

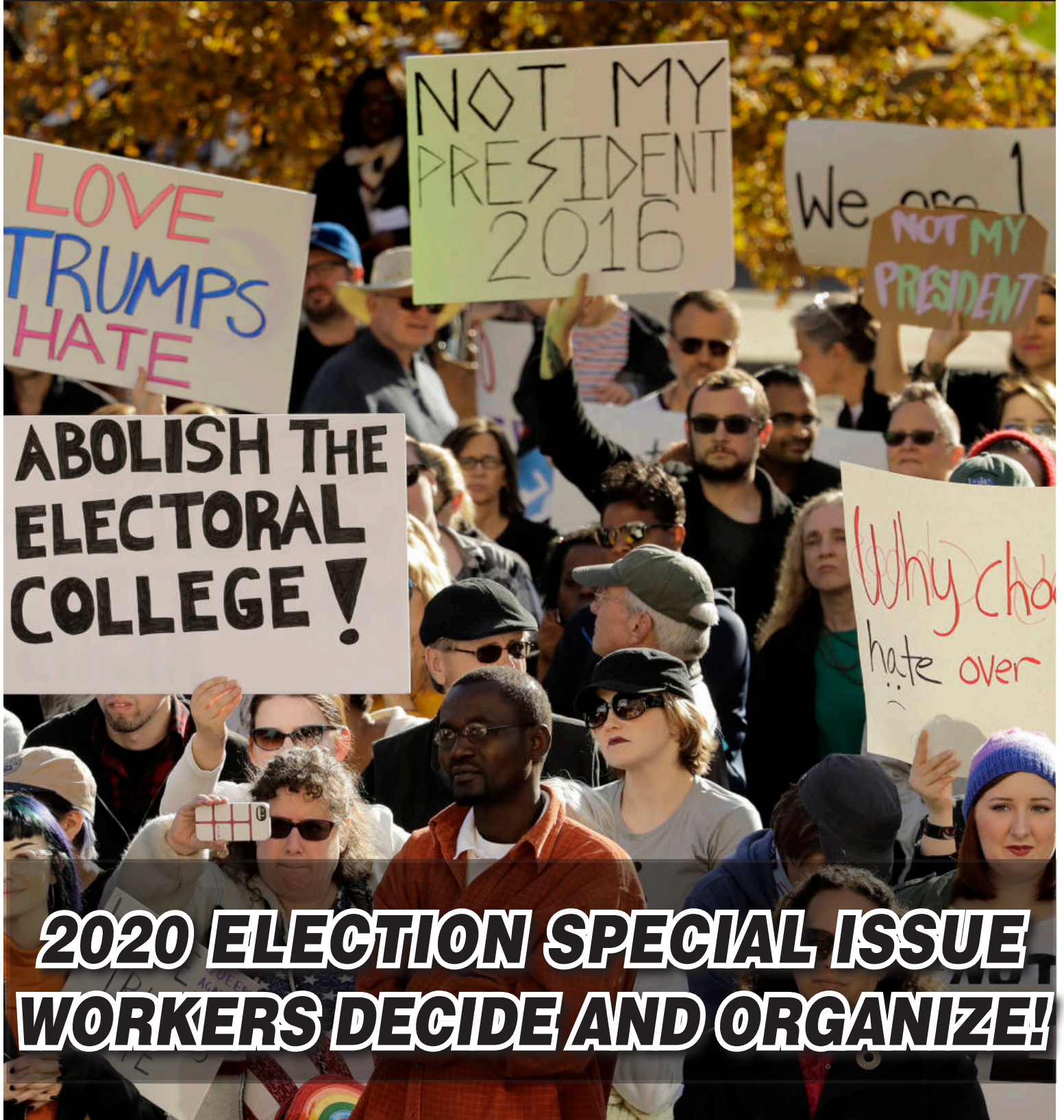


THE RED PHOENIX

NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR

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THE WORKING
PEOPLE!

AmericanPartyofLabor.com ★ Issue #16 ★ September / October 2020 ★ Suggested Donation: \$2.00



2020 ELECTION SPECIAL ISSUE
WORKERS DECIDE AND ORGANIZE!

By the Secretariat of the American Party of Labor

The whole world watches the upcoming elections in the United States. While there are other powerful imperialist nations in the post-cold war world, the U.S. remains at its center. Speculation on the election directly affects the daily ebb and flow of investment in the global market, as capitalists consider the opportunities created by the over 1,000,000 lives lost during the COVID-19 outbreak and greater instability in the imperialist core. For Americans, the first term of Trump's presidency has greatly empowered the radical right-wing, seen the intensification of the oppression of immigrants, and the chipping away of basic bourgeois rights like voting. Right-wing violence against oppressed peoples has not only continued through the state's repressive forces, but also through the militant right wing movement that is emerging from the shadows of Charlottesville. In so many ways, this election casts a long shadow over the lives of everyone living in the United States.

There are many on the left that have decided that Trump must be defeated and that endorsements for Biden are the logical call to action. It cannot be denied that Trump must be defeated and that his presidency represents a grave threat to the working class in the US. But in this urgency, we cannot refuse to acknowledge the simple truth that these fascist policies and movements existed before Trump and will exist, stronger than ever, after Trump. There is no need for Trump to form a paramilitary group when the reactionary citizenry has been cultivated for generations upon generations into being that force. The police have been getting away with the violent suppression of oppressed peoples from the get-go. The American state, for all its talk about liberty of the private citizen, has no problem wielding great authoritarian power when it suits the needs of the ruling across, both at home and abroad. All the pieces existed before Trump, exist terribly under Trump, and will exist after Trump.

"Our lives as working people are too seriously imperiled to refuse to see, as the whole country did during this week's debate, that we lose in either case—without a real popular movement."

No Communist group in the United State has a meaningful level of influence over public opinion. Yet, many organizations have thrown their hat into the ring of endorsement, committing themselves



American Bund, and the Silver Shirts of the 1930s, to the American Nazi Party of the '60s and '70s to the Neo-Nazi of today, overtly fascist organizations and ideas have had a persistent presence on the American political scene. What is new is how these groups and the ultra-reactionary ideology they represent have moved from the fringes and shadows to the center stage. It is evident that they have been encouraged and emboldened by the Trump presidency.

to the electoral cause. There is pragmatism behind this but not much else. One might even argue that a Communist group in the United States endorsing a candidate would hurt that candidate more than anything else. After all, the liberals hate the radical left, and Communists especially, many times more than they hate the right-wing and fascism, the attack on even the social democratic Bernie Sanders campaign shows this.

As the election looms over US political life, from the unemployment lines, to the immigrant detention facilities built by Obama and Biden and made a home for eugenics and family separation by Trump, to the wealthy suburbs Biden and Trump both focus their campaigning on, we say that the slogan of "defeat Trump" is insufficient. As Malcolm X said in 1964, and as the Bolsheviks argued in 1917, the ballot can be a tool for revolutionaries, one that shouldn't be ignored. But we should never, particularly as fascism grows in power in the United States, reduce our slogans to the old electoral games of "this election is too important." Our lives as working people are too seriously imperiled by resurgent state and right violence to refuse to see, as the whole country did during this week's debate, that we lose in either case—without a real popular movement.

The Long Decay into American Fascism

In the treatment of any disorder, it is necessary to get to the root cause of the disease. Treating the symptoms of the disease, while important, is not a cure, and will only provide temporary or partial relief to the sufferer. Trump is not the disease, he is a symptom of the disease, the festering rash the disease has brought up. The disease is capitalism. But, identifying the disease is not enough. It's also necessary to trace its pathology.

Fascism is nothing new in American political life. From the second generation Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s to Father Coughlin, the German-

It must however be strongly stated that, while clear and open fascism has only recently crawled out from the cesspool into the light of day, fascist tendencies and the process of fascistization has been a feature of American society for decades. Fascism is the crisis of capitalism in decay. Fascism is the uniform put on by a capitalism that is no longer able to effectively manage the class struggle and continue ruling in "the old way." It is the terroristic dictatorship of the most reactionary elements of finance capital. Seen in this light, fascism in the United States is not a question of this or that lunatic fringe group. Rather, it is part and parcel of the development of American capitalism in its final, imperialist stage.

The fusion of monopoly finance capital with the machinery of the state has been noted and commented on since the 1950s – the much vaunted 'military-industrial complex' assuming economic dominance. In the social sphere, there has long been an ongoing process of militarization in American life; with an increasing level of police violence and repression. Indeed, with the police presence in immigrant communities and communities of color taking on the aspect of an occupying army. On the ideological front, the Civil Rights, Women's, anti-war, and social change movements of the 1960s and 1970s triggered a conservative backlash that has continued to this very day. Reagan's presidency in the 1980s accelerated the attempt to undo many of the liberal policies enacted over the previous two decades. In the 1990s, both the ostensibly liberal Democratic Party and the overtly conservative Republican Party shifted to the Right. This rightward trend has not abated, it has intensified. This is ingrained in the very structure of American politics.

Thus, Trumpism must be seen as a part, and a particular manifestation of, this deeply rooted ongoing process.

ELECTIONS WON'T DEFEAT FASCISM, ONLY WE CAN (CONT.)



The Historic Crimes of the Trump Regime

Yet, in tracing and understanding this history, we shouldn't lose track of the shifts and accelerations of criminality undertaken by the Trump regime. The crimes of the Trump government against the peoples of the United States are severe and innumerable. His response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been an utter failure, prioritizing profits over human health and distrusting scientists and experts in general, resulting in 200,000+ deaths. The coronavirus has disproportionately affected the African-American population, as well as causing untold deaths among Americans with no healthcare coverage, over 10,000,000 of which lost their insurance during the COVID-19 recession. Official figures of unemployment in the U.S. currently stands at over 30 million people, with no relief in sight except one pitiful \$1200 stimulus payment that barely covers one month of rent and living expenses for most U.S. citizens.

His government has been virulently racist and anti-immigrant from the start, and now U.S. policy manifests in ripping children from their parents and imprisoning them indefinitely into what must be called concentration camps. This atrocity is only compounded by the recent reports of forced hysterectomies within these detention camps, an outright genocidal action. The Trump regime has overseen a continuous erosion and rollback of the democratic rights of the people for self-expression, assembly, protest, and speech, through the use of murderous police terror and calls for violence against peaceful protestors, targeting of political opponents, and attempting to list the broad anti-fascist forces and Black Lives Matter activists as terrorists for opposing right-wing reaction and fighting for civil rights. All this points to a larger program of the suppression of dissent and the people's democratic rights.

"All the historians, all the experts, all the survivors of authoritarian regimes of the past, all the mass organizations, all the human rights groups, all the working poor of this country, and all the rest of the world, agree on this singular issue: we must be prepared to stop the rise of fascism in the United States at all costs."

On top of this, Trump himself has made plain his intent to destroy and sabotage the remaining vestiges of bourgeois democracy still remaining, intentionally withholding funding from the Postal Service

to sabotage mail-in voting, giving speeches with false claims of voter fraud designed to disenfranchise Americans, instituting a block of payroll taxes designed to defund and dismantle Social Security (primarily hurting the elderly and working poor), and openly stating he will "negotiate" to serve a third term in office, despite threats of impeachment and calls to abolish the Electoral College that permitted him to win the 2016 election in the first place. All this is part of a clear agenda by Trump to move toward becoming an autocratic ruler.

The Trump government is actively working to destroy what is left of human rights and constitutional bourgeois democracy in the United States, as well as roll back social programs for healthcare and public education, bodily autonomy through Roe v. Wade, the right to organize in a union, minimum wage and protection for workers, basic universal voting rights, all the while clearing the pathway for the wealthy owners of monopolies and corporations to seize more power in society than ever before, not to mention ignoring and aggravating the natural disasters from the existential environmental crisis of climate change. The racist oppression of immigrants and the sabotaging of democracy echo the fascism of the past. All the historians, all the experts, all the survivors of authoritarian regimes of the past, all the mass organizations, all the human rights groups, all the working poor of this country, and all the rest of the world, agree on this singular issue: we must be prepared to stop the rise of fascism in the United States at all costs.

The Unique Features of American Fascism, and Our Unique Responses

Many left commentators have been slow to recognize this fascist progression in the US since 2016, because they conceive of fascism as a rational, objectively identifiable ideological movement. In 2016, when the American Party of Labor identified Trump as a proto-fascist, we were often attacked, and accused of reformism for not attacking Hillary Clinton enough. Leftists and liberals attacked us for flying a banner that equated Trump and Mussolini.

But we know that Fascism has historically moved in many different patterns and has its own character in each country it festers in. Instead of a pure aryan race, we have a more general white supremacy, replacing the Japanese Fascist desire for a Pacific empire we have American Exceptionalism and international hegemony supported by both blue and red. Yet all of these explicitly American concepts have a common theme, they are anti-rational manifestations of the general fascist desire to bring about a despotic dictatorship of the most chauvinist forces in the country and capital. There is little one can do to sway a white supremacist because the entire frame of mind relies on a rejection of reality, as the recent debate proved with little doubt. Due to this the standard political discourse falls short of removing Fascism from power. As Jean Paul Sartre argued of the fascists, "They know that their remarks are frivolous, open to challenge. But they are amusing themselves, for it is their adversary who is obliged to use words responsibly, since he believes in words. The anti-Semites have the right to play."

**Join Us In The Fight!
Get Involved Today!**



ELECTIONS WON'T DEFEAT FASCISM, ONLY WE CAN (CONT.)

No Trump



No Biden



No More Hate No More Compromises

Build a Working Class Party!

 American Party of Labor

Recognizing the threat of American fascism cannot blind us to the fact that the Democrats have time and time again proved either incapable or unwilling to combat that Fascist threat, in fact they have often aided their efforts in congress or directly with state sponsored violence against protestors and the rounding up of undocumented people to be sent to concentration camps. The time has long passed to "vote blue no matter who," this is the time to explicitly and intentionally build unity amongst all workers separate from bourgeois Institutions. Only we can save ourselves. As Malcolm X said in his famous "Ballot or the Bullet" speech, the time is now, not tomorrow, not next election, but now, to build a united front that delivers the demands of the workers not in the halls of power but on the ground in every city in this country.

Building a Real Working Class Alternative

Given these historical circumstances and the challenges the US working class faces in the era of resurgent fascism, it is essential that we bring this united banner of solidarity against hate, real democracy, and universal access to healthcare, jobs, housing, and the tools necessary to live fulfilling lives to every corner of the country. It is the business of electoral reformists to conceive of the country as "red and blue states." For too long the US left has lived exclusively in urban enclaves and favored national issues campaigns over local organizing.

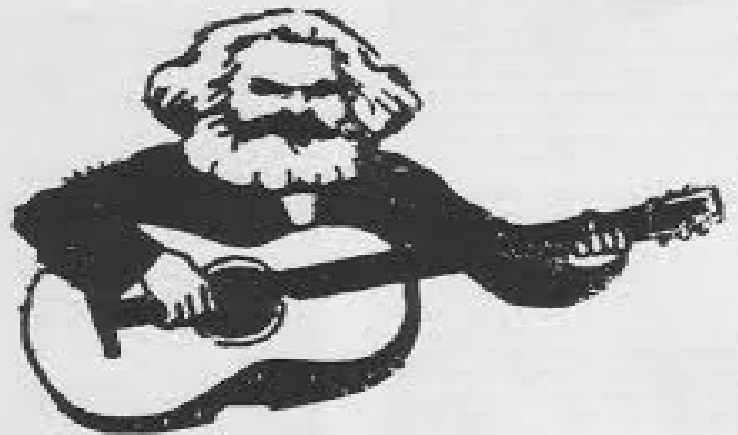
"The US left is often quick to praise the work of the interwar CPUSA in organizing the south and black communities, but in contemporary

practice often renounces the deep ideological struggle required to do such things, and refuses to redress themselves to the contradictions within the US working class, even sometimes refusing to acknowledge that US working class exists."

Everywhere reaction and hatred is, we must be there to counter it with working class organization, journalism, and mutual aid. In Orlando, Alabama, New Jersey, New York City, and beyond, the American Party of Labor has found success in organizing through and allying with local working class organizations that bring a national program of working democracy and socialism. Stronger local organizations bring the great urgency of our platform to working people, and orient them with greater accuracy to the needs, worries, and demands of the working class.

In this era of electoral red, blue, and purple states, communists must intentionally cross those lines. In doing so, however, we have to be willing to speak to local people, address their concerns, and be willing to educate and discuss with those who hold reactionary positions. The US left is often quick to praise the work of the interwar CPUSA in organizing the south and black communities, but in contemporary practice often renounces the deep ideological struggle required to do such things, and refuses to redress themselves to the contradictions within the US working class, even sometimes refusing to acknowledge that US working class exists. To defeat fascism, we have to face those influenced by the fascistization of US politics and discuss and educate them.

As fascism rises in the US, refusing to do the hard work of revolutionary organizing could prove a fatal mistake. For this reason, we say that we must defeat the rise of fascism with radical working class organizing, not just Trump, and not just with cynical, pragmatic, and "tactical" electioneering. More than anything else, we have to amplify the power of the workers of the world, who often feel powerless and blown about by fascist policy and anti-science fanaticism in 2020. We all felt and saw how alienated most of the country felt, both right and left, by the recent debate. That is the power of the socialist movement, to weaponize the discontent of the working class into organization and power. A national organization of working class people, deeply-linked with local organizations, can, like the revolutionary movements of the past, fundamentally remake society and vanquish fascism once, and for all.



LEAVING THE SIXTIES BEHIND

NAARPR CALLS FOR PROTESTS THE DAY AFTER THE NOVEMBER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (NOVEMBER 4, 2020)



The Peoples' Mandate For Change Must Be Carried Out

In this triple pandemic of racism, COVID-19, and recession our National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression is issuing a call to all the democratic forces presently engaged in the struggle against racist injustice, the economic slaughter of our communities and the utterly unspeakable failure at all levels to use its full capacity to stop the death march of the corona virus across the land.

We, as a country, have a greater capacity in terms of wealth and technology than most other countries to stop the spread of infections and death but unmitigated, capitalist greed, putting profits before people, has made us the leading country in COVID-19 infections and death. The pandemic has hit African American and other oppressed communities the hardest.

We are going all out in this election to defeat Trump because it is unequivocally clear that this administration's racist, anti-people and anti-working class policies have already eroded every semblance of democracy and brought us to the brink of the worst economic disaster in U.S. history with no plan whatsoever to provide relief for our suffering people. This recession has hit women, and in particular Black women the hardest, snatching away years of progress.

Win or lose in the elections we are calling for mass protests the day after the election to highlight the fact that Trump's scorched earth policies have left the political landscape almost as barren and bleak as COVID-19 and the police-state style racist repression used against tens of thousands of protesters, leaving thousands injured and jailed and some dead. Trump has openly sided with racist, right-wing, violent elements to attack the movement against police crimes.

Trump losing the elections will create greater organizing space for turning this page of history writ large with sickness, death and mass rebellion to embark upon the road for freedom, justice and equality and ending the plundering of the monopoly capitalist bosses.

Biden's victory is important in this moment of history we do not deny that in the least. Yet we must face the sober reality that his victory will not necessarily provide the path to freedom, justice and equality for our people, for the 140 million poor, for the homeless, the sick, hungry and working class masses. We, the people's movement is the vehicle we must drive up freedom's road.

We are also well aware that Trump has said that he would not leave power. His administration has already tried to disrupt the election by undermining the Post Office and attacks on mail-in voting. Trump could try many things during and after the election such as trying to stop the vote count (a tactic that pro-U.S. forces in other countries have done to fix elections) or call out right-wing shock troops.

The fundamental truth at the core of this national call for protests the day after the November Presidential election is that the great historical lesson of the moment we are in is best characterized by the fact that over 22 million rebelled against racist injustice in response to the brutal murder of George Floyd. The social energy of this great rebellion is the same energy propelling us to call this protest. Join us and let us, the people united, open a new era of struggle for our liberation dedicate to never returning our country to like it was. We are fighting for a new day to dance with great jubilee in the sunlight of freedom.

Our Demands:

Stop Police Crimes!

NAARPR calls

for Community Control of Police!

Extend and expand economic relief for the unemployed!

Stop the evictions and utility shut offs!

Protect the health care that we have, we want health care for all!

Fight the pandemic!

Stop the racist attacks on immigrants and the harassment of Asian Americans!

LETTER TO THE PHOENIX: WHY DOES VOTING IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS SEEM SO IMPORTANT?

Note: The Red Phoenix does not edit the content of letters and reproduces them as a glimpse into the minds of working people in the US.

The Red Phoenix received the following letter from G. Green on the nature of the 2020 election. G. Green is a "matriarch and worker bee, career bartender, and mom/head of household" living in Florida.

Nowadays in the US, it is made abundantly clear that everyone wants you to vote, to exercise your right to participate and be heard. All types of people, from politicians to celebrities, to community pillars, family members and even Atlanta's leading exotic dancers are rushing you to get your booty to the polls.

When I was younger, there was a Hilton heiress all over the media telling us simultaneously to 'Rock The vote!' and 'Stop being poor' in the same year. I wondered... Why would Paris want me to vote? After all, I hated her and all the privilege she represented so why should she care what I have to say about anything? It came as no surprise when the news broke that the thin, spoiled and famous blonde didn't just not vote that year but in fact, she wasn't even registered to do so. Her voting performance was done for social capital, and had no real foundation in principle. In light of a recent Cambridge Study that tracked the real differences between the two parties, maybe Paris' apathy was justified.

Voting may look and even feel good, but the truth is it doesn't help anyone as the study suggests. There's always been an extravagant aspect to American democracy. There's the fanaticism of the people, the performative showmanship from the candidates and the spectacle-like media wire in a constant whirr. Now we know as fact that this exhibition is an illusionary one. In the wake of a global pandemic that still lingers in the US airwaves and having now more positive cases in the White House than in all New Zealand and North Korea for the last 10 days, the American people are focusing on science and trusting it more than ever.

Science, in the shape of that recent study, tells us today that our vote does not make a difference at all. Because as it turns out, on the issues that effect our lives: deportation, poverty, police violence, and so on, which party wins has little effect. The study carefully measures how the two major parties affect economic, education, environment, crime, family social, and health outcomes and it finds ZERO differences between the democratic and republican parties.

I fail to see how this study has not made big news, this factual statistical information is more valuable now than ever before. Science has warned us before about the unsustainability of capitalism and the damaging effects of a rampant free market to the average citizen. Today, Science is shouting at us that the two ruling parties are just as one. It is showing the sham that our electoral process is on a whole new level. This isn't just the electoral college, this is a blatant oligarchy and It's not just your Marxist philosophy professor telling you, this is the premier journal in political science letting you know what's up. Straight up.

So, why would there be so much pressure to participate in a democracy that is purely theatrical? I think we all can agree that the canvassers, the



census, the media and political ads are getting increasingly aggressive. Going as far as having each of the two major parties telling you to vote against the other, as opposed to, in their favor. Presidential candidates are running on a "I'm not the other guy" platform, and each party cries that the other will take away your basic liberties, trample your rights and destroy our country. Frankly, this style of campaigning feels insulting to the intelligence of anyone who can acknowledge that real democracy can not be founded in fear.

The answer to why the establishment would want you to vote is simple :

To make you feel good and look good and, to make the system look even better, like it's actually working as if it was a real democracy. Voting, especially in this election, would be an incredibly self-serving act that satisfies mostly yourself. It justifies the collective faith in a system that isn't broken or failed, it was designed to be this way. It is one of the many ways to make oneself feel complacent by performing a ritual that does not make a difference. As Gore Vidal once said, "the two parties are just one party, representing four percent of the population.

The presidential elections have become just another product for our massive consumption.

IN ALABAMA, ORGANIZING WORKERS HAS BECOME A MORE EFFECTIVE WEAPON THAN THE BALLOT.



By Jay Hyde, October 2020

With the 2020 election looming overhead in Alabama, which is the state Trump is statistically the most likely to win, the fight for a working class movement is stronger than it has been in decades. There are many that feel disaffected and cynical towards the electoral system. Many believe that the true power can only come from the people, and that the ballot is either largely a spectacle or simply a means of harm reduction. The capitalist duopoly have once again shown their hand, and they have struck down even the most basic of social programs and reforms that could benefit the working and oppressed peoples in a meaningful way. Due to the alienation from the system felt by workers, the Huntsville IWW was the obvious place to look for a path forward for Alabama.

I asked David and Jacob, two members of the Huntsville Industrial Workers of the World union in Alabama, what their thoughts on the election are, and they did not pull any punches. The first topic discussed was if they plan to vote, if anything has influenced their decision, how they feel about the choices presented, and if they are excited to vote. David responded by saying, "I have already voted absentee, about a month ago. My decision was mainly influenced by a feeling of need to do something. Recognizing that I live in a solid red state, my vote has no impact whatsoever on the presidential race, regardless I felt the need to get out and strike at least one ignorant cast vote down. I feel pretty dismal. I feel like electoral politics are an absolute joke. I feel everything in the democratic party is based on the good ole boy system and it has wreaked havoc on the American citizens for years. Granted, the Republicans have had their share of this as well, but at least their voters recognized it and selected someone, albeit a moron, from outside the political sphere to run as their candidate. The democratic constituency are victims of Stockholm syndrome." Jacob then responded with, "I have. My default position is voting, so not much influencing my decision there. For me to not vote would be what would require some sort of external influence. I don't feel good about the choices presented, and I'm not excited." When voters are not excited about their options, and largely feel that their voices are not even listened to, it becomes increasingly imperative that we continue creating a party made up of workers that fights for workers rights. Dave's statements make it pretty clear that the Democratic Party

is not seen as the party of the working class here in Alabama.

After that, we got into whether or not they felt their vote had meaning. David replied by reiterating, "See above, the only meaning my vote has is in my heart, knowing I've done what I could to stop the bleeding. At this point it's more about harm reduction." Jacob replied by stating, "Not particularly, because of the electoral college and my being in Alabama." This shows the failures of our current system, so voters are forced to either vote for who is perceived as the lesser of two evils, and even then most workers' votes are canceled out by an antiquated system that was founded on classist and racist values.

This is where the discussion took an empowering turn. We discussed what can workers do to get a ballot they feel good about? Dave stated, "Build a grassroots network to start helping get workers elected. It doesn't matter if their janitors, electricians or cooks. Get them on the damn ballot and get them elected. We are no longer a representative republic because our representatives, for the most part, have never worked an honest day in their lives. THIS IS THE PROBLEM. We need working class people making the budget and running the country. People that aren't trying to gain favor with corporations. People that want to serve people. People that believe in mutual aid." Jacob responded similarly with, "I reckon more primary participation would help, but more than that we need to organize on the job - that's where our power lies, where we have the most leverage, and where we can most directly and most efficiently make our lives and the lives of our fellow workers better." The American Party of Labor is a party 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. Remember, voting is the least that we can do, we must continue the revolutionary struggle every day on the streets, on the job, in local elections, and in whatever spaces workers can gather to fight for worker and community control on every level.

If you would like to find out more about Dave and Jacob, please check out Huntsville IWW on Facebook and Twitter. Also, they have a radio show and YouTube channel. The Valley Labor Report is a weekly radio program airing 9:30 to 11:00am on Saturdays on 92.5 WVNN. They will be covering local, state, and national news (with an emphasis on the former two) as well as trying to dig deep into important issues from a left/labor perspective. Their goal is, chiefly, to educate the audience about the power that workers can have through organizing and solidarity. I highly recommend checking out their YouTube channel, especially if you live in Alabama or another Red State, and would like to keep up with news by workers for workers.

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



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LETTER TO THE PHOENIX: "DEFEATING TRUMP" IS NO EXCUSE FOR PROGRESSIVES TO SETTLE FOR MODERATE DEMOCRATS

The Red Phoenix received the following letter from Kjell Sivertsen regarding "progressive" imperialist apologism in the 2020 election.

"The threat of fascism does not negate the need to combat neo-liberalism. Even the Democrats themselves are not concerned with defeating Trump as a first priority, as demonstrated by their active efforts to thwart progressive underdogs. Bernie Sanders led over Trump more than any other candidate on the Democratic ticket in polls earlier this year.

Even in the event a Biden victory, fascist movements and politicians will continue to grow. The deteriorating conditions in neo-liberal America since the end of the cold war directly led to the rise of populist politics from both the far-left and far-right. Even so-called "blue states" are plagued with high costs of living and poverty.

Biden will inevitably abandon his promises if elected. During the primaries he opposed progressive policies advocated by Sanders such as the Green New Deal and socialized healthcare. It was only after other conservative Democrats such as Buttigieg and Harris dropped out of the race in order to slow the momentum of Sanders that Biden suddenly reversed his stances in an attempt to pander to progressives.

The Democratic leadership will never allow progressives and self-proclaimed socialists to dominate the party, even if it means handing power to Republicans. Progressives upset with the Democratic establishment must actively commit to voting for third parties if they want any chance of succeeding. Donald Trump is only used as an excuse by the likes of Biden, Pelosi, and others to shame the working class into remaining complacent with endless compromise."



Every Struggle for Liberation has its Home in the Party of Labor

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BATTLE FOR THE BATTLEGROUND STATE: VOTERS IN FLORIDA SPEAK OUT

Red Phoenix correspondent Kallista Miobel spoke to several Floridians on how they felt going into the 2020 election in the state that is often the nexus of national attention on November 3rd.

By Kallista Miobel, October 16 2020

A month before the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election is set to take place, across the country, hundreds of thousands have already cast their ballots, and millions still feel the pressure as one of the most decisive moments for the future of the world political climate is now in the hands of the American voting population. Though pundits and commentators have made their speculations known in the months leading up to it, the recent new controversies surrounding the tactics to suppress voters, President Trump's abysmal mishandling of the COVID-19 epidemic (especially in light of his recent diagnosis), and a humiliating political debate early in the month have tossed most former predictions into the trash bin. Though anyone who remembers the run up to the the 2016 election may be understandably skeptical of Biden's reported 11 point lead over Trump in polls as of this writing, there's no denying that while the Democrats alienation of a growing voter base more aware of their own corruption and mishandlings, the sentiment of "Anti-Trump" speaks more powerfully than being "Pro-Biden".

Living in Florida, it being one of the largest and most contested battleground states in the country, there is a unique political climate as election seasons arrive. Voter turnout is a persistent issue in American politics, and many in the country disavow politics entirely, but those in the states so crucial to the final election tallies often swallow their own reservations for the sake of throwing their hat into the ring, as well as out of obligation to enact any influence over their government they're able to muster.

The Red Phoenix spoke to several Florida residents around the Orlando area, to ask them how they were feeling about voting, whether they planned to at all, and what the election represented to them in a wider sense.

Sierra, 20, understood the election as one mostly against Trump and not for Biden: "Yes I am voting. I feel as though it is important to do your best to influence the change you would like to see in our government in whatever way you can. I'm not exactly excited to vote, but I would love to see a change in leadership in our country and there are better people to take over the position as president rather than Donald Trump and my vote could help get him out of office."

This sentiment, however, echoes an emotion which stands out this election more than others in recent memory. Damien, 30, said, "I'm not super hype on the choices presented this election. I'm 'excited' to help get Trump out of office, but that doesn't make me excited for Biden." Raine, 28, was more pessimistic. "Yes, I am voting. Just not wanting another 4 years of Trump. [It's all] Shitty. Very not excited. Kind of hate it."

More than ever, not only is the United States preparing for one of the most daunting elections of recent times, but voters themselves are turning out to the polls, not out of genuine motivation to vote for a single candidate, but an obligation to vote against a specific one. Where the Trump campaign's support has been in a somewhat steady decline towards his most hardline following, the Biden campaign has done little to present any alternative aside from simply not being his opponent. Meanwhile, Trump continues to double down on the fraudulent claims to Biden and Democrats' "radical left" leanings (wouldn't that be the dream), resorting to the tried and true echoes of McCarthyism the Republicans and far-right still use to this day. This ongoing trend of lesser-evilism the Democrats have been insistent and frankly reliant on for the better part of the last few decades has done far more to damage faith in the U.S. Electoral system than it has

to help it.

As the race begins to close, the same lines drawn during the election in 2016 begin to appear once again, especially in the wake of Bernie Sanders' second failed attempt at capturing the Democratic Party's nomination. Those who choose to refrain from the vote often do so out of either distrust for the electoral process, or a principled stand against it,

The Red Phoenix spoke to one such person, Alex, 23, who explained to us, dispute his hatred for Trump, why he wouldn't be voting this year: "I refrained from voting in 2016 and will refrain again this election cycle. I would vote if a single candidate represented the interests of everyday Americans, such as universal healthcare, or debt forgiveness, or defunding the police and the prison industrial complex, etc. But no candidate comes close to touching on these issues. Since 2016 all political discourse has basically been reduced to "we must defeat Trump", but this tradition of lesser-evilism stretches back much farther in time. I believe in voting for the candidate one agrees with, instead of being forced to vote against a boogeyman. Nobody wants to go to the polls with a gun to their head."



A Voter Casts A Ballot In Miami, FL

Meanwhile, those who chose to participate continue to hold out hope that, no matter how miniscule, their vote could mean everything when it comes to putting an end to the most unpopular presidency of the

21st century. Despite Trump's attempts to undermine the legitimacy of the US electoral system, those we spoke to did not share this concern. "Although I'm not exactly sure how voting is taken into consideration and counted, I feel strongly that votes are fair and accurate, otherwise what's the point in voting? If I didn't feel my vote counted, I wouldn't vote" said Sierra. Damien also echoed similar sentiments when responding to the question of whether their vote has meaning, "This is a complicated answer and I don't have the time to get into it right now. Long story: Yes because I have to feel that way. Otherwise, what is the point?"

As American "Democracy" is once again on open display, and enthusiasm for the candidates at an all time low, though differences separate those who chose to vote and not to, the sentiment is shared among everyone that democracy does not simply end at the ballot box. Sierra stated, "I think that participating in any type of rallies or protests or even just handing out or mailing out information to spread the word about how you feel and the importance of other beliefs is important to getting people to see both sides to the story and possibly even change minds for the better." Damien followed, noting the lack of choice the current system represents, "More political parties. Less "career" politicians."

Whoever the winner is come November, the battle for the legitimacy of the U.S Democratic process is sure to remain unsettled. As Trump's camp has already embedded within the voter base that certain aspects of the election are to remain in contention due to fraudulence, for those who chose to vote, the election comes just in time to potentially rid the country of its biggest existential threat. As the rising tide of american facism holds fast and the rest of the country holds its breath for the results come November, this could well be the breaking point for many who still hold faith that their collective voice through voting is enough to stay the most reactionary elements of U.S. society. For those jaded and disillusioned with the current system however, the answer lies elsewhere.



PEACE,
EQUALITY,
SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY

ORANGE HAZE: THE HISTORICAL, CAPITALIST ROOTS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

By: Peter Charles Kraljev, Red Phoenix Correspondent Sacramento

Dusk fell at 10am in northern California on September 9th as clouds of smoke blocked out the sun leaving the state with only a dimly light sky that was accompanied by an orange haze of smoke limiting line of sight and a snowing of ash that created banks of soot on the sidewalks and streets. This apocalyptic scene was caused by an estimated 5,924 wild fires suffocating in the state. While wild fires are common to California and even natural or beneficial, climate change has rapidly intensified their destructive capabilities.

Forest fires in California are nothing new. So many forest fires happen every year the state created an agency, The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), with the explicit purposes of preventing wild fires and performing firefighting and emergency services during forest fires. Even California's ecosystem is fire adapted with native plant species such as manzanita, ceanothus, chamise, and scrub oak needing routine forest fires to complete their life cycle.

Unfortunately, the fires this year are not more of the same as this is a recorded breaking year. 6 of the fires this year are the largest fires ever recorded and more than 3 million acres of land have been burned exceeded the previous record in 2018 of 1.9 million acres burned. The fires are still burning and cities and towns are being evacuated across the state. This is the worst the fires have been and they are getting worse. The key question to understanding the wildfires in context is why has something that used to be a bearable and necessary part of this land's ecosystem become so devastating and destructive? There is no one answer or easy fix, despite what many on social media might suggest, as it's the result of multiple variables that have built up and contributed to each other over the years and are now coming to a head.

One of the causes of this was a bad investment back in the 1800s. All over California you can find groves of eucalyptus trees with their distinct leaves and smell. It's hard to believe a tree so prevalent in this state is not a native plant, but the tree is actually native to Australia, and was introduced to California in the 1870s. A German botanist, Ferdinand Jacob Heinrich von Mueller, found that this Australian tree grew extremely well in California. Mueller teamed up with Ellwood Cooper, an educator at Santa Barbara, and together they wrote books and gave lectures on uses of eucalyptus, how the wood made good lumber for building materials and drops huge amounts of leaves that make great livestock feed. Muller and Cooper became very wealthy though the sale of eucalyptus seeds and saplings and books on their care as investors planted them all over the state. Unfortunately, Muller and Cooper turned out to be little more than con men as the trees were not all the cracked up to be and created a dangerous accelerant to natural wildfires.

Take the case of Frank C Havens. Havens was a real-estate developer in Oakland who planted 8 million eucalyptus trees in a 14-mile strip from Oakland to Berkeley and opened a mill to process the trees. Havens found that the lumber from the trees had an irregular grain and bent, cracked and shrank when dried and the leaves were toxic and animals could not eat them. The trees were worthless and as more investors discovered this, they began to abandon the groves and let the trees grow unchecked.

Eucalyptus has very oily wood, this causes it to catch fire easily and is extremely hard to put out. The spread of these trees over the last century have made the forest fires far more intense and frequent than the normally would have been had the trees not been introduced for a quick profit for aspiring capitalists



The second reason for the influx of fires has been Democrat and Republican apathy to climate change. The 2020 fire season was preceded by a record breaking heat wave in California causing the state to be more arid than usual. Forest fires tend to slow down at night when the temperature cools down leading to condensation that increases the humidity and makes things less flammable. This year has been different as night temperatures are not dropping like they used to, causing fires to burn at the same rate night and day. Climate models have predicted high perception rates in the winter and spring leading to more growth, followed by hot and dry summers. This will cause a climate whip lash as the wet seasons will lead to more under growth creating more kindling in the summer making fires more intense.

Scientists across the world agree that climate change is real and is human caused and we need to address it before the earth is unlivable. Yet Trump, when visiting California to cheer on and offer support to emergency responders fighting the fires, refused to acknowledge the role of climate change and stated "Well I don't think science knows, actually" "it'll start getting cooler you just-you just watch" when asked about climate change. President Trump has stated the fires are caused by poor forest management by the state (despite most of the forests being on federal land). His denial of climate change is an opinion shared by most of the Republican party.

You would think the Republicans' apathy towards climate change should not worry Californians and the west coast as this area is largely controlled by Democrats who acknowledge climate change. While they acknowledge climate change, they do little to nothing about it. The "Green New Deal" promoted by Alexandria Ocasio Cortez and other members of "the Squad" has not gained traction across the entire party. Governor Gavin Newsome and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi who are both Californians and Democrats have been dismissive and critical of the "Green New Deal", with Governor Newsome stating he had to "sober up" about the fact that renewable energy sources had failed. And Pelosi saying "It will be one of several or maybe many suggestions that we receive. The green dream, or whatever they call it, nobody knows what it is, but they're for it, right?". Bad environmental decisions in the past and apathy by the ruling class towards the effects of those decisions has led to situation we are in now. While left talking points online have identified a gender reveal party as the catalyst for the destruction in California, the true roots are much more dangerous and long-standing. The destruction in California is a direct result of thoughtless capitalist development and bipartisan unwillingness to address climate change at the cost of corporate profit. As ever, it is the people who pay this price as their homes and even lives are destroyed. It is time we started building a party and political movement that will take action to preserve this land and its people, and put people before property.

NO MATTER WHO WINS, WE CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE

By. L. Zorfass, October 19th, 2020

If Venezuela held elections in the way American elections are carried out, the U.S. would have bombed the whole region with all NATO countries applauding. Imagine the headlines if Maduro had said he wouldn't step down, if electors were being stacked by the incumbent, where private companies with association with monied interests which backs candidates also owned the machines on which people vote. If the United Socialist Party of Venezuela owned the voting machines, were setting up judges for life, refusing to step down, encouraging right-wing gangs to "stand by" for the results of the elections, Caracas would be leveled.

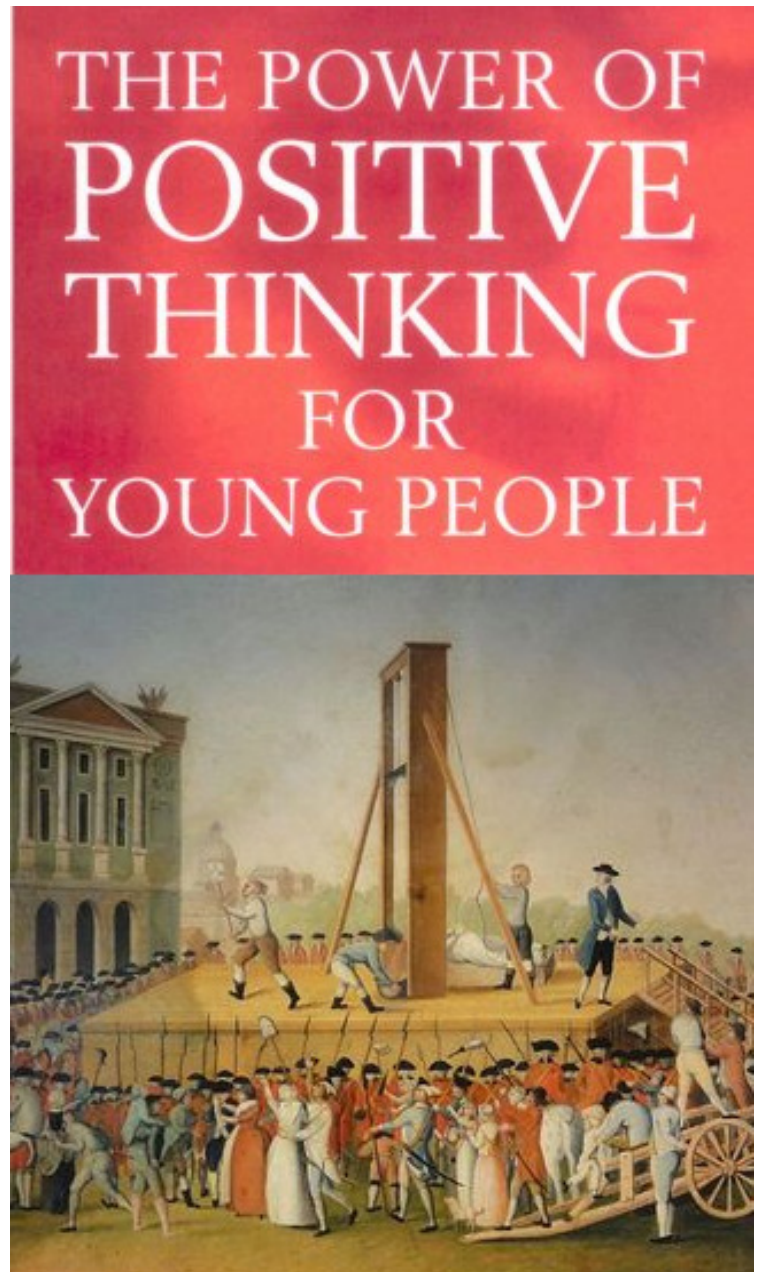
While liberal talking heads make jokes about the state of politics and the right threatening more civil violence, much of the world continues to look on in horror regardless of the results of the election. For most in the world, the leader of the United States is irrelevant because their oppression is in the interest of the United States, even more so dependent on it. Donkey and elephant are not shown on the crest of American soldiers or American bombers.

With a global world market, modern national markets are grown around the international system of exploitation and oppression. These systems are fundamental for capitalism and have been in place since its early beginnings with the development of the Atlantic Slave Trade and gold market formed by the influx of gold from the Americas into Europe. These same exact systems exist today, putting gold in your smartphone, no matter its brand, Apple and Huawei alike.

For communists, we know that no matter who wins the election, which party holds Congress, the struggle continues. Even if a self-proclaimed Democratic Socialist came to be president and brought the "Nordic Model" to the United States, much of the world would continue to face the worst of exploitation and oppression to support all the social programs that would be enacted.

We are communists not because we gain from it, or because we simply hate one group of people, but out of compassion for the millions across the globe that suffer under the heel of American capital. Whether Biden is elected or Trump remains president, the sweatshops will be full. Across the continent of Africa, competing imperialist world powers will continue to plunder its land and shackle its people.

So, the struggle continues. Here in the belly of imperialism, communists have the most intense struggle to wage. We must unite the heavily divided exploited and oppressed to overthrow their shackles here in the U.S. so that the shackles the U.S. has on the rest of the world dissolve. If the imperialists are to stop policing their capital across the world with its banks and military than the imperialists must be stopped from policing their capital at home with their banks and militarized police. Their capital at home doesn't extend to just objects but too people. To the imperialists, black bodies at home are a source of profit and policing,



just as they are in Africa under the boots of the same imperialists.

And we continue to struggle against all kinds of forces, both within our movement and without, in our endeavor to build a communist movement. Poverty, racism, war, every kind of social chauvinism are expressions of the class system. Until the class system is overcome, this communist does not rest. This communist stands against the ruling class, the imperialist class, both at home and abroad.

This communist, as the election looms, stands for the liberation of humanity, not for this or that group to claim victories, this or that country to claim power on the world market—for liberation. No matter what button you push once a year to "participate in democracy", no matter which single-issue campaigns you get caught up in, never forget the struggle. Never forget to struggle.

The American Party of Labor is...

a revolutionary working class organization. Our aim is to abolish the capitalist system and replace it with a socialist, working democracy, a system based on the principle laid out by Marx, "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need." There can be no true freedom or democracy, we argue, when billionaires have more wealth than the bottom 90% of Americans.

Who Can Join? How Do I Get Involved?

Every working person who is open to our plan for change, agrees with our Program and Platform and is over the age of 18 is welcome to join.

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

bit.ly/JoinTheAPL

You can find everything that you should know about us here, and you can contact us and connect to members in your area.

If we don't have a presence in your city, we'll get to know you and help you establish one.

Why be Marxist-Leninists in the USA in the 21st century?

There is an important fundamental difference between Marxism and other so-called anti-capitalist or "third way" theories. Marx, unlike many thinkers of his day, did not just see a problem with capitalism that could be mitigated. Instead, he and his compatriots analyzed capitalism itself to understand how the system worked. Marx's ideas for revolution are based off of that analysis, and the experiences of the struggles in Europe of 1848. Solutions to the problems of capitalism can only be reached by understanding and observing the system itself, textured with the political reality of the country and historical struggles. This is why we think revolutionary history is worth talking about, and making part of our platform.

Regarding the regulation of capitalism and emergent social democratic reform movements, it is not uncommon that capitalist states restrict the private sector for various reasons. The problem is that political power is still stacked in favor of the ruling class, they have every avenue and all the resources necessary undo reforms and regulations. What truly led to the collapse of the socialist bloc was not that these countries pursued communism, which was ultimately too radical, but rather that these nations pursued market style reforms until they had more or less become capitalist countries. As we have seen in the US, liberal victories are short-lived.

Today, social democratic movements would have us do much the same, if not less - regulate capitalism, nationalize some industry, and try to maintain a welfare state- without expropriating the ruling class, without giving the nation a clear direction for the future, and worst of all, without putting the working class in power. We cannot face climate change, resurgent fascism, police brutality, the exploitation of oppressed nations, and the threat of American imperialism around the world without a revolutionary, centrally organized movement.

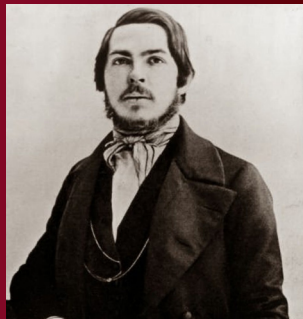
How is the American Party of Labor Different From Other Organizations?

An Anti-Revisionist, Internationalist Party: The American Party of Labor is a dedicated anti-revisionist party, opposed to concessions to capitalists, and critical of all imperialist actions by the US, Russia, and China. The APL is an observer member in the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO), and participates in the international anti-revisionist struggle.

A Party of Working Class People: The American Party of Labor is made up of workers fighting for workers rights. Many of our members are in active union and unionization struggles, and we all do our political work after clocking out.

A Party of Equals: The APL is active in the fight for the rights of women, oppressed nations, the LGBTQIA+ community, and immigrants, and for the community control of police departments. In 2019, the APL was a founding member in the National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression.

Forever Anti-Fascist: We take the anti-fascist legacy of the Marxist-Leninist movement. Members of the American Party of Labor are dedicated anti-fascists, and active in movements against the Far-Right on college campuses, and the barbaric treatment of immigrants at the border.



“‘Parliamentary cretinism’ is an incurable disease, an ailment whose unfortunate victims are permeated by the lofty conviction that the whole world, its history and its future are directed and determined by a majority of votes of just that very representative institution that has the honour of having them in the capacity of its members.”

- Frederick Engels



Legalize Workers - No More Detentions, No More Deportations, Abolish I.C.E.!

Guaranteed Work and a Livable Income!

Socialized Healthcare For All!

Nationalized Healthcare!

Free Education For All!

Equal Rights, Pay, and Housing For All!

End All Wars of Aggression!

Abolish Private Prisons, Free All Political Prisoners!

No Platform for Fascists!

Abolish Profit Made By the Exploitation of Labor!

The Red Phoenix is published bi-monthly by The American Party of Labor.

<http://TheRedPhoenixAPL.org>
<http://AmericanPartyofLabor.com/>
To Subscribe: <http://bit.ly/RedPhoenixSub>

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Our General Line.

1. The American Party of Labor comes from and represents the American working class. From time to time and place to place there may be individuals who are admitted to the Party who do not have a working class background, or are not currently considered to be working class by Marxist-Leninist ideology and principles. Such individuals are exceptions to the general rule, as they have in effect transcended their class through conscious application of Marxist-Leninist ideology.

2. The American Party of Labor maintains that value in society is produced by human action within the material world. That is to say, value is created by the consumption of labor power. The working classes, which have only their labor power to sell for their daily sustenance, therefore make production possible. We call for the reorganization of society to provide the means of production to the working class to be administered either under an elected or selected management or collectively through a council system.

3. The American Party of Labor demands the abolition of private property and that all means of production be in the hands of the working class. Profit under capitalism is extracted surplus value from the consumption of labor power and constitutes a theft from the working class by the capitalist ruling class. Under our system, the working class will be paid the full value of their production less the necessary deductions to support the state and its various cultural, economic and social support projects.

4. The American Party of Labor demands that all oppressed nations within the context of the American Empire, including, but by no means limited to, Indigenous peoples, Native Hawaiians, Guamanians and Puerto Ricans (within the context of Puerto Rico), be given national self-determination as to whether or not they wish to remain in the American socialist state, which shall be constructed on the remnants of the United States. We call for the end of the so-called commonwealth system in all U.S. imperial possessions. The nations in these political organizations should either choose to become a U.S. state or an independent country.

5. The American Party of Labor demands the cancellation of all current debt held by developing countries to the U.S. These loans were not made with the intention of helping the people of these countries, but rather to enslave those countries with debt.

6. The American Party of Labor is a party against all imperialism. We are opposed to all wars of aggression on the world stage and all other threats of war and military intervention. We call for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from abroad. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with all occupied peoples and with all nations living underneath neo-colonial regimes. We call for the end of foreign aid to Israel, Colombia and other outposts of capitalist and imperialist aggression.

7. The American Party of Labor is an internationalist party. All peoples around the globe struggling for their emancipation from their own systems of exploitation are our allies. We extend our hands to all revolutionary organizations guided by Marxism-Leninism worldwide and to national liberation movements of exploited peoples of all countries because our cause is one and the same.

8. The American Party of Labor demands the U.S. withdrawal from NATO and other imperialist alliances.

9. The American Party of Labor stands fully against the militarization of the U.S.-Mexican border. It supports the rights of immigrants in Latin America and the Caribbean, that drive sustenance farmers off their lands and to the United States due to a lack of economic opportunity in their native countries.

10. The American Party of Labor has a more generalized list of our demands and positions in a separate document called the Party Platform.