



The Red Phoenix

REAL NEWS FOR WORKERS, BY WORKERS

★ NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR

AmericanPartyofLabor.com — RedPhoenixNews.com — Issue #38 — July 2025 — Donations accepted — Copy and redistribute!

**COAL MINERS FIGHT
CUTS TO BLACK LUNG
DISABILITY BENEFITS**

By John M. | P. 12

**NATIONAL GUARD INVADES
L.A. IN FASCIST WAR
AGAINST THE PEOPLE!**

By the American Party of Labor | P. 3

**JUDICIAL DECAY,
CANCELLED ELECTIONS,
STRIPPED RIGHTS**

By R. Nesbitt | P. 9



Orlando, Florida: Demonstrators protested against the Trump administration as part of the nationwide "No Kings" movement on June 14, 2025. (Sebastian Lemba/The Red Phoenix)

CALL TO THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD: LET US OPPOSE AMERICAN-ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST IRAN!



Coordinating Committee of the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations | June 21, 2025

Israel's aggression against Iran, which began on June 13 with intensive airstrikes and assassinations, continues. Just as the justification for the attack on Iraq was "Saddam's weapons of mass destruction," the justification for the attack on Iran is "Iran's nuclear program."

The news agencies report that Trump has approved US imperialism's plan to attack Iran, but has not yet ordered the attack, giving Iran the "opportunity" to "back down" and "surrender."

The truth is that the United States has not only participated in the Israeli aggression against Iran from the beginning, but has also directed and managed it.

US imperialism has launched its strategic plan to redesign the Middle East with the genocidal attack by Israeli-Zionist forces on Gaza. After taking a step forward in Lebanon, with the support of the Saudis and the Gulf Arab Emirates and the initiative of Turkey and Israel, it has implemented regime change in Syria and targeted Iran, whose influence in the region has been limited by the weakening of its allies.

Israel, considered an undisputed aggressor, is a striking force of US imperialism, whose goal is to unconditionally dominate the Middle East by neutralizing and excluding its rivals, including border and regime changes in certain countries. It is not the case that Israel lacks specific interests and objectives, such as becoming the dominant regional power, and even occasionally forces the United States to achieve them, but it aligns its own interests with its strategic goals, approaches, and plans, and is used by the United States as a striking force. Israel, which also produces weapons but receives unlimited support from the United States in terms of arms, munitions, and space intelligence, cannot conceive of itself or its aggression without the United States, to the point that it was able to begin bombing Iran without any concern, despite having a missile arsenal that lasted a week and ten days.

This is evident in the statements of Trump, who has presented himself as the "commander in chief" of the war. He was the one who urged Iran to "surrender" and who stated that "the problem will be solved if Iran returns to nuclear negotiations and signs the agreement, as promised."

At this moment, US imperialism and Israeli Zionism are bombarding Iran with bombs and missiles, raining blood and cruelty from the air on the Iranian, Persian, Azerbaijani, and Kurdish peoples. The son of the Shah,

overthrown by the Iranian Revolution in 1979, has already declared his willingness to rule Iran according to the interests and directives of US imperialism.

Today, when bombs are killing the Iranian people, this is not the time to make speeches about the "reactionary and popular hostility of the mullahs" or justify the US-Israeli aggression. The mullahs are, without a doubt, reactionary, but the task of the day is to stop the brutal US-Israeli aggression.

We condemn the US-Israeli aggression against Iran. There is no doubt that the Iranian workers and people have the right to defend themselves, and we call on the peoples of the Middle East and the world to fight against imperialism and Zionism. Solidarity with the workers and people of Iran!



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" designs 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 and subscriptions.

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 sales and donations go directly to our work. None of our members are paid from party funds. *No profits, ever!*

★ As a member organization of the ICMLPO, we send our party members to conferences, workshops, educational, 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, and we voluntarily perform all of the labor required to do so.

Our work is funded by our own members and grassroots supporters, including *Red Phoenix* subscribers, donors, and shop customers.

Shop:



Donate:



We accept donations of gently-used socialist literature to sell in our store, which can be mailed to:

Red Phoenix Publishing
P.O. Box 607087
Orlando, FL 32860

WATER SHORTAGES, CONTAMINATION LEAVE AMERICANS THIRSTY FOR ANSWERS



Thomas K. | Ohio | May 9, 2025

If corporations are allowed to continue their streak of over consumption and contamination of our water supplies, we will see dramatic water shortages in the United States within the next decade, and potentially an end to clean water access across the world by 2040. We have the technology and labor power to turn these figures around and we have the ability to provide clean drinking water to 100% of people living in the U.S. However, corporations and the political leaders who sympathize with them have left the infrastructure to our means of life poisoned or crumbling with no intent on fixing the problem. The de-privatization of this vital infrastructure would allow experts in their respective fields to use their abilities to serve the people. This will lead to the development, maintenance, and expansion of clean energy, transportation, water and sewer, telecommunication, and emergency systems. As a union plumber my expertise lies in the water and sewer systems, and that will be the focus of this piece.

Plumbing systems have existed since the beginning of recorded history. The first accounts of drainage systems are depictions of large runoffs and ditches dug for the sake of protecting villages and fields from flood waters. The necessity to defend against flooding, and to have access to clean water, has led the plumber to be a staple of society since the very beginning of civilization. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of 2023 there are approximately 473,400 plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters in the United States. The labor force, resources, and skills of these trades should be available to provide clean and safe drinking water to the entire population of our country. However, due to private industry constraints, “an estimated 2.2 million Americans live in homes without running water or basic plumbing,” according to a CDC study conducted in 2012.

Ancient Rome is where we truly begin to see the creation of “plumbing systems,” systems where wastewater is carried out and clean water is carried in. This is also where we begin to recognize “The Plumber” in history,

deriving from the word *plumbarius*, a person who works with lead. The Romans developed lead pipes used to carry both hot and cold water to bathhouses. The fault however with these ancient systems is there wasn’t much of a concern for what became of the waste once it had gone out of sight. This created issues with access to clean water supplies and, coupled with an over population in these cities due to poor social conditions, people often fell ill or died due to water-borne diseases.

The concept of clean water wasn’t really a mainstream discussion in the western world until the mid-1800s when it was discovered that cholera outbreaks were linked to contaminated water supplies. The Health of Towns Association pushed for the 1848 Public Health Act to improve plumbing and drainage systems and to establish the provision of sewers. A little under a decade later the first integrated sewer system was in the U.S. was built in Chicago in order to keep pollutants from draining into Lake Michigan, the city’s primary water source. However it still wasn’t until the 1930s that we saw nationwide plumbing codes and standards come to fruition.

As an apprentice plumber in the United States, I was told that my first loyalty in this job should be to the general population. As plumbers our trade is one of a first line defense to the health of the people in our communities. Regardless of class everyone will need the services of a plumber, making it one of the few “equalizers” in society. A broken pipe or contaminated water source creates a crisis for all people, but for many a solution is unattainable, forcing them to live in squalor. People who do not have access to any clean water are forced to purchase bottled water, which can cost over \$1000 per household per year. Lack of access to clean water causes higher healthcare costs and lower household earnings. When local, state, and federal governments neglect crumbling infrastructure in low-income areas — while granting corporations favorable deals to build private infrastructure — their disregard for the working class couldn’t be clearer.

Further attacks on regulatory bodies, by the Department of Government Efficiency, has led to a halting of funds from the EPA to at-risk communities. For example, in Clarksburg, West Virginia, funding for testing blood and water for lead pollutants has been cut. These cuts to the EPA will also lead to dangerous fracking, drilling, and pipeline practices across

the United States. Unmanaged oil and gas drilling has caused contamination of drinking supplies time and time again, as seen in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Colorado, New York, and West Virginia.

The Appalachian region is constantly plagued by contamination from unsafe mining practices. In August 2022, in Jackson, Mississippi, a flood rendered their plumbing infrastructure useless due to gross negligence by authorities (AHJ), leaving 150,000 people without clean water. The people in the area are still fighting for solutions to problems that failed to be addressed by their local and state governments.

Plumbers and plumbing inspectors across the nation have warned their municipalities that the changes being made, as plumbing fixtures and systems evolve, will place constraints on both sewer systems and water supplies.

Though clean water access remains a problem in the United States, it’s critical to mention that this is not a uniquely “American” issue; this is a crisis that plagues the world. Africa as a continent is constantly afflicted by sanitation and water issues. Some will have you believe that this is due to the “harsh landscape,” and while this may have been true hundreds of years ago, it is no longer the case. Rather, the root of the problem is the insatiable thirst for profit by the capitalists and the governments that do their bidding, while risking the lives of the masses. We live in an age where in America we can build thousands upon thousands of miles of pipeline underneath our homes, as the corporate owners pilfer our natural resources and sell them for profit, lining their pockets, while some of us can’t even wash our clothes.

Along rivers we have built multi-billion dollar oil refining and distillation plants. We have the technology, we have the skills, we have the knowledge to build infrastructure to bring water to everyone in this world. We can stop the development of oil and gas pipelines and start developing wastewater treatment plants and facilities to supply clean water. As corporate demands continue to increase, and as sustainable energy options are ignored, the crisis of water continues to expand globally. Plumbing could be a public safeguard, but when profit dictates its distribution, the trade becomes yet another tool of inequality, servicing those who can pay while others wait for solutions that never come.

NATIONAL GUARD INVADES LOS ANGELES IN THE FASCIST WAR AGAINST THE PEOPLE!



A demonstrator holds up a protest sign during a protest against federal immigration sweeps outside the Edward R. Roybal federal building in Los Angeles, California on June 8, 2025. (Mike Blake/Reuters)

The American Party of Labor | June 9, 2025

The fascist Trump regime is escalating its violent attacks on the people with the deployment of the National Guard on protesters in Los Angeles. ICE raids began targeting migrant communities in LA over the last two days. Anti-fascists, progressives, and migrant rights defenders were on the scene to observe, document, and protest the actions of ICE since officers arrived on Friday. ICE arrested, detained, and injured several dozen protestors, including SEIU California president David Huerta.

"What happened to me is not about me; This is about something much bigger. This is about how we as a community stand together and resist the injustice that's happening. Hard-working people, and members of our family and our community, are being treated like criminals. We all collectively have to object to this madness because this is not justice. This is injustice. And we all have to stand on the right

side of justice," Huerta said in a statement released by SEIU California on Friday.

Huerta was released from the hospital, but remains in custody at the time of writing.

On Saturday, protests continued, blocking roads and justly fighting back against fascist militarized police kidnapping migrants and community members. The Trump regime, in response, has deployed 2,000 National Guard personnel to crack down on the protests—a huge overreaction by an administration scared of the power of a people's protest movement. U.S. Representative Nanette Barragán has related that California state officials have been instructed by Washington to prepare for thirty days of National Guard deployment. This will amount to a military occupation and counter-insurgency.

When the federal government sends in a militarized police force to kidnap and beat community members and organizers, war has



A man waves a Mexican flag as smoke and flames rise from a burning vehicle during a protest against federal immigration sweeps, near Los Angeles City Hall, in downtown Los Angeles, California on June 8, 2025. (David Swanson/Reuters)

been declared on the people. The Trump administration is committing acts of state terror. Additionally, the administration has threatened to "send in the Marines" to quell the protests. While this may be bravado and posturing from Trump, we cannot and will not ignore the threat to send regular military forces to suppress popular protests.

The American Party of Labor vehemently and in no uncertain terms condemns this fascist war against the people! We call on all our comrades, friends, supporters and allies to take action, to raise their voices and hit the streets.

Now is the time to unite with your community. Connect with and grow community organizations which are dedicated to kicking ICE out. Now is the time for militant people's action. The stakes are rising. We must not for one second waiver or hesitate to stand up to the fascist onslaught.

**Defend migrant workers!
Abolish ICE!**



A protestor holds up a Mexican flag as burning cars line the street on June 8, 2025 in Los Angeles. (Mario Tama/ Getty Images)



Protestors against immigration raids march from Los Angeles City Hall to the LA Federal Building on June 8, 2025. (Apu Gomes/ Getty Images)



California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers clear protestors who were blocking the 101 freeway in Los Angeles on June 8, 2025. (Mario Tama/ Getty Images)

EDITORIAL: ON KEEPING UP MORALE IN DARK TIMES



Camilo Lazo | National Chair of the American Party of Labor | June 9, 2025

It is so easy to fall into despair or nihilism now. It's understandable. The people have suffered major setbacks and we are only human. Our hearts bleed and our tears flow, just as anyone else's. But, in addition to offering each other the care and support that only comrades can, we all need to understand that it is just that feeling of hopelessness and worthlessness that the fascists are counting on to secure their victory. Everywhere we look we see friends and loved ones, colleagues and comrades, expressing feelings of being trampled on and beaten.

Now, more than ever, we communists need to show our mettle. Now, more than ever, we need to stand firm and say *"No pasaran!"*

Oh, it's easy to play at being a communist. It's easy to pose for selfies wearing ridiculous-looking, and unearned Soviet militaria. It's easy to post "dank memes" with all sorts of slogans on them. And it's always been way too easy to posture about how r-r-revolutionary one is while denouncing everyone else. But to be a true communist and stand up when everything seems to be going against us; to be a true comrade to our sisters and brothers who are feeling the blows of fascism on their bodies or in their hearts; to be a genuine servant of the people, as opposed to proclaiming oneself as such,



A couple with a Mexican flag embraces as a Waymo vehicle burns, as protesters clash with law enforcement in the streets surrounding the federal building during a protest in Los Angeles, June 8, 2025. (Ringo Chiu/AFP via Getty)

that has never been easy. And today has become a heavy task to take on.

Yet, take it on we must. This is the moment when we stand or fall. This is the moment when we demonstrate who we are. More and more people, even people we never imagined would do so, will be looking to us for guidance and help. We must not fail them.

We cannot falter now. History and our duty to our cause and our class demands it. For us communists, there is a cure for the hurting spirit and the wavering resolve: The masses.

The people are, in many cases spontaneously, rising up and showing their rage at the fascist onslaught. Wherever there is a

demonstration against fascism, a protest against racist or police violence, an action in defense of the oppressed and marginalized, join it! Join it and become a part of it. There is nothing like participating in a mass action to refresh one's commitment, and to exhilarate the heart and soul. This is the key to fighting demoralization in our ranks. Join with the rising masses of the people and work to increase and deepen that anger and turn it into class-conscious militancy. Do it for the people and do it for yourself.

Our time is now.
Victory to the people!
We will triumph!



A protestor carries an upside-down American flag as demonstrators against immigration raids march toward downtown Los Angeles on June 8, 2025. (Mario Tama/Getty Images)

WORKERS RESPOND TO BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL: "YOUR WEAPONS CANNOT SAVE YOU"



President Trump announces the 'Golden Dome for America' project in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington D.C., May 20, 2025. (Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)

Keegan D. | Illinois | June 13, 2025

The audience of this paper is and always will be the working class, however today we have a clear message for those in the bourgeois class headed by the Trump regime: your weapons cannot save you. The internal contradictions of capitalism are sharpening, and the use of weapons production and increases in exploitation cannot prevent a crisis forever.

Amidst the economic and political turmoil of the current era of capitalist decay, congressional Republicans and the Trump regime are currently in the process of passing a new tax bill termed by Trump as the "Big, Beautiful Bill." This bill is nothing short of a direct act of class warfare against the working masses by the current administration. The bill includes drastic cuts to Medicare and food assistance programs through the implementation of work requirements in order to receive benefits, as well as through direct cuts to healthcare services like Planned Parenthood, targeting both reproductive resources and gender-affirming healthcare. These vicious cuts have been estimated to result in approximately 14 million Americans losing their health insurance over the next 10 years, and 11 million Americans losing their food security.

Additionally, even "populist" provisions in the bill such as the often-advertised "no tax on tips" policy, championed by Republicans and Democrats alike, ultimately serve capitalist interests. This policy forces workers in the service industry to become further reliant on tips rather than actually increasing their wages. Worse still, these backhanded "benefits"

for the working class are set to expire in 2028, while tax cuts for the capitalist class have no expiration date. These measures essentially work to increase the rate at which the working class is exploited in a sick attempt by the capitalists to stave off a crisis of profitability at the expense of working people's health and livelihoods.

Included in the tax bill alongside these brutal cuts to social services are further increases in military and border security funding. The bill provides \$46.5 billion in increases for Trump's mass deportation plans, and \$150 billion in the defense department's budget for projects like the proposed "Golden Dome," which mirrors the apartheid state of Israel's Iron Dome program and is touted to be a framework for defense against strategic missile strikes.

Reactionaries in the Trump administration and Congress argue that these "defense" and border enforcement measures are being implemented in order to defend against the United States' foreign adversaries. Beyond surface-level fascist fear mongering, both of these projects' real purpose is to increase the demand for military production and generate massive amounts of profit for weapons manufacturers and finance capital.

As it stands the only legislative opposition to this bill is from Senate Republicans who, rather than arguing against increases in military and border spending, are trying to add additional cuts to social services before passing the bill onto Trump's desk to be signed into law. In other words, no bourgeois party, Democrat or Republican, has any intentions of preventing this from passing. To make things

worse, the bill also includes provisions which make it more difficult for federal courts to hold government officials in contempt if they violate judicial orders, thus making legal resistance to Trump's policies an even more arduous.

Austerity measures and military spending are not new tactics employed by the capitalist class to attempt to raise the rate of profit, however it is clear with this bill that the contradictions of capital are accelerating and forcing the capitalist class to implement more drastic policy measures. As a result the bourgeoisie is becoming increasingly comfortable subjugating American workers to worsening domestic exploitation for its own short term benefit, beyond even the last several decades of neoliberal policy.

It is clear to members of the working class that these increases in exploitation have limits in their ability to prevent economic crises. The workers know that we can only tolerate these conditions for so long before responding with outrage at injustice, as exemplified by recent individual acts of revolt.

Additionally, the weapons being produced which are currently planned to face outward towards vague "domestic threats" cannot be effective at solving the internal contradictions of American capitalism in the long term. These weapons will not save capitalism from itself.

In order for the working class to win victories in the long term and take advantage of the capitalists' growing weakness, we must organize both economically and politically. Only through collective and conscious struggle can the masses defend ourselves against these grotesque reactionary policies and win our own victories of justice to propel the movement forward. In order to render the weapons of the bourgeoisie implemented by the "Big, Beautiful Bill" obsolete, and to resist fascism's rise, the working class must unite!



AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR
ALL POWER TO THE WORKING PEOPLE!

WHY ARE STUDENTS CHEATING SO MUCH?

Leon Valentine | Florida | June 6, 2025

Recently, *New York Magazine* released an article highlighting the epidemic of cheating in universities. Containing multiple anecdotes from both students and professors, the article hits home the idea that ChatGPT and other generative AI have infected all levels of education. The students interviewed unanimously declared that AI made their life easier and the difficulty of class assignments trivial at best. However, instead of examining the reasons of why students feel compelled to cheat and use AI to complete assignments the author goes into a moral panic on how students are losing their rigor and soon to be lacking in their mental faculties. It's certainly true that by trivializing their work that students will lose their ever declining, critical thinking skills, but instead of focusing on what happens after a student's education it'd be more beneficial to examine what happens before a student even sits in their lecture hall.

Students, like workers, feel the growing alienation from Capitalist society, and this is the crux of the situation. Students are cheating, not because they are lazy or lack educational rigor, but because education at a fundamental level is not about education. It's

about money, and not in the way you think. Everyone knows education is a business, but what many often fail to consider is that education is also a personal investment on the student's behalf to appreciate their labor value. Students cheat because they have no real connection to their work and they have no connection to their work because there's really no reason for them to have one. Think about many of the conversations you hear about education and college.

"What are you going to do with that degree?"

"What type of work are you thinking of doing?"

And of course the infamous: *"Make sure you go to college, so you don't end up like them!"* -- usually said by a parent pointing at a service industry worker.

At its very core, we treat education as a means to an end, not as a path to enlightenment. And students aren't wrong to think this. The median college graduate makes just over 50% more than the worker with just a high school level education per year (As of 2022). They also make nearly \$650,000 (\$450,000 for women) more over their lifetime earnings than their high school educated peers. It's no surprise

then that students want to breeze through college and get as high a grade as possible. If they are able to graduate quicker they are certain to end up saving money, and with a higher GPA they are liable to be more likely to obtain an internship that will catapult them into full employment post-graduation. Students cheat because they have a material incentive to. In our society, workers compete tooth and nail for minimum level jobs just to survive. From this perspective can we even really blame them? Pride and personal satisfaction don't have calories nor do they provide a roof, you know.

AI has a tremendous power to help innovate in all facets of life, including education. The problem then is not the technology itself, but fault lies in the social relations that it exists under (although AI does pose serious concerns related to its environmental impact). If we want to reinvigorate students and create well-rounded critical thinkers for future generations we need to abolish the social and economic supremacy of Capital. Only then can education really be about education, and students wouldn't feel the need to cheat anymore.

PROLETARIAN PROSE: "DO YOU STAND UP?"



First launch of the space shuttle Challenger, 1983.

Allison P. | International | June 6, 2025

You wake up, check the clock – it is Jan 27, 1986. You are an engineer for Thiokol.

You have the benefit of hindsight, you know what happens during tomorrow's launch.

You are called into a meeting with a number of other engineers and Marshall. Two engineers are concerned about the temperature regarding erosion of the O-rings in the tang and clevis joint. They think the risk is too great.

You have the benefit of hindsight, you know

what happens during tomorrow's launch.

Do you stand up? You know what happens tomorrow.

You wake up, check the clock – it is Jan 27, 1986. You are an engineer for Thiokol.

You do not have the benefit of hindsight, you do not know what happens during tomorrow's launch.

You are called into a meeting with a number of other engineers and Marshall. Two engineers are concerned about the temperature regarding erosion of the O-rings in the tang and clevis joint. They think the risk is too great.

You do not have the benefit of hindsight, you do not know what happens during tomorrow's launch.

The engineers fax over a number of sheets. The engineers recommend not

launching at a temperature lower than 53 F. This is significantly higher than previous recommendations. The O-ring erosion issue is well known. Every launch had erosion; it was normal. High erosion had been experienced at much higher temperatures; it was normal. The engineers think it is a risk, but no one expects a catastrophic failure†.

Do you stand up? No, you don't. No one else did, the data was shaky, information was muddled, it was colder than before but within tolerance – it was normal. It will be fine like the other launches were – you don't know what will happen tomorrow.

You wake up, check the clock — you cannot read the date. Challenger is launching today. Is it 1986?

This was never about Challenger. Do you stand up?

†(Robert Ebeling believed a catastrophic failure was likely but did not stop the meeting.)

SCOTUS RULES IN FAVOR OF RETURN TO SMOG-CHOKED CITIES, BURNING RIVERS

The Science, Technology, and Health Committee of the American Party of Labor | May 20, 2025

In March the Supreme Court launched attacks against the working class by creating massive loopholes to allow companies and negligent local governments to pollute our communities. The Supreme Court makes it completely transparent in its ruling of whose side its on by stating: "What is important, these companies tell us, are narrative limitations other than end-result requirements." SCOTUS doesn't care about the countless lives saved and millions more improved by these regulations.

The Court defers to a document written by organizations of the owning class such as the



National Mining Association, the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Pork Producers Council, the American Petroleum Institute, and more. Corporations want to return to the era of smog-choked cities and burning rivers since they will have to spend less money protecting our waters, air, and ecosystem. They are now free to sacrifice the environment for their bottom line, with the end result being widespread pollution.

We will now be exposed to sewage, toxic

chemicals, mining waste, and further environmental destruction. We see over and over again that the Supreme Court is another tool for the capitalist class to secure their interests over those of the people. We need not only to abolish the Supreme Court, which is an appendage of the capitalist class, but to dismantle the entire capitalist system and build a socialist one that will give the power to the working class to protect our environment and our health!

"PARIS IS BURNING" REMAINS ESSENTIAL CLASS-CONSCIOUS QUEER CINEMA



Venus Xtravaganza in a still from "Paris Is Burning."

Marina S. | Kansas | June 23, 2025

"Tremember my dad used to say, You have three strikes against you in this world. Every black man has two, that they're just black and they're a male. But you're black and you're male and you're gay. You're gonna have a hard fuckin' time. If you are going to do this, you are going to have to be stronger than you ever imagined."

These are the first words we hear in Jennie Livingstone's iconic 1990 documentary "Paris Is Burning," and they cannot help but permeate every moment of the film. Filmed between the years 1987–1989, Paris Is Burning is an intimate and unblinking chronicle of New York City's Ball Scene, an underground subculture formed by Black and Latino gay and transgender communities. Balls, informally organized events that centered around individuals competing in events based on fashion shows or beauty pageants, were a critical part of Queer communities in major

cities since at least the 1920's. However the importance of these events only increased during the heightened periods of discrimination against LGBTQIA+ people that began in the 1950s during the Lavender Scare.

Today Ball Culture is most commonly remembered because of slickly produced and somewhat sanitized accounts like the 2018 television series Pose, or because of its influence on contemporary drag performance. These narratives tend to focus on the elaborate and opulent attire and theatrical performance used by contestants in the Balls and often have the effect of flattening their significance for the highly marginalized communities that created them. Paris Is Burning remains the essential document of Ball Culture because while always foregrounding the joyous and life-affirming nature of these events, the film always frames them within a precarious intersection of racial and anti-LGBTQIA+ discrimination, extreme poverty and the ever present spectre of the AIDS epidemic.

"You know, a lot of those kids that are in the balls, they don't have two of nothing. Some of them don't even eat," Pepper LaBeija, one of the main subjects of the film comments, "They come to balls starving. And they sleep in the under 21, or they sleep on the pier or whatever. They don't have a home to go to. But they'll go out and they'll steal something and get dressed up and come to a ball for that one night and live the fantasy."

It is this fantasy, or rather the desire of the film's subjects to experience the material security and comfort that was so heavily advertised in 1980's America that remains the most powerful theme of Paris Is Burning. At key moments in the documentary, Livingstone masterfully edits candid footage of the affluence of New York City's Financial District with voice-over commentary of her interviewees as they detail their experiences with poverty, housing insecurity and employment discrimination. Most heartbreakingly are the interviews with Venus Xtravaganza, a young transgender woman who frankly recounts the violence she experiences as a sex worker in order to make ends meet after being compelled to leave home at the age of 15. Venus' murder and the ripples it sends through the Ball Scene provide a tragic coda for Paris Is Burning.

Much more than a dispassionate or static account of a marginalized community, Paris Is Burning remains a vibrant and socially conscious document of the strength of its subjects. As LGBTQIA+ people face increased campaigns of violence and oppression under the Trump regime, this film's depiction of the resilience of that community makes an impassioned argument for the need to dismantle the system of capitalist exploitation that makes such oppression inevitable. Paris Is Burning remains essential viewing now more than ever.

*For Venus Xtravaganza
(May 5, 1965 – December 21, 1988)*

STRENGTH UNTIL JUSTICE, STRUGGLE UNTIL PEACE, PRIDE UNTIL EQUALITY



Tristan Kern de Gonzales (left) and Jonathan Joss (right). (Tristan Kern de Gonzales/Facebook)

R. Nesbitt | Maryland | June 13, 2025

On the first day of Pride month of 2025, the same year that the White House refused to issue any statement for this historic period of LGBTQ+ Rights, the openly gay, Comanche actor, Jonathan Joss, of *King of the Hill* and *Parks and Recreation* fame, was murdered in his home by a neighbor in San Antonio, Texas. In January of this year, there was a sudden fire in his home that claimed the lives of his several dogs.

Both Joss and his husband believed the incident was likely an act of arson. They had been in a longstanding dispute with their neighbor, Sigfredo Alvarez Ceja, with the police called several times over the span of many months for welfare checks and domestic disturbances with claims by neighbors that Joss was seen brandishing a crossbow and yelling. Joss' spouse claimed that the police did not adequately respond to their concerns of homophobic attacks and tensions between their household and their neighbor, Alvarez Ceja.

The day of the murder, San Antonio PD were called to the scene in response to gunfire in Joss' home, and the 59-year old Joss was pronounced dead on the scene with three gunshot wounds in his chest and neck. The suspect, Alvarez Ceja, was immediately arrested, reportedly confessing to the police, "I shot him."

The skull of one of the family's dogs who had gone missing in the house fire this January was found in their mailbox. In the days following the shooting, Joss' husband, Tristan Kern de Gonzales, made several public claims that his husband's murder was motivated by homophobia, while the SAPD has decided not to declare it a hate crime while the investigation is ongoing.

Pride month, which is also Indigenous

Visibility Month, is an awfully suspicious time for a proudly queer and indigenous actor to be murdered by his homophobic neighbor after months of altercations, fear, potential arson, and the mishandling by all of this from local police.

Liberal pundits are already dismissing Kern de Gonzales' claims that this murder was sparked by a tirade of homophobic slurs and insults by the suspect. They, like the police, are so prepared to discount this very conspicuous and revolting crime as a simple domestic disturbance that spiraled out of control.

We cannot allow this crime to be shelved, to be categorically dismissed; we cannot bury our heads in the sand, as the liberals do, and pretend that simply because rights exist on paper (which are facing a veritable blitzkrieg by Trump's blundering), that we are suddenly a free and equal society, a relative utopia.

Pride month matters. Indigenous Visibility Month matters. The recognition and celebration of the most marginalized and oppressed strata of the masses matter because in this capitalist society, rapidly decaying into fascism, the inherent contradictions between classes must be channeled by the ruling class into national, sexual, and overall social hatred.

Small business owners and sole proprietors will be less of a threat to the ruling class if they believe that their rapid sink into working class is the fault of "woke culture" or "the invasion of immigrants" or the "radical left." History has demonstrated that the petty bourgeoisie are susceptible to being used as tools of fascism against the masses of workers.

The attempts to dismiss and to downplay these tensions are intended to reassure, and at the same time to demoralize, working people of these strata, that all is quiet in our western liberal democracy. This is not the case, as millions of crucial immigrants are torn away from their homes, as millions of Black people are so incredibly vulnerable to systemic murder and hyper-exploitation, and as hundreds of hate crimes have been recognized in the last year alone, with hundreds of discriminatory, anti-LGBTQ bills flooding legislatures all over the country.

Capitalism will not save us from the problems of its own making. Seeking only profit, there is too much money to be made in the weapons

used to commit these terrible crimes, too much money in militarizing the police who will mishandle these abuses, too much money is ad revenue by the media downplaying and dismissing these daily atrocities. Major companies are focusing less and less on Pride-oriented advertisements in this year of Trumpite triumph, just as corporations like Google scurried to adapt to bombastic revisions such as the "Gulf of America" in their Maps application.

Politically, pro-Israeli pundits attack the left for supporting Palestine, solely because of the homophobic and misogynistic bigotry of Hamas which was not elected to power by the majority of Palestinians, ignorant of the budding culture of queer Palestinians at home and abroad, ignorant of the fact that there will be no development of these civil liberties from the wasteland being carved into the earth by Israel. Kamala Harris downplayed the threats to transgender rights on the eve of the 2024 election, in the Democrats' foolhardy pursuit of the Republicans to the right-wing. The Democrats cumulatively have had over five years to pass the Equality Act to enshrine LGBTQ rights federally and they simply have failed; they have failed because the Democrats are the party of corporations, not people.

The hands that are laying off thousands, abusing migrant labor, driving down wages, destroying labor with AI and automation, are the same hands lobbying and benefiting from domestic regimes that gloss over these grotesque abuses with instigations of racist, sexist, and overall bigoted tensions and violence.

We must not allow our true social enemy to deceive us. We cannot afford the loss of so many of our siblings, neighbors, coworkers, and comrades. The ruling class of this country will make an inferno and call it freedom; they will build a graveyard and call it peace. The working people of this country must build real unity and real motivation for radical solutions to radical problems.

Jonathan Joss and the countless siblings we have lost are the victims not only of individuals — they are the collateral damage of an inherently antisocial system that imposes and manipulates its will over an inherently social species. We must be strong until there is justice, we must struggle until there is true peace, and we must be proud until we are free!

JUDICIAL DECAY, CANCELLED ELECTIONS, INCREASING FASCISTIZATION

R. Nesbitt | Maryland | May 26, 2025

In Miami, Florida, county commissioners have postponed city elections until Nov. 2026, without any presentation to the people, without any consultation of constituents or referenda. These Republican bureaucrats have claimed that this decision was made to spur voter turnout as they would align with the federal midterm elections for Congress and other offices. If this argument is taken at face value, who in their right mind would believe that the Republican party benefits at all from a higher voter turnout, from more democratic participation? Florida has voter ID laws which have been proven to reduce voter turnout, and Florida like every other state in this country does not maintain a voting holiday or election dates on the weekend, and so these elections will be held in the middle of the work week which have always served to reduce turnout among working-class people.

The Republicans have made this move strategically, they have made this move to establish a precedent for the benefit of the oligarchic weeds that are choking out any trace of democracy in this country. New voter rolls have shown that over 35,000 registered

Republicans in Florida have left the party as of 2025, and with the Trump administration's new assaults on migrant communities, many conservative representatives have voiced their sentiment of betrayal at the hands of Trump.

The reactionary policies of Florida's state government against education, the LGBTQ+ community, the press, and the right to free speech and assembly have driven thousands of individuals and families out of the state, to the benefit of an increasingly conservative state serving as the premier retirement destination for all manner of Republican voters all over the country. The GOP have postponed elections in Miami in order to "balance the scales" of their electorate, to keep themselves in power, as they continue to drive working and young people out of their state to the benefit of the petty bourgeois mob that enable their reactionary descent.

Even more harrowing, is that the Republicans have done this to show that they can get away with it. The Republicans are rightly confident that the conservative judiciary of Florida will affirm their power to postpone this year's elections, and if that is appealed, all the way up to the Supreme Court, what greater gift

would that be for reaction in this country to have their power to meddle with elections with impunity validated by the highest judicial body of the land?

Florida is only the beginning. The Supreme Court has also ruled in the last week to limit the jurisdiction of federal courts to block the Executive Orders of the White House, especially regarding injunctions on Birthright citizenship.

This inevitable judicial decay, heavy-handed authoritarianism from the Executive, and the cancellation and postponement of elections are all the necessary steps that the ruling class must make for the increasing fascistization of the political structure of America, to build the unlimited oligarchy they have always sought. The working class and all oppressed peoples must not allow this to pass. Our opposition must be made known, it must be independent of all stooges of capitalism, especially the Democratic party, and we must act now before we cannot even recall elections and citizenship in this country. For above saving the wretched world the capitalists are leaving us, we have every need and right to win a new and better one.

ST. PAUL ATTACKS RENT CONTROL, FAVORS LANDLORDS

Margarethe Wegner | Minnesota | May 26, 2025

The St. Paul City Council has reversed its 2021 rent control measures, selling out its constituents to developers to extract higher rents. These measures consisted of a rolling rent control that would slow the rate of rent increase in buildings over 20 years old. Instead, the City Council's new measure, as of May 7, has a hard cutoff for January 1, 2005, which means that any building built after this date is not beholden to the annual rent increase cap. It's clear that this decision caters to the millionaires that were too afraid to "lose" money in a rent-controlled market. These developers will no doubt flock to St. Paul with the zeal of gold prospectors rushing to California. Or, that would be the wish of the City Council at least.

Upon closer inspection, the statement that "developers were not investing in Saint Paul because of the rent cap" is a flimsy excuse: Minneapolis, a city without a rent cap implemented, had a larger decline in housing

development investment than the city of St. Paul. With the alleged insanity of St. Paul's rent controls, shouldn't there have been an uptick in Minneapolis' housing investments? At a minimum, Minneapolis' decline in housing investments would have been far below Saint Paul's, not worse. If not the rent cap, inflation, if not inflation, then construction costs. These excuses work as a way for developers to obscure the function of increasing rent. As the general crisis of capitalism expands, the bourgeoisie seek to offload the cost of this crisis onto the workers. Removing rent controls only benefits the developer, while making life more difficult for workers who are now burdened with the cost of our failing economic system.

Another cited reason was that homelessness discourages developing more housing in areas that need it. Developers can't build homes where they are needed, because there are "too many homeless people negatively impacting the property value." With profitability as their goal, developers will work to build homes that will be too expensive for low income people to rent.

It is certainly true that developments have the potential to increase housing for a select few, but it has just as much, if not more, potential to price housed workers out onto the streets with their unfortunate compatriots. Out of their homes and into the waving truncheons of Fre's thugs, who "resolve" the homeless issue as capitalists and their diligent soldiers in the city government are want to do, one crushed encampment at a time.

Some reformists would make the argument that public housing, within the confines of the Capitalist system of course, would stem the tide of people being priced out onto the streets. They need only look at the Public Housing Authority's designs on the Glendale Neighborhood to see how mistaken that impression is. Make no mistakes, public housing for all is the solution, but the dream of housing for all can only be achieved in a state that does not prioritize profit over people.

If there is capitalism, there will be homelessness, because that's the reality of the profit-driven housing market.

POLIS VETOES WORKER PROTECTION ACT, BETRAYS COLORADO'S WORKING CLASS



Gov. Jared Polis speaks to reporters during a news conference in Denver. (Jesse Paul/The Colorado Sun)

John M. | Colorado | June 23, 2025

On May 16, 2025, Colorado Governor Jared Polis dealt a devastating blow to the state's labor movement, and, in the same stroke, a blow to the illusion of the bourgeois union's militancy or effectiveness, by vetoing Senate Bill 5 (SB-5), the Worker Protection Act. The bill aimed to eliminate a restrictive provision in the 1943 Colorado Labor Peace Act, which requires workers who vote to unionize by a simple majority to then win a second election with a 75% approval threshold to negotiate union security agreements. This unique requirement, not found in any other state, creates a formidable barrier to effective union organizing, limiting workers' ability to fund representation that advocates for better wages, safety, and dignity. Polis's veto, siding with the capitalist class, exposes the harsh reality: at the end of the day, Democrats with their grandstanding, peddling empty pro-worker promises and union leaders' lack of spine by aligning labor's demands with corporate interests, keep workers tied to business power, leaving the working class to bear the cost of exploitation.

Polis's veto reveals a Democratic Party unwilling to stand firm for workers. The Governor defended the Labor Peace Act as a source of "peace and stability" for employers and unions, but that "stability" keeps the capitalist class in control. By upholding the 75% rule, Polis ensures businesses face less pressure from unions, leaving workers stuck with low wages, unsafe conditions, and weak bargaining power. The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, a mouthpiece for big business, praised the veto, showing who benefits when workers' rights are blocked. This choice hits working individuals hardest, as they struggle to pay bills while employers pocket profits.

This is not the first time the Governor has turned his back on Colorado's workers after making bare-minimum promises to them.

In 2024, he vetoed three union-priority bills, including measures to address wage theft and protect workers from coercive employer meetings. These actions sparked a rally outside the Capitol, attended by an array of Democratic leaders blowing hot air. "The Democratic Party is currently in a fight for its soul," said state House candidate Bryan Lindstrom at the time, "a fight between those champions fighting for the working class and those who sell out to corporate interests." Once again, their words rang hollow; these same Democrats failed to override Polis's vetoes or muster any real fight for labor. Their public posturing is all an illusion to win votes while their inaction leaves workers with low pay, unsafe jobs, and no leverage. The Democratic Party's support for SB-5 was a mirage, a show of solidarity that crumbled when Polis, their leader, prioritized corporate power over workers' lives.

The opportunist Union leaders, instead of fighting for the working class's independent power, align labor's demands with capitalist interests, chasing concessions that keep workers tethered to corporate control. For instance, unions such as UFCW Local 7, SEIU Local 105, and Colorado AFL-CIO, endorsed Polis in 2018, expecting he would deliver pro-labor policies, only to see him repeatedly veto bills that would strengthen workers' rights. Rather than pushing for bold changes, like comprehensive bargaining rights across industries or ironclad protections against corporate union-busting, these leaders often settle for small reforms, such as tweaking outdated labor laws or securing limited training funds that don't threaten employers' dominance. This strategy, rooted in compromise with the capitalist class, weakens labor's ability to challenge a system that puts profits over people. By binding workers' hopes to what bosses are willing to concede, these leaders leave the working class stuck in a cycle of fighting for scraps while employers hold the real power. This approach fails to build the kind of united, independent labor movement needed to shift the balance toward workers.

These sycophant union leaders, led by Dennis Dougherty, from Colorado AFL-CIO, are looking towards next year, and are claiming to rally behind Initiative 43. A proposed measure that would make Colorado the second "just-cause employment" state in the U.S., prohibiting companies with more than eight employees from firing workers without valid

reasons, such as substandard performance or gross insubordination. "Colorado workers should expect common-sense workplace protections that prevent them from being unfairly fired," Dougherty declared. Even this effort, born of necessity, is a grim reminder of the uphill battle workers face when their leaders fail them. They set their sights on minimum reforms, which, like the previous bills, the democrats will shoot down at the last moment. Instead of directing the militancy of rank-and-file workers to force Polis to reverse his veto, Dougherty has shifted to a so-called "common-sense" reform for 2026. This is all designed to harness workers' rage, tame their resolve, and lead them into dead-end pursuits.

The Democrats' hypocrisy and the fecklessness of opportunist union leaders expose a brutal reality: labor cannot free itself while tied to capital, whether through Democrats or their union lackeys. The Democratic Party's empty promises, vowing to lift workers while delivering vetoes prove they're nothing but managers of corporate interests, stringing labor along with lies. Privileged union bosses, profiting from their cushy roles, keep workers chained to employers' whims, too spineless to challenge the system that exploits them. True freedom for the working class demands that labor seize the reins of its own power. This means forging independent, worker-led organizations that spit in the face of capitalist compromise, fighting for worker-controlled workplaces, industry-wide bargaining, or laws that bury union-busting. Only when workers take charge, free from the clutches of capitalist-aligned parties and the labor aristocracy, can they win the wages, safety, and dignity they have been denied.



INTERNATIONAL INTERVIEW: PROTEST WAVE AGAINST DEPORTATIONS IN THE USA

Arbeit Zukunft | Germany | July 3, 2025 |
Introduction translated from German

At the beginning of June, the reports about large waves of protests in Los Angeles and later the entire USA were increasing. The trigger was deportations by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), but the protests became symbols against the entire Trump administration. We (AZ) spoke with the American Party of Labor (APL) about the protests and the perspective of the movement.

AZ: In the last weeks, we saw big protests, especially in Los Angeles, and the government even called the military on the protestors. What caused the protests initially? Is it true that it was a direct defense to deportations and ICE-operations?

APL: The protests started as a legal observation and protest of ICE raids in Los Angeles, which ICE agents escalated with dozens of arrests. The arrests included a trade union leader, David Huerta, for a major union, SEIU California, which represents over 700,000 workers. Huerta and others were severely injured in the arrests and required hospitalization. The following day, the protests against the presence of ICE grew, and Trump responded with a disproportionately aggressive and militarized force. What started as a defense against the Trump regime's aggressive deportations has since become a wider movement combating the increasing militarization of law enforcement and the power grabs by the Presidency. When the government responds against peaceful and popular protests by deploying the military to "maintain order," it follows a familiar pattern of repression. The capitalists think it's a sign of strength, but it's really a sign of weakness and fear. These protests have become a response to the larger system of injustice, which is tearing off the democratic mask more and more every day.

What is the situation of immigrants in the US today and especially since Trump took office again?

The situation is very tenuous. Many immigrants are fearful that they or their families could be snatched off the streets without warning and deported, in many cases, to a country that they have not seen

since their infancy; or, even worse, to the for-profit concentration camp that the Trump regime has arranged with the government of El Salvador. Immigrant families are worried about sending their children to school for fear of being separated at the hands of ICE. Even visits to medical facilities are dangerous as ICE has been given access to detain patients. People are being arrested just outside of courtrooms for immigration hearings. International students are preparing to be denied access back into the U.S. when they visit family at home, and are being advised by American universities to refrain from protesting or political expression. Migrant workers face increased threats from their employers to be reported to ICE if they demand better treatment, fair wages, or the following of labor laws.

It must be noted that the terror is not solely directed at immigrants, but also at their family members, many of whom are US citizens. In one case, a four year old child who is a US citizen and was undergoing treatment for metastatic cancer was deported without any access to necessary medication or consultation with their doctor.

There have now been thousands of ICE raids across the country, usually performed by masked agents with no identification, appearing in plain clothes to kidnap people. ICE raids are now happening openly, publicly, without shame. The Trump government has introduced sweeping measures to disappear and deport people without court hearings, and is attempting to roll back the constitutional right to citizenship by birth and to suspend refugee resettlement and asylum entirely and bring terroristic criminal penalties for undocumented status. Soon, this will be coupled with the complete criminalization of domestic protest, which is common for bourgeois dictatorships. We see this in the effort to criminalize opposition to the genocide in Gaza.

What were the demands of the protestors who took to the streets?

The protests, both in Los Angeles and nationwide, are demanding an end to mass deportations – indeed, to all deportations – the complete abolition of ICE and the DHS, the recall of militarized forces including the National Guard and Marines, protection for refugees and for all people in sanctuary cities,

and the immediate release of all persons detained during ICE raids. The people are calling for community defense organizations for the protection of migrants, for the reinstatement of pathways to citizenship that have been gutted by this regime, and for the cessation of local and state-level governments' cooperation with ICE and other federal agencies enforcing immigration restrictions.

What does the use of military against the protests mean in the bigger picture?

It certainly signals the willingness, even eagerness, of the Trump administration to deploy US troops on US soil against US citizens, an act that is utterly unconstitutional. This act, perhaps more than any other, demonstrates that the fascistization of American political life is proceeding at an accelerated rate.

The Trump regime is openly attacking the legal right to protest granted by the bourgeois liberal state, and recognizes that its actions are being directly felt by the working class, which will always fight back against oppression. Actions by ICE are deeply unpopular by an already-agitated working class, and the administration recognizes that this could be an issue which sparks a strong, well-coordinated protest movement. The growing people's movement is a genuine threat to the Trump regime and to an imperialist power already in crisis, which is desperately attempting to suppress this force in its infancy.

The use of military personnel represents a clear escalation by the bourgeoisie, a sign of panic that a mass mobilization could have happened so quickly, fueled by the delusion that the ruling class could strike at anybody they wanted and no one would ever strike back. The state is treating all protests as national security threats to be met with force, instead of as the popular democratic expressions that they are. In addition to the deployment of the National Guard and Marines, state governors are talking about running over protestors, and sheriffs are talking about killing protestors. The capitalists are trying to send a message: it's not just about immigration anymore – it's about who has the right to have a voice in ruling the country.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

We saw big protests against Trump in the whole country on the 14th of June. How is the anti-Trump movement developing? What are the perspectives?

Although the June 14th demonstrations were largely organized by liberal-progressive organizations, with demands often not reflective of the people's movement, they showed the extent to which working, exploited, and marginalized people in the United States reject Trumpite fascism. An organic and spontaneous element has also been present at these protests, representing the will of the masses to genuinely fight back against the policies of the Trump regime and to build a movement with achievable demands.

The general sentiment was anti-Trump as an individual figure, rather than as a symbol of the system and class that he stands for, with the main slogan of the protest being "No Kings" in response to his self-image as some kind of monarch. Class analysis and solidarity

were severely lacking in the leadership of these protests.

In cities across the U.S. on June 14th, there were additional protests that were not called for by the liberal organizations, which attracted smaller but more militant crowds, who were willing to be more confrontational with police and politicians, and which rejected the liberal framing of the issues of the day. These protests are the ones which are facing crackdowns by law enforcement and police brutality, and they are the ones with demands for more revolutionary aims. While the mainstream liberal events of June 14th called for the removal of Trump, voting for the Democratic Party, and supporting liberal bourgeois politicians, the organic people's movement has called for an end to the occupation of Palestine, the abolition of ICE, and the formation of anti-fascist and community defense organizations.

It needs to be said this is a national movement. Tens of thousands marched in dozens of cities

simultaneously. This isn't a one-off explosion but a simmering anger that's been building ever since Trump took office. His second term has been an exercise in the capitalists seeing what they can get away with, to try and move the needle as far as they can and seeing how hard people will push back.

We're seeing more intersectional anti-Trump sentiment in recent years. Labor unions, political parties, climate change activists, civil rights groups, immigrant rights groups, students and ordinary workers are resisting the American move towards authoritarianism and its use of force, surveillance, and frivolous legal charges to suppress dissent.

Everything is still in motion, still "in play," so the overall effectiveness of these protests is difficult to gauge at this moment. However, the anger and rage of the people is rising. No matter what happens, the working class will not go quietly into the night.

80 YEARS AFTER THE TRINITY TEST, COMMUNITIES STILL SEEK JUSTICE

Resist U.S.-Led War Movement | July 16, 2025

On July 16, 80 years ago, the US conducted the Trinity Nuclear Test on July 16, 1945, in the New Mexico desert, marking the dawn of the atomic age. The test's first victims of nuclear fall out were the nearly half a million people, who lived within a 150-mile radius of the detonation. For the Tularosa Basin and Carrizozo communities and the Mescalero Apache Reservation, the blast violently violated the peoples' sovereignty and land, contaminated crops and water sources, and led to a surge of cancers, radiation sickness, and infant deaths for years. Officials chose not to evacuate the area, nor to warn residents of potential health effects. Residents only learned about the Trinity Test after the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II.

In 1990, the United States passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) to provide money to some downwinders of the Nevada test site near Las Vegas. After 80 years of struggle, the Trinity downwinders have finally become eligible for RECA during its expansion in the recent budget bill. However, the recently passed legislation also guts Medicaid, which covers many residents

in New Mexico, including Trinity victims. The RECA expansion also does not include eligibility for people near nuclear testing in the U.S. territory of Guam, parts of Arizona, Montana, Colorado, and new parts of Nevada.

Born from the Manhattan Project, a top secret government operation, this test set the stage for the Cold War, fueling a global arms race that threatened annihilation, in the name of expanding US territorial control of more and more of the world. We must remember this history to ensure such atrocities never happen again.

The only path forward is a mass movement struggling for just peace with a call for the US to dismantle, not modernize and expand, its nuclear arsenal as the cornerstone of the fight for nuclear weapons abolition.

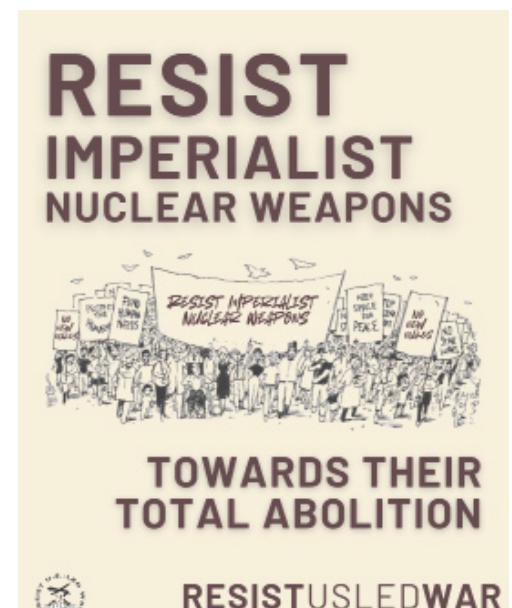
It has been those affected by the decades of testing, mining, producing, cleaning up and dying in the blasts of nuclear weapons who have led the charge for justice, recognition, and ultimately a total change in the US nuclear project.

The US imperialist expansion is to blame for the invention of nuclear weapons, and they must be the first to disarm, if the world wants

to ultimately live in peace, free from the fear of a nuclear war.

Take action on the 80th Anniversary of the Trinity Test, Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bombings near you in your community, and stay tuned for a global online speak out from Resist US-Led War.

Never Again! Resist Imperialist Nuclear Weapons Towards Total Abolition!



URBAN GUERRILLA THEORY, THE ROLE OF VIOLENCE IN CAPITALIST CRISES

Meir A. | New York | May 12, 2025

A typical mistake found in the newspapers of revolutionary organizations is to sink into the trap – so characteristic of the intelligentsia – of attempting to pedantically correct some ideological weakness perceived within a social event upon which they had and have no influence. However, this adds little to the conversation because it primarily comprises a repetition of the formulas that must be proven in practice. When an event takes place in which any number of clandestine, rogue actors fail to adhere to the principles of Marxist doctrine, these criticisms ring hollow and seem to serve better as the padding of an academic portfolio than the columns of a party newspaper, because fidelity to revolutionary principles was never the burning question.

This is the case to be made when it comes to many analyses of the assassination of the CEO of United Healthcare, Brian Thompson. Yes, we are all aware that we should oppose the worship of spontaneity. However, we must be equally aware that without the existence of a vanguard party the masses cannot be expected to remain silent and sit still. Outside of the fairy tales of bourgeois economists the systematic violence generated by the capitalist system is not a surprising tragedy, but a societal constant. Capitalism is the great progenitor of crime and malice. Why should the oppressed complain when the chickens come home to roost?

If, among the dozens of unarmed persons murdered by police, and the strikers brutalized, and the prisoners snuffed out in darkened cells, one of our enemies meets the same fate, we Marxists will not complain. Hadn't Thompson made his fortune from violence? When he met his end on that evening, Dec. 4, 2024, it had simply been the predictable outcome of structural inhumanity; a man like that makes enemies. Granted, this was a more "professional" and "bourgeois" brand of callous harm than the news cycle accustoms us to, but callous, intentional harm, nonetheless. It is brutality made no less despicable by its enshrinement in the laws of property and commerce.

As far as Marxism-Leninism is concerned, individualized terrorism is the movement's punishment for opportunism and disengagement. Too many organizations demagogically pander to the concerns of the



Luigi Mangione, the man accused of killing United Healthcare CEO, was escorted by police from a helicopter to a van on Dec. 19, 2024, in New York. (Pamela Smith/AP)

workers, but truly, as Bill Bland declared, they "objectively serve the interests of monopoly capital by preaching the illusion of 'peaceful, parliamentary transition to socialism.'"

The masses of workers, students, and oppressed peoples are coming to the sharp realization of electoral impotency and the severity of the political crisis, and they are reaching for a sincerely revolutionary solution. If the organs and intellectuals of the working class prove incapable, unwilling, or insufficiently organized to provide an alternative, the people will be reduced to a blind and individualized lashing out. They will exhaust their energies before having ever begun in earnest, and the vanguard organizations will be left behind.

Instead of running to the soapbox with notes, or to Mr. Mangione with letters of admiration, Marxist-Leninists of any sincerity should run to organizations which are pursuing a revolutionary line, and they should throw themselves into the struggle. Carlos Marighella, who formalized the Urban Guerrilla concept, gives us this definition of a revolutionary combatant: "The guerilla is an implacable enemy of the government and systematically inflicts damage on the authorities and on the men who dominate the country and exercise power."

The revolutionary has connections in the community, and this is what enables his freedom of movement. He is not an outlaw who "benefits personally and attacks indiscriminately." Luigi Mangione has so few connections to the masses that any

honest analysis cannot determine his guilt or motivation without doubt, assuming he is even the correct suspect in the first place.

While many can relate to his apparent motives, the implications of this action seem to be largely unintended. There are doubts as to the authenticity of the alleged manifesto, and it is not unlike American law enforcement to manufacture a suspect when they can find none. Many aspects of his story create cause for doubt, such as the way in which he fled over state lines but kept the evidence on his person. In any case, the outcome of the action is the same, and the outcome is a lesson.

The label of radical "does not split, it does not smear; on the contrary, it represents a center of attraction." The significance of this story is the swelling support that Mangione received upon his arrest, and that the event attracted even before a suspect was named. Loud and clear, the bell of defeat for the United States is ringing out everywhere, and we must organize together, preparing ourselves to meet the struggle of the upcoming years. We must not forget that the ripening of the revolutionary conditions has put fascism on the march, and that the calls for reform are a screen to hide the total loss of control by the social-fascists in the Democratic Party. We can now march boldly, with renewed confidence that "the majority is with us, or will be with us, during the revolutionary struggle." (Enver Hoxha, *The Superpowers*)

COAL MINERS FIGHT CUTS TO BLACK LUNG DISABILITY BENEFITS

Thomas K. | Ohio | July 9, 2025

The National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) came under attack recently by the Trump administration by means of funding cuts, with one specifically targeted a program that provided screening for black lung, a disease caused by long term inhalation of coal dust, to about 40% of coal miners. These drastic cuts have the potential to dramatically increase the number of hoops coal miners would have to jump through to be able to exercise rights gained through the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977. This is nothing less than a direct attack on the working people, and miners in West Virginia are fighting back.

In April of this year the federal Department of Government Efficiency, in another round of 'critical thinking' and 'strategic planning,' targeted the Coal Workers Health Surveillance Program. This is significant in multiple ways. Firstly, to cut off funding that directly supported the health and safety of the working people can be seen as nothing but hostile to the working class as a whole.

Secondly, a formal diagnosis of black lung is required for all coal miners who want to receive what is owed to them through the

Black Lung Benefits Act, which was created after the United Mine Workers fought with Congress to have a federal mandate that pays out benefits to coal miners on a weekly basis, and also covers all medical bills related to black lung. Before its passage, many coal miners diagnosed with black lung were later medically retired due to the severity of the disease. In the worst cases of black lung the patient's lungs become so severely inflamed and filled with coal dust their lungs calcify inside of them, at which point the only treatment is a lung transplant. In many cases, coal miners are stuck fighting bureaucracy for what they are owed, and die before receiving the critical care they deserve.

Report after report have come out over the last few years of coal miners or their families fighting tooth and nail everyday to receive what they are owed for their hard work and sacrifice, but to no avail, due to "lack of funding created by a lack of coal companies in this modern time" — a despicable lie told to real people who are fighting for their lives. The truth is that the benefit has been pilfered and plundered since its conception. Coal taxes placed on businesses, which largely funded the benefit, were inadequate from the beginning. It was also deemed "unconstitutional" to levy taxes on coal that was exported out of the

country.

Coal Miners from West Virginia, tired of the constant struggle for benefits and against attacks on crucial funding and regulation, took to the courts and filed lawsuits against DHHS in order to have the program reinstated. Once again it is the workers themselves leading the charge to create necessary changes. These budget cuts may have been put in place by the Trump administration but we saw no legitimate attempts from opposition in Washington trying to stop this from happening. Instead what we saw were cheap circus acts designed to distract and divide.

This attack on working class families and communities by Trump's administration is disgusting. Thankfully working class people stood up and defended themselves against this attack quickly realizing that only the people can save the people. By pressuring state representatives, and filing a class action lawsuit against DHHS the workers and their families were able to get the program reinstated. We can celebrate success for Coal miners and their families, but we must acknowledge the fight is not over. A band-aid on a bullet hole may stop some bleeding but bleeding will continue until we achieve success through revolution.

OHIO BUDGET BILL STRIPS LGBTQ RIGHTS, DEFUNDS PUBLIC LIBRARIES, SCHOOLS —

Thomas K. | Ohio | July 3, 2025

Ohio House Bill 96, a "budget bill" which passed through the state senate and was signed into law by Gov. Mike DeWine, includes a direct attack on the rights and identity of the LGBTQ+ community as well as a deferment of funds from libraries and public schools. It is truly heartbreaking but unsurprising to see that the elected officials of the state of Ohio have betrayed the working class by allowing this bill to continue its poisonous charge through our system.

The bill very plainly states that the month of June will no longer be recognized as Pride month but instead it will be changed to "Responsible Father Month." The attack continues, also stating: "Gender identity" means an individual's internal and subjective sense of self, disconnected from biological reality and sex and existing on an infinite continuum, that does not provide a meaningful basis for identification and cannot be

recognized as a replacement for sex." Further, this bill enforces that any books regarding sexuality and gender identity in public libraries need to be cordoned off in "adult only" sections. Ohio lawmakers are actively repressing the LGBTQ+ community and are trying to erase them from our minds.

HB 96 would eliminate the dedicated Public Library Fund, forcing libraries to cancel or require payments for programs that are essential for both the physical and mental development of our communities. To further aid in the destruction of education in Ohio, this bill also redirects massive amounts of funding from public schools to private schools. Along with that they have placed more hurdles in the way for local representation in elected positions within the school board. The irony of this paragraph is painful as this decision was made by the "Responsible Fathers" who so desperately want to be worshiped.

This bill is being touted around by elected

officials as a win for the working class. Of course this statement is presumed justified because they have put some flat rate tax proposals in the bill, but this is an absolute slap in the face justification to the working class of Ohio. How dare they think that we would willingly roll over in appeasement of the rights of our communities being stripped in exchange for petty tax cuts? For the capitalists, life may simply boil down to dollars and cents, but as members of the working class held together by principles we see through their lies. We won't let the rights of workers be sold away for the sake of profit, or in Ohio's case, a brand new NFL stadium for the Cleveland Browns!

The working class of Ohio stands in disgust of this bill and vehemently opposes it. We once again demand better from our elected officials. We demand that Gov. DeWine immediately strike this bill down, and stand against the Trump regime.



LAKE LOVELAND'S DECLINE PUTS WATER AND LIVELIHOODS AT STAKE

John M. | Colorado | June 13, 2025

In Loveland, Colorado, Lake Loveland is shrinking at an alarming rate, its muddy banks strewn with dead fish; a haunting symbol of climate change's relentless assault on working-class communities. Climate change is robbing communities of the water they need to survive and thrive, but we have the ability to chart a better course.

Once a vital lifeline for Weld County farms and a cherished spot for local recreation, the lake is struggling to capture the spring snowmelt that the community relies on for irrigation, jobs, and affordable food.

A recent KCNC report underscores how the Greeley Loveland Irrigation Company, which manages the lake, is grappling with critically low water levels as climate change disrupts the Rocky Mountain snowpack, a crisis worsened by recent wildfires. For a lot of workers, this isn't just an environmental crisis, it's a direct threat to their livelihoods, stability, and way of life.

"It's kind of sad to see it that way," said Harrison Bennett, a local walking his dog along the lake's shrinking edge, in an interview with CBS News Colorado. The loss goes beyond scenery: the lake's dwindling water endangers farms which rely on it to irrigate crops that sustain jobs and keep food prices in check. When water runs short, fields wither, jobs disappear, and grocery costs soar, hitting those who are barely getting by the hardest. Climate change is turning a shared resource into a symbol of struggle for those who keep our communities running.

The Rocky Mountains, which supply the snowmelt that fills Lake Loveland, are getting eviscerated by climate change. Warmer winters mean less snowpack, and what little snow does fall melts too early or not at all. A 2023 study found that climate change has already drained the Colorado River Basin of 40 trillion liters of water since 2000, enough to fill Lake Mead, the nation's largest reservoir. Snowpack regions, like those feeding Lake Loveland, are losing water twice as fast as other areas because rising temperatures shrink the snow that historically functioned as a natural water bank.

Recent wildfires, intensified by climate change, exacerbate this crisis. The 2020 Cameron

Peak Fire, Colorado's largest on record, burned over 208,000 acres, including high-elevation snow zones. A 2024 Colorado State University study, conducted in the Cameron Peak burn scar, found that wildfires accelerate snowmelt by up to 24 days, with south-facing slopes melting 22 days earlier due to lost tree cover exposing snow to sunlight. Soot and ash from burned trees reduce snow's reflectivity (albedo), causing it to absorb more heat, while increased wind exposure boosts evaporation and sublimation. The study reported a 20% reduction in snow-water equivalent (SWE, the amount of water in snow), limiting runoff to streams and lakes like Loveland. Four years post-fire, south-facing slopes remain too dry for tree regrowth, potentially causing permanent reductions in snow accumulation, threatening long-term water supplies for agriculture and communities.

These wildfire-driven changes, fueled by climate warming and drought, reduce water availability which directly affects irrigation and job security.

As the Greeley Loveland Irrigation Company scrambles to secure water rights, working-class communities bear the brunt. Farm workers face layoffs, and small farmers, squeezed by corporate agribusiness, risk ruin without irrigation. Families lose access to Lake Loveland for fishing or recreation, left instead with cracked mud and the stench of decay.

Meanwhile, big corporations, like those in agribusiness and oil, aren't helping. They guzzle massive amounts of water — 80% of the Colorado River goes to agriculture, much of it for water-intensive crops like alfalfa to feed livestock for mega-dairies. Oil and gas operations in the region also drain billions of gallons, polluting waterways in the process. Yet, when water cuts are proposed, it's often



Before and after photos of Lake Loveland, in 2020 (left) and 2025 (right).

the workers and communities that face the squeeze, not the corporate giants.

Solutions like modernizing irrigation systems, reducing water waste, and restoring river ecosystems can help preserve our water supply, but only if they prioritize working communities over corporate profits. The working class must demand a seat at the table in water management decisions to ensure our communities' needs come first. Community-driven efforts, such as those at the 2025 Colorado WaterWise Symposium or Uncompahgre RiverFest, provide opportunities to learn about sustainable practices, connect with others, and organize for change.

Beyond technical fixes, we need systemic change to address the root causes of the climate crisis. This means holding corporations accountable for their outsized water use and pushing for policies that curb greenhouse gas emissions driving the warming that's drying-up the lakes and rivers. Community members can lead this fight by joining local environmental groups, attending town halls, or supporting candidates who prioritize climate justice and economic fairness. Every step forward, whether it's a community meeting or a policy change, builds momentum toward a future where water and jobs are secure.

Lake Loveland's crisis is a wake-up call, but it's also a chance to act. Climate change affects the working class the most, stripping away the resources we need to live with dignity. Together, we can demand policies that protect clean water, preserve jobs, and ensure affordable food for all. Let's unite to build a future where communities not only survive but flourish, leading the way toward a sustainable tomorrow.



PRIVATE PRISON PIVOTS TO DETAIN I.C.E. VICTIMS; LEAVENWORTH FIGHTS BACK

Marina S. | Kansas | July 9, 2025

The city of Leavenworth, Kansas has become an unlikely center of activity in the ongoing struggle against the unprecedented fascist violence perpetrated by ICE under the Trump regime. Back in Feb. 2025, it was reported that CoreCivic, formerly Corrections Corporation of America, was quietly attempting to negotiate with Leavenworth city officials for a special use permit to reopen its long-inactive prison facility as a concentration camp to imprison undocumented immigrants apprehended by ICE.

Leavenworth is of course no stranger to the American incarceration machine. The city is home to four prisons including the notorious Federal prison where Leonard Peltier was incarcerated from 1985 to 2005. However, the CoreCivic facility, currently called the Midwest Regional Reception Center, is particularly notorious in the area.

First opened in 1992 as the Leavenworth Detention Center, the prison originally was constructed with 460 beds, but was expanded four times by May 2008 reaching a maximum capacity of 1,126 inmates. In late 2021, following an executive order of the Biden administration to not renew contracts with private prisons, ACLU affiliates in the states of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska sent a letter to the White House Domestic Policy Office and the Leavenworth County Commission detailing the abhorrent conditions present in the facility and calling on the center to be closed.

“CoreCivic Leavenworth is dangerously understaffed, poorly managed, and incapable of safely housing its detainee population,” the letter reads. “Stabbings, suicides, and even homicide have occurred with alarming frequency in the last year, with weapons, drugs, and other contraband now a common occurrence. Amidst all the violence, basic human needs are not being met: food has been restricted, contact with legal counsel and family denied or curtailed, medical care is limited, and showers are infrequent because the facility is too unsafe.” Spokespersons for CoreCivic of course denied these allegations and fought to keep the center open, but their contract was allowed to expire in Dec. 2021 without renewal and was closed shortly after. It remains unopened at time of writing.



This of course was not the end of the story.

In Dec. 2024, documents obtained by the ACLU revealed that the Midwest Regional Reception Center was one of many sites submitted in response to ICE requests for contracts to expand immigration detention facilities. CoreCivic seems to have recognized a lucrative opportunity for exploitation in the Trump regime’s increasing violence against the immigrant community. In that same month, CoreCivic donated \$500,000 to the Trump Vance Inaugural Committee and it is clear that it is expecting a large return on this investment. In 2021, CoreCivic grossed \$552 million from its ICE Contracts alone. In 2022, ICE contracts accounted for 30% of the company’s total revenue.

And yet, there is anticipation from CoreCivic’s leadership of even more profit to be extracted under the current regime. In a quarterly earnings call with investors last November, CEO Damon Hininger breathlessly told investors that it was rapidly preparing the 18,000 vacant beds in CoreCivic facilities to meet the “need” created by increased ICE raids. Additionally, Hininger plans on mobilizing CoreCivic’s wholly-owned prisoner transport subsidiary TransCor to meet ICE demand.

However the planned expansion in Leavenworth ran almost immediately into backlash from the local community. This seemed surprising to some observers given the city’s reputation as a prison community and its history as a stronghold for Trump support in Kansas. A campaign organized by Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation (AIRR) mobilized volunteers to put pressure on Kansas officials to resist the presence and expansion of ICE operations in the state.

These efforts were also supported by local residents including several former employees at the Leavenworth Detention Center.

Within two weeks of submitting its application for a special use permit to reopen the Leavenworth facility, CoreCivic withdrew the request. It soon became clear that they intended to move ahead with reopening the detention center in defiance of the wishes of the local community, prompting a lawsuit initiated by the city and a court order halting the reopening of the facility on June 4, 2025.

But the most inspiring and determined resistance to the expansion of ICE detention in Leavenworth has unsurprisingly continued to come from the people. On June 14, 2025, organizers and community members from across the Kansas City metro area, including members of the American Party of Labor, staged a demonstration outside the shuttered prison and voiced their collective outrage at the attempts to open an immigrant detention facility, and their opposition either to justice-for-sale, or the infant genocide being waged against multiple migrant communities.

As of right now, the situation remains precarious. CoreCivic is showing no sign of backing down in its attempts to expand its lucrative exploitation of the Trump regime’s fascist violence against immigrants. It is clear that the struggle against the opening of the detention facility will be a long and protracted one. But it is equally clear that the working and freedom-loving people of the Kansas City area are resolute and more than equal to the task ahead of them. They will continue to wage that struggle until the threat of ICE incursion into their communities is defeated.

WORKERS WEIGH IN ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A COMMUNIST ON MAY DAY



Chicago, IL. (Sofia D. / The Red Phoenix)

This May Day, the Labor Commission of the American Party of Labor surveyed its members about two questions: "What does May Day mean to you?" and "Why are you a Communist?"

As the world pushes further and further towards the inevitable contradiction of capital and the flames of Inter Imperialist War, International Workers' Day serves as a stark reminder of why we are here as communists and what the task that lies ahead of us is.

The Labor Commission of the American Party of Labor has recently been engaged in ideological discussions about the nature of the contemporary business unions and what role they still have to play. As well, we have been engaging with struggle on the shop floor developing strategies for organizing your workplace and hosting educational seminars on the topic. If these are of any interest to you please consider applying to the Party! We need all the help we can get!

Workers of the world, unite!

"Communism, in its essence, is as Engels wrote, 'the doctrine of the liberation of the proletariat.' Communism is not just a tool that gives the workers power in the economic and political spheres of life, but also gives hope to each and everyone of us. Our Communist future is why we fight everyday and roll with the punches. It is the very lives of children, our grandchildren, our coworkers, our comrades, and us as individuals that we fight for. This is our constant reminder. The fate of the world hangs on the work that we do. With the ever looming threat of climate crisis and inter-imperialist war, the choice is obvious. It is no

longer a matter of 'Socialism or Barbarism' as our ancestors thought, it is 'Socialism or Extinction.' Extinction not just of our species, but of all species and even perhaps the planet we call home, Earth. I am a Communist because I believe not only in the future, but in the historic mission of the proletariat. It is a mission I will fight with all my might and life for (although I would much prefer to live to see it.)"

—Leon V., Florida.

"May Day is a demonstration of the strength and joy of the world's working class. It is a promise of a better world, a reminder in the grim conditions of the present that resistance, justice, and revolution are possible and necessary. The current authorities, systems, and societies disregard or oppose the task of securing common wellbeing now and always. Only the workers can arrest the ongoing descent into barbarism in Palestine and around the world. That is what May Day is to me: a testament to our resolve to deliver ourselves from the oppression of the owners and fascists, and to shape a socialist future for all people."

—Steven A., Washington.

"I am a communist because I feel it is my duty as both a worker and a transgender woman to fight to ensure our liberation from all of the cruelty and depravity of imperialist capitalism even in the rural area that is south central Pennsylvania we must keep up the fight even when dark forces threaten to engulf us. May Day is a day to celebrate the victories of our working class movement whether that be 1917, the ending of traditional colonialism, or even as simple as the 8 hour day. Do not let the darkness of reaction consume you! Let

them boast of our defeat! We know full well that their actions only fuel us further and turn more of us to the cause. We will rise anew and smash the capitalist class once more. Long live the revolution and all power to working people!"

—Alexis G., Pennsylvania.



Baltimore, MD. (Nadya H. / The Red Phoenix)

"May Day makes me remember the sacrifice of coal miners in Eastern Kentucky. It makes me think of the hard working people, the union victory and defeats, the hope and yet suffering of the fighting laboring class. This is what makes me a communist, to see with my own eyes the struggle of some of the hardest working Americans while being exploited just like they were in history in Harlan Bloody Harlan. I want to be a communist not just to fight for these workers in Appalachia but for all my siblings of the world proletariat."

—Corey J., Kentucky.

"What May Day means to me is renewal and rebirth. It's a reminder that the working class revolution is the springtime of the world, blooming out of the over-ripe and rotting core of capital. May Day being placed at the height of springtime should be a reminder to us all of the hopefulness of our cause and also that there is so much to do. There's a long year ahead of us comrades, but remember, 'we have nothing to lose but our chains!' Unite!"

—Monty S., New York.

"I am a communist because my entire life I have seen the struggles of the working class minorities around me, including myself, and wanted to change our situation. People always told me that life isn't fair, and I asked, why can't we make it? I believe that someday, we can. May Day is a testament to that. Countries around the world celebrate the workers on this

day, and it's also full of history of our fight and victories as the proletariat. It's a truly uniting holiday unlike any other."

—Moth J., Kentucky.

"I am a communist because I am hopeful and an optimist, and I am an optimist and hopeful because I am a communist. It would be easy to become overwhelmed and paralyzed with the terrors of the world around us, and I certainly cannot blame those who crumple under the weight and believe the system is unmovable. Marxism-Leninism and the study of history has shown that things can get better, and even the most immovable systems can be moved but also how they did it, where they succeeded and where they failed. I often dream humanity will take to the stars someday in our own Star Trek like future, when I look at those around me, especially on celebrations like May Day, I can see that path towards the future, and how many others desire a future like that and want to work towards it, and that even if I may never see it those after me someday will and may even in their own time take to the stars."

—Allison P., Netherlands.

"To me May Day is a time for the working class to see its strength. As the crisis of the imperialist system deepens, it becomes apparent to more and more of the proletariat that only organized collective action can bring about the radical change we need. As the working class consciousness grows I look forward to future May Days where the revolutionary will and organization of the masses will reach the point of general political strikes. Seeing the mobilizations and direct actions each May Day strengthens my resolve to keep fighting for the environment, the liberation of all oppressed peoples, and our socialist future. We have nothing to lose but our chains! Free Palestine!"

—Myles D., Oregon.



Salem, OR. (Oriana R. / The Red Phoenix)

"I'm a communist because I grew up seeing how capitalism devalues human life—especially the lives of the poor, the disabled, the marginalized. I became a mother in a

world that made survival feel like a privilege instead of a right. Communism gave language to my suffering and showed me that what I experienced wasn't personal failure—it was systemic violence. Marxism gave me the tools to understand the world—not as a chaotic mess of random injustices, but as a system designed to exploit and alienate. It showed me the roots of my pain, but more than that, it gave me hope and a path toward liberation. I live and breathe to fight for a world where no one is disposable. I believe, as Che Guevara once said, the true revolutionary is guided by great feelings of love. Communism, to me, is the radical act of loving people so much that I refuse to accept a world that breaks and consumes them. I'm a communist because I want to live in a world where care, dignity, and solidarity are the foundations of life. NOT profit.

May Day is a day of memory, mourning, and militant joy. It's a day to honor and to carry the torch and stand in the tradition of every worker who dared to fight back. It reminds me that I'm not alone, that our struggle is global, and that our fight is generational. May Day connects me to comrades across time and borders who also said: 'We deserve more than this.' It's the embodiment of dignity, resistance, and love in motion."

—Niamh P., Missouri

"As we approach May Day 2025 it has been impossible for me to avoid seeing constant reminders of the reason that I am a communist. Our political system is not broken, but is instead working exactly as it is intended—for the benefit of the ruling class, at the expense of all else. May Day is, to me, a reminder of the proud history of our movement and its successes. It is a reminder of the giants who have come before us, and of the challenges that they have overcome. And, because of that, it is a reminder to keep fighting! Because the challenges that we face today are no match for the indomitable might of the working class, and because we do not stand alone but instead stand united with the working people of all nations!"

—Lee W., Georgia.

"This coming May Day will act as an indicator of how prepared the anti-fascist working class is for facing the oncoming storm that is American fascism. All present signs suggest that we are about to stare directly into the face of death. While many of us in the post-Cold War period have often viewed the first of May as a symbolic and gestural occasion, I believe

this particular year's holiday will contain significant foreshadowing."

—Leif G., Washington.

"May Day is the great commemoration of the centuries-long struggle of the working class for its emancipation. On this day, the international proletariat honors our martyrs, pays homage to the profound developments of our movement, and strengthens our contemporary bonds; to light a path anew towards the glorious final victory of communism against capitalism and reaction! To May Day! To the international proletariat! To the victory of socialism in our lifetimes!"

—Maurice B., New York.



New York City, NY. (Maurice B. / The Red Phoenix)

"May Day is, to me, a beautiful example of internationalism and solidarity among the working class. For over one hundred years the workers of the world have come together annually to celebrate the struggle for their liberation. Seeing that unity every may gives me hope and a warm fraternal feeling I've never felt anywhere else."

—Evelynn R., Florida.

"There are two key lessons to be learned from May Day. First and foremost, it can never be forgotten that the date May 1st itself was chosen to commemorate the Haymarket Massacre, a chilling yet all too familiar reminder of the extreme lengths which the capitalist class will go to in order to continue generating increasing levels of profit. On the other hand however, it also cannot be forgotten that May 1st is also proof that the working class struggle is a struggle which can fight back and win both economically and politically against the violence of the capitalist class. With solidarity and organization, the working class can both defend itself from the current advance of fascism, and even win victories against capital. Learn from May 1st! Fight Fascism! Onwards towards communism!"

—Keegan D., Illinois.



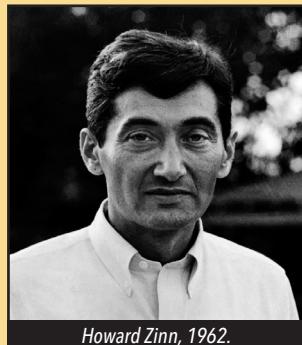
About the Red Phoenix

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 principled class-conscious insight on what is happening in the United States and around the world, along with analysis of important news, events, reviews, and commentary. 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 progressive-minded people, activists, workers, and all who are fighting in firm opposition to the war against the poor and the oppressed. Our political stances 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 interviewing workers, analyzing the resurgent labor movement, and agitating for a true workers' democracy. In our era of misinformation and rising fascism and union-busting, the need for true working-class stories, beyond the "blue and red" mythology, has never been greater.

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



Howard Zinn, 1962.

“They’ll say we’re disturbing the peace, but there is no peace. What really bothers them is that we are disturbing the war.”

Howard Zinn (Aug. 24, 1922 – Jan. 27, 2010)
Speech on the Boston Common, May 5, 1971.

The *Red Phoenix* is published bimonthly by the American Party of Labor.

Editor-in-Chief: June Vass

Editorial Board: Victor Vaughn, Camilo Lazo, Sebastian Lemba, Isabelle Bernardi, Nadya H.

Staff: Allison P., Leon V., R. Nesbitt, Sofia D.

Contributors: John M., Keegan D., Maurice B., Margarethe Wegner, Marina S., Meir A., Michael G., Thomas K.



To read more, subscribe, or contribute:

[The Red Phoenix:](http://RedPhoenixNews.com)



[American Party of Labor:](http://AmericanPartyofLabor.com)



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: We are a dedicated anti-revisionist party, opposed to concessions to capitalists, and critical of all imperialist actions by the U.S., Russia, and China. The APL is a member of the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (CIPOML), and the Resist U.S.-Led War Movement.

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: We are 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 APL 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 is Marxism-Leninism relevant in 21st century America?

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 to undo reforms and regulations. What truly led to the collapse of the socialist bloc was not that the pursuit of communism was 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 U.S., 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.