



# THE RED PHOENIX

NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR

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**LEADERSHIP CHANGE 2021:  
NEW SLOGANS, SAME PROBLEMS**

## 2020 IS OVER BUT THE URGENCY OF OUR REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZING ONLY GROWS

By Bryn Taylor December 31st 2020

Bryn Taylor is a PhD student, Union Member, and member of the American Party of Labor.

It's been a rough year in America. Coronavirus arrived in the United States in January, which quickly manifested into country-wide lockdowns in March, massive layoffs, and the deaths of more than 282,000 Americans as of late. On May 25, a Black man named George Floyd was murdered in Minneapolis, Minnesota when a white officer refused to remove his knee from Floyd's neck during an arrest. This event inspired millions of people to march in the streets in protest for months, fueled by the desire for justice and a deep-seated anger towards the state. Rage for the state-sanctioned violence that allowed millions to become ill to keep the beast of capital fat and now for the state-sanctioned violence killing our Black comrades. Now more than ever, white Americans are interested in educating themselves in anti-racism and systemic oppression, but I am worried this won't be enough to keep our non-privileged community members safe.

On September 18, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died, allowing Trump to nominate his third Supreme Court Justice. As a queer, communist woman, this is terrifying. In my opinion, this newly Conservative-dominated Supreme Court has the potential to be the largest counterrevolutionary force and instill the most long-term harm over the next several decades. I fear for our rights to an abortion, to marry whom we love, and to

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simply exist as a communist in America. I do not trust Joe Biden or the Democratic Party to protect us.

I also fear Americans will become complacent in a Biden presidency. Easily the best part about 2020 was the electricity of being surrounded by thousands of comrades, joining together to tear down a system that had taken so much from us. While I find Trump to be one of the most repulsive leaders in American history, I worry without the spur of obvious racism and gestures toward authoritarianism, people will find reasons to stay home. I believe Biden's presidency will be almost as harmful to working people as Trump's, but with a more elegant façade that the average American will not read as threatening.

Nevertheless, there are certain things I am looking forward to in 2021. First and foremost, I cannot wait for the COVID-19 vaccine to be distributed. Secondly, I am greatly anticipating the trials of Derek Chauvin and the three other police officers implicated in George Floyd's murder, which will begin March 8, 2021. Chauvin has been charged with second-degree murder, and the others with aiding and abetting second degree murder. I can only hope George will receive more justice than Breonna Taylor, Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice, and the countless other victims of police violence.

Finally, I look forward to all the ways in which communists and communist sympathisers across the world will expose the liberal bourgeoisie for what they are: enemies of the worker. With changes in leadership, we have new challenges but the same problems. I constantly find solace in the words of Marx, who tells us revolution is inevitable, and in our comrades, who work every day to ensure this. Together, there is nothing we cannot accomplish.

## **AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR: THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, WE REMEMBER THOSE LOST, AND FIGHT FOR A WORKING CLASS FUTURE**



### *From Leadership of the APL*

The American Party of Labor wishes a happy end of the year to all the working class and oppressed people in the United States and around the world, and a happy celebration of all religious and secular holidays marked at this time of year. At the end of this tumultuous year of struggle, we bring attention to those who have lost their lives to the virus and whose families, friends, and co-workers all feel the profound void in their celebrations left by those lost to government mismanagement, for-profit healthcare, and indifferent corporate legislation. We offer our solidarity too to those workers who continue to work and are offered no break during "peak season" where the ruling and middle classes rely on the working class to deliver their items, cook their food, and otherwise furnish the holiday.

At the turning of this year, though, we also remember the tremendous struggles and victories achieved this year across the country during the George Floyd movement. As many face financial destitution and government inaction this holiday season, and worry about the security of their work, let those struggles and victories be an example for how to create a society in which the lives of workers are the chief concern, and human life and creativity are valued above corporate profit and presidential prestige.

**This new year, let's continue our movement for justice against barbaric pandemic capitalism!**

## ELECTION AFTERMATH UNDERLINES NEED FOR REAL, WORKING CLASS DEMOCRACY

By Evan Nesbitt November 22, 2020

On Nov. 3rd and in the following days, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris of the Democratic Party emerged as the victors of the 2020 presidential election, but despite the record turnout, in the midst of a historic pandemic no less, peace and quiet eludes these United States. Even before the results were announced, the Trump campaign issued conflicting statements depending on the results in different states. Where Trump was inching ahead of Biden, the conservative call was "Stop the count!" and where Trump had been beaten, as in Wisconsin, Trump and his team demanded a recount. These Republican Party cries are based on declaring "voter fraud," which has long been a conservative dog whistle, both as an excuse to pass restrictive voter ID laws and to deny embarrassing defeats in the popular vote – as we have seen in both the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections. Despite the best efforts, however, of the Trump legal team, no voter fraud has been found by independent electoral authorities.

Trump's supporters need his claims to fan their fervor, as only a thousand of them turned out at the White House the day after the election in solidarity and the "Million MAGA March" held on Nov. 14th attracted a mere 5,000 participants instead of the planned million. But the underwhelming and pandemic-defying marches aside, what has Trump done in the face of his defeat? Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, when asked if the State Department would aid the Biden team in the presidential transition responded "There will be a smooth transition to a second Trump administration." Indignant remarks aside, Trump has also dismissed his Secretary of Defense for reasons unreleased, all of which may be indicative of a disruptive and chaotic lame duck congressional session that will do its best to obstruct and forestall the incoming administration elected via a popular majority.

So it has become painfully clear to American workers, in this new surge of COVID-19, that the spectacle of bourgeois elections can no longer be tolerated.

And how has the president-elect courted the public in the aftermath of his electoral victory? After being declared the projected winner by most

pundits, Joe Biden called for a "time of healing" and for a cessation of "divisive rhetoric" – all akin to every other instance of Democratic triumph in which they've tried to immediately conciliate and cater to the increasingly reactionary Republican Party. But rhetoric alone has not been the only white flag raised by this lesser of two evils. In building his cabinet, Biden and his team wasted no time in denying progressive champions Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren positions on his team much to the dismay of their supporters who voted Blue in hope of bringing them to a greater level of influence and authority. Who instead has been selected for Biden's White House? Cecilia Muñoz, former Director of Intergovernmental Affairs under Obama and an advocate for the deportation of migrant families, has been chosen for the new administration's transition team. The Biden Administration also will be making history by appointing the first female head of the Pentagon, Michele Flournoy, a "politically moderate" former Undersecretary of Defense for Policy in the Obama administration who "favors strong military cooperation abroad." The capitalist press has heralded both picks as examples of how Biden "breaks barriers" as once again the Democrats prove that illegal war, torture, any kind of oppression, really, is acceptable if the executors of that oppression are diverse.

In the aftermath of this election, with the highest voter turnout in American history, we must soberly appraise the spectacle, because Donald Trump, one of the most xenophobic, racist and sexist presidents in living memory, received the most votes of any sitting president in American history, and his supporters, COVID or not, facts or not, will take and have taken to the streets to demand the retention of their petulant post-president who is already grasping at straws to stay in the White House. And yet the victorious Democrats cannot help from throwing about in all kinds of reversals and turnarounds. So it has become painfully clear to American workers, in this new surge of COVID-19 and with record unemployment, homelessness and debt, that the spectacle of bourgeois elections can no longer be tolerated, the reactionary right must no longer be entertained and compromised with, and that the people must no longer be ignored.

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



**This is Capitalism in Decay**

**Only Together Can We Build a Working Class Alternative**

The Biden campaign made "A New Day for America" their call today, but as workers we know that tomorrow we will face many of the same problems—working several jobs to support ourselves and families, enormous education and healthcare costs, the abuse of immigrants, racist cops with no accountability, the targeting of the LGBTQ+ community, segregation, and more.

We know that liberals will defend wall street before the people in the face of an emboldened fascist movement. Let's build a true political power in this country that represents and defends working people.

**NO MATTER WHO IS IN OFFICE**

**WE CONTINUE TO FIGHT**



# A "RETURN TO NORMAL" WITH BIDEN MEANS CONTINUED SUFFERING FOR PALESTINE!



Then Vice President Biden meets with Israeli Prime-Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

By J. Thalmann December 21, 2020

While millions of Americans take a sigh of relief or celebrate the electoral defeat of Donald Trump, it is critical to recognize the great degree of continuity that exists between US presidential administrations. The transfer of power from Trump to Joe Biden will be no exception. The power of capitalism and imperialism will remain entrenched, and nowhere is this clearer than on US policy with regards to Palestine.

Biden has been an outspoken supporter of Israel for about as long as he has had a political career. At a 2013 conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Biden told an anecdote of how he supported Israel since he was a child – that his father taught him that maintaining Israel as a Jewish state was the only way to prevent another Holocaust. He recalled his father being baffled as to why anyone would oppose the creation of a Jewish state. Perhaps it would have cleared up the confusion if he knew of the massacres of thousands and the displacement of hundreds of thousands that were carried out in 1948 to create the state of Israel.

In 1986, Biden emphatically praised Israel before the Senate while posturing as though he was taking a courageous stance. He called Israel “the best \$3 billion dollar investment we make,” before going on to say “were there not an Israel, the United States of America would have to invent an Israel to protect our interests in the region.” This comment captures not only Biden’s full-throated support for an apartheid state, but also his unabashed American imperialism.

During the presidency of George H.W. Bush, Biden resisted Bush’s policy of withholding loans from Israel in response to settlement expansion. Biden co-sponsored a 1991 Republican-led bill to continue the loans unconditionally. The bill was not passed, which shows Biden’s willingness to take a hardline anti-Palestinian stance even if he is in the minority.

As Vice President under Barack Obama, Biden continued the bipartisan support for Israeli crimes laid out by previous administrations. Obama took office while the rubble of Israel’s horrific Operation Cast Lead massacre was still smoldering, but even graver Israeli brutality would be carried out during his presidency. In 2014, Israel carried out a massacre called Operation Protective Edge, which killed over 2,000 Palestinians in Gaza, more than a quarter of which were children. The United States continued to arm Israel throughout the 7-week atrocity.

The Obama Administration also granted Israel immunity from international law by vetoing almost every UN resolution against settlement expansion, with the only exception being an abstention in December of 2016. But Obama didn’t leave Israel in the cold in his final days in office – quite the contrary. Instead, he gifted Israel a minimum \$38 billion military aid deal to be paid

over the course of ten years. Top Israeli officials have told the Jerusalem Post that they plan to begin negotiations with Biden in the coming months for the deal’s renewal in 2027. Israeli officials have implied that they will be asking for an increase in military aid: “The new plan will need to account for changing threats and challenges in the Middle East”. Biden is strongly inclined to agree to such an increase, as his record suggests.

All this is not to deny the tremendous harm that the Trump Administration has done to the Palestinian people. Many of Trump’s policies have been departures from longstanding foreign policy, and it is unlikely that Hillary Clinton would have made these same changes. Trump moved the US embassy to Jerusalem, recognized Israel’s annexation of East Jerusalem and recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. He recognized the Golan Heights as Israeli land, even though it is Syrian land which was seized in 1967, during Israel’s six day war of aggression and expansion. Trump also stopped humanitarian aid to Palestinians, closed down a Palestinian diplomatic mission and signed an executive order pressuring universities to take action against pro-Palestinian activists.

Of these major changes in policy, Biden will likely restore the humanitarian aid and the diplomatic mission while leaving everything else just as Trump left it. In fact, he has pledged to keep the embassy in Jerusalem. This continuity is perhaps one reason why Biden has won the favor of the Israel lobby. Whereas the Obama Administration faced harsh criticism from groups like AIPAC, Biden has fostered a friendly relationship with them. Another factor may be Trump’s tendency to alienate neo-conservatives by feigning an anti-war stance. Also, the Israel lobby is worried about the pro-Palestinian turn developing in the Democratic voting base, particularly among younger voters. A staunchly pro-Israel Democratic Administration could serve as a stop gap against losing the Democratic Party in the long run.

Joe Biden’s pick of Kamala Harris for Vice President only helps cement this incoming administration as thoroughly anti-Palestinian. When asked by a New York Times reporter if she thinks Israel meets the international standard for human rights, she waffled about “shared values” before the reporter had to repeat the question. This time she asked him, “what specifically are you referring to?” This interview was conducted in April of 2019, so Israel’s crimes during the Great March of Return – such as sniping medics, journalists and unarmed protesters – were fresh in the public’s consciousness. Yet strangely, she couldn’t seem to recall any human rights contentions surrounding Israel. Finally, she answered, “overall, yes.”

Despite the absurd, and frankly racist assertions by Republicans that Kamala Harris is a leftist radical, she is firmly in the right-wing branch of the Democratic Party. Her stance on Israel is no exception and is in fact exemplary of this. As senator, the first resolution she co-sponsored was one condemning the Obama Administration’s decision to abstain, rather than veto, the UN Security Council resolution against settlement expansion in 2016. Like Biden, she opposes cutting or conditioning military aid to Israel. According to Halie Soifer, a former aide to Harris and head of the Jewish Democratic Council for America, Biden and Harris are “squarely aligned” in their support for Israel and “the only difference between the two is the amount of time Joe Biden has been working on this issue.”

Workers and students in the United States must be vigilant in resisting the Biden Administration from the day they take office. No matter how cathartic it may be to see Trump go down in flames, the changes Trump made to American-Israeli relations will be almost unchanged under Biden. What’s worse is that we will see a continuation of the decades of unrelentingly anti-Palestinian US policies that laid the groundwork for the landgrabs, massacres and apartheid that Israel commits today.

# AMAZON WORKERS PREPARE TO HOLD UNION VOTE IN A STORIED ALABAMA UNION DISTRICT

By Jay Hyde December 3, 2020

Red Phoenix Correspondent Alabama

This November, Amazon workers in Bessemer, Alabama made an unprecedented move by notifying federal labor authorities of their plan to hold a unionization vote, due to poor working conditions exacerbated even further by the COVID-19 epidemic. Workers at the fulfillment center outside of Birmingham plan to form a bargaining unit of around 1,500 full and part-time workers at the facility to be represented by the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. This facility is one of the newest Amazon warehouses, and although Amazon is a union-busting juggernaut operating in a deeply anti-union state, the people of Bessemer should not be under-estimated. Bessemer, Alabama has a deep history of workers unions that will not cave-in to intimidation tactics made by those that seek to exploit their labor at the expense of worker livelihood.

Many steel-worker strikes have happened in the city throughout the decades. One of the most notable strikes happened in 1992, when rail-car plant workers took on Trinity Industries Inc. The walk-out and following standoff occurred due to wages, pensions, and insurance. On October 12 of that year, things started to come to a head. A security worker hired by the company fired off a tear-gas canister into a crowd of picketing workers and their families, which prompted the workers to storm the gates and knock down security guard towers. After this altercation, a local judge limited the amount of picketers. Measures were also put into place to distance the striking workers from the plant. Alleged violence occurred following this incident, including shots fired at a replacement worker, shots at an employee van, and a torching of an employee's car at their home. As allegations of further violence continued to mount, Trinity's lawyers were avid about union strikers being the root of all violent confrontation. Several picketers were charged during this time for acts of resistance. The Union lawyers asserted that picketers were shot at by replacement workers, that the union opposed violent acts, and were preparing to file new union unfair labor practices. Although the company stated that operating at a third capacity, with management staff replacement workers kept the plant operational, a union member fired back by saying, "They have not run a car since we left, not one". This historical event shows the resolve of union workers in Bessemer, and the tactics that can be used by corporations to discredit and undermine union power.

"Workers at the warehouse have tactfully declined comment to the press, but a website and Twitter account made by the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, BAmazonUnion.org, has emerged to spread information for and from the workers and the union."

Although these clashes differ from the current struggle of Amazon workers in the area, the legacy of those struggles lives on, and the workers' fight for unionization will likely be met with similar opposition, regardless of where things move from here. Amazon will likely use any method and disinformation against unionization at their disposal. Amazon is already beginning their attack with the most practiced anti-union lawyers that their incomprehensible amount of hoarded wealth sees fit to buy. If the situation arises, those attempting to unionize will probably be targeted by the company with misinformation, and replacement workers and spies will likely be used as a tool to try and divide and conquer.

Workers at the warehouse have tactfully declined comment to the press, but a website and Twitter account made by the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, BAmazonUnion.org, has emerged to spread information for and from the workers and the union. Several videos have been uploaded to the sites, but one featuring Essimae Skinner, a picker at the warehouse, strikes a chord that workers around the world are likely to relate to. Skinner says in the video, "I thought Amazon was more like a Google. You know, the bigger the company, the more benefits, the more loyalty to the worker, but nah, it didn't go like that. No pity there. You're tired. You're exhausted. You're sweaty. It's like you're an NFL player without the money. Once you see what's going on, it's like, you know. there has to be a better way. That they allow these big corporate giants to come in and treat people with no humanity."

"Workers in a poverty stricken area of an increasingly anti-union state, who are unionizing against a company owned by the richest and most notorious anti-union man in America, are a shining light to the working people that the power is truly in the hands of the people and not the corporations."

Other videos on the site include union members and a secretary of the Retail Wholesale and Department Store Union Council of Alabama encouraging workers to sign confidential Union Authorization Cards, so they can "have a seat at the table" in the workplace and someone to call when things "aren't right". They stress that it is against federal law to intimidate, fire, or harass anyone who signs a Union Authorization card, and that they know from experience that things will get better in the workplace once a union is recognized. They want the workers to know that the union is there for them and not for Amazon.

Workers in a poverty stricken area of an increasingly anti-union state, who are unionizing against a company owned by the richest and most notorious anti-union man in America, are a shining light to the working people that the power is truly in the hands of the people and not the corporations. It is important to remember the working class communists of all races, classes, and genders in the Great Depression South who ignited the first attempts in organizing the labor of sharecroppers, the unemployed, mine workers, and other workers in Alabama. The focus of these communists was not only on racial unity, but they also focused on social justice, which was largely unheard of in the Great Depression South. Alabama was once a great union state, and it is time to put the power back in the hands of the united working class here and everywhere.



Amazon workers in Bessemer, Alabama, November 2020

## CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS AND THE FIGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE NBA



By Frank Nawrot October 16, 2020

The shutdown of the NBA season on March 11th was the first highly-publicized domino to fall in the disturbing 2020 timeline. Two days later, police murdered Breonna Taylor and the COVID-19 crisis was declared a pandemic by the US government. Because the NBA was the first professional sports league in the US to shut down and restart during the pandemic, a great deal of attention was paid to what players and organizations did and said in response to the pandemic and the subsequent high-profile racist murders and legal decisions of 2020. In addition to the death of Taylor, the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd sparked outrage among pro basketball players, coaches, and commentators.

**"[Racism] is a product of the system and...is the intention of the way this system was built...in order for things to change...there needs to be some dismantling of how things are currently."  
-Malika Andrews, ESPN reporter on Get Up**

Some may wonder, justifiably, "why should I care what professional basketball players and sports commentators have to say?" Why should workers care? When someone like LeBron James speaks, billions of people listen. It can be easy for leftists to ignore the pleas and opinions of millionaire athletes. However, for class conscious workers, any opportunity to illuminate cracks in the capitalist order should be seized. It is easy to ignore the pleas and opinions of millionaire athletes, but we must remember that a large number of these players come from humble backgrounds and earned their extraordinary wealth, in large part, by laboring for the benefit of capitalists. Additionally, the most talented WNBA players make a good living only by the standards of working people (low six-figure annual contracts). These realities should not be leveraged to excuse the hoarding of wealth or other wicked actions of pro athletes. But, someone with working-class roots may be more likely to denounce pillars of capitalism, like racism and sexism, even if they do not see the forest for the trees.

Professional athletes who publicly push back against bigotry are role models to countless sports fans and youth. Because there is a paucity of left-wing role models whose voices are easily heard (and a nauseating plethora of right-wing "role models"), leftists should celebrate the anti-racist efforts of pro athletes.

The brutality of George Floyd's murder on May 25th, 2020 made his death particularly disturbing. The Washington D.C. WNBA and NBA teams (Mystics and Wizards, respectively) released a joint statement on racial injustice following Floyd's death:

"The recent senseless race-driven murders that have gripped our nation are horrific. We are devastated, hurt, and enraged! ...it's time we take a stand and prevail...We stand against any and all injustice, prejudice, discrimination, police brutality and racism."

NBA star Steph Curry shared an image of the monster who crushed George Floyd's neck. Part of his caption read: "George was murdered. George wasn't human to that cop that slowly and purposefully took his life away."

Players and coaches from the WNBA and collegiate women's basketball brought attention to Ahmaud Arbery's murder by participating in a nationwide event, "Run for Maud."

Dawn Staley, head coach of women's basketball at University of South Carolina:

"Walked 2.23 miles x 2 for you #AhmaudAubrey because someone snatched your ability to do it for yourself. Happy birthday! May God give your family the strength to endure each day forward..."

Maya Moore, who "has been called the greatest winner in the history of women's basketball," is a true role model; she speaks regularly on how the legal system in the US is racist, but, more importantly, she takes action. Two years ago, Moore stepped away from her livelihood as a WNBA star and devoted herself to freeing a man who sat in prison for over two decades for a crime he did not commit. There is no doubt that Moore's actions inspired others.

"[Maya Moore] warrants strong consideration for athlete of the century."

-Stephen A. Smith, ESPN basketball analyst and NBA insider on First Take

"She [Moore] led by example...She set the bar...She made me look in the mirror...she made me say [to myself]: 'Are you doing enough out here in the community and standing for what's right?'"

-Kendrick Perkins, former NBA champion on The Jump

## **CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS AND THE FIGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE NBA (CONT.)**

On the day the world learned that there would be no justice for Breonna Taylor, the WNBA released a statement: "The WNBA devoted the 2020 season to the fight against systemic racism and police brutality with a focus on women victims. Today's disappointing outcome in the Breonna Taylor case shows us that we must continue the fight."

Motivated by the death of Taylor, Utah Jazz star Donovan Mitchell made bold statements during the NBA restart-season. On the back of his jersey read: "SAY HER NAME." During a post-game interview, Mitchell showed off his bulletproof vest to reporter Taylor Rooks. The vest was emblazoned with the words "Respect Existence or Expect Resistance." Denver Nuggets star Jamal Murray wore shoes with images of raised fists and portraits of Taylor and George Floyd.

Among the most significant events during the restart of the NBA and WNBA 2020 seasons, was the wildcat strike following the police shooting of Jacob Blake in Wisconsin. The strike (incorrectly labeled a boycott by many in the media) was led by the Milwaukee Bucks. The night the strike began, a players-only meeting was held during which the Los Angeles Lakers and Los Angeles Clippers voted to strike indefinitely. The strike began in the middle of the week of August 24,

made nor was anything promised by NBA owners or administration, beyond the persistent claims of devotion to bringing attention to social injustices and racial inequality. The anger of NBA players preceding and during the strike was palpable; that nothing came of that anger is a testament to the absence of an anti-capitalist framework from which the players could formulate plans of action.

"Do we actually give a fuck about what's going on? Or is it just cool to wear 'Black Lives Matter' on a t-shirt? Is that really doing anything? Would it be nice—in a perfect world—we all say we're not playing and the owner of the Milwaukee Bucks...puts pressure on the district's attorney office...and governors and politicians to make real change and get some justice? At the end of the day, if we're gonna sit here and talk about making change, at some point we're gonna have to put our nuts on the line and actually put something up to lose. We talk about it every day, but it just feels like a big pacifier at this point..."

-Fred VanVleet, Toronto Raptors star during presser

The strike was a dramatic moment in an already unusual NBA season. Going on strike models the hidden power a workforce has over its employer. NBA players, even the most unskilled, are among the wealthiest people in the world. Despite this, their relationship to their employers is powerfully illustrative of the capitalist economy. Players and commentators alike openly refer to the billionaires who purchase NBA franchises as "owners," and the wealth of most owners dwarfs that of many NBA stars.

These mostly white billionaires and millionaires "own" teams of primarily black men whose immense physical and mental dedication are exploited until their bodies are too worn to compete with younger players. There is a hierarchy of coaching staff and management to mediate and optimize the appropriation of wealth generated by the players. Folks who enjoy the entertainment provided by professional athletes also consume a great deal of coverage from news outlets and journalists that illuminate the hierarchy within sports organizations. They tune in to see who the next general manager will be, to hear the insider scoop on who the next head coach of their favorite team will be, etc. For most of these fans, their places of work operate in exactly the same way, but the hidden-in-plain-sight connection is obscured by a lifetime of capitalist education and media.

The elephant in the room is the appropriation of identity politics by corporations and pro sports leagues to pacify the oppressed of the world. Class-conscious workers should push and demand that attention be brought to class politics. It is the rich of our world and the subjugation of the working-class that perpetuates the type of bigotry that the NBA and its corporate sponsors claim to care so much about ending. At this time, most working-class folks are not class-conscious, or, if they are, they are without the tools and knowledge necessary for putting an end to wage-slavery. Anti-capitalists must seize every opportunity to speak with our fellow workers and young people, especially those who are the most oppressed and scorned, about the root of their plight and the connections between the struggles of particular people, like people of color, and the class struggle. It is better to find catalysts for sowing anti-capitalist sentiment among our friends, family, and co-workers than scoff at someone like LeBron James for not calling for a socialist revolution.

By Frank Nawrot, Edited by R.E. Rule October 16, 2020



**PEACE,  
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### **Revolutionary Art Corner: A Poem**

Flowing over the ashes of promised fire  
Self begotten winds of change, so ever dire  
Condemned, forgotten but never lost:  
History has taught us corruption's cost.  
Storm's tide had drowned the efforts  
Surrendered to all lechers and oppressors.  
Ours is struggle, burning with suns flare  
Elsewhere's found only suffocating airs.  
Beckoning is heard; the clarion call  
Searing truth, drawing workers, all  
"A world's weight one alone cannot bare  
Rally here, dispel fear, do not despair  
Cleanse the festering rot and decay,  
Dawning now, at long last, a new day.  
Greed's burden we've resolved to fix  
Out of the abyss, arises the Red Phoenix!"

By Evan Nesbitt

## BLACK LIVES MATTER CELEBRATES AND DEFENDS TRANS PEOPLE IN ILLINOIS

By Avery Sloan Nov 20, 2020

The rain drizzled as students and community members gathered on Illinois State University's campus. Emily Patterson, President of Pride ISU stood on an elevated brick platform and spoke about the importance of Transgender Day of Remembrance and its relationship to the Black Lives Matter movement and how this manifested into Black Trans Lives Matter Vigil that was being held:

"[...] to acknowledge the fact that Black Trans Women are victimized more than any other group in the LGBTQ+ community. This year, over half of the folks we are honoring were Black and this is a trend seen again and again over the years."

After a short statement of remembrance that we stood on indigenous ground, of which was taken from them by colonizing powers of Europe, attendees marched from campus to the Uptown Circle. Uptown Circle is a traffic circle, which also serves as a beautiful public gathering space. Here, speeches were given, first by Emily, followed by Dana N., the local marshalling team leader.

Emily spoke on those transgender and gender nonconforming (GNC) people who have lost their lives to discrimination, prejudice, and oppression. She remarked on the names of those who have passed on, which will be listed at the end for easier reading.

Dana spoke on the necessity and importance of intersectional analysis as well as her identity as a trans woman and a lesbian. "Intersectionality is the concept that people have multiple different identities that intersect, which changes how they interact with the world. I am a queer trans woman, I am disabled and mentally ill. So, I have multiple things working against me that a standard cis white woman wouldn't, or that a standard cis disabled woman would not have to. Would I change anything? Probably not, it is just who I am!" Dana continued to speak on why this relates to the Black Trans Lives Matter Vigil. "We are here to honor their deaths. A big part of this is the systematic loss of civil rights.. For example, if I go to a hospital in Michigan, I can be refused service, even if I am dying, just because of a religious belief held by the physician. [In some places in] the US, I can't even sign a lease, it is illegal for me to rent property. Now take this, and combine with systemic issues Black people are already facing." Dana also explained that due to the lack of protection from workplace discrimination, trans people struggle to find work, which denies them, often times, the ability to transition. This leads to an overrepresented population in the sex work field, which is the most common profession for trans people in the US; as well as homelessness. "I have to worry every day I wake



up that someone is going to kill me for who I am, and I've got it lucky, I still have my white privilege to protect me. Black trans women don't have that, and some of them died for it." Dana rounded this emotional speech off with the fact that there is hope on the horizon, with Trump being removed from office, despite Biden not being Dana's "man at all."

At this point, during Dana's speech, a car sped by and a passenger yelled, "Fuck the gays," before driving off. Dana remarked on the fact this person validated her entire point of violence and other threats to queer people. In addition to this, Dana touched on that there needs to be a stronger sense of solidarity in the LGBTQ+ community, where allies can do more than simply wear a "Pride," or "Ally," button to seem woke and put their money where their mouth is, because discrimination is real and violent. After the vigil, Michael Orpen, Secretary of Pride, sat down and spoke with Red Phoenix to discuss Pride ISU, the Black Trans Lives Vigil, and much more. "Pride represents the LGBTQ+ community at ISU. Pride is an important and accepting RSO (campus student organization) for those who may come from a town or community where they could not express themselves, or find pride in their identity." Orpen said this vigil, held on November 14, was put on early to account for students leaving campus for Thanksgiving Break. Transgender Day of Remember 2020 was held Friday, November 20th.

On the statistic of murder rates of trans and GNC people, Orpen stated, "Even one is too many." [Author's note: At the time the vigil was held, 34 trans and GNC murders were reported. At the time of writing this, it numbers 39.] They also went on to speak of the anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment in leftist spaces, "There's definitely a lot of anti-LGBT sentiment, even in Leftist or progressive spaces. There has been a history of transphobia or homophobia. Intersectionality needs to encompass all identities." On the role of allies and others who wish to help the LGBTQ+ struggle, Orpen says, "Stand up, actually be there for the community," while also echoing the notions Dana expressed of allies needing to do actual work, not use it for clout or to seem "woke." Statistically, Black Trans Women represent a focal point of identities that face a high discrimination. Of the 39 transgender and GNC people killed in 2020, at least 22 of them are Black (Human Rights Campaign). This does not account, of course, for under or misreported murders.



"The entire party and country should hurl into the fire and break the neck of anyone who dared trample underfoot the sacred edict of the party on the defense of women's rights."  
-Enver Hoxha



# ***STALIN'S 142ND BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATION***

**Defeat Fascism!  
Equality for Women!**

**Build the Workers Organization At Home and Abroad!  
Guarantee Housing, Food, and Employment By Law!**



## The American Party of Labor is...

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

### Who Can Join? How Do I Get Involved?

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

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

[bit.ly/JoinTheAPL](http://bit.ly/JoinTheAPL)

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 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.



**"I believe in one thing only, the power of human will."**

**- Joseph V. Stalin**



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

**Guaranteed Work and a Livable Income!**

**Socialized Healthcare For All!**

**Nationalized Healthcare!**

**Free Education For All!**

**Equal Rights, Pay, and Housing For All!**

**End All Wars of Aggression!**

**Abolish Private Prisons, Free All Political Prisoners!**

**No Platform for Fascists!**

**Abolish Profit Made By the Exploitation of Labor!**

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*Labor donated.*

### 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.