Party of Labor – Dominican Republic

Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Ecuador

Communist Party of Mexico (Marxist-Leninist)

Communist Party of Peru (Marxist-Leninist)

Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Venezuela

American Party of Labor – USA

Communist Party of Bangladesh (ML)

Revolutionary Alliance of Labour of Serbia



UNLAWFUL SWEEPS OF HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS CONTINUE IN SACRAMENTO

By Peter Charles Kraljev
Red-Phoenix Correspondent,
Sacramento, January 8th 2021

On July 17 2020, after a several month-long legal battle with the Sacramento Homeless Union lead by its president Crystal Rose Sanchez, the Superior Court of Sacramento passed a court ruling that prohibits sweeps of homeless encampments on public property during the pandemic. This was seen as win for both the rights and well-being of the unhoused in the city that gave them the right to rest, as well a way for those without shelter to follow shelter in place orders to reduce the spread of COVID.

Despite the hard work and perseverance of the Sacramento Homeless Union and their allied housing advocacy groups, sweeps have continued throughout the city. On January 5th 2021, notices to vacate were given to the members of a tent city set up on the overpass of Alhambra Blvd and W St. 12 people where dwelling there and because it was on public property, they thought they would be able to ride out the pandemic at this location and had been since the ruling in July. The notices to vacate said they had to be out by January 7th and they would be given a voucher to stay in a motel for a week but they could only take two backpacks worth of possessions, everything else was to be disposed of.

At 9am on January 7th the Sacramento Department of Public Works came out to the tent city at Alhambra and W with 9 city services workers, two garbage trucks, and two bulldozers with an escort of 4 police with a police van in tow (obviously to detain those who objected to having their only shelter torn down). Out of the 12 residents, only two were arrested, the others loaded up what they could into their two backpacks and accepted the vouchers and stood down as the bulldozers torn down their tents and city service workers tossed everything into the garbage trucks.

Things got a bit heated around 10:45am when a city services worker threw a knife they found in the rubble at reporters and Homeless Union representatives who were asking questions about what was going on here and the legality of it. Police shuffled the reporters back and served as buffer between them and the city services workers. The police and the Homeless



Scenes From the Forceful Eviction of a Homeless Area In Sacramento, January 5th.

Union representatives went back and forth on the legality of the issue and the court's ruling, police said that because of the vouchers they gave to the homeless of the camp they could evict them as they had a place to go. These vouchers only covered a week's stay in a motel so it is unclear what will happen to these homeless people after that week is up, particularly given that the city destroyed their shelters in the middle of winter and threw away all their stuff.

Homelessness had increased by 22% in California over the last decade mostly due to rising rents and stagnant wages and the current pandemic has only accelerated this crisis with the massive layoffs. As such tent city like this have become much more prevalent in the state and with California's current COVID eviction protections expiring at the end of the month there are going to be even more of them popping up.

Despite the best efforts of housing advocacy groups to gain legal protections, the state, egged on by their capitalist backers, will still find legal loop holes to tear down these encampments and chase off their residents. We need real solutions to the state's housing crises and the Democrats/Republicans, land-lords, and real-estate developers have no solution, and are in many ways part of the problem. Any concessions activists win from these groups are only achieved after the constant pestering and pressure from grass roots, working class political parties and advocacy groups. Its impotent we keep at it and don't give up, parallel to our work to create a society in which homelessness is eliminated, or else we will find ourselves trying to fit our whole lives into two back packs.

IN MEMORY OF COMRADE WALTER "CHICO" ZULETA MORALES



Yesterday, we received a communique from the Revolutionary Communist Party of Bolivia (PCR) that Comrade Walter Zuleta died of COVID-19 February 18th.

Comrade Walter was a life-long communist whose revolutionary activity spanned decades. All his life Walter fought for the revolution and socialism. Comrade Walter gave his all for the liberation of the working and oppressed peoples of Bolivia, of Latin America, and of the entire world. Comrade Walter is survived by his partner Inés, his children Soledad, Christian, Wara, Camilo and Valentina, and his grandchildren.

We had come to know Comrade through his work in the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO) and his participation in the annual Seminar on the Problems of the Revolution in Latin America. We are deeply shocked and profoundly saddened at his sudden passing.

The American Party of Labor, its leadership and cadre, offer our most heartfelt condolences to Comrade Walter's family, to his comrades of the PCR, and to the workers and toilers of Bolivia.

Sleep well, Chicho. You have earned your rest. Your cause is immortal. As are you.



**PEACE,
EQUALITY,
SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY**

Camarada Walter Zuleta – ¡Presente!

COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY OF FRANCE: WITHDRAW FRENCH TROOPS FROM MALI AND THE SAHEL NOW!



Photo credit: Finbarr O'Reilly, nytimes.

After having maintained a certain ambiguity on a reduction in the number of French soldiers in Mali and the Sahel, Macron ruled on February 16, during the meeting of the G-5 Sahel [Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger], that there was no question of reducing the French military presence, while "at the same time", stepping up the military operations "to try to behead" the jihadist organizations.

This decision has serious consequences, first of all for the peoples of the G-5 countries, where the rejection of the French presence continues to be expressed, in the streets, in discussions, on the airwaves and the media, even if the leaders of these countries are trying to contain them. This means more military operations, resulting in civilian deaths and destruction of all kinds. Two million displaced people are already living in the greatest misery and precariousness, with the only help being the solidarity of the populations of the host regions and the support organizations.

It also means that Macron and his government are relying on the military hierarchy to declare "victories", if possible swiftly, in terms of the elimination of leaders of the armed groups. It is the passage from a "war against terrorism" which also claimed, certainly fraudulently, to have a social and political dimension, to a "dirty war". This is interested only in results, "whatever it costs", without taking into account for one moment that these armed groups are increasing their influence among the populations, because they are being neglected at all levels.

Macron will not stop the rise of criticism against this war, the military engagement and the goals set. Added to this is the authoritarianism with which decisions are made, symbolized by the "council of defense" which decides in a small committee on everything: health policy, the war in Africa, etc.

The battle for the withdrawal of French troops does not end with Macron's announcements, on the contrary. We must work for this demand to be taken up in the workers' and people's movement, in the trade union movement, among the youth, etc.

The first unitary expression initiatives that have taken place (such as those of February 4 and 13 in Toulouse) show that they are having a response.

This demand should be brought up in all mobilizations and be displayed on the walls.

Paris, February 18, 2021



The APL Webstore is undergoing changes while we restock,(all merch made by APL members!) be sure to check the website often! Every dollar goes toward the struggle!

The American Party of Labor is...

a revolutionary working class organization. Our aim is to abolish the capitalist system and replace it with a socialist, working democracy, a system based on the principle laid out by Marx, "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need." There can be no true freedom or democracy, we argue, when billionaires have more wealth than the bottom 90% of Americans.

Who Can Join? How Do I Get Involved?

Every working person who is open to our plan for change, agrees with our Program and Platform and is over the age of 18 is welcome to join.

To look at our joining procedure, activity, membership FAQ, and more: please visit:

bit.ly/JoinTheAPL

You can find everything that you should know about us here, and you can 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 be Marxist-Leninists in the USA in the 21st century?

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 that could be mitigated. 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, and the experiences of the struggles in Europe of 1848. Solutions to the problems of capitalism can only be reached by understanding and observing the system itself, textured with the political reality of the country and historical struggles. This is why we think revolutionary history is worth talking about, and making part of our platform.

Regarding the regulation of capitalism and emergent social democratic reform movements, it is not uncommon that capitalist states restrict the private sector for various reasons. The problem is that political power is still stacked in favor of the ruling class, they have every avenue and all the resources necessary undo reforms and regulations. What truly led to the collapse of the socialist bloc was not that these countries pursued communism, which was ultimately too radical, but rather that these nations pursued market style reforms until they had more or less become capitalist countries. As we have seen in the US, liberal victories are short-lived.

Today, social democratic movements would have us do much the same, 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. We cannot face climate change, resurgent fascism, police brutality, the exploitation of oppressed nations, and the threat of American imperialism around the world without a revolutionary, centrally organized movement.

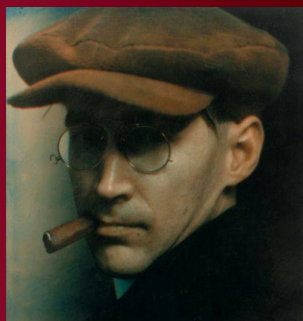
How is the American Party of Labor Different From Other Organizations?

An Anti-Revisionist, Internationalist Party: The American Party of Labor is a dedicated anti-revisionist party, opposed to concessions to capitalists, and critical of all imperialist actions by the US, Russia, and China. The APL is an observer member in the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO), and participates in the international anti-revisionist struggle.

A Party of Working Class People: The American Party of Labor is made up of workers fighting for workers rights. Many of our members are in active union and unionization struggles, and we all do our political work after clocking out.

A Party of Equals: The APL is active in the fight for the rights of women, oppressed nations, the LGBTQIA+ community, and immigrants, and for the community control of police departments. In 2019, the APL was a founding member in the National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression.

Forever Anti-Fascist: We take the anti-fascist legacy of the Marxist-Leninist movement. Members of the American Party of Labor are dedicated anti-fascists, and active in movements against the Far-Right on college campuses, and the barbaric treatment of immigrants at the border.



**"There are people that fight one day and are good.
There are others who fight a year and they are better.
Some fight for many years and are very good.
But there are those who fight all their lives:
those are the indispensable ones."**

- Bertolt Brecht



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!

The Red Phoenix is published bi-monthly by The American Party of Labor.

**<http://TheRedPhoenixAPL.com>
<http://AmericanPartyofLabor.com/>
To Subscribe: <http://bit.ly/RedPhoenixSub>**

Editorial Board: Victor Vaughn, Alfonso Casal, Sebastian Lemba, Benjamin Rizzo, Garit Boshcka.

Managing Editor: John Palamede.

Staff: Leonard Zorfass, Polina Brik, J. Thallman, Jay Hyde, Kallista Mirobel.

Made Possible By Contributions from Workers Like You

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 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.