



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

The Red Phoenix

REAL NEWS FOR WORKERS, BY WORKERS ★ NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR

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Photo: Trump and Biden puppets with blood on their hands at a demonstration protesting RIMPAC in San Diego, Calif., June 30, 2024. (Tyrell/Cancel RIMPAC)

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AFTER 17-DAY HUNGER STRIKE, USF TAMPA STUDENTS WIN HISTORIC DIVESTMENT RESOLUTION



USF students celebrate after the passing of the resolution on April 10, Tampa, FL. (Red Phoenix/ Ava A.)

Alek S. | Florida | April 12, 2024

Following a 17-day hunger strike that included hospitalizations, building occupations, and widespread condemnation of University of South Florida administration, USF students achieved a historic victory on April 10 when their divestment resolution was passed by the school's Student Government Senate. The first of its kind in the American South and one of few countrywide, the resolution called for the immediate divestment from companies complicit in war crimes such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman, as well as transparency in the investment process. The resolution's success is a significant victory in a Floridian state of right-wing reaction.

After several weeks of grinding through the university's legislative processes, students from USF's Divest Coalition and members of the American Party of Labor saw their resolution passed successfully to the Senate floor. It was at this point where elected student senators would decide the fate of the proposal, with many questioning its place on the agenda from the beginning, arguing that a controversial human rights issue had little to do with an American university. For student organizers like Will Mleczo, however, the connection had long been clear.

"What we're seeing, contrary to other claims, is that institutions across the country are economically supporting genocide and mass murder programs. So while some people question whether a student government should make university-wide rulings about such an issue, it's clear the relationship is there."

Mleczo further argued that universities like that of South Florida are simply microcosms of the real world. "College is meant to feel like its own bubble, but the contradictions and issues on campus are also

those that plague the rest of the world, on a much larger scale. We can't forget that."

However, what should have been a straightforward proposal had long been compromised. On the morning of the proposal, USF Student Government President Cesar Esmeraldi took to the university's official Instagram page for Student Government to issue a statement. Titled, "Why I Urge Our Senators to Vote Against the 'USF Divest Resolution' Today," Esmeraldi's comments sparked public outrage, particularly because he was not authorized to use an official university account, nor to speak on behalf of Student Government officials. Esmeraldi, who also serves as a trustee at USF, used the video to slate the resolution. Painting the status quo of the university investing in weapons manufacturers as "apolitical," Esmeraldi also accused the authors of the resolution of outright lying in their attempts to have "unreasonable" demands met.

Immediately following the statement, several other USF student government accounts were quick to distance themselves from his comments. The St. Petersburg Branch posted that, "USF St. Petersburg Student Government was not consulted regarding the material of this content. This video does not represent the views and beliefs of USF St. Petersburg Student Government," while the Sarasota-Manatee Student Government offered the same pushback. Further statements were made by other community leaders, organizations, and student senators themselves, who publicly denounced Esmeraldi. "You do not represent the beliefs of senate and you cannot intimidate us into voting the way that you want," one senator wrote.

When students were able to sit down for the proposal's proceedings, tensions rose between Zionist and anti-Zionist attendees, with the former filming, taking pictures, and recording individuals who spoke up or identified with the Palestinian cause. Distress was at

such a level that University officials received backup from a squad of police officers, who not only stayed present during the entirety of the five hour meeting, but filled the parking lots and walkways to quell any unrest afterwards.

What further exacerbated the proceedings was the sheer volume of students attending the proposal. The building's occupancy is 120 people, but hundreds of students had been queuing up in long lines for almost two hours. Police and staff eventually had to removed students from the Chambers, joining more than 50 students who were tuning in right outside.

Despite opposition, however, the authors of the resolution and various student senators defended their proposal. When the question of legality and boycotting had risen, one senator even remarked that, "Just because something is or isn't legal, doesn't mean it's morally righteous." Their brave words, and those of the authors of the resolution, encouraged a record breaking outcome of 16 in favor, 15 against. The vote signified the USF community's abhorrence of war crimes, and the desire for transparency in the investment process. Students cheered outside as they exited the chambers, a victory made sweeter by the fact many were only a week removed from the brink of starvation.

"It's a wonderful feeling," resolution author and activist Ava said. "We feel heard and seen, and for our university to be one of the first to publicly call for divestment is such an important step for our movement. We have so much more to accomplish, but this is something we're all incredibly proud of, and it motivates us to keep fighting until Palestine is free." Other student organizers reiterated the importance of the moment, while acknowledging that the USF Divest Coalition is "just getting our work started" and "won't stop until complete divestment."



Students watching the Student Government meeting on a livestream. (Red Phoenix/ Ava A.)

OPINION: "CRUELTY IS THE POINT" OF CAMPUS PROTEST CRACKDOWNS



the next day, April 30, I chose to get lunch and postpone my arrival at the encampment, but was interrupted with a frantic call:

"The cops are coming in full riot gear and are threatening to use tear gas."

In a state of panic, I ended my meal and sped as fast as I could to the University. In vain I tried to communicate with my comrades and friends to ask how everything was going and if they were safe or not. With no ability to communicate with my friends on the ground I tuned into a livestream of the event while I drove.

As I was only five minutes away I watched in horror as I saw tear gas thrown at the protesters, and hundreds of cops in full riot gear descending on my comrades. I cried. I felt pure terror and agony as I watched my friends get abused for seemingly nothing.

In the end, I was able to find scattered comrades and evacuate them off campus. But as I was running around campus, desperately trying to find any of my friends and while the police helicopter roared above us and hordes of riot police approached us, I

could only think to myself: "How could someone be this cruel to someone else?"

But that's when I realized that the cruelty is the point. Tear-gassing peaceful protesters. Intimidating students by outnumbering them with a legion of police. Brutalizing and abusing those fighting to stop a genocide. It all made me realize that the cruelty of the capitalist system is not some unintentional byproduct; it is a vital cog in the machine of capital.

The cruelty is purposeful. It is not random. Cops do not mentally and physically scar teenagers because they are evil, but because it is needed for capitalism to work. The system cannot run if people rise up against it. This abuse keeps the working class in check. No longer can the working class fear abuse at the hands of the state. It is inevitable. The working class has the duty and obligation to end this system of oppression. We truly have nothing to lose but our chains.



Leon V. | Florida | May 1, 2024

On April 29, a coalition of groups held their own Gaza Solidarity Encampment at the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa. After setting up one tent, USFPD swarmed the group and arrested three people, among them a good friend of mine. I showed up afterwards ready to provide aid, but there was no more aggression from the cops.

After we bailed out those arrested, I thought to myself, there was no need to attend the next day's demonstration as I did not believe that the police would further antagonize anyone else. After work

EBRAHIM RAISI, A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF THE REPRESSIVE STATE APPARATUS OF IRAN, HAS DIED



PCR Chile | Translated for the Red Phoenix by Camilo Lazo | May 24, 2024

Ebrahim Raisi, the President of Iran, has died. Iran, a theocratic capitalist regime that since 1979 has imposed Islamic law on the workers and the people through the use of terror, silenced any type of dissent, prohibited unions, labor parties and all types of associations that are not controlled by the State. Raisi was a fundamental part of the repressive state apparatus. As early as 1988, he formed the "Death Commission" that executed 5,000 political prisoners in summary trials without the right to defense. A role that earned him the title of "The Butcher of Tehran."

Under his government, Jina Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish girl who had been arrested for violating the rules governing the use of the hijab died after being beaten by agents of the "Moral Police," an agency in charge of compliance with Islamic law. This caused one of the largest protests in recent years called by the "Women, Life, Freedom" movement. Raisi's government responded by murdering more than 500 people,

including 68 children, and sentenced 7 leaders of the movement to death. During 2023, more than 850 people accused of drug trafficking were executed, the highest in decades. However, others have also been condemned under charges such as "insulting the prophet," "apostasy," and ambiguous ones such as "enmity with God" (moharebeh) or "corruption of the earth."

Raisi was also known for the persecution of the trade union movement. Prohibited and outlawed by the Islamic regime, the representation of workers is usurped by two bodies controlled by the government, such as the "Islamic Labor Councils" and the "Assemblies of Workers Representatives," who must demonstrate explicit loyalty to Islam and the foundations of the Islamic Republic. The economic crisis has driven the creation of independent unions, workers who have shed their fear and who today fight for their rights despite police violence and prison. Outstanding labor leaders such as Reza Shahabi, member of the Board of Directors of the Tehran Bus Company Workers' Union, Rasoul Bodagh, leader of the Teachers' Association, are in prison or awaiting cruel sentences.



The defense of anti-imperialism and multipolarity cannot supersede the rights of the workers and the people of Iran. The solidarity of all revolutionaries, consistent democrats and defenders of peace must always be with the oppressed.

Long live the Workers and people of Iran!



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

SUCCESS AT THE FIFTH CONGRESS OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR



(All photos in this article: Red Phoenix / Sebastian Lemba)

June Vass and Victor Vaughn | April 22, 2024

On Sunday, March 31, 2024, the American Party of Labor successfully concluded its Fifth General Congress. Delegates from all around the country as well as local activists gathered in a union hall in Orlando, Florida, draped in red flags with images of the Party's grain and gear symbol, to vote on measures to improve the Party's internal structure and external organization and to revise the Party's guiding documents.

Opening ceremonies for the Fifth Congress included greetings from fraternal organizations and speeches about the state of the Party. Camilo Lazo was elected National Chair. During his speech, he stated:

"It is to our party's credit that when everyone else was saying [Trump] is unelectable... and to concentrate their fire on Hilary Clinton... we called it! We sounded the alarm on Trumpite reaction and correctly categorized it as a variant of fascism when no other group was willing to do that."

Camilo emphasized how material conditions have changed in the United States and internationally since the last Congress, and how a Marxist-Leninist party must adapt to those changes:

"As communists it is our duty and our obligation to prepare for all possible eventualities, and to not only deal with the encroaching fascist threat as it is presented to us, but to prepare for what may happen, and to take the serious steps necessary to build a revolutionary party and an infrastructure that can support that revolutionary party."

Victor Vaughn was re-elected National Secretary to continue serving as the Party's chief ideological officer and recounted some of the previous eight years' successes in the advancement of the party's theory and practice:

"We've started a series of political educationals on important topics like the definition of fascism, the class nature of Cuba, [and] the dangers of things like populism..."

We have been at the forefront of actively opposing the alt-right phenomenon, and advocating for the humane treatment of all people."



Left to right: Jack Shulman, Francis Isolde, Ramón Pebenito.

Sebastian Lemba was elected as Organizational Bureau Director, continuing after his appointment to the position in 2022. A moment of silence was observed for the Party's fallen comrade from New York City, Ramón Pebenito, as well as other departed comrades and ideological predecessors depicted in framed pictures nearby. Sebastian reported on the growth of the Party since taking office:

"I feel like we've come a long way... with a lot of help from a lot of new people. And people who have been with us, some who are unfortunately no longer with us, have made it possible to go in a direction that I want to go into... Ramón helped out a lot in creating the blueprint for the direction of the Party and the Org Bureau."

Deputy Chair Benjamin Rizzo expressed condolences: "Comrade Ramón was a stalwart comrade who is sorely missed by everyone in the Party."

Sebastian continued with his Bureau report by sharing the immediate direction that is planned for this next term: "Going forward, we are going to expand the Party... We're going to have a more focused direction and instruction. I'm looking forward to making the Party effective more than anything else, but also growing the Party in terms of its size and its presence in other cities – major cities especially – but also I'm really interested in seeing what people have in terms of strategies for rural areas... If we look back to the early CPUSA, they did a lot of that, and they did it really effectively."

June Vass was elected as Information Bureau Director, continuing the work that began with her appointment in 2022, beginning with a brief explanation of the Bureau's duties: "In the Info Bureau we manage all the websites, social media, publications – whether theoretical or news – and everything public-facing, even designs for our flags."

She expressed a central motivation behind the Bureau's recent work that has aimed at reducing production costs in order to maximize outreach, and to enable more Party funds to go toward organizing efforts and participation in international events.

"We have been standardizing and modernizing our designs... really focusing on uniformity, legibility, function, and accessibility."

Isabelle Bernardi, appointed Deputy Director of the Organizational Bureau after serving as Women's Commissioner, started by reporting on the structural change of the Party's Commissions since the last Congress:

"Previously, the LGBTQIA+ Commission and the Women's Commission were merged. The last eight years we've seen those commissions become distinct and working in tandem but separately to talk about their different issues."

Isabelle continued by acknowledging the creeping fascism in states like Florida under Ron DeSantis:

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



for Caregivers campaign to help organize these migrant workers, advance their rights, and to build similar campaigns in other divisions such as southern California."

Both June and Isabelle received honors and Meritorious Service awards for their contributions.

LGBTQIA+ Commissioner Ian Ocx was not present, but his written speech was delivered in absentia by Isabelle:

"The LGBTQIA+ Commission of the APL has been growing in size and activity since its re-founding in 2021. There has been an increase in Party coverage of queer issues within our Party paper, The Red Phoenix, as well as national calls to defend the lives of transgender people. Party divisions and individual cadre have been involved in local organizing concerning LGBTQIA+ issues."

"The Commission has been doing its best to cover, report, and agitate around queer issues as they arise around the country. One of the most important items to be released was the Party's National Call to Defend Transgender Lives. This was issued after a severe increase in legal and extralegal attacks against transgender, gender-nonconforming, and gender-queer peoples. This national call does not need to end with its publication but should also be a line and issue to organize around in local communities. We want our Party's support for transgender people to be as material as possible."

"The drastic increase in RP articles concerning LGBTQIA+ issues in 2023 is representative of several things. First it represents that our Party's work around queer issues is growing. It is also representative of the need for the working class movement to have a developed understanding of queer issues. However, it also represents the growing need to cover queer issues in relation to the near-endless attacks on the LGBTQIA+ community as a whole within the U.S. Over the last few years the U.S. has seen a steady increase in attempted legislative attacks on queer people; some years have even seen over 500 attempted anti-LGBTQIA+ laws in legislative sessions; that is an average of 10 attempted anti-queer laws per state per year. While the overwhelming majority of these laws are defeated in legislative session every year, not all of them are. The struggle for LGBTQIA+ inclusion and liberation within the U.S. is intensifying. Now more than ever, our Party needs to be on the ground organizing within the queer community and reporting on issues relevant to the democratic rights of LGBTQIA+ people."

After the speeches were concluded, messages of international solidarity from fraternal organizations were read aloud, including statements by the Resist

"Here in Florida, actually, abortion rights have been under attack... The American Party of Labor has members here in Florida that are opposing these attacks on abortion rights and taking part in advancing the rights of women and reproductive rights. The Women's Commission of the APL believes that abortion, like all healthcare, is a human right which should be as broadly accessible as possible. The Women's Commission, with the entirety of the Party, is working to usher in a socialist future where that is possible and healthcare rights in general are guaranteed."

Isabelle continued with an expression of solidarity for the people of Palestine, particularly for the women and children who have been martyred, on behalf of the Women's Commission:

"Our eyes right now are on the women of Palestine, who are living in occupied territory and currently are victims of a genocide. Over 30,000 people have been killed in Palestine by the Israeli Occupation Forces, and there's been some liberal posturing about this, that women and children have been 'disproportionately affected,' but this is kind of a play on language that's really gross. Women are being targeted, and children are being targeted, because this is a complete ethnic cleansing and total wiping out of the Palestinian population... The Women's Commission also sees this for what it is: not a conflict, or an Israel-Hamas war, this is a genocide."

Since the founding of the Women's Commission in 2021, members have been working to build and develop relationships with mass women's organizations:

"We have close ties with the International Women's Alliance now; with GABRIELA, which is a Philippines solidarity organization of Filipinas in the US; and we are also working with SWAN, Stand With Abortion Now... in Florida. We've taken part in the launch of the Care for Caregivers campaign in Oregon, which is a campaign protecting the rights of migrant workers in Oregon that work in long-term care facilities. A lot of these women are experiencing wage theft and rampant workplace abuses, so the American Party of Labor and our Women's Commission are working with the Care



US-Led War Movement, as well as our comrades in Iran, Pakistan, Chile, Tunisia, Turkey, Mexico, Ecuador, and France.

At the Congress, the Party Platform and Program were fine-tuned with new demands, including provisions to demand gender-affirming care, extending housing support and social services for the homeless population and an end to sweeps, to expand accommodations and accessibility for people with disabilities. The Party's supreme documents were also updated with new language throughout to improve scientific accuracy and inclusivity. During the first discussions about the Program, a lengthy debate erupted over the first sentence, in a show of passion demonstrating the Party's commitment to proletarian democracy and the dismantling of the capitalist-imperialist system in the United States.



The creation of new Party bodies included the founding of the Politburo as an exercise in expanding democracy within national leadership; a Science, Technology and Medicine working group to study and research these fields to inform the Party's organizational practices; and a Labor Commission to formulate tactics and strategy within the labor movement.

Concluding ceremonies for the Fifth Congress included a playing of "The Internationale." The delegates vowed their continued dedication to the struggles and victories to come and to sharpen the Party as the American working class' weapon in the battle for peace, equality, and socialist democracy.

National Secretary Victor Vaughn proudly announced the publication of the APL's new theoretical journal, *Marxist-Leninist Currents*, now available in paperback and online at **MLCurrents.net**. As always, all proceeds go directly to our work.

NATO 75TH ANNIVERSARY: NO TO YOUR WARS OF TERROR & PLUNDER!



**By Communist Platform – for the
Communist Party of the Proletariat of
Italy | May 12, 2024**

*Resolution of European Parties and Organizations
members of the ICMLPO, adopted in April 2024.*

According to the preamble of the NATO Treaty, it defends “peace, democracy, freedom and the rule of law.” In fact, it is the opposite: it has been and is a military alliance of Western imperialist states to impose their economic and political interests by military means. NATO is a guarantee for war, not peace. It is a guarantee for national subservience to U.S. interests, not for independence.

From the beginning, it has been led by U.S. imperialism, which has always provided the military high command. It had been a tool of U.S. imperialism against the Soviet Union and the labor and communist movement. Since 1949, the Atlantic Alliance and its member states have been engaged in numerous brutal wars. NATO has also meant a steady increase in military spending at the expense of the working masses.

Instead of “freedom and the rule of law,” NATO means exploitation, oppression and war. Dictatorships such as those of Portugal under Salazar or Turkey under General Evren have never been an obstacle to NATO membership and still are not.

NATO was and is a leading participant in numerous imperialist and neocolonialist wars. In 1999, NATO attacked Serbia and continued to do so in the Kosovo war. Since 2001, it has used lies as a pretext for the war against Afghanistan, which ended in defeat in August 2021. In 2011, NATO states attacked Libya and largely destroyed the country. NATO has also intervened in Turkey's fight against Syria since 2013 and has supported Turkey militarily.

Atlantic Alliance troops are currently deployed in Africa, the Balkans, the Mediterranean and Iraq.

In recent years there has been a continuous process of NATO expansion to the east, which is the main cause of the current war between the imperialist powers of the USA, NATO and the EU against Russian imperialism.

At the same time, NATO is giving massive support to the war in Ukraine by providing infrastructure, weapons and advisers. NATO is in an unofficial war with Russia. In Israel's war against Gaza, NATO states are actively participating in war crimes and genocide by providing weapons and political support. Since the beginning of the Gaza war, NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg has assured Israel that NATO is on its side.

The struggle between the imperialist blocs of NATO with the EU against imperialist China with Russia has become a serious danger to peace. The EU, in alliance with US imperialism, plays a complementary role with its common policy of “security and defense,” in a logic of division of labor. The EU is also using the situation to strengthen its role in the competition with the US.

All this is being carried out at the expense of the working class and its social and political achievements. The workers and peoples are suffering heavily from the consequences of NATO's war plans and their implementation by governments: cuts in social spending, high prices for basic products, pressure on wages, tax increases, etc.

Nationalists, reactionaries and fascist movements have been further strengthened to make the peoples “ready for war.” We are therefore taking political action in our countries to withdraw from NATO! We are against any participation in NATO wars!



European Parliament elections: a “democratic” scam

The EU presents itself as an island of prosperity, security and freedom. For the European Parliament elections on 9 June, the propaganda is about democracy.

The people were never consulted when the EU was founded. It was a project of capital. Referendums in which the EU failed were ignored or repeated until the desired result emerged.

For example, when the majority of the Danish people rejected the Maastricht Treaty in 1992, there was another referendum the following year in which a small majority was reached after incessant propaganda.

For example, in 2005 when the “European Constitution” was rejected by a large majority in France and the Netherlands, this was not accepted by those in power. On the contrary, work on the project continued under another name and without a referendum, and in 2007 the “Lisbon Treaty” was concluded with the same content.

Instead of an island of prosperity, security and freedom, the EU is a project of capital for a huge labor market with low wages, a huge outlet market and a tool in competition with other imperialist powers. The EU has also increasingly developed as an instrument of military power with joint armaments and military maneuvers. With the war in Ukraine, this aspect has taken on a special significance. The EU is also an instrument of neocolonial influence of the monopolies in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

In Europe, the EU is an expanding imperialist power with an anti-working-class character: it increases competition between workers in different countries, lowering wages and worsening working conditions. To the detriment of small farmers, the EU is also a tool of agribusiness, which has ruined thousands of farmers.

Not in the service of peace and friendship among peoples, but of the domination of monopolies and capital.

Reformist groups such as the “European Left,” which brings together various reformist, revisionist and Trotskyist currents, promise to “democratize” the EU and transform it into a “democratic, peaceful, social and ecological Europe.” These are illusions that conceal the domination of capital. The progressive forces are thus harnessed to the chariot of a capitalist and imperialist project. The European Parliament is part of this imperialist apparatus and is not a democratic institution. Therefore, we do not participate and cannot support any list. In addition, the European Parliament is used by right-wing parties to gain influence.

Instead of defending the EU of monopolies, the workers and peoples must fight for their own interests and unite for them. Instead of hoping for election results in the EU, they must stand up to exploitation and war!

We call on the workers to develop struggles and unity on the basis of their own class interests, against the monopolies and the capitalist offensive, the reaction and war policy of imperialism. We call for the development of active solidarity with the workers and peoples of the world, especially with those peoples who suffer and fight imperialist and Zionist oppression, aggression and plunder, such as the Palestinian people.

We reaffirm our commitment to a revolutionary break with the capitalist-imperialist system, to socialism!

With these intentions and this perspective, we must fight together:

- Against low wages and the very denial of wages!
- Against the destruction of jobs!
- For the full right to strike!
- Against social cuts!
- Against the dismantling of democratic rights!
- Against racism, division and fascism!
- Against armaments and war!
- For peace, international solidarity and socialism!



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

TO RESIST IMPERIALISM IS TO RESIST GREAT POWER CHAUVINISM



Zachary Kam, a U.S. Marine veteran who served in Afghanistan, sets fire to an American flag during a rally outside Chicago City Hall to protest U.S. support for Israel and to call for the cancellation of the Democratic National Convention. (Matthew Kaplan)

Camilo Lazo | National Chair of the American Party of Labor | July 4, 2024

There has of late been a disturbing tendency in some circles calling themselves “anti-imperialists” to couch their supposed opposition to imperialism using the rhetoric and iconography of imperialism itself. Individuals such as Caleb Maupin have hailed American patriotism as “progressive,” even “socialist;” while groups such as the Party of Communists, USA (PCUSA) have issued statements commemorating the Fourth of July using images such as the POW/MIA flag and a bayonet-sporting M-16 sticking out of ground with the helmet of supposedly dead American soldier covering the weapon’s stock. One is tempted to remind Mr. Maupin of what American patriotism has meant to the indigenous peoples of this continent, and the PCUSA stalwarts that their cherished Vietnam-era graphics came out of one of the most brutal imperialist wars of the past century. But such would be a waste of breath.

What needs to be said, loudly and clearly, is that the language and optics of imperialism is just that – imperialist – and that the attempt to color anti-imperialism in shades of red, white, and blue is at best wrong-headed, and at worst vicious hypocrisy; ignorant, hypocritical, and perhaps a cover for something far more sinister. Namely, this is an attempt by elements hostile to the Left and everything it stands for, to infiltrate and usurp Left spaces and progressive movements.

Bluntly stated, in the current age there is nothing, absolutely nothing, progressive, liberatory, or revolutionary in the image of the American flag and the canon of reactionary “Americanisms.” Quite the contrary, to attempt to “rescue” the aesthetics of American imperialism in the name of some putative “anti-imperialism” is to spit on the past, present, and future struggles of oppressed and marginalized peoples both at home and abroad. It is, quite simply, Great Power Chauvinism.

Dissecting what the motives and goals of these groups and individuals may be in dressing up their Great Power Chauvinism in the garb of socialism and communism may be, while clear to anyone willing to take a closer look, is beyond the scope of this piece. Instead, let’s focus on the very concept of a “progressive Americanism” and a “patriotic socialism.”

Right from the first, a line of demarcation needs to be drawn between the nationalism of the oppressed and the nationalism of the oppressor. Nationalism itself began, in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic periods, as a revolutionary force that championed the aspirations of a people, a nation, against the privileges and tyranny of hereditary aristocracy and Divine Right monarchy. And it was seen as a dangerous idea by the entrenched and embattled “Old Regime” for much of the 19th century – the age of the bourgeois revolution. However, by the end of that century, figures such as Bismarck co-opted nationalism and harnessed it to serve conservative and counter-revolutionary ends. Reactionary nationalism, or Great Power Chauvinism, became a defining feature of the Radical Right of the 1890s and early 1900s. And the Radical Right was the forerunner of fascism, which inherited its nationalism, militarism, and ethnocentrism.

The nationalism of the great powers has nothing in common with the original nationalism of the French and early 19th century revolutionaries; and absolutely nothing in common with the nationalism of oppressed and colonized peoples who are themselves struggling against that self-same Great Power Chauvinism. That a people whose history, culture, traditions, even their very language has been suppressed seek to rediscover and revive what was taken from them is a revolutionary act. By the same token, the attempt to erase that history, culture, and tradition by imperial and colonizing powers and replace it with their own is the very definition of counter-revolution. That imperialism sought to disguise its rapine with claims of the “civilizing mission” and “Manifest Destiny” has long been unmasked and discredited. So much

so that even imperialist apologists such as the proto-fascist Hilaire Belloc admitted the sham when he wrote, “Whatever happens, we have got the Maxim gun, and they have not.”

And yet, here we see it again.

Within the American context, this is not entirely new. Earl Browder’s “Communism is 20th Century Americanism” sought to accomplish much the same in the 1940s. One of the hallmarks of Browderism was the attempt to retroactively tie the American national myth to the modern American communist movement. Browder sought to claim figures such as Washington and Jackson for “socialism,” asserting that there was something unique, something “exceptional” about American imperialism that distinguished it from the old European colonialism and contemporary imperialism. That it was a kinder, gentler, even “progressive” imperialism.

Indeed, there was something different about US imperialism, just not what Browderism claimed. What was different is that, for much of its history up to 1900, US imperialism, unlike the European powers, did not need to go overseas to seek colonies because its colonies were “just a little farther West.” Westward expansion was imperial expansion. The American Empire was within its own borders, as Native peoples learned to their cost. It’s worth noting that American imperialism began the search for investments, markets, and the export of capital at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries. Just at the time when the American Census Bureau and historian Frederick Jackson Turner declared that the “frontier was closed.”

While in no way denying the historical advance of bourgeois liberal democracy over Divine Right Monarchy and feudalism, or the significance of the American Revolution as a bourgeois revolution, the history of the United States is the history of imperialism. It is a history of genocide, plunder, racism, and exploitation. This cannot be denied, ignored, or covered over. To attempt as much, as the modern Browderites do, is the rankest, foulest reaction.

To resist imperialism is to resist Great Power Chauvinism. To challenge imperialism is to challenge the culture, symbols, emblems, and myths of the oppressor. To defeat imperialism is to uphold proletarian internationalism, the right of nations to self-determination, and to champion the cause of all oppressed, exploited, colonized, and marginalized peoples.

This is the communist way. This is the only way.

TRUMP CONVICTED! WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE WORKING CLASS?



Leon V. | Florida | May 30, 2024

Donald Trump has just become the first U.S. president to be convicted as a felon. Today, May 30, 2024, Trump was found guilty on all 34 counts of fraud related to the "Hush Money Trial." While there is currently no date slated for sentencing, one can assume it will be coming soon.

While many will be celebrating this turn of events the elephant in the room still stands. How will this affect Trump's campaign? Currently, there is no restriction on felons running for president (remember that the socialist Eugene Debs ran his

1920 campaign while in prison) and nearly ¾ of Trump supporters say that a guilty verdict has no impact on how they will vote. While this conviction may deal a considerable blow to his candidacy, a Trump presidency is still not out of the question.

Biden is an extremely unpopular president. According to the latest Gallup Polls, Biden is hovering around a 39% approval rating. Trump averaged out a 41% approval rating during his term in office. Biden's handling of inflation, employment, and the ongoing genocide in Palestine are destroying any hopes he may have had to beat Trump. The failures of the bourgeois electoral system are again in full view for all to see.

Another potential problem is how this verdict will influence the die-hard Trumpites in America. The MAGA fascists already have a low approval of the trial and Trump himself is invigorating his base, decrying the verdict and trial as "rigged." Could we see another January 6? Will we see an American "Years of Lead" post election? No matter what

happens in 2024 the position of the Communists in America will remain disadvantaged: if Trump wins, we aren't effectively organized enough to fight back, and if Biden wins then the progressive liberals return to their status quo and the problem is pushed back another four years.

While a Trump guilty verdict is certainly a victory to be celebrated, it is not the death knell for Trump that we hope to have. Nor would a Biden victory be a win for us. It is paramount that as Communists we continue to organize our communities and workplaces for the inevitable strife that will happen regardless of the outcome in November, and to continue this work in the class struggle long after election season. As the crises in capitalism continue to intensify around the world, we must build our bases of support, expand our parties, and protect the democratic rights of the oppressed. We have a world to win!

***All Power to the Working People!
Workers of the World Unite!***

FLORIDA JUDGE DECLARES CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO GENDER-AFFIRMING TREATMENT; DESANTIS PREPARES TO RETALIATE

Anna I. | Ohio | June 25, 2024

A federal judge has struck down the blatantly bigoted Florida law, SB 254, ruling it as unconstitutional. The law, which banned access to gender-affirming treatments to thousands of transgender people under the age of 18 and heavily regulated adult patients who sought care, was signed by the fascist Governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis, in May of 2023. The state of Florida plans to appeal the court's decision.

DeSantis and his ilk are reacting as expected, implying this decision is tantamount to child mutilation. Tellingly, the presiding justice, Judge Hinkle, stated in his ruling that, "there were no complaints from patients, no adverse results in Florida," and that this is "just a political issue." Taking this into account, one begins to wonder why the governor and his party have pulled out all the stops in order to legislate and litigate against an alleged non-issue. The answer is, of course, that this is yet another way for capitalists and reactionaries to exert their power.

The reason that reactionary leaders scapegoat transgender people is to scare and enrage their electorate, stoking their fear to motivate them to the polls. Since the two dominant political parties in the United States are capitalist parties, they will

never act in the interests of the working masses, but they still need our votes and nothing motivates voters more than fear. In the utterly broken and failed capitalist electoral system, one method that politicians use to mobilize political support is to manufacture an enemy and then offer themselves up as the only ones who can vanquish it.

When voters are scared and angry at some boogiemanager, they are distracted from fighting their true class enemies. It is natural to focus on one specific target if it is perceived as a threat. If a politician successfully sells someone the lie that transgender people are grooming children, then their normal, everyday suffering at the hands of capitalism seems less pressing than protecting children. The failures of their politicians and even their most heinous policies seem to fall by the wayside as everything is sacrificed for a false and temporary sense of security.

All of this goes on while the affected group suffers. Legislation targeting transgender people leads to normalization of bigoted rhetoric and violence. This year has already seen a slew of violence against transgender people, for example Nex Benedict and Cobalt Sovereign. Bigots are being emboldened by the mainstreaming of reactionary narratives and using it as a sort of casus belli to commit horrific hate crimes. This same phenomenon can

be observed throughout history against many different minority groups.

When the workers overthrow the capitalists and the means of production are owned in kind, they will no longer be cowed by manipulation. The propaganda from the capitalist governments of the world would have you believe that previous socialist experiments were plagued by a "ruling elite" that constantly misled the gullible masses, but you'd be hard-pressed to find a socialist country of the past that dealt in lies quite as much as our capitalist nation does right now.

This Pride month, and every month, stand up to the fear mongers and sellers of moral panic. Protect trans lives, smash the capitalists, and reject this broken system that has brought the workers to this point of desperation. Socialism is the future!



Two Florida medical oversight boards held a meeting about proposed rules for treating gender dysphoria for minors in the state on Feb. 10, 2023. (Issac Morgan/Florida Phoenix)

THE OCCUPATION OF GAZA: NINE MONTHS OF STRUGGLE

Aspen R. | Indiana | June 28, 2024

"In today's world no one is innocent, no one is neutral. A man is either with the oppressed or he is with the oppressors. He who takes no interest in politics gives his blessing to the prevailing order, that of the ruling classes and exploiting forces."

—George Habash, founder of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)

As we enter the second half of 2024, the people of the world are faced with a sobering reality: the brutal and unrelenting genocide of the people of Gaza has been going on for nearly nine months now. Under the pretext of self-defense, the Zionist Israeli occupation has released an unparalleled campaign of bloodshed, terrorism, and genocide on the millions of people that call Gaza home. They justify this with the persistent reality that most of the Palestinian people justifiably support the resistance, claiming that this provides them with the right to inflict as much terror on the oppressed population as they deem necessary. The communist, democratic, and progressive forces of the world resolutely condemn this notion as well as the ideology of Zionism itself. We stand firmly behind the resistance and the right of the Palestinian people to attack all appendages of the apartheid state, whether they be in Gaza, the West Bank, or Israel proper.

Throughout this period of direct armed struggle against the Zionist state by the coalition of resistance forces, numerous deals have been proposed to bring about a temporary or permanent end to the conflict. As usual, advocacy of a long-term two-state solution has come to dominate some circles. Others, in both the Zionist and Palestinian camps, continue to claim the entire region, holding that Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel rightfully

belong to their respective factions. But one reality has been made absolutely clear: the Zionist state is prioritizing its destruction of the people of Gaza and the forces responsible for defending them over any "peaceful" resolution to the conflict, whether it be permanent or temporary. In addition to this, it's also been made clear that Israel's desire to crush the resistance and the spirit of the Palestinian people is far more important to their interests than the lives of the Israeli prisoners currently held in Gaza by the resistance that they claim to be fighting for. They could choose to release the thousands of Palestinian hostages illegitimately held in occupation prisons in exchange for their own captives. Instead, the tyrannical and fascistic foot soldiers of the Zionist entity continue to wreak havoc on civilian infrastructure in Gaza, facing embarrassment after embarrassment in actual combat against the resistance, and displaying the pinnacle of cowardice in their treatment of the local civilian population – opting for airstrikes and bombing tactics in order to avoid on-the-ground combat in which the Israeli forces are poorly trained.

Despite the depravity of the enemy and despite the crushing reality of witnessing a genocide unfold directly before our eyes, it is extremely important that the people of Palestine and the world do their absolute best to keep their heads high. The people remain unwavering in their support for the resistance and the fight for national liberation. For decades now, Palestinians have languished under colonial occupation. The history of the Zionist regime and the peoples' struggle against it has made two realities absolutely clear, one being that Palestine will not be liberated without armed struggle and direct confrontation with the occupier, and the other being that the terror of the oppressed and the terror of the oppressor take fundamentally different roles in relation to the fight for a liberated world. The Palestinian people have the right and historical obligation to strike at the heart of the



"Forward to Victory," a poster by Guevara Abed Al Qader for the PFLP, 2023. The Arabic text reads, "We are carrying our revolution forward to victory." (The Palestine Poster Project)

Israeli state and fight to free their nation, from the Jordan river to the Mediterranean sea. Any other stance is defeatism at best and opportunism at worst.

We express our solidarity with the progressive forces of the Palestinian resistance! Free all Palestinian hostages and political prisoners! Free Palestine!



"Everything in this world can be robbed and stolen, except one thing; this one thing is the love that emanates from a human being towards a solid commitment to a conviction or cause."

—Ghassan Kanafani, former spokesman of the PFLP

SUPPORT PALESTINE AND THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR!

The American Party of Labor is hosting an ongoing fundraiser for Palestine. 100% of proceeds of our "Free Palestine" merchandise are being donated to emergency relief efforts in Gaza.



All proceeds go directly into our work. None of our members are paid from party funds; we all volunteer our time and labor. *No profits, ever!*

- ★ As observer members of the ICMLPO, we send members of our party to conferences, workshops, educationals, and work programs abroad.
- ★ We run Service to the People Programs where we provide necessary supplies to working class families free of charge.
- ★ We self-publish our newspaper and tabling materials, as well as perform all of the labor required to do so.

Our work is funded by our own members and grassroots supporters, including *Red Phoenix* subscribers and online customers. We accept financial contributions as well as donations of gently-used socialist literature to sell in our store.

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BRIDGES COLLAPSE, TRAINS DERAIL, INFRASTRUCTURE CRUMBLES: FREE TRADE IS TO BLAME



A view of continuing recovery efforts at the site of the collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge in the Patapsco River in Baltimore, Maryland, April 2, 2024. (Leah Millis/Reuters)

R. Nesbitt | Maryland | April 11, 2024

On March 26, 2024, the cargo ship *MV Dali* coming out of Baltimore Harbor collided with a crucial support on the Francis Scott Key Bridge across the lower Patapsco River preceding Baltimore Harbor. The ship had suffered a loss of power and was unable to steer timely away from an impending collision. The crew were able to send out a Mayday call which allowed workers and authorities to close off the bridge and begin clearing it of traffic.

Unfortunately, six construction workers, including Jose Mynor Lopez, Maynor Yassir Suazo Sandoval, Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, Dorlian Cabrera, and Miguel Luna, did not survive the bridge collapse. Another two workers were rescued from the frigid water. The Mayday call put out by the *Dali* has been credited with helping to save lives and reduce the casualties of this tragedy. Since that horrific night, it is estimated that the blockage of the Patapsco due to debris costs about \$15 million a day as trade can no long flow in and out of Baltimore until the wreckage of the bridge has been cleared. More importantly, recovery efforts have been completely exhausted in bringing the vehicles and victims of the collapse out of the Patapsco. The collapse of the Key Bridge itself will cost insurance agencies approximately \$1-4 billion in damages, liability, and "business disruption" of which the State of Maryland's insurance will cover \$350 million. The federal government has also intervened, with President Biden vowing \$60 million in "quick-release" funds for emergency relief, design, and reconstruction of a new bridge in place of the Key.

The true scope of this disaster is incredibly difficult to

process. According to Maryland Governor Wes Moore, some 8,000 jobs have been impacted by the collapse. Disruptions in trade in a city like Baltimore, which has tried to cope with the ravishing effects of free trade, automation, and economic crises through its historic natural harbor on the Patapsco into the Chesapeake Bay, will be particularly felt in a city that has also been infamous for gentrification, redlining, and population decline. The Governors of New York and New Jersey have offered the use of the ports in their states to redirect shipping so as to avoid an even larger supply chain disruption.

It is no secret that infrastructure in this country and the ways in which our capitalist system utilizes it leaves much to be desired in every aspect from safety to accessibility to basic convenience. While it is true that no bridge would have survived a collision from even an empty, modern cargo vessel, there were potential steps that might have been able to mitigate the damage, the loss of life, and the economic and societal disruption created by the Key Bridge collapse of 2024.

To begin, there are structures used in engineering bridges over busy waterways meant to deflect or absorb the impact of vessels, such as "fenders" and "dolphins," and while authorities at the Port of Baltimore report that "dolphins" were built into the Key Bridge, they would be submerged. With recovery efforts taking priority there is no way to confirm nor deny this statement from authorities. Regarding "fenders," footage taken of the bridge before the *Dali* collision show an absence of this infrastructure. Engineering experts such as Barzin Mobasher, a professor at Arizona State University,

has contested claims that such infrastructure would have successfully prevented a collapse where the *Dali* struck the bridge, and that with cargo ships as large as the *Dali* any one of them passing under the bridge and hitting a sensitive area would have caused a progressive collapse of the whole structure.

While deflective infrastructure alone may not have been able to save the Key Bridge, other utilities such as camera tracking, infrared scanners, and observation posts to be used by Highway or Port authorities may have been able to detect an uncorrected course from a malfunctioning vessel sooner, and thus could have evacuated the bridge in greater speed. Then, of course, there is the issue of such large vessels coming through the Patapsco at such high traffic – this bridge was built before watershed free trade agreements like NAFTA or CAFTA, and so the issue of modern, hulking craft passing through could not have been conceived of in 1977 when the Key Bridge was inaugurated.

And this, more damning than the lackluster safety measures to prevent or minimize essentially natural or unavoidable disasters, is the fundamental reliance that the American economy has stocked on uninterrupted and ever-expansive free trade, whereupon a single crisis can reap such unexpected and protracted impact locally, nationally, and globally. Trade in itself is essential for production and economic function, but capitalism's chief approach to it, free trade, does not afford much breathing room for the productive elements of society in recuperating from crises that are either inevitable or artificial (such as economic recession or depression). This has been proven time and again with incidents like the Suez Canal Blockage in March, 2021, that led to an estimated economic loss for the United States of \$60.4 billion during the 151-hour stoppage in the delivery of trade goods.

Why is it that production is so skewed towards free trade, where countries other than the United States produce an increasing amount of industrial product which is then shipped back to the US for consumption, utilization, or refinement? Because it is profitable. Take for instance the auto industry, which has lost over 350,000 employees in the United States from 1994 (the year NAFTA was ratified) to 2024, according to the New York Times, which in itself constitutes over a third of the workforce for the whole industry and does not account for the loss of jobs from automation. The freedom for American auto companies to move plants and facilities to other countries were spawned out of the cost effectiveness of utilizing the less extensive labor reforms and standards of Mexico to cut costs in workplace safety, wages, and benefits,

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

that had been hard-won by autoworkers unions since the 1920s.

Incidentally one of the key imports of Baltimore's harbor has been vehicles produced abroad and then distributed commercially in the United States. The reorientation of production does not fundamentally remove the need for consumption of certain goods like automobiles among others, but it does create problems of impracticality where a model auto industry is hamstrung in the name of profits and sold back to the public now scraping by on service and secondary work since their previously reliable manufacturing jobs were shipped overseas.

The fact is, even with domestic production, disturbances in the supply chain would still hang over the national economy because of the chronically

starved infrastructure in this country. Take the East Palestine, Ohio train derailment, the health and environmental effects of which have – along with the 2022 railroad labor dispute – shone a spotlight on the mediocre stability of railroad trade in America, with 742 train derailment incidents in 2023 alone as reported last October by the Federal Railroad Administration. Or the January, 2022, collapse of the Fern Hollow Bridge in Pittsburgh, PA, injuring several people just hours before Joe Biden was set to speak in the city about the need for infrastructural renewal in federal budgets. Officials investigating the collapse said that “if proper oversight had been exercised, this bridge would have been closed down years ago.”

The depressing state of affairs has long exceeded irony. Tying all of this back to Baltimore, we have to grapple with the fact that some crises are unavoidable

– earthquakes, storms, loss of power, and so forth – but we cannot accept the mediocrity of insufficient funding for basic transportation, trade, and safety in our day to day lives. With domestic production's decline, the subsequently improper reliance on inexorable and fragile trade from abroad, and the dependency of single-vehicle transit over large distances in a country with little infrastructure for public transportation, all reveal nothing but a systemic inefficiency in the entire framework of capitalism. The system is not broken; this dependency, this lack of funding, is working very well for the beneficiaries of free trade and the owners of outsourced properties. But for us, the workers who commute two hours each day to and from work in over-expensive cars, to our underpaying jobs, at some point have to have had enough of the cracks in the foundation.

EUROPEANS: THE RESPONSE TO THE RISE OF REACTION IS TO INTENSIFY CLASS STRUGGLE AND POPULAR STRUGGLE!



Workers' Communist Party of France (PCOF) | June 11, 2024 | Translated from French by Sofia D.

The results of the European elections are overshadowed by Macron's declaration of the dissolution of the National Assembly, and that the first round of legislative elections will be held by June 30. The second round will unfold July 7, in other words, in a very short period of time, during which there will not have been time for negotiations between the parties, and among other parties for the designation of candidates. It is the media and polls which will “campaign.”

That being said, it is important to draw conclusions from the European elections, based on a single round. With nearly 50% abstention, with even higher rates [of abstention] in working class and popular communities, and the pitiful result of their candidate, Macron emerges weakened from an election in which he invested, for which he has sloppily utilized the State, for which he has wanted to use the anniversary of D-Day to put forward the necessity of military support to Ukraine. He has dramatized the very stake of the election, with his slogan “Europe might die,” and has continually highlighted France's leadership within the EU and the key role of the European Parliamentary group “Renew,” of which the Macronian deputies are members, in the capture of the decision of the EU. Renew's defeat weakens Macron as well.

To make matters worse, Macron has only fed the anger and rejection of large sectors, which do not want France to participate in the war in Ukraine against Russia; who are opposed to the to the neoliberal politics promoted by the EU and the European Commission, and their

injunctions to privatize public services, to cut social spending... These rejections are expressed through abstention, voting for left-wing candidates, but the extreme right, notably “National Rally” (RN), has capitalized on this rejection just as much, predicted as the winner for months by the major media.

What's more, Macron has participated in promoting this group, by treating the RN as his only serious political opponent, while claiming that he is the only bulwark against the RN. This has not prevented him from adopting some of their policies (like that which inspired the “immigration law”) and even their words, notably about the necessity of a “return to order,” whether it be after the uprisings in working-class neighborhoods in July 2023, or the revolt of the Kanak people: his constant cry is “Order, Order, Order!”

After having claimed that the results of the European Election would not have any influence on domestic policy, Macron has taken up a call only ever formulated by the RN: he has dissolved the National Assembly to provoke early legislative elections. He has called this “returning control to the people,” and “facing them with their responsibilities.”

He has not assumed any responsibility for the difficult situation which the masses, and workers, and the youths experience.

His decision concerning the early legislative elections is, in the first place, a political “coup,” aiming to retake the initiative, and to evade the consequences of his electoral defeat. This is also a “wager” to get the delegates of his own movement elected, or those of the right, against the far-right candidates – of RN and their allies – gambling on the “republican reflex,”

which has already served to get him elected. This is another way of imposing a short term coalition with the right, which, for the moment, is leveraging this situation to get their laws passed. As for “facing them with their responsibilities,” those right-wing politicians responsible are attracted by an alliance with the RN.

In other words the coalition, which Macron prepares to try to gain a majority in parliament, will in any case take on a more and more reactionary character, and the policy that it implements will be directed against the working class, the laborers, the youth, the immigrants, and the people.

This means that it is necessary to intensify struggle and resistance.

The successive mobilizations since Macron became president, indeed also on social questions, questions of democracy, matters of solidarity with the struggles of the people, continued throughout the entire “European campaign,” and will continue after it. The struggle against the rise of reaction and militarization, against fascism, for wages, for the defense of public services, for the defense of the environment, against polluting monopolies, against imperialist war, for solidarity with the Palestinian people, and for the people who struggle for their national and social emancipation, are but a few of the issues of struggle which the forces of women and men, of young and old all share, and already lead.

This is what we must rely on to resist the reactionary offensive. There are the axes which our Party takes into account to, especially, determine its position on the upcoming legislative elections.

MASS LAYOFFS IN TECH: SACRIFICING WORKERS TO BOOST STOCKS



Members of the Alphabet Workers Union (CWA) hold a rally outside a Google office in response to layoffs in New York Feb. 2, 2023. (Ed Jones/AFP via Getty Images)

Victor Vaughn | Maryland | June 18, 2024

The memo Elon Musk sent by email announcing Tesla was laying off 10% of its global workforce in April was surprisingly candid: "There is nothing I hate more, but it must be done," the emerald heir opined, claiming the layoffs were necessary to allow the EV manufacturer to be "lean, innovative and hungry" for the next "growth phase cycle."

Nearly 25,000 tech workers were laid off in the first weeks of 2024, despite improving fundamentals. Last year was, according to NPR, an absolute bloodbath for the tech industry: in the once-lauded glittering spires of Silicon Valley, where innovation and disruption of the status quo are celebrated, underneath, there lies a darker reality of mass layoffs and lack of job security. Amazon saw the highest number laid off in 2023, with 27,410 workers losing their livelihoods, followed by Meta with 21,000, Google with 12,115, and Microsoft with 11,158.

1,186 tech companies and start-ups laid off more than 260,000 tech workers in 2023 – the worst year for tech since the dot-com crash of the early 2000s. The volume of layoffs increased compared with 2022, where 1,061 tech companies and startups laid off almost 165,000 workers. That total itself was more than 2020 and 2021 combined.

So far, 326 tech companies have laid off over 98,000 workers in 2024. In the case of Tesla, Musk's move came after managers had reportedly been told to provide lists of names throughout the company to upper management.

Everywhere you look, the giants of the industry are shedding workers – online retailer eBay fired 9% of their full-time workforce via Zoom call. Vice Media's Vice.com news site ceased publishing content, affecting "several hundred positions." BuzzFeed announced a plan to reduce its workforce by 16%, less than a year after shutting down their news division. Google/Alphabet replaced part of

its ad sales team with AI and laid off hundreds in the Fitbit, Pixel, and digital assistant divisions. Microsoft completed its purchase of Activision Blizzard for a whopping \$69 billion in October and then promptly announced 1,900 layoffs. Back in January, Amazon ordered 18,000 people axed via email in the largest job cut in its history.

All this, despite record profits and the fact that IT spending expected to increase 8% to cross \$5.1 trillion in 2024. Tech companies have been consistently laying off workers since 2022.

The bourgeoisie and its apologists continue to argue that the massive tech and media layoffs are simply outliers in an otherwise strong employment market, citing the low unemployment rate since late 2021. According to this narrative, these layoffs are a natural correction from over-hiring during the pandemic and historically high inflation, and these high-profile layoffs are being exaggerated by the media and actually disguise a very robust employment situation. Musk himself towed the bourgeoisie's party line for Tesla's firings, blaming "duplication of roles and job functions in certain areas."

Meta Platforms CEO Mark Zuckerberg echoed these sentiments, theorizing why companies like Google and Microsoft are all downsizing despite solid earnings:

"[Zuckerberg] theorized that tech layoffs persist due to recognition of the benefits of leaner operations. In an interview with Morning Brew Daily, the Meta CEO noted ongoing adjustments to the post-pandemic landscape and discussed competition with Apple (NASDAQ:AAPL) and other topics.

Amid the pandemic, e-commerce surged, boosting online ad gains. However, with the return to stores and economic adjustments, sales growth slowed, leading to ad rate normalization. According to Zuckerberg, many firms over-hiring and making significant cuts attributed to COVID-19 navigation rather than the AI boom."

The American bourgeoisie has been remarkably consistent in citing these reasons: with some variation, all of them have blamed over-hiring, high inflation, or efficiency.

Amazon announced cuts to their highly profitable AWS cloud computing segment, as well as "Twitch, Audible, Buy with Prime, Prime Video, and MGM Studios." There were even rare job cuts to Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin. Alphabet/Google CEO Sundar

Pichai previously signaled that layoffs were on the horizon, and recently announced they're letting more people go and moving jobs overseas to India, Ireland, and Mexico. Of course, it's never all financial – Google also announced they were firing 28 employees for their participation in a sit-in protest against Israel's ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people of Gaza.

However, the economic picture doesn't quite align with tech executive's reasoning, according to NPR: "Now in 2024, tech company workforces have largely returned to pre-pandemic levels, inflation is half of what it was this time last year and consumer confidence is rebounding." So the explanation about this being about efficiency or tightening belts during a slowing economy is not backed by the data. What dirty secret lies at the heart of these layoffs then, if it's not about losing money?

The reality is that these layoffs are the result of a combination of herding effect and a tactic used by the capitalist class to boost stock prices. In other words: one company fires workers to cut costs, which causes a boost in stock prices as wealthy shareholders anticipate profits, causing more companies to follow suit, encouraging more tech companies to cut costs and lay off staff. Experts characterize the large number of layoffs as a "social contagion" as more tech companies mindlessly copy what others are doing.

This social contagion serves in part to push stock prices up, to give an illusion of profitability, of becoming "leaner and more efficient," and of generating more profit with less people, but it serves a further purpose. For those who "survived" this round of layoffs, it's a constant reminder that their income, meaning their ability to survive, is never truly secure. Usually the remaining workers put up with the additional work now demanded, lest they end up out of work themselves.

Being laid off from your job quite literally kills people, as studies have shown that the stress they create takes a devastating toll on physical and mental health, increasing mortality and morbidity substantially. For example, layoffs can increase the risk of suicide by a factor of two or more. The drive to make companies ever more profitable and workers ever more productive has a very real cost: nearly 120,000 workers' deaths per year.

This dirty little secret is why, as Sarah Anderson, director of the Global Economy Project at the Institute for Policy Studies, tweeted, "Wall Street loves layoffs."

ON IMMIGRATION, BIDEN'S EXECUTIVE ORDER, AND THE INTERNATIONAL PROLETARIAT



President Joe Biden delivers remarks on an executive order limiting asylum, in the East Room of the White House in Washington, DC.

Keegan D. | Illinois | June 7, 2024

The reactionary imperialist war criminal in a liberal mask, Joe Biden, is implementing an executive order which will shut down the already incredibly limited American immigrant asylum system. The order would shut down the asylum system if the observed number of instances of undocumented immigration over the southern border averages above 2,500 crossings a day, and would not allow for the asylum system to resume or for asylum seekers to enter until that number falls below 1,500 a day on average.

The 2,500 limit which triggers an asylum system shut down is extremely restrictive, reactionary, and is currently surpassed on a regular basis based on recent immigration data. The average daily number of observed undocumented crossings last month was 3,700. Worse, the necessary less than 1,500 average undocumented crossings needed to restart the asylum system is a nearly impossible figure to achieve. Not only would there need to be less than 1,500 undocumented crossings, but this would need to be sustained for over a week for it to count as a daily average per the executive order's policies. On top of this, these figures for "acceptable" numbers of undocumented crossings, which are themselves difficult to calculate, are also often unrepresentative of the actual state of undocumented crossings.

As Biden carries out this most recent executive order, it should be noted that it is being implemented alongside an already proposed 4.7 billion dollar emergency increase in the budget for border security agencies for the 2025 fiscal year. This increase in funding does not help alleviate the causes of immigration (US imperialist ventures in Central and South America) or limit its strain on the administrative capacities of local governments, but does increase the rate at which border security agencies are able to expel and brutalize migrant families. This increase in budget will also almost certainly result in an increase in observed undocumented crossings due

to increases in checkpoints and agents, but it will not represent an actual increase in such crossings. This will likely make it even more difficult to meet the target of fewer than 1,500 daily average observed undocumented crossings in order to resume the asylum system.

Biden's executive order also comes as he attempts to gain support for re-election from America's imperialist bourgeoisie who want to both maintain vast and highly exploitable reserve armies of labor in the global south, as well as create an ideological scapegoat for America's decline which is in fact driven by the capitalist relations they create and enforce. The United States' monopolized imperialist capitalist class has long utilized the American state to secure their interests economically and politically abroad, importantly relying on cheap labor and materials from Latin America to maintain the capitalist system's profitability.

To ensure access to Latin America's labor and materials and keep them profitable, the US has conducted countless regime changes, supported vicious reactionary dictators, and directly or indirectly killed communist and other progressive forces across the hemisphere during Operation Condor and beyond. These actions have created the situation in which many migrate to the US due to the political and economic instability of their home countries caused by American capital. Biden's most recent executive order works under the same logic as these previous examples and is an attempt to shut the door completely on those seeking asylum from political and economic destruction which his administration has furthered. The executive order seeks to instead return would-be asylum seekers to Latin America in order to exploit their labor more advantageously for the capitalist class.

Additionally, the rationale of Biden's executive order also hypocritically follows the logic of Trump's own reactionary border policies, something which Biden initially campaigned against. Biden's order gives into the historically conservative argument and reactionary position that immigrants are drivers of crime and job loss, both of which are false and are narratives employed previously by Trump.

First, on the issue of crime, it has been empirically measured that undocumented immigrants are far less likely to commit crimes, particularly violent crimes. For example, a 2020 University of Madison study found that, "Compared to undocumented immigrants, U.S. citizens were twice as likely to be arrested for violent felonies..., two-and-a-half times more likely to be arrested for felony drug crimes, and

over four times more likely to be arrested for felony property crimes."

Further, in relation to the jobs and wages of the American multinational working class, immigrants are not the threat, capital is. Again due to capital's need to maintain its necessarily increasing rate of profit, capital attempts to extract value from labor at an ever more efficient rate, meaning capital constantly attempts to both automate as much as possible and drive down the wages of the working class. In other words, immigrants aren't stealing jobs, the capitalist class is systematically destroying them.

In order for the American multinational working class to gain quality jobs and a sustainable future, it cannot blame its problems on the working class of countries which American imperialism has ravaged. Instead of division, the working class must understand that Biden's executive order does nothing to repair the damage caused by American capital which drives current immigration at the southern border, and that it instead attempts to divide the international working class in service of the imperialist bourgeoisie.

It also cannot be understated that this executive order will result in countless deaths and acts of violence to be perpetrated against currently blocked asylum seekers, a sacrifice made without thought by the bourgeois class. We, the international proletariat, must fight against this. The international proletariat knows not borders but solidarity, and further understands that the problems currently facing us are the result of capital's internal interconnected contradictions. The system of imperialism, which is the foundation for the immigration crisis, is the very same system which exploits the working class here in America more and more every day. Only in the struggle for socialism can the working classes of all nations solve the crises of our modern situation. Down with imperialism, down with reaction, down with capitalism!



CALIFORNIA'S SALTON SEA: AT THE INTERSECTION OF CAPITALIST-DRIVEN ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE

M. A. Booth | Kentucky | June 12, 2024

Over the course of the 20th century, an endorheic rift lake – a collection of water within a basin with no evident outlet – in the California desert has become the center of an ongoing environmental disaster. Fueled by a lack of effective water management from the state, over-irrigation, climate change, and extremely wasteful private farming practices, the Salton Sea of southern California represents the future of desert biomes across the United States. Under our current profit-driven socioeconomic system of Capitalism and Imperialism, this life or death situation will only continue to worsen with time.

The Salton Sea was originally formed by an inflow of water from the Colorado River between the years of 1905-1907. As a canal was being dug from the river, water from spring floods broke through the dam and made its way into the formerly dry lake of the Salton basin. This is what created the modern, stagnant body of water we see today.

During the last hundred years, this “accident” of history became a major hub for cash crops and tourism. As water rights were privatized by people moving into the area, a “use it or lose it” type of mentality began to take over. This contributing factor, combined with the inescapable profit incentive of capitalism, led many to practice various forms of unsustainable agriculture.

The Salton Sea peaked as a tourist destination in the 1950s and 1960s. At the time, it received more visitors than Yosemite National Park. Many famous celebrities and wealthy individuals frequented the lake for its unique fishing, swimming, boating, and “desert oasis” experiences. In the decades following, the sea began to shrink. With each passing year, former beaches began to sit farther and farther away from the water's edge. This marked the beginning of the end for this man-made “accident” of history. The decrease in total water volume over time increased the salinity of an already hypersaline body of water, contributing to massive die-offs of fish in the 1980s and beyond. Their carcasses littered the shoreline to decompose in the blistering sun every so often for years to come.



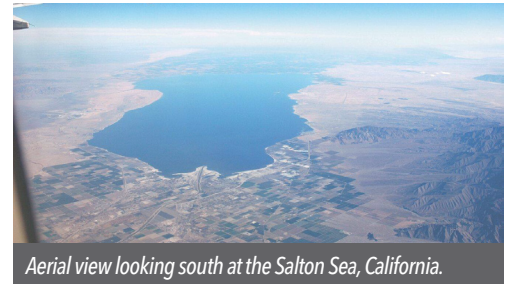
Not only did the receding water levels kill off thousands upon thousands of fish, but the only source of “freshwater” for this terminal lake was agricultural run-off from the surrounding farms. This introduced massive amounts of pesticides into the water, which eventually settled to the bottom and soaked into the sand.

When the shoreline recedes, it opens up previously submerged areas of dry lakebed known as playa. The playa is highly toxic. Winds from incoming weather fronts spread DDT, arsenic, and selenium-laced dust into the air. This toxic dust then enters the lungs of nearby residents, resulting in instances of respiratory conditions such as asthma and bronchitis to be 20-22.4% higher on average in the area around the Salton Sea than California's 14% state average. Exposure to the dust can also cause various forms of cancer, leading to a plethora of health problems for the poorest individuals living closest to this inhospitable cesspool of a “sea.”

“Green Tide” events have also become more common in the Salton Sea. Gypsum blooms contribute to massive die-offs of fish, compounding the issue with the abnormally high levels of salt in the water. Whenever these events occur, the noxious odor often becomes overwhelming to humans. The stench of fish and rotten eggs (hydrogen sulfide) has made its way to areas as far away from the Salton Sea as Los Angeles County!

The lake serves as an important breeding ground and water source for a number of different bird species, and incidents of avian botulism have been on the rise. Birds eat the infected fish and invertebrates, then succumb to the deadly bacteria they harbor within them. Being a closed body of water with no real inflow or outflow, the bacteria that causes botulism lies dormant in the lake for generations. Current conservation efforts haven't been able to keep up with the exponential decline in the conditions of this unique ecosystem.

Circling back to the capitalist-owned farms of California, we can see how their agricultural run-off and wasteful use of scarce water resources have contributed to this ongoing environmental catastrophe. Two-thirds of our out-of-season fruits and vegetables are grown in the area around the Salton Sea. Lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, sweet corn, watermelon, cantaloupe, and onions are all harvested out there in the middle of the desert. While you may enjoy this luxury while you're shopping at the grocery store, it's simply unsustainable in the long term. As the lake shrinks and the Colorado River continues to dry up, less water will be available for these rich farmers. With the “right” to “private property” (not personal property!) being enshrined in our bourgeois legal system, our



capitalist socioeconomic system can not provide a long-term solution to deal with the problems we're facing today.

This crisis is yet another example of how capitalism has finally reached its ultimate limit. While the bourgeois propagandists, con artists, and paid political hacks of all stripes tell us that everything is fine, those of us who have eyes to see know that this is a lie. The lithium reserves that exist in the Salton Sea do not represent any form of salvation for the locals. In all reality, it's their death sentence. As the rate of lithium mining is expected to increase in the upcoming years, the environmental situation will continue to worsen. A small number of specialized white-collar workers and scientists will get jobs, while the rest of the local population will remain trapped in economic misery. The profiteers in the battery industry don't care about the people or the environment. They only care about lining their own pockets with the biggest profits they can possibly extract from both labor and natural resources.

Taking everything into account, we see that capitalism has driven the Salton Sea to complete disaster on a scale that's almost incomprehensible to the human mind. This cannot be rectified under the current system that gave birth to it. A new system must be put in its place instead: socialism, and eventually communism, in which the profit motive will be abolished, and workers will have collective ownership of industries and resources under a political structure that serves the interests of the masses.

With vested interests working against us from all sides, the working class must struggle harder than we ever have before to secure a future in which we can thrive. The time for reforms and legislative bandages is over! We can fight to preserve and conserve what little we have left of our desert biomes, but under capitalism it will be a never-ending uphill battle. A society that serves the bourgeoisie will not allow for real solutions to be implemented. When the profit motive has been forcibly removed from society as a whole and we instead have a scientific, socialist, centrally-planned economy, we will finally see the end of man-made environmental catastrophes like the one occurring today at the Salton Sea in Southern California.

MANOEL LISBOA: 80 YEARS OF IMMORTALITY



**Bluma, for A Verdade | Brazil | July 8, 2024 |
Translated from Portuguese**

Manoel Lisboa de Moura, founder and top leader of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Brazil, had been a militant since his school days, as well as an actor and theater director. He began his medical studies at UFAL, but abandoned them to dedicate himself to the clandestine struggle against the fascist military dictatorship. He was an example of the "New Man" advocated by Comandante Ernesto Che Guevara.

HEROES OF THE PEOPLE – The struggle against capitalist imperialism and the oppression of the Brazilian bourgeois state requires study, action, dedication, vigilance, discipline and, above all, fidelity to the principles and practices of Marxism-Leninism, as well as an iron will to improve and enhance the Revolutionary Communist Party. Such was the life and struggle of its founder and top leader, who dedicated his best years to this fight: the hero Manoel Lisboa de Moura, who died at the age of 29 in the cellars of the fascist military dictatorship.

As the book "A vida e a luta do comunista Manoel Lisboa – Depoimentos" ("The life and struggle of communist Manoel Lisboa – Testimonies") thrillingly recounts, our hero dedicated himself to organizing his peers from an early age. Active in the student movement as director of the Union of Secondary Students of Alagoas (UESA), he was a lover of the arts and popular culture, directed and acted in plays inspired by the Popular Culture Center (CPC) of the National Student Union (UNE) and was passionate about soccer. Manoel was "calm, introspective, cheerful, averse to personal violence, he conveyed confidence and the impression that he was always a little ahead of us," recalls Valmir Costa, his youth and party colleague.

The young man from Alagoas began his youth activism in the Brazilian Communist Party (PCB) at the age of 16, in 1960. Two years later, realizing the right-wing revisionist opportunism in the PCB, he joined the Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB). However, not noticing a substantial difference in practice between the two parties, he decided to found the Revolutionary Communist Party (PCR) in 1966, together with other comrades, on the basis of the paradigmatic document Letter of 12 Points to Revolutionary

Communists.

A dedicated student, Manoel Lisboa passed his first medical course, but didn't hesitate to drop out of college to go underground, a harsh necessity in the fight against the fierce repression of the dictatorship. He adopted various aliases and dedicated himself entirely to building the Party throughout the Northeast, leading everything from clandestine agitation and propaganda activities to military operations such as the assault on the Recife Air Force Park to obtain weapons in March 1973, as well as training courses and student congresses of the PCR.

In spite of all the adverse conditions, he was a cheerful young man with a keen sense of humor. One of the anecdotes in the book of testimonies highlights this characteristic:

"On one of these trips, Zé [Manoel Lisboa], I [José Nivaldo Júnior] and another comrade were discussing the arrival of socialism. I argued that socialism in Brazil was a distant dream. Zé then told the following fable, which I have never forgotten and have quoted many times. He said: Imagine, comrade, the workers building a pyramid in Egypt. There was a socialist who was trying to win comrades to his party. Then he would say: Comrade, here comes slavery, then feudalism, then mercantilism, then capitalism, and then socialism. Indeed, at the time of the pyramids, socialism was a long way off. But today, mate, slavery has passed, feudalism has passed, mercantilism has passed, capitalism has arrived, socialism already exists in 1/3 of the world and you think it's far away, mate?"

A humble and affectionate man, only one thing angered him: the oppression and exploitation committed by the bourgeoisie. And the only thing that annoyed him was the lack of attention and responsibility from his comrades.

"Overcoming torture is the duty of every revolutionary"

Manoel had already faced repression and imprisonment before going underground. The first was at the age of 20, in 1965, "for selling books and magazines in a small bookshop." His last arrest took place on August 15, 1973, at dusk, when he was surprised by dozens of dictatorship agents in Ian Fleming Square in Recife. For nearly two weeks, Manoel Lisboa suffered the most brutal torture that the fascist minds of the military, very well trained at the War College under CIA command, could conjure up.

Beaten all over his body, subjected to electric shocks and burns, physically and psychologically abused in every way, he ended up losing feeling in his lower limbs and reaching a state of semi-paralysis. But his will was unbreakable. His firmness was a true Bolshevik fortress. Armed with the most profound revolutionary theory, Manoel Lisboa de Moura truly embodied one of the fundamental principles

of the PCR: "Delusion is betrayal, and betrayal is worse than death." Thus, transforming theory into profound and invincible material strength, the Party's structure remained intact and the fascists were truly defeated on the darkest and most adverse battlefield of the class struggle.

Born on February 21, 1944 in the Farol neighborhood of Maceió, in the state of Alagoas, Manoel Lisboa shone throughout his revolutionary life and militancy. His last weeks were filled with such an intense glow of loyalty to Marxism-Leninism, to the Party and to the oppressed working people of Brazil, that the brutal torturers would never forget him, nor would anyone who knew him. On September 4, 1973, at less than 30 years old, Manoel passed into immortality, becoming a true beacon for the revolutionary struggle against fascism and for socialism, as he watered the seed of tomorrow's freedom with his own blood.

Continuing the Party's work

In every activity and task, in every brigade, leafleting, toll, conversation, study and planning meeting, hall pass, student and union election, we follow and must follow the example of Manoel Lisboa. Capitalist society employs its most obstinate campaign against the organization of the working class in every way, because it knows about and fears the greatest weapon that history has ever presented against its existence: the Revolutionary Communist Party, the instrument of the workers and the masses exploited and oppressed by the regime of private ownership of the means of production.

Supported by imperialism, propagandized by the bourgeois media and their allies on the right, the phonies of social democracy are dragging the people out of political life with their strictly parliamentary and electoral proposal. By demobilizing and immobilizing the class struggle, these traitors to the working class seek to maintain the status quo of the capitalist state, now in high positions as government officials. However, the Brazilian people feel the misery and crimes committed by this rotten and putrid mode of production: police violence, violence in the countryside, low wages, sexism, racism, LGBTphobia, unemployment, rising prices, the inability to live a dignified life.

Therefore, it is our honorable and historic duty to follow the principles of Marxism-Leninism for the true and consequent struggle against oppression and exploitation. To the question of the policemen who raided his sister's house one early morning ("How does such an intelligent boy get involved in communism?"), we reply with the words of our hero: "This bourgeoisie has to go." And we will do just that. With fervor and ardor, renewed with every small victory, with support and camaraderie at all times, with study of theory and improvement of revolutionary practices and actions, we will carry out his final request to continue the Party's work.

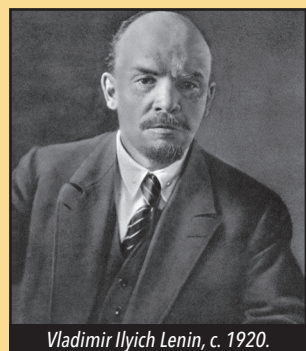
About the Red Phoenix

The Red Phoenix is the mass voice of the American Party of Labor, published online regularly and printed bimonthly. It is a newspaper dedicated to providing a creative and original insight on what is happening in the United States of America and around the world. Along with analysis of important news, events, reviews, and commentary, the paper also includes interviews and letters from workers across the country. The goal of *The Red Phoenix* is to provide a platform for working people of all kinds, without the biases and mitigation of corporate media.

The Red Phoenix is aimed at revolutionary and progressive-minded people, activists, workers, and others who are fighting in firm opposition to the war against the poor and the oppressed. Our political stands are taken from a revolutionary perspective and our writing serves as a medium of expressing that sentiment.

The Red Phoenix was founded in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crash, as a way to give a platform and voice for working class people left outside popular media narratives. During the Trump presidential campaign and the George Floyd Movement, *The Red Phoenix* grew to have correspondents across the country seeking to interview workers, analyze the resurgent labor movement, and agitate for a true workers' democracy. In our era of misinformation and rising fascism and union-busting, the need for true working class stories, under the "blue and red" mythology, has never been greater.

To help us with our work by subscribing, donating, or submitting your own articles for publication, please visit us online at RedPhoenixNews.com



"It is particularly necessary to arouse in all who participate in practical work, or are preparing to take up that work, discontent with the amateurism prevailing among us and an unshakable determination to rid ourselves of it."

V. I. Lenin (1870–1924)

"What Is To Be Done?" - 1902

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**PEACE,
EQUALITY,
SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY**

About the American Party of Labor

The APL 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 when billionaires have more wealth than the bottom 90% of Americans.

★ **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 uphold the anti-fascist legacy of the Marxist-Leninist movement. Members of the American Party of Labor are active in movements against the Far-Right on college campuses, and the barbaric treatment of immigrants at the border.

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 apply.

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

AmericanPartyofLabor.com

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 are we 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 see a problem with capitalism that could just be mitigated. Instead, he and his compatriots analyzed capitalism itself to understand how the system worked. Marx's ideas for revolution are based on 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.

Powered by Labor and made possible by contributions from workers like you.