



THE RED PHOENIX

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**THE COST OF "ECONOMIC RECOVERY"
AND RIGHT WING MISINFORMATION**

A WORKING-CLASS PERSPECTIVE ON THE COVID CRISIS IN TEXAS



By: Ian Cox, Red Phoenix Correspondent Texas

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic last year Texas has seen a total of 3.22 million confirmed cases with a death toll of over 53,000 as of the beginning of August 2021. Texas Governor Gregg Abbott has made the news a lot in the past several months as a stern opponent of mask and vaccines mandates, instead opting to make Texas's pandemic response a personal responsibility stating that it is "past the time of government mandates." All of this comes as Texas has seen many severe spikes in the last several weeks amounting to over 20,000 cases a day as the Delta variant of the virus makes its way through the general population.

Abbott's rejection of any type of government response is his way of saying that the bourgeois state is washing its hands of the pandemic and putting the burden of surviving the crisis on the working-class. Grocery Store worker James Hancock (25) of San Marcos, Texas said that if "Abbott were stronger on mask and vaccines mandates maybe we wouldn't have seen such a high amount of death." James went on to add that "the vaccine rollout was passable in some aspects but was severely lacking overall. For example, minority communities have not had the same access to the vaccine as other communities and Abbott hasn't done enough to counteract misinformation about the vaccines." In fact his total rejection of a full vaccine rollout plays into the growth of disinformation and distrust in the vaccine, which is an issue that has greatly affected the population of Texas.

"We contacted COVID during the massive freeze that we had at the start of 2021.. This left us without electricity, warm water, and other daily necessities that we needed to take care of ourselves while we were sick."

Sister and brother K.O. Ray (24) and Jordan Ray (21) of Lufkin, Texas, a bakery and warehouse worker respectively, both contracted the COVID-19 virus in early 2021 during the historic freeze in Texas which was another crisis that Abbott was

quick to shift onto the backs of the working and exploited peoples. K.O. Ray said that "they tell you COVID is like the flu, that is a lie. It is way worse. Trying to take a deep breath was excruciating and made it feel like ten pounds of weight had been added to my chest. My body ached and simply walking around my house was an exhaustingly painful task. I could never catch my breath." Jordan Ray said that "I luckily didn't have it as bad as my sister but we caught it at the worst possible time. We contacted COVID during the massive freeze that we had at the start of 2021.. This left us without electricity, warm water, and other daily necessities that we needed to take care of ourselves while we were sick." Both K.O. and Jordan both stated that they were lucky enough to have insurance when they got sick and wouldn't have been able to care for themselves properly otherwise. They both agreed that the pandemic showed the need for not only Texas but the whole US to reconstruct its healthcare system. Jordan

continued by saying that "in Texas, and in the US our healthcare system is built to make money, not to take care of people. If we wouldn't have been lucky enough to have insurance at that moment there is no telling what would have happened. We need a healthcare system that puts human life above all else."

All three workers interviewed agreed that Governor Abbott isn't doing enough. The people of Texas need "rent freezes, more government aid, and a vaccine mandate so we can curb the spread of the virus" said James Hancock.

Something has to change, and the voices of the working-class, those most affected by this crisis, need to not only be heard but they need to be the leading force in the response to the pandemic. Anything less is a crime.

Governor Abbott and many other leading figures in Texas like Senator Ted Cruz are proving themselves to be incompetent leaders who do not care for or represent the interests of the working-class here in Texas. Especially with their push to return to normal as fast as possible, regardless of the human cost. With the lack of sustainable government response by the state of Texas and the spread of the Delta variant growing more people will continue to contract and die from COVID-19 especially as most school children will be returning to school this month with the absence of mask and vaccines mandates. The bourgeois state in Texas, as with the rest of the US, and the world for that matter is daily proving itself more incapable of bringing us all of this pandemic safely. Something has to change, and the voices of the working-class, those most affected by this crisis, need to not only be heard but they need to be the leading force in the response to the pandemic. Anything less is a crime.



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A HEALTHCARE WORKER SPEAKS ON POTENTIAL VACCINE MANDATE



Isabelle B. is a healthcare worker in the Northwest, and member of the American Party of Labor. She wrote to the Phoenix with her thoughts on the need for a vaccine mandate given her experience working in healthcare. The question of vaccine mandates has been hotly contested within healthcare labor unions, with the largest nurses union (NNU) resisting the push to make vaccines contingent to employment while encouraging members to get it, consistent with their view on the flu vaccine. The union, has, however, fought

staunchly for mask mandates. The Red Phoenix reproduces letters without editing their content.

It is common to see patients who "refuse" treatment for various reasons. The side effects are worse than the current symptoms, the procedure would mean time away from work and family that the patient can't afford, the medication is simply too expensive, insurance will not cover it—the list goes on. Hearing someone turn down a treatment that would greatly help them is always the most difficult part of working in healthcare for me, but it is rare that my frustration would ever be with the patient. My frustration is generally with the conditions that lead patients to denying their care and the barriers to access that are artificially put up.

The disparities in access to care in this country have become all the more relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the rollout and distribution of the vaccine has been a different story than other types of healthcare treatment we commonly see. It is free of charge, medical insurance is not required, appointments are often not required, and the vaccine has repeatedly been proven safe. Additionally, becoming vaccinated is a measure which protects the health of others, as well as the patient who receives it. With most medical treatment, refusal only impacts your own health and not the health of those around you. Refusing the vaccine impacts both.

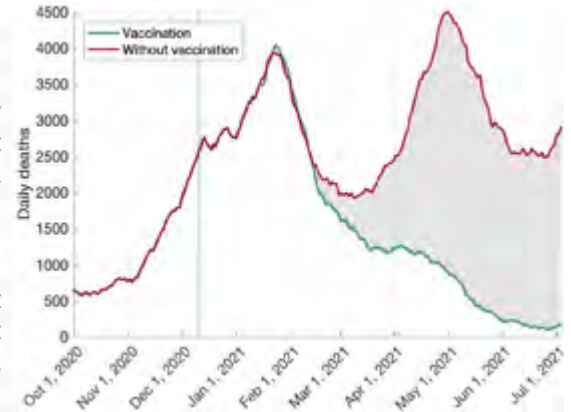
For many reasons other than those discussed above, many Americans refuse the available vaccines. This is a mistake and has been detrimental to making progress in immunizing the population against the virus. Because of the hazard that is refusing to vaccinate oneself, I advocate for a vaccine mandate—it should be a requirement, by both social and legal standards,

to vaccinate and prevent the spread of infectious disease, particularly COVID-19 at the moment. Unvaccinated people pose a danger to everyone they are in contact with, even if it is inadvertent. I see hundreds of patients each week, and if even one of them is unvaccinated, it puts me, my coworkers (technicians, doctors, and administrators), and all of my patients at risk

for contracting a new mutated variant of the virus that an individual may carry. This risk is too great for a vaccination to be considered optional.

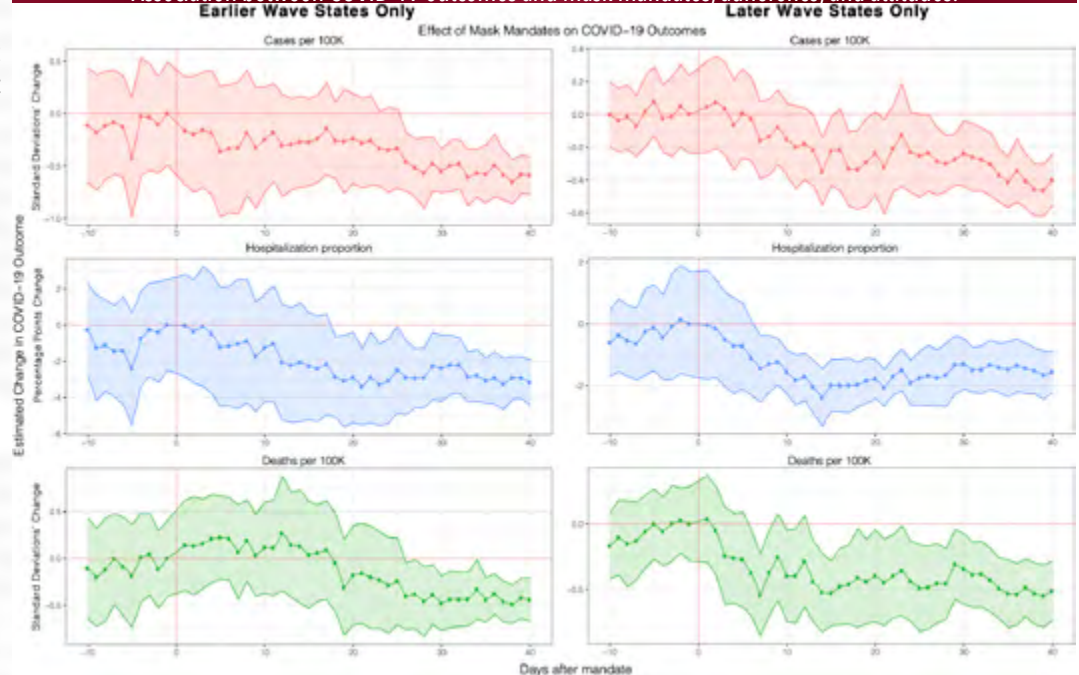
And most of all, a mandate would prevent many vulnerable people from having to face the cruelties of the American healthcare system, as they would if they contract the virus.

It is also my hope that a vaccine mandate would help take down some of the remaining barriers that prevent people from being vaccinated. If someone is having a difficult time getting vaccinated because they can not take time away from work, a mandate should motivate an employer to give their employees adequate time to get the shot(s). A mandate should motivate public transit services to reduce or eliminate fares for passengers getting the vaccine. And most of all, a mandate would prevent many vulnerable people from having to face the cruelties of the American healthcare system, as they would if they contract the virus. The vaccine requirement is a crucial step in stopping the virus from spreading further and keeping all of us—healthcare workers included—safe and healthy.



Alison Galvani, et al. Deaths and Hospitalizations Averted by Rapid U.S. Vaccination Rollout (Commonwealth Fund, July 2021).

Adjodah D, et al. (2021)
Association between COVID-19 outcomes and mask mandates, adherence, and attitudes.



EDUCATION IS OUR BEST WEAPON AGAINST VIRAL MISINFORMATION!

How Viral Vector COVID-19 Vaccines Work

Understanding the virus that causes COVID-19.

Coronaviruses, like the one that causes COVID-19, are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface, called **spike proteins**. These **spike proteins** are ideal targets for vaccines.

What is a viral vector vaccine?

A viral vector vaccine uses a harmless version of a different virus, called a "vector," to deliver information to the body that helps it protect you.

How does the vaccine work?

The vaccine teaches your body how to make copies of the **spike proteins**. If you are exposed to the real virus later, your body will recognize it and know how to fight it off.



How mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Work

Understanding the virus that causes COVID-19.

Coronaviruses, like the one that causes COVID-19, are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface, called **spike proteins**. These **spike proteins** are ideal targets for vaccines.

What is mRNA?

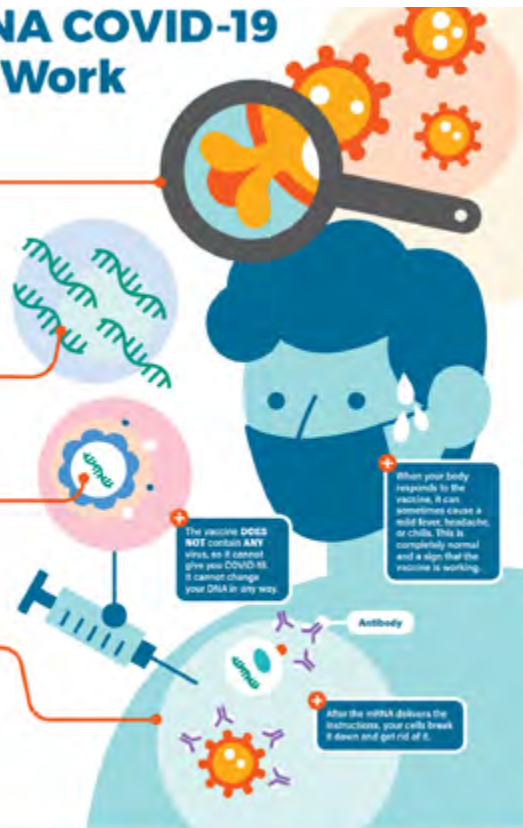
Messenger RNA, or mRNA, is genetic material that tells your body how to make proteins.

What is in the vaccine?

The vaccine is made of mRNA wrapped in a coating that makes delivery easy and keeps the body from damaging it.

How does the vaccine work?

The mRNA in the vaccine teaches your cells how to make copies of the **spike proteins**. If you are exposed to the real virus later, your body will recognize it and know how to fight it off.



GETTING VACCINATED?

For information about COVID-19 vaccine, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines)



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For information about COVID-19 vaccine, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines)



"U.S. Independence Day:

If Stalin Painted The White House Red"

by Garit B. July 04, 2021

Imagine by chance of necromancy,
If Stalin (et. al.) painted the white house red.
How would the secretariat re-think things?
With the Trotskyists inert, and Tito long dead?

He'd have a new approach for a new century,
With echoes of Lenin and old comrades' advice.
New game plans, new friends, new enemies,
New game board with the same Capitalist crisis.

Do you imagine some tyranny?
Ourselves lined against the wall, or
tanks rolling in on Berkeley? Maybe.
Not to die at, but to tear them down.

If you think cruelty's become obsolete
Well you're very probably correct.
State oppression is much less likely,
If said state decides to side with the oppressed.

Reds would turn the economy green.
Children would never go unfed.
Surely healthcare would be free,
With no profit goals for mortal debt.

Respect at last, for every human being.
The National Question will be solved,
A gamble, maybe but bet confidently:

Humans will be entitled to dignity.

We'll repay the orphans of liberty,
'Yellow', 'black', 'red', and 'brown',
Prejudice disintegrates to history.
Obviously Prisons would be shut down,

Subsidized burdening of your city
Makes no sense to scar the damned.

We've institutions and the means
To rehabilitate almost anyone humanely.

So-called criminals could live crime free,
Without a reason to ever steal
People would be afraid of greed.
Crime's insane as a costly deal.

We could put an end to public tragedy,
With physical and mental health addressed.
Killing the trend of the killing spree,
Less prone to snap with less load of stress.

We could reimagine the police,
Something better than before,
Without excess, racism, or brutality,
Reevaluated from the inside out,

Accountable and useful for society.
With the working class now armed,
Reaction finds it has no teeth.
Not one person need live in fear.

Judicial executions can finally cease,

Profit dies with desert wars,
We'd stand a chance for world peace.
Decolonize here before we do Mars.

We can stop the spreading of disease,
Resources allocated from the super rich,
Means a new standard of community.
Your neighbor will be rooting for you.

Chauvinists be damned, with the patriarchy,
Terrorists without fear have no control.
Those left afraid are endangered strains of nazi,
But even for them there's some work to dole.

Makers of signs for "Private Property",
Will be seized or go out of business.
With a new era of personal liberty,
Without pay dependant on who you kiss.

Instead of encouraging stock increase,
Every able person would be equipped.
To live however they would so please,
Enough room to not infringe on any other.

Every dollar's worth of work recieve
A dollar back, it's what you deserve.
This is what Socialists really believe:
Destruction of exploitation on this earth.

The Patriot's nightmare, a utopian dream:
If Stalin painted the white house red...
Visualize, not on paper, but materially,
Can you imagine Liberation?

UNIONIST ON TRUMKA'S LEGACY: A LIFE LIVED FOR THE WORKERS, BUT MORE DEMOCRATIC UNIONS NEEDED

By: Mark Han

Mark Han is a union organizer in the Pacific Northwest, and member of the American Party of Labor.

With the unexpected passing of AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, the American Party of Labor joins the American Labor Movement in reflecting on Trumka's legacy. As a longstanding and influential president of the AFL-CIO, it is undeniable that Trumka was an important figure to the American Labor Movement. From leading successful coal miner strikes at Pittston and Peabody to helping build American Miner solidarity with South African miners fighting Apartheid, Trumka was present for some of organized labors' most important fights in the anti-union era of the 80's and 90's. However, although Trumka was a well-intentioned figure in labor, it's equally important for workers to recognize the shortcomings of Trumka and the AFL-CIO under his presidency.

Most importantly, it is crucial for trade union members of the AFL-CIO to recognize the clear need for increased rank-and-file democracy and control within the organization in the post-Trumka era.

Keeping with the traditions of the AFL-CIO, the organization under Trumka remained a largely top-down bureaucratic union. This top-down organizing model led to significant disconnects between the organization's top brass and their rank-and-file members. This disconnect was most recently and widely apparent during the 2020 Black Lives Matter uprisings- Where rank and file members of AFL-CIO affiliated unions demanded the organization expel police unions from their organization. Rather than acquiesce to the demands of rank-and-file racial justice activists, Trumka came to the defense of police unions and refused to consider plans to expel police unions from the organization. In response, local unions and labor councils (such as the MLK Labor Council in Seattle) defied the national organization and proceeded with expelling police unions from their ranks.

All in all, it's clear that Trumka was a well-intentioned activist within Organized Labor. But like all top-down unionists, his legacy was a mixed bag and despite his leadership in important fights, it is crucial for trade unionists in the United States to analyze the shortcomings of both Trumka and the AFL-CIO. Most importantly, it is crucial for trade union members of the AFL-CIO to recognize the clear need for increased rank-and-file democracy and control within the organization in the post-Trumka era. With the vacancy created by Trumka's departure, there is a clear opportunity for a left wing challenger to ascend to the AFL-CIO presidency and transform the organization into a truly progressive, democratic organization- A prospect which our party hopes to see materialize in the near future.



Stepping Up the Horsepower, by Harold Maples, 1955



JUSTICE FOR HEAVEN AND AVA: BABY DIES IN GAINESVILLE AFTER POLICE REFUSE TO HELP MOTHER IN LABOR



By: Bryn Taylor, Red Phoenix Correspondent, Florida

Note: Heaven is the victim's preferred name, though other media outlets use the name Erica.

The morning of August 12 2021, baby Ava passed away in her mother Heaven's arms at a hospital here in Gainesville, FL. Heaven was picked up for a traffic infraction the evening before and forced to spend the night in Alachua County Jail. Despite informing police she was seven months pregnant and actively having contractions, cops left her in a cage anyway, where she gave birth, alone, to baby Ava. She screamed and begged the nurses for medical attention for four hours, but was nonetheless forced to endure the pain of childbirth without medical assistance and without her family by her side.

Jail staff finally believed her when she was holding her newborn child in her hands. Heaven and Ava were taken to the hospital, but it was too late. Ava tragically passed away.

What was supposed to be one of the most special and joyous moments in Heaven's life turned into the most physically and mentally painful and traumatizing event imaginable. There is blood on the hands of Alachua County cops. They denied a black woman the medical care she needed, and are responsible for the death of her baby.

Heaven was supposed to return to prison after being discharged from the hospital, but she has since been released home. To Heaven, this indicates "they know they messed up." Community leaders quickly organized a protest outside the Alachua County Jail the afternoon of August 12. Jail staff made no attempt to engage with protestors, and instead chose to cancel visitation for the afternoon. Ironically, republican "sanctity of life" legislation could lead to a successful lawsuit: B 1259 - INCARCERATED PREGNANT WOMEN signed by Governor Ron DeSantis in June 2020, dubbed the Tammy Jackson Act after a Broward County woman who gave birth alone in jail, ensures, among other things, that pregnant inmates in Florida's prisons and jails are not placed in "restrictive housing" involuntarily while in labor. This opens the possibility for a successful lawsuit, should Heaven choose to take legal action.

This tragedy serves as yet another reminder that cops don't make communities safer, we do, via mutual aid and accessible social services.

I think this statement by Community Leader Kiara at the protest is an excellent summation of our message to the state: "Black women and babies are not disposable." The agony and suffering endured by Heaven, and the stolen life of Ava resulting from a traffic violation illustrates the state has no interest in community safety or justice. They exist to punish, to harm, and to murder those the state feels are not valuable. Hundreds of women give birth inside prisons each year, beginning a cycle of trauma propagated by the state that increases the likelihood of being able to profit off of that person later in life via prison slavery. The state has never valued black lives, and simply sees them as a source of income.

The biggest ask from community leaders is to tell Heaven's story. The crimes of Alachua County cops need to be as public as possible to expose their true nature. This tragedy serves as yet another reminder that cops don't make communities safer, we do, via mutual aid and accessible social services. If you are interested in helping Heaven monetarily.

Funds are being raised for Heaven on

Gofundme: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/justice-for-heaven-ava>

Cashapp: \$EricaThompson12



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JUSTICE FOR HEAVEN: NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE!



Protestors gathered outside the Alachua County Jail in Gainesville, FL on Aug. 21 to decry the mistreatment of Erica "Heaven" Thompson by the facility's medical staff, which likely contributed to the death of her premature infant Ava, who was only 6 months old. The protestors, several dozen strong, later blocked an intersection near the facility to express their outrage and anguish.

As Red Phoenix correspondent Bryn Taylor reported (12 Aug., "Justice for Heaven and Ava: Baby Dies in Gainesville After Police Refuse to Help Mother in Labor"), "Despite informing police she was six months pregnant and actively having contractions, cops left her in a cage anyway, where she gave birth, alone, to baby Ava. She screamed and begged the nurses for medical attention for four hours, but was nonetheless forced to endure the pain of childbirth without medical assistance and without her family by her side."

"She had a baby before! She knows what labor feels like," said a protestor. "Believe Black women."



"Alachua County Jail is responsible for all of my pain and suffering physically and mentally and they're responsible for the death of my daughter," Thompson said. "I'm so hurt and and just still in disbelief that I had to have my child in jail in my bunk all by myself." Ava had already been delivered and her umbilical cord cut by the time paramedics finally arrived to transport mother and child to the hospital, where Ava died hours later.



The Alachua facility is one of several in Florida at which medical care is provided by the for-profit Corizon Correctional Healthcare, which has faced multiple lawsuits in the state for failing to provide adequate care to inmates, according to the Gainesville Sun newspaper.

Another factor in Ava's death was the failure of UF Health Shands Hospital to take steps that could have saved her life, said Thompson. "They didn't try to put her in an incubator or save her or anything. As soon as I got there they had her in a crib and said my baby wasn't going to survive. My baby is in my arms still moving, heart pumping – why aren't you all trying to save her? ... My baby could have been saved."

Photos courtesy of Bryn Taylor

APL PRESENTATION AT THE 25TH SIPRAL: THE UNITED STATES—AN EMPIRE IN CRISIS

The Secretariat of the American Party of Labor prepared the following presentation that was given in Spanish by Spokesperson Alfonso Casal at the 25th International Seminar on the Problems of the Revolution in Latin America held by the ICMLPO in Quito, Ecuador. You can read our coverage of the presentations at the seminar [here](#).

While many in the world look at the state of American civil society, it is laughable as the Republic seeks to tear itself apart. Political life in the United States is experienced by the majority of its population in direct confrontation. The era of the Ruling Class doing so from its leather chairs are behind it. Now, the American Ruling Class seeks to do as fascists have always done in the past, organize the petty-bourgeois to do its dirty work.

The Republic of the United States is certainly in crisis. There is however another side to the United States, not its republic, but its empire. The empire is not in crisis.

The United States boasts over 800 known military bases across the globe. During the Trump Administration, the Democrats and accepted left-wing or progressive politicians did not denounce the imperialist actions of the regime. Accepted progressive politicians never spoke a word of the military expansion in Africa and Latin America. It certainly didn't dare utter a word about the expansion of American capital around the globe.

The closest to denunciation that was spoken of was denouncing the coup attempt in Venezuela for having failed and having been carried out incorrectly.

Increases in the military budget, assassinations, and coups were carried out without the slightest institutional dissent. The Democratic Socialists, which as far mainstream American culture is concerned is practically Stalinism, were often in support of imperialist actions. Progressive politicians met with Bolivian coup leaders and gave their quiet blessings. So we must not mistake the crisis of the bourgeois republic for a crisis of the empire.

Of course this is not to say the "American Century" promise has come to fruition as boasted by many American imperialists upon the overthrow of the Soviet Union. Over a decade of short term profits from neo-liberal trading led to a great bust which was felt all over the globe. But this bust showed that Globalization, global imperialism, has not meant an American Century but the rise of imperialist relations around the globe. Many around the globe are now being strangled by both west and east.

The exploitation and oppression in one country can be and is profited off of by the national bourgeoisie and capitalists across the world market including the third world where they function with impunity.

But this gives rise to the fear amongst the most reactionary citizens of the United States and the Western Imperialist in general. The rise of the East, in part due to the military build up of Russia, but more so that the 2008 recession allowed the capital of the ruling class in China to expand to the point of social imperialism. White supremacists and the most staunch reactionaries are terrified, and as there are many reactionaries and white supremacists within America, civil society is turning in on itself. The fascists throughout the Trump years acted in quantities not seen for some time. And while there has been a marked retreat since presidential turn-over, the damage is done.

Yet, again, this continuation of civil strife within the republic has not touched the empire. While the Biden administration boasts of the ending military operations in Iraq, the retreat of military forces of the state are being replaced by an advancement of private security and military cartels. And of course China's one belt, one road initiative plans to bring military bases along with its construction. The bourgeoisie are no longer confined to one country or one hemisphere. The international imperialist class exists not just due to a commonality of relations to the means of production in their respective national economies, but because they all do business and have become interconnected materially with one another.

China and the United States are heavily invested in one another, their respective

capital are deeply intertwined. Both powers rely on each other's investment, exploitation, and imperialism in order to grow profit and increase global circulation. Let us not forget that Germany and England were each other's biggest investors right up until war was declared in 1914. But as the United States and China are presented as national enemies of one another, the reactionaries and so-called leftists pick sides as if international politics and the practice of internationalism are a matter of picking a team to win the World Cup.

But our duty is clear. We are in the belly of the beast and hold a great responsibility because of it. As a party, we have stood up and grown, and we will continue to do so. Not simply for our sakes but for those of the world who are ground under the boot of US imperialism.

Now that the global imperialists have become a material reality, the material reality of the international working class has become ever more important. Yet within the Imperialist core of the West, radical liberalism continues to dominate. The radical left which spouts Marxist terminology and radical rhetoric are merely dressing up liberal thinking. Workers are blamed for imperialism but not the imperialists. Imperialism is attacked but the imperialists are never named. Social-Imperialism is upheld as anti-imperialism. Ethnology has become progressive. Separatism is named as the only possible solution. National liberation has become divorced entirely from the class struggle. Productive relations and forces are ignored entirely!

Yet, the same so-called leftists who uphold such positions rely on liberal logic, subjective and relative to defend their positions of uncritical support or eternal damnation of this or this personality or State. But because they play the role of cheerleader for a foreign state, they are self-qualified communists, Marxists, and anti-imperialists. The pluralism that liberalism celebrates is completely missed by the American radical left. It is this radical liberalism that parades around as anti-imperialist, as Marxist, as communist, that has kept the American left its own greatest victim since the acceptance of the revisionist program back in 1961.

Such prominent thinking amongst the left and progressive masses has led to the mass uprisings against police brutality and oppression of African-Americans to remain spontaneous and petty-bourgeois. And, of course, the static nature of a movement based in spontaneity allows time for the ruling class to take control of it. Despite the uprisings that lasted for three months due to the exposure of the George Floyd killing, from the major cities to small towns in the country, dispute that police stations were being set ablaze for three months, the Black Live Matter movement has been copyrighted and turned into a private enterprise. Police killings and brutality of black Americans continues. Black liberation has become commercial and a source of profits for capitalists.

Many of the progressive's have ceased their critique of such matters as to not make the Biden Administration look bad. The same has happened in the case of the many Latin American peoples, including children, held in concentration camps within the United State. Many of those who came out to oppose the camps under Trump are nowhere to be seen under Biden. In fact, many of these organizations and personalities are now defending the camps. Rest assured, we can still be seen.

The fight is hard, but it is also small. Communism in America has always been seen foreign, and never more so than now. In spite of being attacked from all sides of the political spectrum, we continue to grow. The reactionaries attack us, the revisionists who uphold uncritically "Xi Thought" and "Gonzoloism" attempt to sabotage us, and the mainstream seeks to isolate us and defend reactionary attacks. But our duty is clear. We are in the belly of the beast and hold a great responsibility because of it. We have continued to stand and grow and we will continue to do so. Not simply for our sakes but for those of the world who are ground under the boot of US imperialism.

FINAL DECLARATION OF THE XXV INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE REVOLUTION IN LATIN AMERICA



The following statement was composed at the 25th International Seminar on the Problems of the Revolution in Latin America. The American Party of Labor signed this declaration, and The Red Phoenix carried extensive coverage of the presentations on our twitter.

The Social Struggle and the Role of the Left in Latin America

A new period of the rise in the struggle of workers, youth and peoples is taking place in Latin America and the Caribbean. These are battles that express the dissatisfaction

with the living conditions imposed by the capitalist-imperialist system; they are struggles against a series of accumulated socio-economic problems, which are growing as the policies of the governments are implemented, which do nothing but guarantee and raise the rates of profit obtained by the ruling classes, at the cost of greater levels of exploitation and oppression of the working masses and peoples.

It can well be said that this is a new chapter in the constant struggle that seeks to free the people from poverty, low wages, unemployment, lack of access to public education and health, forced emigration, the depredation of nature, patriarchal violence, racism, discrimination and oppression, in defense of life and liberty. In the last months of 2019, the continent was shaken with the protests in Haiti, Ecuador, Chile, Colombia, Argentina and Bolivia, which in some cases put in check their respective governments and forced them to adopt policies contrary to the economic-political projects of the rulers.

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic forced a truce, but the serious living conditions and the effects among the workers and peoples caused by the crisis of capitalism that broke out at the beginning of 2020, opened the doors for a gradual revival of the social protest that, today, has high and diverse manifestations.

The struggle of the Colombian people is unprecedented, as well as courageous and heroic. For more than 60 days the streets belonged to the people in struggle, even at the cost of dozens of dead, missing and thousands of wounded and mistreated. The social upheaval forced Iván Duque, one of the most reactionary rulers in the Americas, to take steps back from his attempted anti-popular measures. With brief intervals, the Haitian people have been fighting for years against hunger, unemployment, corruption, for political rights and democracy; they have also been the victims of brutal repression, which has claimed the lives of many men and women, most of them young. The popular mobilization prevented the consolidation of the far-right government of Jeanine Áñez in Bolivia, forcing an electoral process in which the forces that supported her were defeated. Jair Bolsonaro's fascist project could not be realized because of the mobilization of the workers, youth and people, who are now waving the banner of Bolsonaro Out! which is gaining ground throughout Brazil. The call for the Constituent Assembly in Chile has taken root in its streets and plazas, with the pressure of hundreds of thousands of demonstrators who put in check all Chilean institutions. The right to abortion in Argentina would not have been possible without the constant mobilization of hundreds of thousands of women. The victory of Pedro Castillo in Peru is explained by those millions of workers, peasants, unemployed, young people and others who saw in him the option of change, a progressive and left-wing alternative. A similar situation occurred in Ecuador, with the candidacy of Yaku Pérez, and only electoral fraud prevented his victory. We are just emphasizing the most important actions, but

Latin America and the Caribbean is a region in which the peoples are standing up and fighting in the search for social change, yearning to turn the page and close the chapter of exploitation and oppression.

In all these struggles the leading role of the workers, the indigenous peoples, the youth, the women of the popular sectors is evident, but the effort made by factions of the bourgeoisie is also evident – camouflaged with reformist and pseudo-leftist speeches – to contest the leadership of these protests and turn them into supports for their political projects, functional to the prevailing capitalist system.

We, the left-wing organizations and parties, with the particularities of each country, have played important roles in the articulation and development of these struggles. In general, we are acting so that these have class independence as elements of identity, and are part of the strategic objectives of social change, of the anti-imperialist struggle, of the struggle for the revolution and socialism. We must continue our fight under these principles.

The political period that the continent is experiencing is conducive to the development and strengthening of the organization of the workers, youth, women and people, for the wide dissemination of the theses and proposals of the revolutionary left, to take the popular struggles to higher levels, to advance in the revolutionary organization of the working masses.

The current circumstances call for the strengthening of the popular unity in each country, for strengthening the ties of active union and solidarity among the peoples, and for the promotion of joint actions to confront the policy of the various imperialist powers.

We, the organizations participating in the XXV International Seminar Problems of the Revolution in Latin America, have analyzed these problems present today in our region, and we proclaim to the world that our struggle continues.

Quito, July 31, 2021

Signing Participants:

Revolutionary Communist Party Bolivia
 Revolutionary Communist Youth Bolivia
 Revolutionary Communist Party Brazil
 Popular Unity for Socialism – Brazil
 Revolutionary Communist Party Chile
 Communist Party of Colombia Marxist Leninist
 Movement for the People's Constituent Assembly
 Popular Democratic Youth – Colombia
 Communist Party of Labor Dominican Republic
 Independent Workers' Movement
 Pablo Duarte Magisterial Current
 Flavio Suero Student Front
 University Front of Renewal
 Caribbean Youth
 Commission on Human Rights
 Communist Party of Mexico Marxist Leninist
 Revolutionary Popular Front Mexico
 General Union of Workers of Mexico
 Peruvian Communist Party Marxist-Leninist
 Popular Antifascist and Anti-imperialist Front Peru
 Union of Student Youth

Movement of Women for Social Liberation
 American Party of Labor
 Red Star Publishers U.S.
 Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Uruguay
 Revolutionary Communist Party of Uruguay
 Ecuador:
 People's Unity Party
 Popular Front
 General Union of Workers
 National Single Federation of Affiliates of Peasant Social Security
 National Union of Educators
 Federation of Secondary Students
 Federation of University Students
 Women for Change
 Manuela León Women's Collective
 United Confederation of Neighborhoods of Ecuador
 Single Confederation of Retailers and Self-Employed Workers
 National Union of Popular Artists.
 Revolutionary Youth of Ecuador
 Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Ecuador

AN ANGER EXISTS IN SOUTHERN WORKING CLASS COMMUNITIES



Nicholas Kade Edwards is a graduate student from the southern United States. He wrote to the Phoenix about his experiences living in the south, and how he was radicalized across the "red state/blue state" line.

In the wake of the George Floyd Movement, leftists and journalists across the country were shocked to see working class, anti-police movements in small towns across the south. In so-called deeply conservative and religious "red states," how could there be such protests, even those carrying the demands, ideology, and banners of the communist movement? My own story, deeply rooted in the suffering of the working class in the region, in the greater context of the political developments of our era, suggests that we shouldn't have been so surprised by these developments.

In the struggle for human liberation and victory over the forces of capital, education, and organization are intrinsically linked. Like the foundation of one's home, education supports and ensures fidelity to the organization built atop it. In this respect, the bosses of the world hold a key advantage over the workers' movement by means of the state educational apparatus. In particular, potential comrades in the southern United States suffer innumerable disservices in public schools. The typical critiques of the American educational system apply – its history is sanitized, its philosophy is uncritically reproduced, and its science is dogmatic. However, in the cultural atmosphere of the South, the educational system and the forces of reaction, who often overlap, have come together in an attempt to create a totally-unquestioning proletarian class. As Marx once wrote of Germany, "everything is forcibly repressed; a real anarchy of the mind[...] prevails" in the Southern public school system.

This synthesis combines the prevailing Christian sentiment of the South with virulent anti-communist propaganda. As is so common with the many harmful facets of capitalism, this environment is self-replicating and self-perpetuating. The citizens and thinkers created by such conditions work, under false consciousness, to recreate the conditions that created them, and created the austerity that today produces cold homes in Texas, and COVID outbreaks throughout the region. The students of reaction become the teachers of reaction.

In the South, class consciousness is on the rise. In Alabama, workers have taken a stand against Amazon's brutally exploitative working conditions and have risen against state violence during the 2020 George Floyd protests. An anger exists in the working class – one that socialists must recognize.

As a child, I was often exposed to these sorts of teachers. Before my political awakening as a teenager, the conservative politics of my teachers struck me as odd and occasionally abrasive. After all, I grew up in a relatively non-political household. When asked, my parents told my siblings and me that the Republicans "only cared about rich people," so they voted Democrat. When I felt brave enough to protest against my educators' perspectives, my classmates were shocked that they found themselves in the presence of a "liberal." For them, such a label carried a sinister implication. To be a liberal – a Democrat – meant that you stood for higher taxes, fewer "freedoms," and "killing babies." Worse yet, a Democrat could even be a communist.

Communist. What could this word have meant to a child of the Deep South? Obviously, television and film taught me to associate the word with evil.

"The communists killed more people than Hitler." I must have heard that phrase a dozen times in my elementary and high school history classes. "The Russians hated Christianity and God," my fourth grade teacher said earnestly to a group of twenty-five impressionable children.

I had no reason to disbelieve them. The world around me presented one narrative on communism: it constituted a threat to the American way of life. It was an alternative with no future aside from pain and suffering for people



like me. This inculcation continued until the summer of my fifteenth year. At the height of the 2012 election, tensions were high in the South. As Barack Obama's reelection loomed, Tea Party conservatives leaned into red-baiting in an attempt to bolster businessman Mitt Romney's chances of unseating the incumbent president. The word "communist" suddenly became a part of the American political vernacular, in the wake of the occupy wall street movement and more open attacks on the efficacy of capitalism.

At this juncture in my life, I was living in a dilapidated mobile home on my grandparents' land. In another area of the country, it surely would have been condemned. The floors sagged, and the walls peeled back to expose the outdoors. In the dead of winter, the trailer's electrical system failed, leaving us in the cold. My parents had separated, and my mother supported herself and three children on a meager salary. Diabetic since the age of eight, I was a particularly expensive member of the family.

Between my disability and my family's poverty, I could not shake the feeling that something was wrong with the society in which I lived. I could not comprehend why we were allowed to live in such conditions in the wealthiest, most powerful country in the world. I began to search for answers. In the beginning, I turned to Libertarianism – the first stop on the path to radicalization for many white American boys. However, my love affair with Randian politics was short-lived. It became clear to me that the system did not need to be replaced with a "purer" version of itself. Rather, I came to conclude, this world yearned for a rebirth.

Slowly, the thought entered my mind: What of socialism? What of communism? Are they really so bad? The question had always lurked in the back of my mind. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics – the avatar of international socialism – had defeated the Nazis and ended the Holocaust, after all. I had made up my mind. I purchased copies of *Das Kapital*, *The State and Revolution*, and *The Communist Manifesto* with the twenty dollars I had been given on my birthday. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the Manifesto spoke most clearly to me. Indeed, the tract seemed to call for revolutionary violence, but so did the architects of my country. Marx, I thought, seemed to have it right.

I became absorbed by the intellectual world of Marxism. I eagerly joined online communities in hopes of learning more about leftist theory. I swayed between revisionist and anti-revisionist stances and eventually came to embrace Marxism-Leninism. I eagerly shared my new political beliefs with any who would listen. With time, I became the resident Marxist in my hometown.

I often ask myself, how did I come to believe such things? My experience is hardly unique; untold numbers of children suffer under the same conditions every day. However, few of them become ideologically disciplined by their poverty. My discovery of Marxism was rapid and confused. However, with organization, the workers' movement can reach more hearts and minds. Capitalism provides the Marxist with innumerable opportunities to spread their convictions. In the South, class consciousness is on the rise. In Alabama, workers have taken a stand against Amazon's brutally exploitative working conditions and have risen against state violence during the 2020 George Floyd protests. An anger exists in the working class – one that socialists must recognize. To turn that anger towards our enemies is the best hope we have for liberation.

ICMLPO: WHAT IS HAPPENING IN AFGHANISTAN PROVES ONCE AGAIN THAT THE IMPERIALISTS CANNOT BE TRUSTED!

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN AFGHANISTAN PROVES ONCE AGAIN THAT THE IMPERIALISTS CANNOT BE TRUSTED!

Dramatic events are taking place in Afghanistan for the workers and people.

The Taliban have militarily occupied the country, including Kabul, its capital. The puppet government supported by the US and the imperialist countries of Western Europe fled quickly and shamefully. In reality, it was the North Americans themselves who withdrew their troops and gave the green light to the advance of the Taliban.

All Afghan government officials and all people and forces who have had a relationship with the imperialists are fearing for their lives and fleeing in terror.

All those who are not supporters of Sharia law, and especially women, are helpless in the face of Taliban violence.

The mass emigration from Afghanistan, which began a month ago following the announcement of the withdrawal of the U.S. imperialists, has reached a high peak with the tragic scenes seen when the Taliban entered Kabul. People are doing their best to escape their own country. The Kabul airport is overflowing with people. There have been deaths of people who have fallen from the undercarriage of planes, which they grabbed onto in order to escape the country. Cars heading to Iran and Tajikistan have caused pile-ups on the highways.

The reason for all this misfortune is the simultaneous dissolution of the collaborator regime, when the withdrawal of U.S. imperialism paved the way for the Taliban to seize power while the people were disorganized and defenseless. The mass migration that has been directed towards Turkey via Iran for some time now will begin to slow down when the Taliban begin to control the borders, but the drama in Afghanistan will not stop.

The United States is on its way out, abandoning large sections of its collaborators who fear for their lives.

This is not the first time that the imperialists have done this. U.S. imperialism



PDP Afghanistan Poster, circa 1973

also abandoned its collaborators in Vietnam after the victory of the national liberation forces. They do not concern themselves with what they leave behind or with the hardships to which the peoples have been forced; the only thing they are interested in is plundering the wealth of the



peoples and supremacy in the struggle against their rivals for hegemony.

It has been shown once again that the imperialists cannot be trusted. It was just yesterday that they armed and organized the Taliban. Once the latter declared that they "have interests of their own" and acted against the United States, imperialism began the fight against them. Once again, they came to an agreement and abandoned it.

Neither the USA, or any imperialist power, considers the good of any country in which it intervenes directly or through its 'collaborators'; they do not seek to defend democracy, but to impose their power to oppress the peoples and plunder their natural resources. In the exercise of their interventionist policy, they act alongside the most reactionary cliques, the powerful local economic groups, the kings and warlords.

Following the departure of the USA and its European imperialist allies from Afghan territory, other imperialist and capitalist powers, such as Russia, China, Turkey, Iran, are talking about establishing good diplomatic and political relations with the Taliban regime, in a clear demonstration of occupying the abandoned space and strengthening their positions in world geopolitics.

The Afghan people are facing an ultra-reactionary confessional government; the fight for the rights of the workers, women and children is a fundamental demand; despite the fact that the Taliban say they will respect the rights of the population, particularly women, facts have already shown otherwise. The struggle of this people to achieve social and national emancipation today has bread, freedom and democracy as important banners of struggle.

The ICMLPO calls on the workers and peoples of the world to denounce the complicity of the imperialist powers with the tragic events taking place today in Afghanistan, and to raise solidarity with that people.

Coordinating Committee

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.



"A scientist who is also a human being cannot rest while knowledge which might be used to reduce suffering rests on the shelf."
- Albert Sabin

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!

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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.