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# The Red Phoenix

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

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Photo: Activists for community control of the police rallied in Chicago to protest Trump's visit to the city, July 31, 2024.

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## TWO WAR PARTIES BATTLING OVER THE WORLD'S BIGGEST WAR CHEST



A woman looks for salvageable items following Israeli bombardment at al-Shati refugee camp in Gaza City on June 22, 2024. (Omar Al-Qattai/AFP via Getty Images)

### A statement from the Resist US-Led War Movement | July 24, 2024

While Joe Biden has withdrawn from the 2024 Presidential election race, the oppressed and exploited people of the world are still made victims by two sides of the same pro-war imperialist American government.

Ultimately, both the Trump and Biden-Harris Administrations further entrenched... the U.S. war machine. Both expanded military bases, alliances and military assistance around the world. Both expanded the U.S. military budget and pushed forward the modernization of the nuclear arsenal. Both escalated tensions against China and Russia to preempt strategic competition. During the elections, the Democrats and Republicans battled out who could be the bigger war-hawk overseeing the world's largest military chest, currently funded at \$841.4 billion with an additional \$32.4 billion for national security programs within the Department of Energy (DOE), and \$438.0 million in defense-related activities.

In Trump's time as President, he represented the Republicans' openly fascist faction of the ruling class and activated the ultra-nationalist and most right-wing currents in the U.S. to take on more visible activity, and more escalated forms of action among both State and extra-state forces alike.

Though Trump's politically chaotic public statements about the U.S. withdrawing from NATO and the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan promoted an anti-war illusion to his populist base, Trump's administration in 2016-2020 was responsible for missile strikes in Syria and Afghanistan, pushing for NATO countries to increase their defense spending, overseeing the drastic military build-up in the Indo-Pacific that Obama started, and illegally recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Zionist occupation state Israel. He backed coup-elected Juan Guido in Venezuela to push for further sanctions and destabilization of the nation. He further passed a nuclear posture review that broadened the circumstances under which the United States can use nuclear weapons to encompass cyberattacks.

During his 2020 election campaign, Biden marketed himself as a "reasonable" Democratic alternative and response to the fascism under Trump, Biden was able to win over large sectors of progressives towards fundamentally right-wing politics under the guise of "progressive values."

Throughout his term, Biden has exposed himself through his aggressive foreign policy, heightened repression and policing within the U.S., and the

continued worsening economic crisis which is exacerbated by the neoliberal policies under his administration among other things. In the midst of the massive upsurge in global solidarity for Palestine, Biden was brought to court for complicity in genocide.

"Genocide Joe" Biden traveled to Israel after the start of the Israeli genocidal war, provided the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) with huge quantities of munitions, refused to publicly call for an indefinite ceasefire, and vetoed UN resolutions it opposed while openly calling himself a Zionist. This all reflects the president's strongly held personal beliefs on the need to support the Jewish state and the idea that public support for Israel gives America greater behind-the-scenes leverage.

VP Kamala Harris herself has a concerning pro-war record. Exposing her own genocidal support of Israel through US military aid and diplomatic support, she stated after October 7, "our support for Israel's security is ironclad, and we stand with the people of Israel in defense against these attacks." She has reiterated the U.S. commitment to the transatlantic NATO alliance with America's European partners and earlier this year, she vowed the U.S. would support Ukraine's fight for "as long as it takes," showing that she'd continue Biden's practice of shredding any Ukrainian peace deal brought to the table. On a visit to Taiwan, the Philippines and other Indo-Pacific states, she stressed what she called the United States' "enduring engagement" in Asia, hitting on previous administration talking points about ensuring an "open and free" Indo-Pacific region, and "freedom of navigation" in the South China Sea. What that really means for the people of the region is more corporate land grabs and militarization to protect them.

Harris herself has a political career predicated on the criminalization of poor working-class Black people in the Bay Area of California, as attorney general. She supported inmate slave labor, criminalization of poor parents over truancy, an increase in Black incarceration, and expressed support of the death penalty.

We need a stronger anti-war movement to fight against whichever faction of the ruling class takes power in the White House in November. Our task is to take up the calls of the world's people against U.S. military funding, U.S. military base expansion, sprawling military alliances, and war mongering by Washington. We continue to stand with the anti-militarism agenda representing these calls, not the war agenda of any Republican or Democratic candidate, and call on our movements to continue to struggle against U.S.-led war through the elections and beyond.

## MIGRANTS SAVE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIES



**Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Ecuador (PCMLE) | July 9, 2024 | Translated from Spanish for the Red Phoenix**

Every year, Latin American migrants send billions of dollars to their families, values that serve to sustain the economies of their countries, but which, even so, do not help their governments to do anything for them.

\$155 billion USD is the amount of money that, from all over the world, Latin Americans sent to their countries in 2023, a value that has grown by 8% since the previous year, according to World Bank data.

The effort is enormous and explains a good part of the situation of several countries that have managed to sustain themselves, despite the impact of several negative events. The most striking is Mexico, which has received \$66.2 billion, an amount that represents 46% of its annual budget, which makes it

clear that it is migrants who have managed to sustain this economy, above the NAFTA agreements that its leaders have emphasized over the years – these agreements functioning rather as mechanisms that allow the outflow of remittances.

The case of Guatemala is striking because the \$20 billion that Guatemalans abroad sent to their families represents nothing more and nothing less than 132% of their budget. In the Ecuadorian case, the \$5.5 billion in remittances represent 16% of the national budget.

Undoubtedly, migrants are the saviors of several Latin American economies that would be in greater crisis if it were not for these resources, but they are also, unintentionally, the promoters of the banks' wealth, since they charge up to 7% of the values sent as transaction costs, which represent at least \$4.6 billion. In the Ecuadorian case, they pocketed about \$165 million.

The main beneficiaries of migrant labor are their employers in the countries where they are employed. If migrants managed to send \$155 billion USD to their countries, the wealth they generated for their employers is undoubtedly enormous, much higher than that figure, an expression of the exploitation they have to suffer in order to survive in capitalist society, where they are expendable.



## SONYA MASSEY MURDERED IN COLD BLOOD BY ILLINOIS DEPUTY

**Sofia D. | Virginia | July 24, 2024**

On July 6, Deputy Sean Grayson shot Sonya Massey, 36, in the face three times while responding to her call to 911. Sonya Massey had called to report a possible intruder. As the sheriffs arrived, Massey was heating a pot of water on the stove. Grayson told her to put down the pot, she complied, and then she ducked behind a counter with her hands up, apologizing. Grayson immediately drew his gun, and as she ducked, opened fire three times, hitting her in the face. What would have been read by a social worker as a situation where someone was scared and confused, was instead read by the police as a threat, and because of that, Sonya Massey has been taken from her family and community.

This story is not at all out of the ordinary for the American police force, which bears the features and legacy of the slave patrols out of which it developed: fire at will, do not hesitate to brutalize anyone who makes you feel "threatened," and take extra care to be especially cruel and callous to Black, Latino, and Indigenous workers.

The police do all this to stem the flow of "social disorder," whether that means robbery, erratic behavior, or revolutionary activity – natural

consequences of capitalist exploitation and cyclical crises. Capitalists cannot solve the problems their system necessitates, so they sic feral dogs upon the working class to terrorize them and keep them in line.

Moreover, the American police system, like the Russian tsarist police system and many others before it, inculcates their police force to be sadistic great-nation chauvinists, always reserving their worst and most animalistic behavior for the non-white "races." This gives the capitalist class an even more brutalized and desperate stratum to prey on, and helps promulgate a racist mythology which justifies the existence of Capitalism.

The racist and capitalist institution of American police must be scourged off the face of the earth, and its vile and pulsing core of capital must be plunged into the mists of history.

As a temporary measure, the active and advanced section of the working class must organize to resist and push back the open flow of police violence with a demand of community control over the police.

Ultimately, the multi-national, multi-ethnic



working class must militantly organize to seize political power for itself in a moment of crisis for the Capitalist system, and address social problems by solving their social causes: the conditions of production.

Sonya Massey is a victim of Capitalism and Great Nation Chauvinism.

**Demand justice!**  
**Demand an end to capitalism and racism!**  
**Say her name!**





## BIDEN'S WITHDRAWAL EXPOSES BOURGEOISIE



Joe Biden lauds Kamala Harris, saying his VP "could be president of the United States." (Yahoo! News)

**R. Nesbitt and Keegan D. | Aug. 14, 2024**

On July 21, 2024, President Joe Biden withdrew his candidacy for re-election in the November contest and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to succeed him in the campaign against Donald Trump. The contradictions within capitalist imperialism are ever-sharpening, and now is the time for the masses to organize along genuinely revolutionary lines in the class struggle.

Biden stepping down as the Democratic Party nominee comes as the capitalist donors of the party begin to recognize the likelihood of a political loss if he were to remain the nominee, to the degree that they are willing to break long-standing political norms. The bourgeoisie is both divided and anxious, as exemplified by the current political crisis of leadership as the capitalist order becomes increasingly difficult and implausible to maintain. As the capitalist class cannibalizes itself in a desperate attempt to maintain the current economic mode of production, both sides attempt to garner the support from the working class. Just as they exploit the labor of the working class in society's economic base, they attempt to utilize the working class to advance their aims in the political superstructure. In other words, the capitalist class is attempting to condemn the working class to be both replaceable parts of the economic machine of capital, and pawns to be sacrificed at the political level.

The situation before the working masses is a mess of historic proportions. The Democrats have, in many ways, humiliated themselves by accepting the general strategy of a meek, undistinguished, often confused man of rather advanced age to even run

for the primaries in the first half of 2024, perhaps not desiring to break with the tradition and ease of a sitting president running as the Party's candidate in a re-election bid. Biden's poor performance, unpopularity, and apparently ailing health have forced him to stand down and for the Democrats to adopt unusual tactics to attempt to secure their victory against Trump in November. Of course, the Democrats have exposed their hypocrisy by pushing through Biden with no opposition permitted in the 2024 primaries, clamoring on about the need to defeat Trump all the while, and yet they *still* concede at the last moment when it becomes clear that this careerist doesn't have any fight left in him anymore. Never mind the fact that his success in the first place, in 2020, comes only from riding the coattails of bigger politicians, tremendous super PAC fundraising and the sabotage of Bernie Sanders, yet again, in those primaries.

The Democrats are of course no strangers to the tokenization and weaponization of identities to feign representation, inclusion and concession to historically (and presently) oppressed minorities. The advancement of Kamala Harris as the the first potential female president will be drawn out to all of its luster by the Democrats because they have nothing else to stand by. There are few fulfilled campaign promises, and no sweeping positive changes the Democrats can point to for the Biden/Harris administration, so they will debase themselves in the most performative of ways to curry favor, particularly against the despised Donald Trump.

"Performative" must be emphasized, because only a political cretin lacking any nuance would charge the critic of liberal identity politics *immediately* with

the stain of racism, misogyny, prejudice, and bigotry in general. But the meat of the question posed by such critics, of great import to the workers (of all identities and backgrounds), is: to whom will Harris be of service? Power wielded against whom, and for whom – against the workers, for the bourgeoisie; or vice versa? Obviously Harris, who has undermined higher minimum wages and adequate stimulus bills; has rejected immigrants fleeing the abuses of our empire; and has wavered on ending the genocide of the Palestinian nation, among countless atrocities going back to her time before entering national office; cannot be trusted to speak for the interests of the American or global workers regardless of any shared kinship and hollow representation of systemically oppressed demographics. What a comfort it will be to the Black working woman whose union is crushed, whose job is shipped overseas, who is denied socialized medicine or controlled rent, who continues to be discriminated against in housing, education and employment because of her sex, gender and race, that President Harris sits in the Oval Office signing more of her taxes away not to that worker's benefit but to war in Ukraine!

It cannot even be said there is inherently anything wrong with a man as old as Joe Biden running for office. Bernie Sanders for instance is only a few years his junior whose acerbic wit, intelligence and charm cannot be called into question. His fatal flaw is in his social-democratic convictions – a wooden shield in the ongoing class war against super PACs, superdelegates, electoral colleges, and the military-industrial complex, to name only a few of the threats to the working class. No reasonable person would call Donald Trump coherent or logical or sharp-witted, but his incredulous stupidity and incompetence cannot be credited to his age but to his status as a privileged nepo baby for a pathetic bourgeois investor. Indeed, Trump has been inconsistent, incoherent and incredulous these 30 years of discourse and flirting with office! The issue with Biden lies in his incompetence, his prevarication, and his exhaustion in the role that personally complicates his abilities as a statesman.

No attacks on the basis of age, race, or gender can be permitted in any display of rejection or disgust with the capitalist system which would remain the same whether Richard Nixon or Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez ran for its highest executive office. Do not surrender this barricade to the pandering pundits of petulant and performative liberalism. Charge the painted running dogs of the capitalist gamblers with the true crimes they must be held accountable for. As workers we must not stake our bets on this or that dog coming out ahead. The criticism of the candidacy of Harris, in

**(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)**

contrast to the praise that has already been thrown at her feet for playing the part of the first Black female Vice President, does not come from a place of bigotry or prejudice but in the aim of exposing the Democrats for what they truly are: the more covert and subtler agents of the bourgeoisie, who do not divide and rule as transparently as the Republicans, but instead attempt to console, soothe, and promise and “inspire” the working masses of this country to vote, and vote, and vote, until the promised land wafts from the heavens unto these capitalist states. We must not and can no longer be deceived by either the carrot or the stick. We must have the courage to go beyond them if we are going to survive and thrive as working people.

It is the opinion of this author that Donald Trump must not be permitted to win, for even as dangerous,

meager and reactionary the Democratic Party has become, only one candidate has tried to coup an elected government with a fascist putsch of landlords and flooring contractors; who was already martyred as a “victim” of repression for his felony convictions and other charges against him; and who, after the failed assassination attempt in Butler, PA, was positively deified by the RNC in Milwaukee in the following days.

As Camilo Lazo, the Chair of the American Party of Labor, in speaking at the counter-convention in Milwaukee declared: “Yesterday was Bastille Day, today... they’re crowning a King! Remember, as then, as now, as tomorrow, revolution is the solution!” This is the true danger of a Donald Trump returning to power: the bourgeoisie will know they can force through anything, they can take any

concession, prop up any puppet, skew production and wealth accumulation ever more in their favor, and the working masses will permit it.

Donald Trump must not win, Kamala Harris must not be trusted to genuinely represent us, and regardless of which capitalist comes ahead in the race we must continue to expand and grow our independent organizations along revolutionary lines. Such organizations must work together around common goals of boycotts, unionization, solidarity, and protest, and not along hollow, performative lines. We as workers must continue to educate ourselves, must work harder to make our collective wills known, and must deny the Pettyking Donald Trump while giving Harris and the Democrats the chance to expose and humiliate themselves for all to see, and for all to know that revolution is the solution.

## MY FRIEND, JACK SHULMAN



Members of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, with Shulman seated in the center.

**Camilo Lazo | National Chair of the American Party of Labor | July 29, 2024**

*In memory of Jack Shulman on the 110th anniversary of his birth.*

I suppose it's a very sad commentary on the present state of our movement – especially in the US – when one learns of the death of a dear comrade three years after the fact. In 2002, while surfing the web, I read of the passing of Jack Shulman in 1999.

Jack Shulman was a long-time activist of the US Communist movement.

Starting in the 1930s and continuing almost to the new millennium, born of Russian-Jewish immigrants who came to this country in order to escape the Tsarist pogroms, Comrade Shulman's political career spanned some of the most momentous events of our day: The great popular

to fight.

I first came to know Comrade Shulman when, as teenager trying to make heads or tails over the innumerable “left” groups and parties in the US, I learned of his efforts on behalf of Socialist Albania, and wrote to him. He responded. Comrade Shulman took the time to write to me and warmly offered his opinions and advice. This led to a correspondence that lasted many years. To this day I treasure the letters Comrade Shulman sent me as a boy. His letters were filled with the political guidance and direction I needed – but more importantly, they were filled with the human kindness and concern that only a true comrade can offer a young person.

Comrade Shulman extended a personal invitation to come and visit him at his home in Brooklyn. Twice I accepted his offer. He and his wife were not only gracious hosts, but gentle, warm, and above all wise. I'll never forget the many stories Jack had to tell: Of his experiences in Spain, in the American

struggles of the '30s; the Spanish Civil War (where Comrade Shulman served in the International Brigades); World War Two (where he drew the sword against fascism a second time); the McCarthyist period in the US; the struggle against Khrushchevite revisionism; the 1960s; the defense of Socialist Albania in the '70s and '80s; and the attempts to rebuild a genuine revolutionary world Communist movement in the 1990s. Comrade Shulman was always there – always the first

South, of his work with the great William Z. Foster.

Eventually, as the 80s drew on I left home to continue my schooling and begin living my life. Sometime in the early 1990s our correspondence came to an end. But, I never forgot my friend and mentor.

Years later, I learned my friend was gone. Comrade Jack Shulman may be dead, but his spirit and his cause are eternal. I dedicate all my political work to his memory. I want to make my old friend proud.

IN MEMORIAM: Jack Shulman (1914–1999), A True American Bolshevik.



The Red Phoenix has published a three-part interview conducted with veteran American communist Jack Shulman, an early anti-revisionist Marxist-Leninist, shortly before his passing in 1999. The first section deals with Comrade Shulman's experience as a member of the anti-fascist Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War. Part two focuses on his activity organizing for the Communist Party, USA in the American South, and part three covers his work with CPUSA Chair William Z. Foster and the struggle against Browderism and Khrushchevite revisionism.

- Part One: Spain (1937–1939)
- Part Two: Underground in the 1950s South
- Part Three: On William Z. Foster

All three parts are available to read online at [www.RedPhoenixNews.com](http://www.RedPhoenixNews.com)

## NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD ELECTORAL OBSERVERS PRAISE FAIRNESS, TRANSPARENCY OF VENEZUELAN ELECTION PROCESS



Delegates await results from the Consejo Nacional Electoral, July 28, 2024.



**National Lawyers Guild  
International Committee  
July 29, 2024**

National Lawyers Guild electoral observers condemn the U.S. backed opposition's refusal to accept the outcome of democratic election.

A delegation of five election observers from the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) monitored the presidential elections in Venezuela that took place on July 28, 2024. The delegation observed a transparent, fair voting process with scrupulous attention to legitimacy, access to the polls, and pluralism.

Despite the soundness of the electoral process, the U.S. backed opposition, with support from an anti-Maduro western press, has refused to accept the results, undermining the stability of Venezuela's democracy. The president of the Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE), Elvis Amoroso, called upon the attorney general to investigate the attacks on the electoral transmission system. The delegation strongly condemns these attacks on the electoral system as well as the role of the US in undermining the democratic process.

The official election results were announced shortly after 12 am on July 29: President Nicolas Maduro has been re-elected with a 51.2% share of the vote; his leading challenger, Edmundo Gonzales, took 44.2% of the vote, with turnout approximately 59% throughout the country with a voting electorate of over 21.3 million people.

The delegation visited several polling sites in Caracas and La Guaira and shared notes and information with the 910 electoral observers present from 95 countries and many organizations, including the Carter Center, the United Nations, the African Union and the Latin American Council of Electoral Experts (CEELA).

*"The Venezuelan elections today were not only fair and transparent but also represented an example of popular civic participation. Their successful outcome is a triumph for the Venezuelan people, especially considering the level of US interference and attempted sabotage of the democratic process, particularly through sanctions and coercive economic measures aimed at producing 'regime change' in Venezuela,"* said Suzanne Adely, President of the NLG and a member of the delegation.

During the delegation's visits to polling sites, members spoke freely with voters, including supporters of both the government and the opposition. We found that voters across the board expressed strong confidence in the electoral system and did not note any problems or hindrances to casting their ballots.

The electoral system was highly transparent and well-facilitated, overseen by the Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE), the fifth branch of the Venezuelan government, which manages the electoral process. The voting system in Venezuela, dubbed "the best in the world" by former US President Jimmy Carter, ensures both access to the polls and clear identification of voters, promoting a secure system that inspires confidence in the Venezuelan public. Notably, Venezuelans cast both an electronic vote and a printed paper ballot in order to verify electoral totals, a check that is performed automatically at 54% of polling locations, chosen at random. The machines and electoral processes functioned properly at each of the polling sites visited by the delegation.

The high level of security at the polls is combined with a commitment to accessibility for all Venezuelan citizens, the delegation observed. People with disabilities, small children and the elderly may access their polling station through fast-track lines. For people with special needs who require physical assistance to cast their votes, there is also a system called "assisted voting" that allows voters to either bring a family member or the president of the voting station into the voting booth to assist with the process, and the delegation witnessed two examples of assisted voting throughout the day.

Any difficulties that we witnessed at the polls were normal and routine in all electoral systems. At the majority of polling sites we visited, wait times were relatively low (under 5 minutes) throughout the day, although there were surges in turnout leading to longer waits at times. Those with special needs were accommodated through a fast-track line. Longer and shorter wait times at the polls took place across neighborhoods and, when there were longer lines, the delegation did not witness any participants that decided not to vote due to waits.

The delegation underlined its absolute rejection of claims of fraud being promulgated by the U.S backed opposition, right wing forces in the region including the Lima group, U.S. officials including Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and Western media.

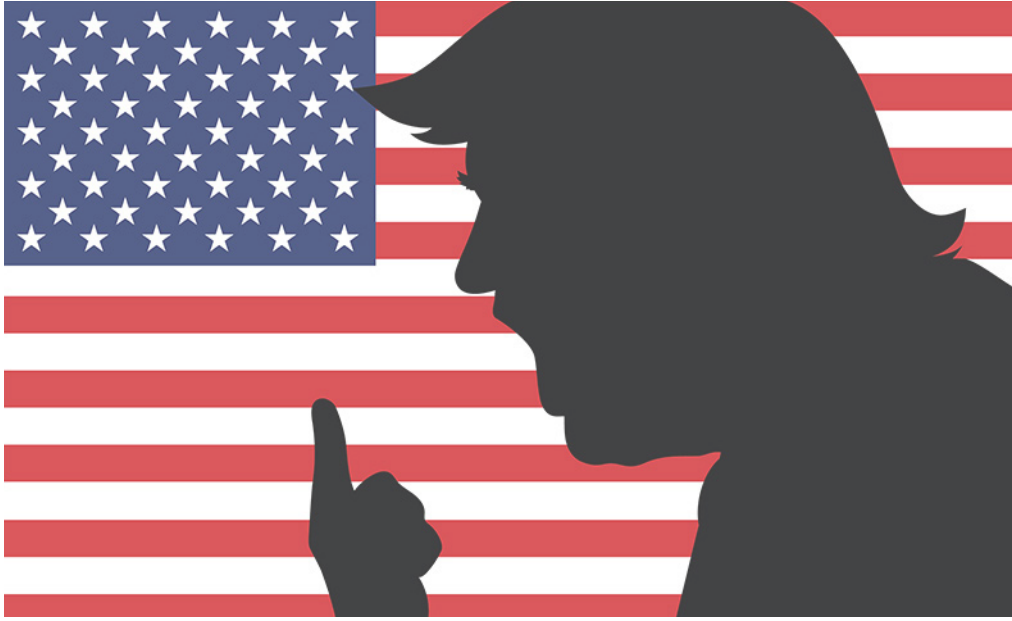
The delegation has produced a brief and thorough report expanding on the election process as well as attempts to interfere by the opposition, the United States government and Western media. *"It's imperative that we act in solidarity to protect democracy and the sovereignty of this Caribbean nation, reject U.S. imperialist intervention in Venezuela, and call for an end to US sanctions and blockades,"* said Adely.

The National Lawyers Guild has previously monitored Venezuelan elections in 2021, 2015 and 2013, and co-organized a fact-finding trip in 2023 to monitor the effects of sanctions on the country.

The National Lawyers Guild, whose membership includes lawyers, legal workers, jailhouse lawyers, and law students, was formed in 1937 as the United States' first racially-integrated bar association to advocate for the protection of constitutional, human and civil rights.



## EDITORIAL: THE TWILIGHT OF TRUMPISM?



**Camilo Lazo | National Chair of the American Party of Labor | Sep. 18, 2024**

"Get[ting] rich not by production, but by pocketing the already available wealth of others, clashing every moment with the bourgeois laws themselves, an unbridled assertion of unhealthy and dissolute appetites manifested itself, particularly at the top of bourgeois society – lusts wherein wealth derived from gambling naturally seeks its satisfaction, where pleasure becomes degeneracy, where money, filth, and blood commingle... in [his] mode of acquisition as well as in [his] pleasures, [he] is nothing but the rebirth of the lumpenproletariat on the heights of bourgeois society."

– Karl Marx, *The Class Struggles in France*.

Donald Trump may well go down to a humiliating and ignominious defeat in the upcoming U.S. presidential election. Many are cheering the apparently substantial gains made by the Democratic Harris/Walz ticket over the past two months and prematurely celebrating the end of American fascism. This is a mistaken and dangerous position to take. While an electoral defeat in November may be the end of the 78-year-old Trump's political career, it most certainly does not mean the decline, much less the defeat of the fascist, reactionary, and xenophobic elements in American society that Trump has come to represent. Should the American electorate reject Trump in November, it could signal the decline of Trumpism as a charismatic cult devoted to the whims of its leader, it could delay the implementation of authoritarian programs such as Project 2025, and it could temporarily block the increasing fascistization of American capitalism and political culture; but it

will in no sense end that process of fascistization. Trumpism might be delivered a significant blow, but MAGA will remain.

Fascism has a long history in American political life. Indeed, its predecessors in the form of the Know-Nothings, Nativists, and the Ku Klux Klan have deep roots in the early history of the United States. From the second generation KKK of the 1920s to the American Nazi Party of the 1960s to the various Nazi, racist, and terrorist groups spawned in the 1980s, American fascism has been a constant, albeit often hidden, feature of American political life. Brought out of the shadows due to the violent reaction against movements for progressive and democratic social change, and given a lease on life by the Reagan administration's successful wooing of the fundamentalist religious right, American fascism was brought to the center stage by the internet, social media, the rapid spread of irrationalist conspiracy theories and creation of various platforms dedicated to their dissemination. MAGA is the end result of a decades-long process. That American fascism found its Duce in the person of a media-created pseudo-celebrity has aided that process, but is not the reason for that process.

Fascism is the result of the crisis of capitalism. Fascism is capitalism in extremis. Fascism is capitalism in decay, a capitalism that can no longer rule in the old way, a capitalism desperate to hold on to its profits and willing to go to extremes of terroristic violence in order to maintain the very fabric of its society and its class rule intact. Defeating Trump at the ballot box will not resolve the contradictions of capitalism – the very well springs of fascism.

Should Trump and his acolytes disappear tomorrow, not only will the capitalist crisis that brought them to the forefront remain, but the myriad of national and local reactionary, religious fundamentalist, white supremacist, and anti-democratic forces and organizations that have, so far, ridden his coat tails will remain. Groups such as Moms for Liberty, Turning Point, USA, the Proud Boys, and the host of smaller violence and vitriol spewing organizations will continue. Indeed, a Trump defeat at the polls may embolden them to greater acts of violence and further targeting of vulnerable and marginalized peoples and individuals. MAGA is not going to simply go away. Neither are those persons who have made political and media-oriented careers espousing and enabling its hatred, ignorance, and violence.

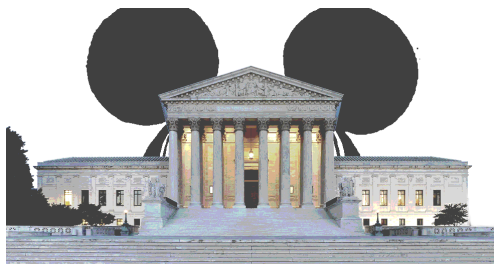
Fascism has proven to be remarkably resilient. Shortly after what many thought to be its final destruction in 1945, fascist organizations began to reform and re-emerge. Even in the former Soviet Union and the states of people's democracy, as soon as the suppressing hand of worker's power and socialism was lifted, all the old pre-war fascist groups, the Vlasovites and Banderites in what used to be Soviet territory, the Ustashe and Chetniks in what used to be Yugoslavia, the Arrow Cross in Hungary, and the Iron Guard in Romania, all returned. We would be fools to think that the mere loss of an election or the frustration of a real estate conman's Hitlerian fantasies will mean the end of American fascism.

Additionally, we would be remiss if we were to not point out the hypocrisy of a Democratic Party that itself enabled American racism and fascism, and was impotent to stem its rise even at the cost of their own lives. This self-same Democratic Party presents itself as the champion of American "democracy" against the threat of MAGA and Trumpism, while at the same time continuing exploitative and anti-worker policies at home and supporting genocidal imperialism abroad.

Elections will not defeat fascism. History, experience, and common sense have demonstrated as much. The only thing that will defeat fascism, as that same history, experience, and common sense have shown, is the concerted mass action of the working, exploited, and marginalized people themselves. Fascism is not defeated at the ballot box, it is defeated in the streets. To rid ourselves of MAGA and Trumpism once and for all is to rid ourselves of capitalism once and for all.

**REVOLUTION IS THE SOLUTION.**  
There is no other way.

# DISNEY WRONGFUL DEATH SUIT HIGHLIGHTS DANGERS OF ARBITRATION CLAUSES



**Eris Rosenberg | Minnesota | Aug. 22, 2024**

*(Editor's Note: Disney has announced that they are waiving their right to arbitration only after mass outrage and pressure from media coverage. However, that Disney was able and willing to force arbitration in such a way is still cause for alarm, as online accounts and terms of service agreements are increasingly unrealistic for consumers to avoid – or to thoroughly read and understand before accepting – in this digital era.)*

A widower may be prevented from filing a lawsuit over the death of his wife because he once signed up for Disney's streaming service.

On January 22, 2024, Mr. Jeffrey Piccolo filed a wrongful death claim against Great Irish Pubs Florida, Inc. and Walt Disney Parks U.S., Inc. in Florida's Orange County Circuit Court following the death of his wife, Dr. Kanokporn Tangsuan.

According to the facts of the case, Dr. Tangsuan passed away after being served food at a restaurant in Walt Disney World which contained ingredients to which she was allergic. This comes despite the fact that Dr. Tangsuan repeatedly notified the server of her dietary restrictions.

While negligent food handling is an unfortunately common scenario in civil law, there is one aspect of the case that is highly unusual. At the center of recent controversy in the bourgeois media is a claim made in Walt Disney Parks and Resorts (WDPR)'s Motion to Compel Arbitration and Stay Case, filed on May 31, 2024. The motion makes the argument that the Court should force Mr. Piccolo to agree to settle out of court, given the mandatory arbitration clause which he agreed to when he created an account with the Disney+ video streaming service. That clause allegedly states that he agreed to arbitrate all disputes "against the Walt Disney Company or its affiliates... arising in contract, tort, warranty, statute, regulation, or other legal... basis." As heartless as it is, this attempt to use an unrelated technicality to throw out Mr. Piccolo's lawsuit is not a new phenomenon within the U.S. legal system.

## The role of "Zealous Advocates"

As the spokespeople for Capital, bourgeois legal analysts commenting on this case will no doubt point to the fiduciary duty of attorneys to "zealously advocate" for their clients – in other words, to throw claims at the wall until one sticks in court. On first glance, this axiom seems to ensure that both parties to a lawsuit exhaust all available legal justifications for their actions in a case, thereby promoting the discovery of so-called legal truth, and the symmetry of court decisions and legislation. In practice, however, it also leads to the unending generation of pretenses that the American bourgeoisie can use to excuse its exploitation of the working masses both domestically and abroad.

Moreover, attorneys and judges have an explicit duty as agents of the capitalist legal system to uphold their profession as part of the bourgeois societal superstructure, and an unspoken one to reinforce the economic relations of its base. Nowhere is this unspoken duty more evident than in the constant justifications that they find for limiting the compensation that can be sought from their capitalist masters: that penalties against companies should be limited so as not to harm their workers and wider community, that corporations should be considered fictional persons to protect their officers and shareholders from liability, and so forth.

As reactionary and antisocial as WDPR's justification for obstructing Mr. Piccolo may be, the reality is that it is much worse than a first glance would suggest. To understand the real implications of Disney's claim, we must briefly look at the U.S. legal system.

## Overview of the U.S. Legal System

The United States legal system falls within the category of "common law," founded in the United Kingdom and still used today in some of its former colonies. Common law relies heavily on the precedent of previous court decisions through the principle of *stare decisis* ("to stand by things decided"). This principle alleges that by allowing the ghosts of the past to guide in present decisions, courts can reach predictable, coherent outcomes when the facts of a past and present case are similar. It should be noted that this is precisely where the wider danger in Disney's argument originates.

Under common law, precedent can be divided into two types: binding, and persuasive. Binding precedent refers to decisions which the deciding court and all courts below it within its jurisdiction

must follow, whereas persuasive precedent refers to decisions that courts of equal standing or in different jurisdictions do not need to follow but may reference when coming to a decision. A typical flow of binding authority in the United States court system can be seen in Figure 1 below:

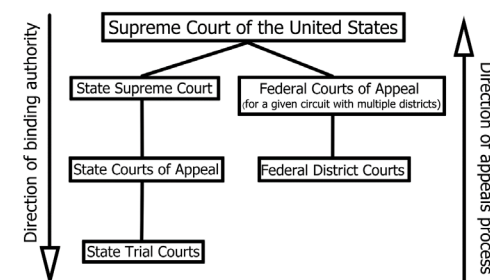


Figure 1. General Diagram of Binding Authority and Direction of Appeals in the U.S. Court System.

Similarly, a party to a lawsuit who wishes to appeal the decision rendered on their case by a court generally has to follow the flow shown above. This relationship of binding authority to the appeals process is important, because it shows the progressively wider reach the verdict for a given case will have on legal precedent as it is appealed to higher and higher courts.

As the reader can see, there is the possibility that the reactionary claim made by Disney's attorneys could affect the entire state of Florida, or even the country as a whole if the case is appealed. In the words of Mr. Piccolo's representation in its response to Disney's motion: "In effect, WDPR is explicitly seeking to bar its 150 million Disney+ subscribers from ever prosecuting a wrongful death case against it in front of a jury even if the case facts have nothing to do with Disney+." Depending on the verdict reached in the case, we are facing the possibility that a mandatory arbitration clause for a single service provided by Disney has the effect of barring any sort of legal action against them under any circumstances. Yet, the implications of this argument go even further.

## Mandatory Arbitration Clauses

Mandatory arbitration clauses are a staple of contract law in the United States today. Originally introduced in the Federal Arbitration Act of 1926, they can now be found anywhere from simple sales and housing rental contracts, to credit card and employment contracts, to major deals brokered between large firms. It is not an understatement to say that it would be impossible to track how many mandatory arbitration clauses each worker has agreed to throughout their life.

*(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)*



Even more concerning than these arbitration clauses' ubiquity is the method by which they operate. These clauses waive the ability of the parties to the contract to sue in court, instead committing both parties to the process of arbitration in the event of a disagreement: a process by which a third party examines the facts of the disagreement and decides what the appropriate solution, if any, is. Common wording in an arbitration clause states that the provider of the service involved gets to decide the following:

1. The location where the arbitration will take place and corresponding binding law;
2. The presiding arbitrator or arbitrators, in practice a former judge(s) that may in fact have previous associations with the service provider;
3. The time limit in which a dispute must be filed; and
4. Whether or not there is an appeal process.

The ability of a service provider to choose which law binds the contract is not an accident. The jurisdictions frequently known as 'tax havens' do not just benefit the financial filings of capitalists; they often also have a lower level of workers' protections, and more corrupt legal systems that further amplify the power disparity between bourgeois and proletarian. In the United States, examples of these jurisdictions that may frequently appear in arbitration clauses include the States of Delaware and Florida, among others. Claimants who have never stepped foot in these places often find themselves obliged spend vast amounts of time and money to travel or to retain legal counsel of questionable sympathy in faraway jurisdictions

just to participate in the arbitration process. For the working masses who cannot afford to take time away from their jobs, much less spend last sums on representation, this is an unbearable pressure.

A final consideration on WDPR's argument in its Motion to dismiss Mr. Piccolo's case is its wording in the phrase "...or its affiliates." Here, its attorneys make the argument that because he agreed to a single clause for a single service of a single company, he is unable to sue Disney or any of its subsidiaries, or perhaps even any company it does business with. Given the high concentration of Capital in the United States and subsequent web of ownership and business relations each company has (especially large corporations), the question arises as to who *would not* be subject to a mandatory arbitration clause over every possible legal claim, if Disney's argument was validated in a higher court.

As shown above, it is characteristic that the bourgeois legal system attempts to maintain a thin veneer of equality and fairness while at the same time protecting its ruling class from liability through endless mazes of technicalities and barriers. Disney's argument represents a bourgeois attempt to add another, nearly impenetrable, layer of obstacles to prevent the working classes from using its legal system.

### Synthesis

In the above-mentioned lawsuit, we are glimpsing yet another portent of the present, ever-accelerating decay of American capitalism. What appears at first to be an underhanded ploy by a team of

attorneys to win against a grieving husband is also an attack on the working masses as whole. If *Piccolo, Jeffrey vs. Great Irish Pubs Florida, inc. et al.* were to make its way to the Supreme Court, all custodians of American Capital, including three who were appointed by fascist figurehead Donald Trump, a foreseeable long-term result would be the near-complete destruction of bourgeois civil law as we know it. The scope of the decision could be expanded to encompass every company and concern operating in the United States that has ever included a mandatory arbitration clause in one of their contracts, as well as their subsidiaries and other affiliated companies. Swathes of workers would be unable to seek even the most basic level of compensation for injuries or deaths arising from corporate negligence and malfeasance. It is the duty of communists across the U.S. to decry this development.

As Capital tightens its noose around the neck of the working class, we can find no savior from antisocial legalism in either of the major bourgeois parties. Both merely serve different sections of the American capitalist class and have shown their dedication to decreasing concessions made to the workers while ramping up exploitation. Instead, we must educate, agitate, and organize under the banner of a proletarian vanguard party.



**AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR**  
**ALL POWER TO THE WORKING PEOPLE!**

## SUPPORT PALESTINE, PRIDE, AND THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR!



The APL is hosting an ongoing fundraiser for Palestine.

100% of proceeds from our "Free Palestine" merchandise are being

donated to emergency relief efforts in Gaza.

We have various other collections including original Pride designs, tributes to socialist leaders and theoreticians, and *Red Phoenix* merchandise.

In addition, we have original printed publications including our theoretical journal, *Marxist-Leninist Currents*; the annual journal of the ICMLPO, *Unity & Struggle*; and a limited selection of other books and journals.

All store proceeds and donations go directly to our work. None of our members are paid from party funds. *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, theoretical journal, 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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## BEIJING DECLARATION HAMMERS FINAL NAIL IN COFFIN OF OSLO DECLARATION OPPORTUNISM



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and China's President Xi Jinping in Beijing, June 2023. (Jade Gao/Pool via AP)

Hannah H. | Texas | Sept. 4, 2024

On July 23, Wang Yi and the Chinese government brokered a landmark agreement between thirteen Palestinian Political and Resistance factions, including Hamas, Fatah (representing the Palestinian Liberation Organization, PLO), Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). Though this agreement has not been released in full to the public, according to current leaks, it contains three main stipulations: first, that all groups recognize the PLO as the sole leader of the Palestinian resistance; second, that Fatah recognizes the right of resistance under the UN as applicable to Palestine; and third, that all groups recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine under the Oslo framework.

Already, various media outlets have begun a dog and pony show touting this as a great achievement of Chinese diplomacy. China Daily described this outcome as a hopeful day for the Middle East more broadly, namely an opportunity for the “end of conflict via peaceful development.” It should be asked if this was the same peaceful development that has made China the second-largest trade partner to Israel, the peaceful development that constructed the high-speed rail system in occupied Tel-Aviv?

Likewise, the Chinese international policy is largely one of pragmatic capitalism, where the primary goal is the creation of a system of international capital and exploitation running parallel to that of the current hegemony of the US. This includes a combination of

earnest development projects in certain countries wherein China shares especial diplomatic or political interest, and traditional colonial exploitation of the rest, as in the Philippines or the Congo.

Within the Middle East, this policy has manifested within the Chinese-brokered peace agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Among many provisions for reopening diplomatic relations between the two countries, there was notably no mention of the Saudi-fueled genocide in Yemen, the mass killing of Somali refugees on the border by the Saudi government, or the deadly conditions that poorer pilgrims to Mecca experience. Rather than addressing the genuine policy disagreements between the two countries, the peace deal rather tabled the issue in favor of bringing the two countries more solidly into the BRICS economic camp. The political and structural differences between the two states were danced around, allowing China to extract profits and diplomatic control in both countries.

In 1993, there was another “peaceful” development plan for Palestine: the Oslo Accords. This was an agreement between Yasser Arafat’s Fatah and the Israeli government for Israel to end the occupation of Gaza, and to grant autonomy to the West Bank, in return for the PLO renouncing armed struggle. In effect, this only concentrated Israeli repression of the West Bank, defanged the resistance, and paved the way for the Israeli co-opting of the Fatah into a collaborationist organization used to cut the political link between the West Bank and Gaza.

The development of this agreement was similarly

anything but peaceful. Notwithstanding the ongoing genocide in Gaza perpetuated by the Israeli government and the American ruling class, this agreement was only made possible by the almost incomprehensible decision of the fascist Netanyahu government to annex the West Bank into Israel proper. This dislodged the political opportunists in control of the Palestinian Authority under Abbas, effectively forcing Fatah’s hand.

The J23 agreement, after the prior annexation of the West Bank, serves as the final nail in the coffin for the Oslo framework. A set of treaties originally described by Francis Sejersted as a “return from the vicious cycle of violence into a track towards peaceful coexistence” – while granting Abbas, head of Fatah, and Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel, a Nobel Peace Prize. An agreement that granted Israel control over the drinking water, borders, and politics of Palestine was always a transparent attempt to whitewash the expansionist project into a mere set of assets to be divided up between interest groups. Oslo brought no justice, and without justice, there isn’t peace. Further, there was no reality in which any Israeli government would accept a treaty that jeopardized their oppression of the Palestinian people and domination over their nation.

While not going so far as to legitimize Israeli occupation, the J23 agreement does extremely little for the desolate and starving people of Gaza, or the oppressed and divided people of the West Bank. It was a culmination of events set into motion by the fascist government of Israel breaking one final treaty, that secured their position of ruling over the West Bank, in preparation for something worse.

Likewise, the current treaty is unlikely to shift the West Bank Fatah towards any form of resistance, nor facilitate much of anything beyond a memorandum of understanding between quislings and their enemies, and a closer relationship between China and Iran.

The resistance will continue fighting on the ground, as they did yesterday, and the Palestinian Authority will continue to collaborate with the Zionist oppressors under one flag or another. The Oslo Accords are dead, as they have never lived.

In the meantime, we must all join forces with the progressives and anti-imperialists in our country and around the world, in every encampment, at every protest, and in every workplace. The American Party of Labor stands with the oppressed masses for a united, democratic state of Palestine! Victory to the resistance, victory to Palestine!



## EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: THE CRISIS OF THE SYSTEM IS VISIBLE!



**Statement by the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO) | July 18, 2024**

The European election results have mercilessly exposed the crisis of the bourgeois-capitalist system and its internal contradictions. In many countries, the number of non-voters and abstentions was very high, sometimes higher than the votes for the strongest party. In France, Italy and Denmark the turnout fell to just over half of eligible voters; in Germany, one third did not take part in the elections. That in itself speaks about the lacking of the workers and people's support and trust in the EU monopolies and their governments and institutions. The imperialist EU project of more reactionary offensive, militarization and war is creating frustration, insecurity and protest among the people. It has very much been a protest election against the arrogant anti-working class neoliberal policies, scandals and the attacks on the working class, little farmers, public employees, women's rights and youth that the different governments in Europe are leading.

### **Dangerous trend to the right**

However, the growing dissatisfaction has in many countries not led to workers and sections of the population voting in favor of social-democracy. In many countries the right populist parties as well as open or only pour camouflaged fascist parties have increased their number of cast votes. The ultra-reactionary and semi-fascist parties are skillful at exploiting the masses' frustration with a crisis-ridden capitalist system. This is the specialty of fascism. Voters have primarily protested against the prevailing system and governments, not in favor of a racist and fascist agenda. The old bourgeois and reformist parties moved to extreme right-wing positions. The key issues of right-wing populist parties, such as phobia of refugees, nationalism and fascistization of society, have become part of the political establishment and the general policy of most parliamentary parties. They have become normalized in the parliamentary game, where there is a high degree of consensus and a strong bourgeois class alliance.

In the northern EU countries it was the left-populist parties who captured the votes of dissatisfaction with the neoliberal warmongering policy of the governments and the EU. But neither the right wing nor the left wing parties will bring real change in favor of the working class and the people as it only changes the balance of power between the bourgeois parties.

### **The right is the alternative for the ruling class**

It is more than self-evident that in the bourgeois capitalist-imperialist system in deep crisis there is no basis for social reformism. It is struggling with its crises and no longer has any progress to offer the working class and the vast majority of the population.

It reacts to its crises by cutting jobs, lowering real wages, reducing social benefits and, increasingly, by arming and going to war. All of this is at the expense of the working class and the overwhelming majority of the people. "Progress" now only exists in phrases. It is quite clear that capital, with its crises and wars, with its agents among the working class, not only does not want the working class to defend resolutely its own interest or even to adopt a revolutionary policy, but is trying to prevent it by all means. This is where populist and fascist pseudo-alternatives come in handy. Hence the media frenzy surrounding the asylum issue and the propagation of right-wing positions. Hence the constant divisive discussions about the "lazy" recipients of social aid or the "lazy" youth or the expensive pensions or the "outrageous" wage demands of workers and so on

and so forth. Divide and rule! The populist and fascist parties help with their agitation against refugees. And both represent the "unity" of the workers with their own capital – against the others. Such positions do not hurt the ruling capital, they benefit it.

The head of Deutsche Börse, Theodor Weimer, laid bare the real balance of power in this society. He quoted US investors: "We don't care which old man is president. We as entrepreneurs run the country." Regardless of whether Biden or Trump governs, in fact capital rules. It's the same in Europe. Whether the "Progressive" or the Conservatives, the Liberal are in government with or without the support of populist and fascist parties, capital can live with both and assert its interests.

But in many countries the bourgeoisie is using the fear of the working class and progressive forces of a shift to the right to bring them behind bourgeois positions. In France, President Macron has dissolved parliament and called new elections. In doing so, he also wants to exploit the fear of M. Le Pen and the RN, at the same time negate his own responsibility and continue to impose a neoliberal reactionary policy, inspired in many aspects by right extreme positions, against workers' and peoples movement.

### **What are the consequences?**

Elections do not change the capitalist imperialist system. In the end the capital almost always wins its own elections, underlining EU as a project of the capital. But elections are an important indicator of the political mood. The elections for the EU parliament showed the great discontent with the neoliberal policy and the imperialist war. But on the other side in some countries it led to a strengthening of the right wing forces due to the weakness of the progressive forces and of the communist movement.

Our answer is to bring the real interests of the workers and the people into focus:

Loss of real wages, massive social cuts, inflation, job destruction, educational misery, catastrophe in the healthcare system, massive lack of affordable housing, disastrous local and long-distance public transport. The inflexible struggle to defend economic and politic interests of the working class must be at the center of our work – as concretely as possible and together with our colleagues. In this work, it is becoming clear to more and more people that the capitalist-imperialist system is no longer capable of progress, that it offers no prospects – except crisis, poverty and war. This also makes it clear that we have to fight for every millimeter of positive change for the working class, that we must reinforce our Marxist-Leninist parties and organizations, in order to advance in the fight to abolish this system and replace it with a socialist society.



*Organization for the Construction of the Communist Workers' Party of Germany (Arbeit Zukunft)*

*Workers' Communist Party (APK), Denmark*

*Workers' Communist Party of France (PCOF)*

*Communist Platform – for the Communist Party of the Proletariat of Italy*

*Labour Party (EMEP), Turkey*

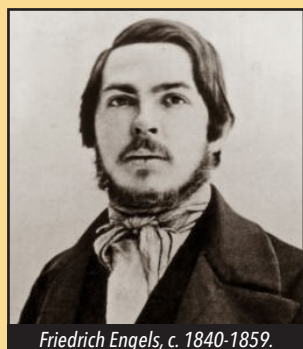
## About the Red Phoenix

*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](http://RedPhoenixNews.com)



***"The only difference as compared with the old, outspoken slavery is this, that the worker of today seems to be free because he is not sold once for all, but piecemeal by the day, the week, the year, and because no one owner sells him to another, but he is forced to sell himself in this way instead, being the slave of no particular person, but of the whole property-holding class."***

**Friedrich Engels (1820–1895)**

***"The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844," 1845.***

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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:

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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.**