

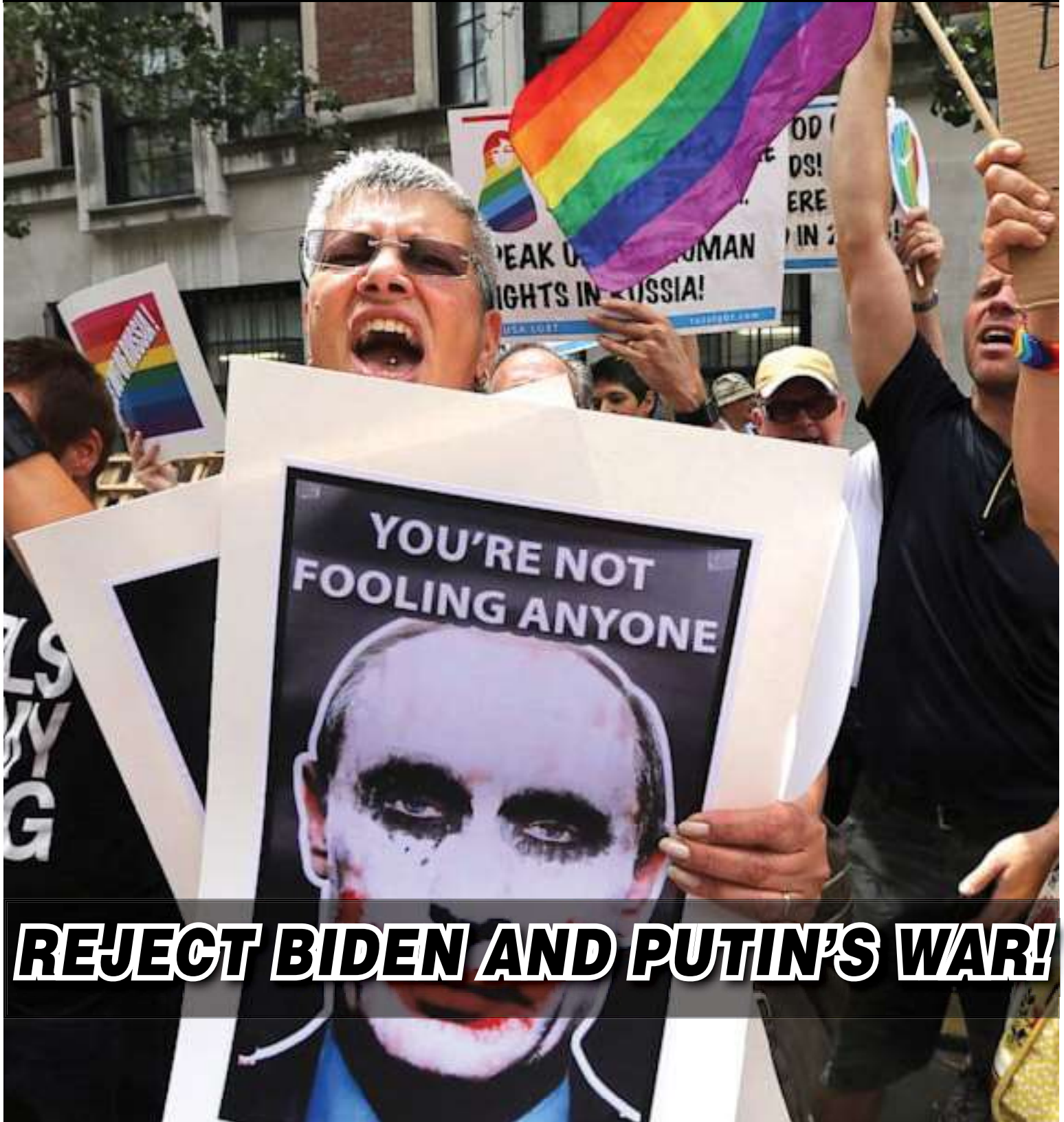


# THE RED PHOENIX

NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR

PEACE  
★  
EQUALITY  
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SOCIALIST  
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ALL POWER TO  
THE WORKING  
PEOPLE!

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**REJECT BIDEN AND PUTIN'S WAR!**

# AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR: WE REJECT BIDEN AND PUTIN'S WAR!



**"It is the duty of the socialists of every country to wage an unrelenting struggle against the chauvinism and patriotism of their own country (and not only of the enemy)." - V. I. Lenin**

**From the Secretariat of the American Party of Labor, February 22nd, 2022**

Immediately following the final dissolution of the Soviet Union, US imperialism and its pundits went into a frenzied victory dance, loudly announcing a New World Order that signaled the "end of history" and the emergence of a unipolar world headed by the United States and its allies. However, the celebration was short lived as, following a period of instability in the 1990s, a new imperialist power emerged as a regional contender against the United States, Putinite Russia.

Let there be no mistake: US imperialism is the foremost enemy of the peoples of the world. However, this must not blind us to the aggressive intent and actions of Putin's aspiring imperial regime. Putin's Russia is not part of an "axis of resistance" to US imperialism, as some have termed it. It is a capitalist/imperialist state that fully intends to stake out its claim as a world power, whether in opposition to US imperialism or in partial partnership with it, as evidenced during the years of the Trump administration.

**We are not deceived by Biden's hypocrisy and sanctimony. Neither are we taken in by Putin's chauvinistic claims the Ukraine is "historically Russian land."**

The rivalry between US and Russian imperialism has escalated to the point of possible armed conflict between the two, as each is championing their chosen proxies in Eastern Europe, with the United States supporting the Ukrainian government and Russia throwing its weight behind the breakaway regions of Donetsk and Lugansk.

The years of saber-rattling, posturing, and covert actions on the part of both imperialist states has now reached the breaking point. Both powers are at the brink of war. The American Party of Labor firmly and emphatically rejects the

war moves of both Biden and Putin. We are not deceived by Biden's hypocrisy and sanctimony. Neither are we taken in by Putin's chauvinistic claims the Ukraine is "historically Russian land."

We call on the peoples of Ukraine, Russia, and the United States to resist the warmongers with every sinew of their strength. We demand the immediate withdrawal of all troops from the region, an end to threats and sanctions, and a political solution to the Ukraine crisis on the basis of the Leninist principle of self-determination for all peoples; a self-determination free of all imperialist pressure, blackmail, extortion, and subterfuge.

The imperialists in Washington and Moscow care nothing for the Ukrainian people, they care only for their own power and profits—power and profits which they seek to gain with the blood of the peoples of the region and the world.

**WE SAY "NO!"**

**NO TO BIDEN'S AND PUTIN'S WAR MOVES!**

**FOR A REVOLUTIONARY SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS OF CAPITALISM!**

**ALL STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION  
HAS ITS HOME IN THE PARTY OF  
LABOR!**





# IMPERIALIST ESCALATION AND CALCULATIONS THREATEN WORKING PEOPLES OF EASTERN EUROPE

**By: Louie B. Parker, New York, January 26th, 2022**

**The peoples of the region have no interest in the war. The provocateurs of war are imperialists and their collaborator governments, who condemn the people to capitalist exploitation, worsening working conditions, unemployment, poverty and a precarious future.**

The working people of Eastern Europe and Eurasia are being dragged into dirty imperialist deeds over an ongoing conflict spread across Russia and Ukraine. Since late March of 2021, the Russian army has been deployed mainly to surround Northern, Eastern and Southern Ukraine's borders. According to the New York Times, there are about 100,000 troops in these areas. Western attention was immediately grabbed by the escalating Russian military belligerence against Ukraine. Although the world public witnessed a rush of diplomatic meetings between NATO countries, including Germany and the United States, and Russia, the pressure tactics of the European Union and the United States meant to establish more control over Russia's traditional fields of influence, the bullying and provocations of the Ukrainian army against the de-facto republics of Donetsk and Luhansk, and Russia's desire to reassert its control over its traditional fields of influence have failed and made the diplomat meetings fruitless. As Russia claims, disputes appeared after the US and NATO forces' attempts to encircle Russia through NATO expansion began in the late 1990s. Russia says that after the USSR disintegrated, the US and NATO promised not to make the former Warsaw Pact nations and the former Soviet republics of the Ukraine and Georgia members of NATO and not to provoke these countries against Russia. But the US and its allies didn't keep their promise. They made Poland (1999), Romania (2004) and Bulgaria (2004) and the Baltic countries – Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania (all 2004) members of NATO and armed these countries.

**Let's remember:** After the "pro-democracy"/"anti-corruption" Euromaidan movement of 2013-14 gained power by leveraging the Ukrainian peoples' dissent against the economic policies of the pro-Russian Yanukovich government, the new government followed a pro-European Union and pro-US line regarding its foreign affairs. This resulted in tensions spreading to the Crimea and the eastern Ukraine regions of Donetsk and Lugansk. Within the same year, Russia intervened in Crimea and annexed it. And Russia supported the de-facto Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk

People's Republic. Most of this time, the Ukrainian army continued strong military intervention to crush the resistance in these regions against the new government. As a result, two ceasefire treaties were signed in Minsk in September 2014 and February 2015. The latter was more detailed than the former regarding solidifying the road map for a possible peace process.

It is worthwhile to note that these regions are the most Russian-populated areas of Ukraine, historically industrial regions where steel and coal are very central to their economies. It is also worth noting that people's demands for a better Ukraine were manipulated by the political leaders who find support from different imperialist countries. **While Germany and the US were hoping to increase their influence over Eastern Europe and the former-Soviet republics, Russia was trying to consolidate the influence it had regained in these areas.**

The US attempts to realign Eastern Europe strategically militarily and exert authority over Russia were not as successful as it had expected. Poland provided space for a United States missile defense complex (which was cancelled in 2009 and eventually replaced by a ballistic missile defense system), which could be used against missiles fired from Russia and Ukraine. This prompted Belarusian president Alexander Lukashenko to ask for nuclear capable missiles systems from Russia. Ukraine was divided, but Russia mostly held its strong position. The Belarusian peoples' anger was being degenerated by Western provocations but liberal mismanagement of the protest movement and the effective authoritarian measures of the government resulted in it losing its grip. These have been the moves and challenges that the US was involved in over the last ten years of imperialist rivalry.

Although the tides changed swiftly for the Democratic Party in domestic politics, it didn't result in a change in foreign policy. The Biden administration was expected to implement new programs that would have aided working people, a more multi-lateral and deliberative foreign policy and unify the country. None of these have been successfully achieved yet. Even the years-long expected retreat from Afghanistan ended with a fiasco.

The administration has remained mostly inactive in the face of threats to abortion rights, its inability to pass its policy agenda, such as Build Back Better even in a watered-down version, and political retrenchment on police reforms. Rising inflation rates are making working people's lives harder; however, working class organizing and actions such

strikes, demonstrations and unionization drives are having an increasing impact. State suppression is increasing everyday although it is not manifested by such an authoritarian personality like Trump. While the administration presides over a lower standard of living and restrictions on democratic rights for working people in this country, they wave the flag of "America First" policy outside of it.

**Today, the US is trying to keep its allies in line in East Asia, the Asia-Pacific region, Eastern Europe and Africa.** Initially, they are picking up the pieces to get more control over Russia, and push Chinese economic and political influence back. On this road, the US is also aiming to regather the political-military influence and prestige that it has lost in Syria, Venezuela, Bolivia and Afghanistan. In early December, president Biden led the Summit for Democracy. And they didn't invite Russia and China. **The summit made clear that the US is going to shift its discourse to regain its international prestige by using democracy and human rights over its imperialist rivals, China and Russia.**

Considering it is not "the same old story," the US government only makes a promise that has lost its credibility even in the bourgeois sense. Even the famous liberal foreign policy pundits tell the current US government "not to lie itself." In his article, Peter Beinart addresses that the US always ignores the principle of neutrality in the Monroe Doctrine when it comes to its neighbors—deploying Marines to Central America and the Caribbean, using the CIA to topple leftist governments, and the embargoes against Cuba and Venezuela.

**Since the Russian intervention in the Syrian civil war in September 2015, it has become clear that although the US retains its primary and dominant imperialist position in the imperialist-capitalist world order, it is not as effective as it was in the past.**



Ukrainian soldiers, January 21st, 2022

## IMPERIALIST ESCALATION AND THE WORKING PEOPLES OF EASTERN EUROPE

(cont.) The Biden administration is leveraging what they have in their hand to reconsolidate its power and gather the Western bloc together – this is an important moment of their “America First” policy. At the same time, it is an acknowledgement in which world policy is not divided as bipolar yet. expectations have led to chills in the US-Germany relationship. A similar misconception appears among the analyses of Chinese and Russian relationships.

Acknowledging Kazakhstan’s peoples’ protests having genuine urgent demands against economic pressure over the workers, the Tokayev government took advantage of this tumultuous time, and arrested Karim Massimov, the head of the National Security Committee, based on claims of treason and organizing a coup against the government. Massimov is known to have a close relationship with former president Nursultan Nazarbayev, dating to when he served in Nazarbayev’s government. During that time they built a close economic and cooperative relationship with China. In addition to that, Russia intervened in the Kazakhstan’s peoples’ rebellion through a regional organization that did not include China. Although Russia and China have always been depicted as acting together mostly against U.S. interests in Asia, Kazakhstan is a country where contradictions arise in this sense. Kazakhstan, a country balancing between the US, Russia and China, represents a manifestation of the solidarity of bourgeois forces, as the leader of the Kazakhstan Socialist Movement, Aynur Kurmanov, has mentioned in different statements and interviews. Consider that that two of the biggest investment groups in the country are Chevron and Exxonmobil, and that both Russia and China support the current government.

Although making moves to reshape US foreign policy and international realignments, the US is not confronting the Russian government directly. One of the possible outcomes for the US is that the tensions will bring Germany closer to it. Germany keeps calling on Russia to de-escalate tensions because it is expected that natural gas pipelines will be the most harmed infrastructure in

a possible war. According to the German newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung, the head of the Ukrainian energy company Naftogaz, Yuriy Vitrenko, said that “The first bombs will be aimed at the pipelines.” And so, it is going to stop the natural gas stream to Germany. Vitrenko also says that Russia’s goal is to eliminate the gas transit in pipelines that go through Ukraine. By doing that, they want to punish and exert their regional power over them. A Reuters news article gives details on the other side of this conflict. The US energy monopolies have begun to examine if they can transport natural gas to Europe in an emergency. A US state department representative allegedly spoke to the energy monopolies about the natural gas capacity that could be transported to Europe. It was also stated that the US is far from being able to meet the needs of Europe in the event of a cut in Russian natural gas. Many assessments have been made before by experts that the US’s policy, especially against the introduction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline (which would bypass Ukraine), is to sell the shale gas it has extracted in recent years to Europe.

No positive outcome has emerged so far from the meetings between the USA and Russia. Saying that Russia may invade Ukraine, the US says, “In this case, Russia will be subject to very heavy sanctions.” The European Union shows similar intentions too. Russia has deployed tens of thousands of soldiers and heavy weapons on the Ukrainian border. Ukraine is also deploying troops and armored units on its side of the border. The country is also kept receiving military equipment from the US and NATO forces. The source of the problem is the struggle of the two imperialist powers for hegemony and influence in Eastern Europe. **The peoples of the region have no interest in the war. The provocateurs of war are imperialists and their collaborator governments, who condemn the people to capitalist exploitation, worsening working conditions, unemployment, poverty and a precarious future.**

## COMRADE ROBERTO SÁNCHEZ HAS DIED



Roberto Sánchez

Dear readers, comrades.

It is with the deepest grief that the Secretariat of the American Party of Labor reports that we received the following communique from our comrades of the Dominican Communist Labor Party:

Comrades and friends:

With much sadness and pain, we inform you that Comrade Roberto Sánchez, a member of the Central Committee of our Communist Labor Party (PCT), has left us. Leader of the Frente Amplio; former leader of the Federation of Dominican Students; former president of the College of Engineers and Architects; UASD professor, Comrade Roberto was an excellent revolutionary, great human being and great friend.

A great loss!

The comrade suffered from pancreatic cancer with liver metastases. He was admitted to the clinic several days ago. And he has passed away.

A hard blow. We have lost one of our most qualified cadres. Forty-five uninterrupted years of revolutionary militancy. A true communist

The funerals will start tomorrow at the Blandino Funeral Home.

With much pain; but with firmness and in struggle!

Political Bureau of the PCT.

The American Party of Labor, its Secretariat and its cadre, join our hearts with our Dominican sisters and brothers in honoring the passing of an exemplary revolutionary. Sleep well, Comrade Roberto, you have earned your rest. Our cause is immortal and our victory certain.

**Camarada Roberto Sanchez - ¡PRESENTE!**





## CTU ATTACKED BY MEDIA BECAUSE THEY HAVE AND USE WORKERS' POWER



CTU members rally in Chicago, January, 2022

**By: John Palamedas, Red Phoenix Correspondent Illinois, January 6th, 2022**

The Chicago Teachers Union, for many years one of the strongest and most active remaining unions in the country, is once again in the crosshairs of the corporate media and moderate democrats led by Chicago Mayor, Lori Lightfoot. This week, the CTU voted to continue working remotely while the omicron surge, that saw over 800,000 positive COVID cases on January 4th, runs its course. For this basic safety measure, the CTU has been attacked by some parents and the corporate media. It is not the first time the CTU has been at the forefront of the war on workers rights and safety. In early 2021, right before the massive summer surge, the CTU fought to remain remote for teacher and student safety.

To justify her push to force teachers back to work, Mayor Lori Lightfoot has been relying on the guidance of Dr. Awardy, a lone voice in support of large gatherings despite the highly contagious nature of the omicron variant. Alex Forgue, a science teacher in Chicago, told the Phoenix that Awardy is simply misrepresenting information: "Dr. Awardy went on the news last night and continued to say that schools are not a source of covid-19 spread or exposure. Meanwhile, the latest data released from the Illinois Department of Health list schools as the #1 source of potential covid-19 exposure, the data doesn't lie!"

While anti-worker and anti-union voices attack the CTU for "failing our children" and being selfish bureaucrats, Lightfoot locked teachers out of their google accounts, preventing them from teaching remotely. At the end of the day, this is not about science or effective pedagogy, but breaking one of the strongest unions in the US. Forgue elaborated, "The latest CPS proposal to the union asks for 50% of students to be in quarantine and actively sick for a school to go to remote learning," yet, interestingly, he continued, "Lightfoot has her own kid learning remotely, and the CPS administrators are working remotely."

As always, the anti-worker forces in the US throw a drapery of rhetoric over the core issue—their opposition to a workers' right to judge, based on their

expertise in their craft, the best and safest practice. It is a developing theme as the pandemic increases in intensity—the middle and ruling classes can and do shelter away from the danger, while demanding working class people face the virus. As workers, we receive no meaningful guidance or help from the CDC or the Biden administration, who has, instead, suggested five days is enough to recover from the highly mutated omicron variant. The primary goal, as always, is profit, but it has never been clearer how essential workers are to propping that system up.

For challenging the idea that profit should come before human life, the CTU will continue to be branded "radical" and "out of control," but as workers they show us the way. With strong organization, workers can shake and challenge the highest power, no matter what political party—it was in democratic cities where police shot tear gas, beat, and arrested thousands during the George Floyd movement. Trapped between reformist democratic politics and open right wing terror, organized workers continue to lead the way for safety and equality.

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



**AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR.COM**



# THE FAILURE OF REFORMISM IN THE BATTLE FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS



Women's Marchers, Chicago, 2021

By: June V, Red Phoenix Correspondent California, February 18th, 2022

As the upcoming Supreme Court review of *Roe v Wade* looms nearer, ongoing delays in addressing legal barriers to reproductive healthcare on the state level continue to endanger the well-being of all but the most affluent Americans. The inadequacy of the bureaucratic structures of our legal and political systems makes evident the lack of justice and equity in our nation, and demonstrates that the interests of the working class are in desperate need of direct representation. Attempts to work within these frameworks and to pass reforms have clearly shown to be ineffective in addressing the real needs of the American people, as reforms can never guarantee progress in a system that always allows for the potential to backpedal.

The challenge against Texas' SB8 abortion ban continues to face bureaucratic obstacles while people in need are left without access to timely medical care. The attempts to repeal this drastic and unethical restriction have been pushed out once again, and the case now heads to the Texas state Supreme Court as of January 2022. Meanwhile, the ban is legally in effect and people in need of reproductive care – including, but not limited to, abortions – are left with few options. These delays affect not only patients' physical health but can also incriminate others for even the most loosely related actions. (<https://theredphoenixapl.org/2021/09/06/working-class-women-in-texas-reject-anti-abortion-law/>) The seemingly innocuous acts of donating to a fundraiser or giving someone a ride to a medical facility can result in lawsuits with hefty fines and court fees which disproportionately affect members of the working class, many of whom already struggle to thrive in current economic conditions. This

law makes Texas just one of twelve states implementing regressive policies that restrict or ban access to abortions and other reproductive health services.

This summer, the US Supreme Court is expected to make a decision that could overturn and repeal federal legal protections for abortions. The Supreme Court ruling on the case of *Roe v Wade* in 1973 determined that access to abortions is a fundamental constitutional right, but also that the procedure can still be subjected to certain restrictions implemented by state legislators. Although it was decided that abortion access is protected simultaneously under four existing constitutional amendments, this monumental decision has faced opposition for nearly 50 years. (<https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/blog/landmark-cases-roe-v-wade>) If *Roe v Wade* is successfully overturned then the legality of abortions will be left open for each state to determine, at least 26 of which are expected to ban the procedure, according to research by the Guttmacher Institute.

In a national system where legislators and judges are seemingly divided on the surface by differing party banners, yet united in essence by their shared loyalty to the same ruling class, any successes gained from reforms will forever be in danger of abolishment and further regressions that render them ineffective if not outright harmful to the people living in the United States. After a century of reform efforts by the women's movement, ever at the head of the struggle for justice in the US, which culminated in the largest street protests in the history of the country a few years ago, the stark reality in the post-Trump era is that, as Rosa Luxembourg said, "Instead of taking a stand for the establishment of a new society, reformists take a stand for surface modifications of the old society." It falls on working class women across the country to organize and push past these limitations and forever establish our right to bodily autonomy, economic equality, and political power.



**PEACE,  
EQUALITY,  
SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY**



# OHIO UNDER FASCIST ATTACK!

## PROTESTING POWER, BODY AUTONOMY, SPEECH, AND BIRTH CONTROL!

**By: Robin H, Red Phoenix Correspondent**  
**Ohio, February, 2022**

### Ohio Under Fascist Attack!

Protesting Power, Body Autonomy, Speech, and Birth Control!

*Part 1, Threatened Autonomy, and the Rising Fascist State*

Ohio lawmakers are gearing up for an onslaught against autonomy and action! Lawmakers recently launched House Bill 480, which is an outright ban on abortions statewide. House Bill 22, House Bill 109, Senate Bill 16, and Senate Bill 41 are four bills aimed at curbing the abilities of on the ground protestors. Such attacks on protests and body autonomy have been historically tied to fascist regimes. Time and time again, communists are the ones to sound the alarm on fascism.

### Reproductive Autonomy is Under Attack

HB480 is a full ban on abortions. In essence, it says citizens who discover anyone getting an abortion can earn \$10k and court fees paid in full if they decide to sue a person trying to use reproductive rights.

The bill starts out with definitions. After declaring the common "inalienable rights" of humans, they extend these "rights" to unborn human beings:

"Persons" includes a born or unborn human being at any stage of development, corporations, business trusts, estate, trust, partnership, and association. ""Unborn child" means an individual organism of the species homo sapiens from fertilization until live birth. ""Fertilization" means the fusion of a human spermatozoon with a human ovum" (134th GA 2021e).

In layman's terms, when the sperm and egg cells merge, that's now a person with "inalienable rights".

A similar law Texas recently passed known as SB8 says that the cut off point for abortions is 6 weeks. This bill, on the contrary, has no cut off point. The ruling class shows little regard to the working class. They could care less about a guarantee to a home, a job, and food needed to subsist and survive for the efforts working people provide, yet they concern themselves with the "inalienable rights" of single celled organisms and corporations.

The bill declares that no one should perform an abortion (except when the mother's life is in danger). Rape and incest are not excuses for abortions either as far as this reactionary bill is concerned. People who can be sued according to this bill include those who perform or induce an abortion, or who aid or abet in performance or inducement of an abortion for someone they know to be pregnant. Which means that any act that helps people get abortions, including doctors performing the operation, payees including insurance companies, are liable for damages. The claimant can be rewarded \$10,000 per abortion, costs, and attorney fees if they sue someone they find engaging in these activities.

The darkest twist is that the law specifically states that an abortion is applicable to all unborn people, including zygotes (fertilized cells that later form a fetus). Ohioans are worried that, although harder to prove in court, that this law is not only grounds for preventing abortions but also birth control in general. Some forms of birth control include causing the body to reject the zygote, which technically constitutes an abortion under this law. The body can reject zygotes depending on thickness the lining of the uterus (Eftekhar 2019). Birth controls can contain progestins, which submit signals that regulate the thickness of the uterus lining (Ray 2021). Thus, various forms of birth control are under threat under this same law.

The ruling class have invented a new form of

parasitism: the working class bounty hunting itself for surplus. This is a violation of workers' bodily autonomy, a violation of victims of rape, and a violation to the working masses. Let's further explore the implications that an abortion ban may have.

### Effects of an Abortion Ban

According to Pew Research, the birth rate decline in the US is in fact linked to the recession in 2008.

"The analysis suggests that the falloff in birthrates coincides with deteriorating economic conditions. There is a strong association between the magnitude of fertility change in 2008 across states and key economic indicators including changes in per capita income, housing prices, and share of the working-age population that is employed across states." (Livingston 2020).

Additionally, according to the CDC, in 2016 we see the lowest number of abortions since Roe V Wade, and in 2017-2018, birthrates were also the lowest (Ian 2019 & NVSR 2019). This implies that abortions are not the leading cause of birthrate decline (since if it was it would be an inverse relationship).

Looking deeper into the economics of raising a child we can see the added effects abortion bans have on people. According to the US Department of Agriculture, in 2015, the cost of a child (from birth to 17) for a lower-class single parent family per child is \$172,200 (USDA 2017). This puts the average yearly cost at \$10k a year per child. Not to mention the unpaid labor required to raise and care for a child, amounting to 14 hours a week according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2019 (USBLS 2019). For people who can barely afford the commitment, forcing them into it is nothing short of enslavement.

Additionally, it is found that had the 1973 Roe V Wade decision not come to pass, most of the children not born would have been 70% more likely to live in a single parent family, 40% more likely to live in poverty, 50% more likely to receive welfare, and 35% more likely to die as an infant, according to the National Bureau of Economic (1997). This same Bureau found that because of Roe V. Wade, there was less substance abuse, with a 1% increase in abortions associated with a 1% decrease in adolescent substance abuse (2002). According to the "Quarterly Journal of Economics", legalization of abortion accounts for as much as a 50% drop in crime rate, with homicide dropping 40%, and violent crime dropping 30% (Donohue 2001). (continued on page 8)





# OHIO UNDER FASCIST ATTACK!

## PROTESTING POWER, BODY AUTONOMY, SPEECH, AND BIRTH CONTROL! (CONT.)

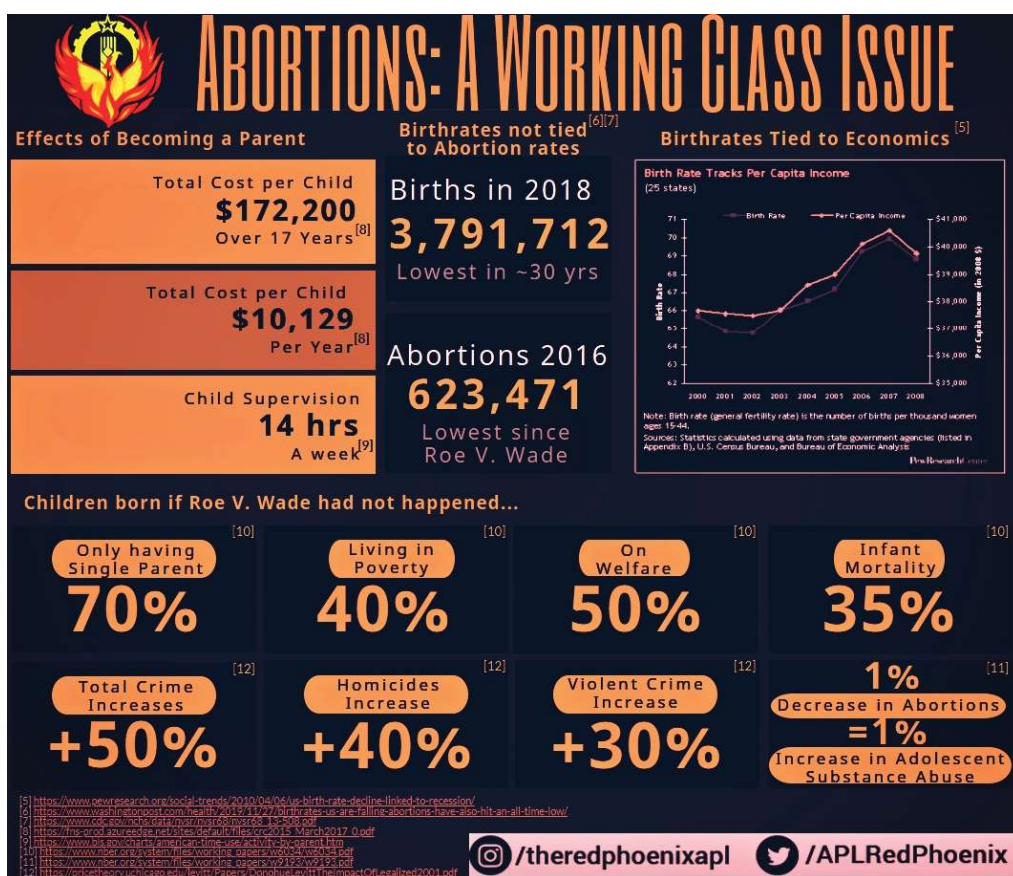
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While it might be hard to prove the possible nonexistence of crime because of a pro-abortion policy in society, we fortunately have real data when a pro-abortion nation suddenly becomes anti-abortion. In 1966, Romania banned abortions. What was the result of this? Birth rates doubled, and children born after the abortion ban went to school longer, and as adults had more success (Pop-Eleches 2005). The problem is that these facts ignore a key factor: impact between educated and uneducated women. For a short while, educated women now had to raise children, who more often became well educated. This group of women then changed their behaviors to have less kids. If we control the variable of more educated, we see the same effects that are predicted if Roe V. Wade was overturned: restricted family planning for less educated families lead to lower educational achievement, poorer people, and higher crime rates (Pop-Eleches 2005). Can we call Romania's anti-abortion policy a success from a strictly capitalist standpoint? Only for the short while that the higher educated people of society (think: intelligencia) expanded in numbers. But for the less educated (think: the working class) it was a setback for them.

All of this points to the fact that, in the long run, abortion bans genuinely hurt people more than they help. Also, since the material basis for such a ban does not exist, these laws primarily serve the "moral" idealism in the heads of fascists, while only making a bigger pool of labor for capitalists to exploit. Material reality says abortion bans do more harm to working class people than good.

### Fascism and Reproductive Rights

It is no secret that the autocrats have arrived at a new breaking point. With the ongoing crisis of production, there is a war between the army of unemployed masses refusing work and the autocrats paying barely livable wages (Levanon 2021). This is by no means an American exclusive issue, with protests happening in Turkey, South Korea, Finland, and many other places across the planet. In America, the autocrats have conceded in some wages, but using "inflation" launch vile attack against the workers means of subsistence (Reuter 2021). In trying to find a way out of this war, the autocrats need to find a way to grow working class. Therefore, they must attack bodily autonomy and birth control. We know that most of these newly born people would be more dependent on welfare. These new people would be in the lower class primarily, thus creating a larger lower class. They want a larger pool of "unskilled" laborers so that they may be more willing to accept less wages



for work. And they must dress it up as a Christian "morality" to do so.

Warren Davidson, a Republican House Representative of District 8 of Ohio, had this to say to an undercover Red Phoenix journalist: "Every life is precious in God's sight, and this is affirmed in our Declaration of Independence, which recognizes that every person is "endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." I remain hopeful that the pro-life message will continue to resonate with the American public and that we will soon see not only substantive efforts to overturn Roe, but a significant reduction in the practice of abortion in the United States."

Yet this moralism that Davidson is dressing the law up in is merely a propagandist tool. There is a definite reason why these anti-abortion laws are passing now and not underneath Trump. It relates directly to the labor struggle in wider America. Thus, a connection to fascism is present here, primarily in the way they control the population for the good of the state, and not the people underneath it.

Diana Garvin, writer of "Feeding Fascism: The Politics of Women's Food Work", said the following about reproductive rights:

"Women's reproductive choices have historically

acted, and currently continues to serve as a keystone, to support multiple issues for the far right. (Their) reproductive autonomy was a central concern for the Italian fascist regime. (Their) fertility became a public good that belong to the state." (Around the O 2020).

Giulio Battaglini in 1933, when explaining the Rocco Code, the new penal code passed in October 1930 in fascist Italy, said the following about the new laws:

"The law ... must adapt itself to ... the social needs of a given country. ... The State cannot do less than elevate (within limits) some moral rules into legal rules, for a minimum of social morality is indispensable for the existence of the State." (Battaglini 1933).

Is the Ohio abortion ban something morally "indispensable with the existence of the state"? Is Ohio along with other states across the country adapting laws to meet social needs of the country? Are these actions attempts to use moralist thinking to further the existence of the autocratic state? Is this not controlling bodily autonomy as a public good belonging to the autocratic state? Autocrats are clearly engaging in fascist policy to fight the class struggle!

(For more information, links and Works Cited please refer to this article on <https://theredphoenixapl.com>)



# AT YOUNGSTOWN STATE, CUTS TARGET DIVERSE FACULTY AND PROGRAMS



Students and staff protest at Youngstown State, December 1st, 2021. Photo courtesy of YSUOEa

**By: Bobby Gallagher, Red Phoenix Correspondent Ohio, February 2nd, 2022**

Bobby Gallagher is a union organizer and member from Youngstown, Ohio.

Across the country, there are issues regarding the integrity of our schools and universities. Education in this country remains an imperfect system, and improperly funded and managed institutions of learning will not provide us with the best possible outcomes. In a nation where 54% of adults read below a 6th grade level, it is no exaggeration to say the education system has already failed its citizens. It is beneficial to the hyper wealthy and those seeking that nothing will fundamentally change, that it either stay this way or get worse. To better understand the dangerous direction our education system is headed, understanding the policies being implemented at a local level is vital. Not only are books being banned by school boards across the country, which is not a new phenomenon, but many of our universities face harsh outlooks due to cost saving measures being implemented by their respective administrations.

Youngstown State University is one of the many publicly funded institutions where we can see the attacks on education play out, though these trends are not just limited to the public sphere. YSU is not a massive institution, but it is marketed as a place to receive good quality education and more attention from professors, for one of the cheapest prices per year among comparable Ohio public universities.

However, recent cuts to YSU's academic budget, balanced out by an increase in funds for athletics have shown an issue of priorities from the administration. The decision to cut academic spending, which resulted in the loss of 9 full time faculty and 26 programs, were deemed "...necessary to further position us for success in the post-pandemic era" by President Jim Tressel[i]. But how does cutting full time faculty do anything to position a university for success? While the administration claims these are proactive cost saving measures, questions arise about some of the faculty impacted. YSUOEa, the union representing the faculty, has expressed concern that some of the cuts have a different purpose. Susan Clutter, YSUOEa President has highlighted a point of concern- several of the faculty who received dismissal notices were key leaders in contract negotiations as well as strikes in 2020.

Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, who also serves as chair of YSUOEa's grievance committee also expressed concern with

how many of the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic are being solved, and how universities who are transitioning more to online modes of education are harming academic institutions. He also pointed out that while 9 faculty were dismissed, "some 30 new faculty were hired, but only one of them is a tenure-track post. The remaining are one-year renewable positions without the opportunity for tenure: step out of line and you will not be renewed." It is no question- these cuts also diminish the power that YSUOEa can wield on behalf of the remaining faculty. YSU's administration continues to claim this is with the future of the university in mind, even though they concede it is not a sustainable strategy. They claim that the programs and professors done away with in the name of efficiency will not have any long-lasting effects on students or the quality of education they provide. However, the strategy of cutting programs and academic funding, while increasing funding to an athletic program which the university operates at a loss is laughable.

"Meanwhile, some 30 new faculty were hired, but only one of them is a tenure-track post. The remaining are one-year renewable positions without the opportunity for tenure: step out of line and you will not be renewed. Labor discipline by fear. None of this is particular to Youngstown State University. It is a national trend but the response needs to be local: remain vigilant; protest faculty cuts; disrupt their plans."

-Dr. Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, YSU Faculty





## AT YOUNGSTOWN STATE, CUTS TARGET DIVERSE FACULTY AND PROGRAMS (CONT.)

The decision to cut these 26 programs was made after an efficiency study conducted by for profit agency Gray & Associates, a business analytics firm specializing in curriculum analysis and planning. When corporate strategies like this are applied, important programs are cut in favor of "efficiency", despite the importance of the work they perform. Two such programs which provide important work for the university and area but are still being cut, are the Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies and The Center for Islamic Studies. These programs will cease to function, as the professors who run them are two of those impacted by the budget reduction. Because of the loss of these institutions, the issue has already received international attention from religious media. Local religious leaders have also expressed disapproval of the loss of these programs.

Students, professors, and local grassroots organizations have already held demonstrations against the removal of these professors and programs and they will certainly continue- the administration is adamant that more cuts are necessary and can be expected to be announced by March. Islamophobia, antisemitism, as well as holocaust misappropriation are all on the rise throughout the nation, the removal of these programs only inflicts further harm and accelerates these backwards ways of thought into the mainstream. While school boards banning books from school libraries may make slightly it harder for students to access these resources, universities cutting programs and dismissing professors like Dr. Jacob Labendz and Dr. Mustansir Mir will only lead to less honest teaching and research about the fields in which they are experts. With more cuts coming, the future of many programs and professors at YSU are uncertain and the university's academic integrity seems less and less existent.

the instances we see at YSU are just at one institution, but the trend is national. Any educators noticing similarities at their own institutions can stand against these trends through unions and faculty senates and should fight to stay true to the purpose that the schools they are employed by should serve- one of research and education. It becomes difficult for true learning when important programs are cut in favor of athletics, full-time faculty are replaced with part time lecturers, and enriching programs are tossed aside. Programs which do not serve capital done away with, curriculums that train students for to be squeezed for their labor. It seems administrators are seeking ways to employ professors who will do the same. This trend must be stopped, universities and colleges must act as institutions of learning and research instead of an anti-academic, anti-intellectual model of industrial efficiency. The current struggle, in higher education as well as our public K-12 schools, remains one with great potential implications for our future. But Gabriel reminds those across the country involved in the fight against such cuts- "...the response needs to be local: remain vigilant; protest faculty cuts; disrupt their plans."

### A Further Statement From Dr. Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez regarding the current situation at YSU

"Most faculty recognize that our colleges and universities are not democratic institutions in which they share governance with management/administration. Private or public, they have embraced a corporate model that displaces academic values through efficiency models of industrial production and Neo-liberal privatization of our common good of education. Unionization is one way to combat such trends, so too faculty senates that uphold the core mission of teaching and research. The COVID pandemic has brought a number

of dangerous disruptions to our colleges and universities, including, for example, the change in teaching modality to on-line education and retrenchment of faculty positions. Both are evident at Youngstown State University. Faculty there have already suffered one cut and a second one is expected before March 1, 2022. Meanwhile, some 30 new faculty were hired, but only one of them is a tenure-track post. The remaining are one-year renewable positions without the opportunity for tenure: step out of line and you will not be renewed. Labor discipline by fear. None of this is particular to Youngstown State University. It is a national trend but the response needs to be local: remain vigilant; protest faculty cuts; disrupt their plans."



(Ilustraciones originales por del Partido Comunista Chileno (Acción Proletaria))



# TEXAS GOVERNOR ATTACKS THE SAFETY OF TRANSGENDER YOUTH



Claudia Carranza, of Harlingen, hugs her son, Laur Kaufman, 13, at a rally against House Bill 25, a bill that would ban transgender girls from participating in girls school sports, outside the Capitol in Austin, Texas, on Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021. (Jay Janner/Austin American-Statesman via AP)

**By: Ian Cox, Red Phoenix Correspondent Texas, February 25th, 2022**

On February 22nd a statement was released by Texas governor Greg Abbot in which he officially directed the Texas State Department of Family and Protective Services to consider and prosecute "so-called sex change procedures" which are more properly referred to as sexual reassignment surgeries, as a form of child abuse. Governor Abbot justified this attack against transgender and gender-nonconforming youth in Texas who are seeking professional medical advice and aid by stating that "under existing Texas law" sexual reassignment surgery constitutes a form of abuse, in this case it is labeled as child abuse by the reactionary Texas state.

However, in stating that gender-affirming medical treatment is a form of abuse Governor Abbot completely disregards factual information concerning the scientific understanding of gender and its fluidity. Ignoring this information plays into preconceived bigotry and prejudices that serve only the interests of the capitalist class and its desire to keep the workers ignorant, divided, and fighting amongst themselves. The American Psychological Association (APA) recognizes that "transgender persons have been documented in many indigenous, Western, and Eastern cultures and societies from antiquity until the present day." The APA continues by saying that it "is not helpful to force the child [experiencing gender dysphoria] to act in a more gender-conforming way" and that "peer support from other parents of gender non-conforming children may also be helpful." In a complete disregard for the APA's findings this decree by Governor Abbot forces transgender and gender-nonconforming children and youth to act in "gender-conforming" ways. This harmful act can potentially lead to a severe increase in the levels of gender dysphoria, depression, and self-hatred that are faced by the youth in Texas for which they will receive little to no medical care for since the statement issued by Governor Abbot also threatens the very people who could help protect and comfort transgender youth.

The statement released on February 22nd also contains a line that requires all "licensed professionals" which includes teachers, medical professionals, and psychologists, to report their students or patients to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services if they are aware that their student or patient identifies as gender-nonconforming and is searching for professional medical help in order to begin the process of transitioning so that their gender-expression

might match their gender-identity. If these "licensed professionals" do not report the intentions of their transgender and gender-nonconforming students and/or patients to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services they can face severe consequences such as legal charges that could lead to the loss of their teaching, medical, and professional licenses. This act of targeting those who could potentially offer actual material care to gender-nonconforming youth will undoubtedly lead to a decrease in health services provided to gender-nonconforming youth as the youth will feel less comfortable being open with their struggles and the "licensed professionals" will lower the amount of professional aid they are able/willing to give a gender-nonconforming youth out of fear of losing their job and livelihood. Governor Greg Abbot and all other reactionary components of the state of Texas know this and are counting on

it. This attack is meant to silence all efforts of providing appropriate mental and medical healthcare to all transgender and gender-nonconforming youth who need it. All of this is being done to try and discredit the experiences and existence of gender-nonconforming peoples.

These attacks serve the capitalist class's goal of trying to separate and divide the working class by forcing it to cannibalize itself over reactionary idealist prejudices and bigotry instead of finding unity and struggling to end the corrupt capitalist system that oppresses all youth and workers in the state of Texas

These attacks on transgender and gender-nonconforming youth in Texas have not fallen from the sky unexpectedly. They have emerged at a time of crises and as Governor Abbot is seeking to energize his conservative base and please his political donors in order to be re-elected as Governor of Texas and maintain his political influence. These attacks serve the capitalist class's goal of trying to separate and divide the working class by forcing it to cannibalize itself over reactionary idealist prejudices and bigotry instead of finding unity and struggling to end the corrupt capitalist system that oppresses all youth and workers in the state of Texas that has in so many ways severely failed them in recent years, especially with its less than adequate response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As for now, all progressive and revolutionary forces in Texas need to be organizing, demonstrating, and struggling in solidarity with all of Texas' transgender and gender-nonconforming youth as these youth struggle not only to find safe spaces to exert their right to exist but also struggle for their right to seek professional medical care. Anything less than full solidarity with the transgender and gender-nonconforming community, especially the youth in this community, is unacceptable.



## **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](http://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.



**"The danger of war can be finally eliminated, however, only when monopoly capital is decisively defeated by the people, especially big capital here in the United States. This country, precisely because it is the chief center of monopoly capitalism, is at the same time the main fortress of world reaction and warmongering."**

**- William Z. Foster**

## **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.

**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.