

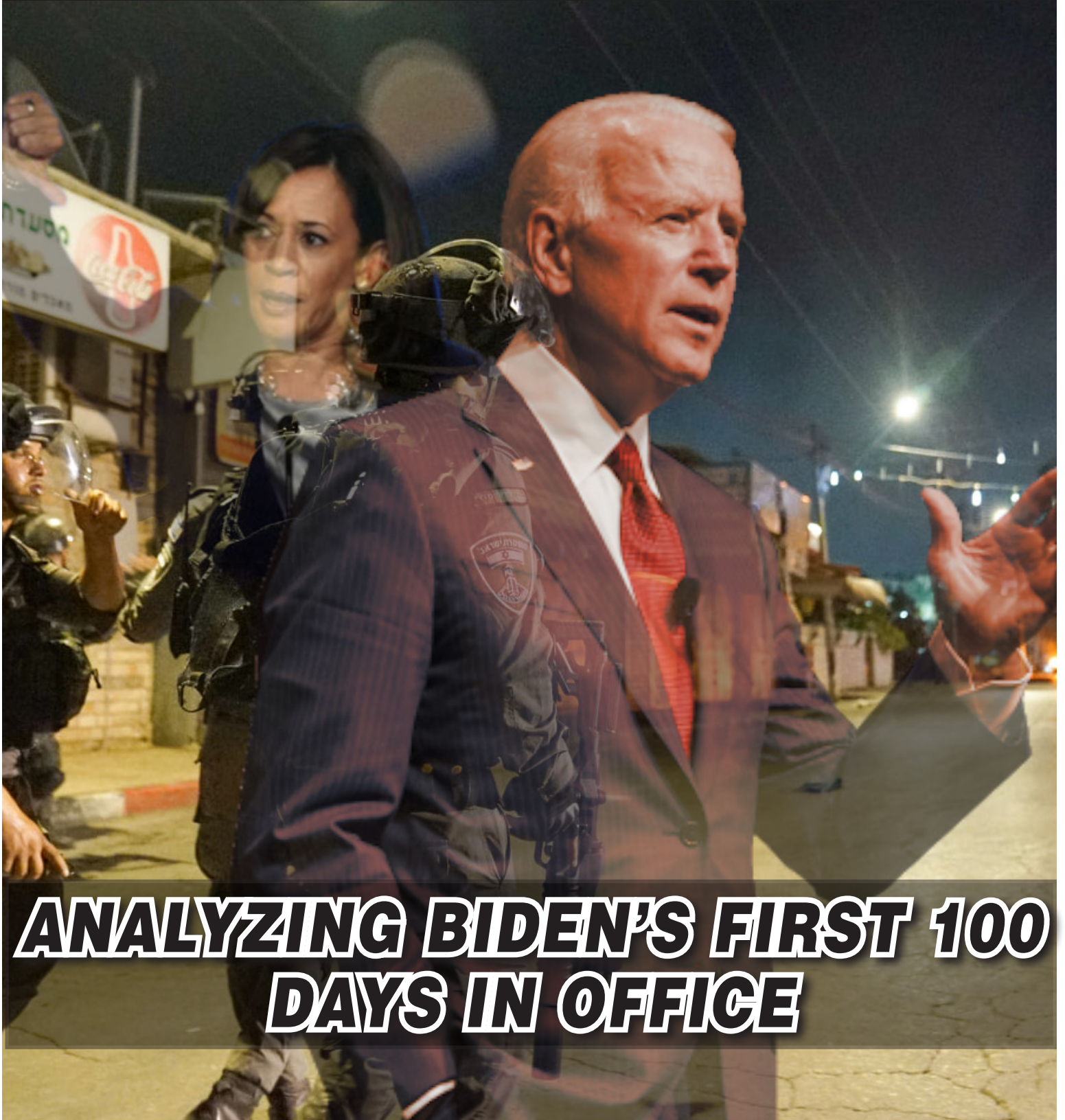


THE RED PHOENIX

NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR

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**ANALYZING BIDEN'S FIRST 100
DAYS IN OFFICE**

A SOCIALIST AUTOPSY ON BIDEN'S FIRST HUNDRED DAYS



By: Evan Nesbitt, June 9, 2021

The first 100 days have shown us what a Biden presidency will look like—abandoned promises, and the continuing separation of American political life from the desires of working people.

The first 100 days of an American president's term can set the tone of the entire administration, it can be a crucial litmus test to repair or continue the work of the former president and redress key policy issues especially in a time of crisis. In such a crisis as the COVID-19 pandemic and its subsequent recession as well as waves of police brutality and right-wing extremism, the eyes of the entire nation eagerly watched President Joseph Biden's arrival in the White House after the anti-democratic four-year blunder that was Donald Trump's presidency. The first 100 days have shown us what a Biden presidency will look like—abandoned promises, and the continuing separation of American political life from the desires of working people.

Immediately after a clear electoral victory, (though still denied by the petty-bourgeois and renegade Trumpites), Biden immediately, like Obama, abandoned all left-leaning campaign rhetoric for that of national "unity" and of "reaching across the aisle." On the campaign trail, Biden put forward several policies from the progressive playbook to appeal to predominantly younger voters blighted with student debt and underemployment, who in great numbers voted for Bernie Sanders. Among these quick concessions, Biden also announced his opposition to several reforms too far-reaching for the ruling class to permit, declaring "I am not a socialist, I defeated the socialist." Even these paltry, abandoned reforms do not come close at all to having excised the deepening inequality and poverty in American society in the era of pandemic capitalism.

The rejection of a federal decriminalization of cannabis for recreational use came as no surprise for the presidential candidate who, as Senator, sponsored an infamous Crime Bill that increased mandatory minimum sentences for drug use, increased funding for national police departments, and incentivized incarceration over rehabilitation. This stance flies in the face of the 68% of Americans that favor legalization. Thirty-four states have passed some form of legalization of cannabis for either recreational or medicinal use, but full legalization to all states is denied due to the absence of federal legislation and the resistance put up by Democrat and Republican politicians. It is yet another example of the will of the overwhelming majority of American people being entirely excluded from our supposed democratic institutions.

The question of single-payer healthcare is much the same: 63% of Americans support some form of single-payer as of 2020, up from 59% in 2019. With record unemployment and Newt Gingrich's brainchild, Obamacare, which requires recipients pay back premium discounts during tax season, the iniquities of for-

profit healthcare have been utterly exposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, when thousands died without coverage, many faced bankruptcy, and hospitals buckled under high demand.

Biden also declared his opposition to the Green New Deal, days before his running mate denied that fracking would be banned in a Biden/Harris administration. Here the "Democrat" is once again at odds with his party's namesake, as 60% of voters polled in 2020 denoted their support for the Green New Deal in some capacity, with only 11% with an undecided view. It must be stressed that this reflects only the voting body, a mere 66.2% of eligible voters; a number that excludes millions that have been disenfranchised on felony charges or by failed democratic promises in the past. On foreign policy as well, Biden's administration is far too akin to his predecessor, with his support for the unelected Juan Guaido as president of Venezuela, ordering new airstrikes in Syria, continuing to provide assistance to Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen, and approving more support for Israel's genocidal campaign into Palestine with a \$700 million dollar sale of arms in the midst of the bombing campaign. President Biden fulfills at least one promise from the campaign trail, "Nothing will fundamentally change."

American workers have grown accustomed to the promises of the campaign trail quickly evaporating. In early and mid-January, Biden favored \$2,000 third stimulus checks to be released as an emergency measure to address the record income disparities, increasing costs of living, and record unemployment in the middle of a pandemic. Yet only a week into his administration Biden had already reneged on his pledge and supported an amendment to his relief bill that called for \$1,400 stimulus payments instead. Observing the policy's popularity from Bernie Sanders' campaign, Biden also pledged support for an increase to the federal minimum wage to \$15 and in the drafted relief bill, that measure was included, until red democrat Joe Manchin blocked the measure, preventing the 51 votes necessary. Such is the result of "vote blue no matter who."

Biden also supported a mask mandate to combat the upswing in COVID-19 cases and no such legislation has been passed. On immigration, Biden proposed a moratorium on deportations, claiming that no one would be deported in his first 100 days and yet, by day 29, an estimated 26,248 people had been deported with no moratorium or restriction issued since. Biden's VP, Kamala Harris, in an address in Guatemala, told victims of American imperialism "don't come, I believe you will be turned back." Finally, one key reform swapped from Sanders as forgiving federal student loan debt which can easily be accomplished via executive order was given a great deal of lip service but Biden has not lifted a finger in that regard and slowly walked back the amount to be forgiven from all, to \$20,000, to \$5,000.

The pundits and supporters of Biden deflect all criticism behind arguments of time, "realism," and dreaded Republican obstruction, even though they hold a majority in both houses with the VP's tie-breaking vote. What a gift it is to the ruling class to have all these tricks and fall backs and excuses to confuse, appease, and divide the working class, but all this bluster is over the incontrovertible fact that American capitalism is in crisis. Biden backed his way into the candidacy after the DNC machine churned Sanders out with its strawmen, superdelegates, closed primaries, skewed fundraising, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The simple truth after 100 days is that workers in the US will increasingly face economic difficulty, working multiple jobs just to survive and will find no true solutions in the more "civil," moderate government of Joe Biden. From the other side, the insurrectionist fascists will not be held back by an ice-cream chewing dawdler who surfed into office on name recognition, identity politics, and the virtue of not being a Republican. For the workers of the US, and for the victims of US imperialism around the world, the need for a workers revolutionary alternative, outside of capitalism, has never been greater. Only working democracy that erodes class and class antagonisms is capable of providing a consistently prosperous society and the answers to climate change, imperialism, and fascism.



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ISRAELI WAR CRIMES, NOT "TENSION," ON THE RISE IN PALESTINE



By: Jack Thallman, Red Phoenix Correspondent, New Jersey, May 17, 2021

Like all incidents of large-scale violence within the borders of Israel and Palestine, these hostilities are the result of the systematic ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people.

The violence in Palestine continues to escalate as Israel carries out massacres and provocations. At the time of writing, over two hundred Palestinians and ten Israelis have been killed. The disproportionate death toll will not be surprising to anyone familiar with the so-called "Israel Palestine conflict". Recent events exemplify the asymmetrical nature of this clash between oppressor and oppressed.

Like all incidents of large-scale violence within the borders of Israel and Palestine, these hostilities are the result of the systematic ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people – a crime which has been ongoing for several decades. More specifically, this escalation began with the anticipation of an Israeli Supreme Court ruling that was scheduled for May 10.

The court planned to decide on the fate of Palestinian families living in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of East Jerusalem – an area which Israel has no legal jurisdiction over under international law. 78 Palestinian residents of this area are being threatened with what Israel calls "evictions". Israel smokescreens the issue as a "real estate dispute" between individual property owners and tenants. In reality, it is a targeted act of ethnic persecution of indigenous people by an occupying force that has invaded their land. These families in Sheikh Jarrah are not being targeted for falling behind on rent. They are being targeted because of their ethnic, religious and national identities.

Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah took to the streets to protest this abhorrent threat of ethnic cleansing. Soon, protests broke out all throughout occupied East Jerusalem. Israel responded how Israel usually responds to protests – with violence. However, this time they took measures that were extreme and provocative even by their own reprehensible standards. Israeli security forces raided the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem – one of Islam's holiest sites – multiple times. They teargassed worshippers and shot them with rubber-coated steel bullets, resulting in hundreds of injuries. This act of religious persecution took place during the holy month of Ramadan.

Hamas responded by threatening Israeli civilians with rocket fire. If Israel failed to withdraw troops from Al Aqsa and Sheikh Jarrah by 6pm on May 10, Hamas would fire a barrage of rockets into Israeli neighborhoods. Israel, in characteristic fashion, displayed its commitment to injustice and violence by refusing to back down. After the deadline expired, hundreds of rockets were fired. Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system intercepted rockets, but many passed through, striking Israeli civilians.

Israel responded by massacring dozens of civilians in Gaza with airstrikes. Apartment blocks, schools and media buildings were destroyed. Zionist propagandists try to justify these atrocities by claiming that Hamas hides weapons in every building that Israel bombs. Some of these buildings do contain weapon caches, but even if we assume that all of them do, this argument is grotesque and absurd. Imagine if this happened in the United States. If an American school was being used to store weapons, and there was a threat that these weapons could harm civilians, would the US military have the right to simply destroy the school and kill children?

But even if we accepted the theoretical framework of Israeli apologists – if we accepted the notion that mass murder of Arabs is justified if it saves a few Israelis – we would be accepting the mentality of genocide.

This argument, put forth by Zionists, resides in a genocidal mindset – one that sees Palestinians as less than human. Under this framework, Palestinians can be slaughtered in dozens or hundreds – and that's okay – because the slaughter might potentially save the lives of perhaps five Israelis. It should be noted that these atrocities against Palestinians do not save any lives, and in fact endanger Israelis. But even if we accepted the theoretical framework of Israeli apologists – if we accepted the notion that mass murder of Arabs is justified if it saves a few Israelis – we would be accepting the mentality of genocide.

It is unclear how far recent developments will escalate. In 2014, a similar buildup of primarily Israeli escalations resulted in Operation Protective Edge – a Gaza massacre that left over two thousand Palestinians dead, mostly civilians, including over five hundred children. By contrast, seven Israeli civilians and sixty-six soldiers died. Civilian deaths are always tragic, but the staggeringly disproportionate death toll demonstrates that this was not a war, but a massacre.

Operation Cast Lead was even more disproportionate. In the winter of 2008-09, about thirteen hundred Palestinians, mostly civilians, were killed in Gaza. By contrast, thirteen Israelis, mostly soldiers, were killed. That's a hundredfold difference in deaths. In term of civilian deaths, it was closer to one Israeli killed for every three hundred Palestinians killed. If you see these numbers and still believe that Israel's actions were justified, it can mean only one thing – you don't view Palestinians as human beings.

The United States plays an integral role in propping up Israeli apartheid, but support for the Palestinian people is increasing among Americans.

Under these desperate circumstances, it is more important than ever to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people. The United States plays an integral role in propping up Israeli apartheid, but support for the Palestinian people is increasing among Americans. Democratic and Republican politicians, such as Biden, have held an almost unflinching support for Israel's brutality, but the people have not. At this point, it is mostly only ardent Republican voters, and politicians of both parties, who stand with Israel. But the growing awareness of the American people on this issue shows no signs of slowing down, especially thanks to social media. As Americans citizens, we must smash the genocidal consensus of our ruling class and demand an end to the genocide of the Palestinian people.



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MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR: WHAT MAY DAY MEANS TO US

Members of the American Party of Labor wrote to the Red Phoenix to tell us what May Day means to them, in the belly of the imperialist beast.

Polina Brik, New Jersey:

"The meaning of May Day International Workers' Day, is simultaneously a celebration of labor and workers across the world, the celebration of the arrival of the Spring, but also a remembrance of everyday toil that the working class carries with it every day. This is a day when the unity of workers across the globe becomes glaringly apparent, more so than on regular days of a year. Not a day does a communist live and breathe without thinking of her brothers and sisters across the world, but May Day is special because it is an open declaration of war and ceaseless fight against exploitation of workers, against sexism and racism, and all other forms of reaction, against capitalism and for the final victory of the workers. May Day is love and war. It is love for your keen people, it is an prominent realization of sameness, and it is hate for the capitalist system and its upholders. Let the May Day be an inspiration for millions of workers to carry on their heavy fight for socialism."



that they are right to tremble in the face of a proletarian revolution. Their day is done. Ours is dawning.

Max Robbins, Florida

"May 1st, known to working people all over the world as International Workers Day, is a day that we observe our class's victories and the ongoing struggle for the liberation of the international working-class and oppressed peoples. It's a day for the toilers of this world to remember the movements we've built to combat the exploitation and oppression of the capitalist-class.



It's a day for us to remember the leaders of our class's liberation, the sacrifices they made for our cause, and to refute the slander made by capitalist propaganda to paint them out to be tyrants, while the capitalists continue to push their own on us. May we not only remember our class's triumphs and woes, but also the purpose of our cause: to establish a worker's democracy, crush the power of the capitalist-class, and begin the construction of a socialist society. We'll continue to fly our red flags across the skies until the dawn of liberation. To revolution!"



Evan Nesbitt, Maryland

"May Day is memory. Our flag isn't red because it's rich and flashy as a standard, our flag is red for the blood of all workers spilt in the class struggle throughout the ages. If you're going to fight you better know why you are and remembering the warriors who came before is one of the best educations. We need May Day so that we may be humble class warriors to the extinction of that class struggle so that we live to see a day without banners, without class, and without

bloodshed, we need May Day so that we are humbled by the revolutionaries that came before us from Paris to Moscow to Mobile, we need May Day so that we don't fight to be remembered but that we remember to fight."



John Palameda, Illinois

As American workers, we live our lives being told to be ashamed to be workers rather than petty or large bourgeoisie. We're told our unions are corrupt and impotent. We're told our political heroes are murderers and American murderers are heroes.

But on May Day, we can go "a-maying," we wear our red on our sleeve, we fly our flags, we march with our union brothers and sisters. It cleanses the heart. I hope the comrades here find some community and solidarity, despite the distance.

Alfonso Casal, National Spokesperson

May Day is a day of strength and pride. It is the day when the humble, the exploited, the oppressed straighten their backs, hold their heads high and say "We workers are the strivers, the achievers, the builders. Through our labor, industry creates its wealth and nature yields its bounty. The world belongs to us, and we will accept nothing less than the globe itself. The future is ours!" May Day is when the bourgeoisie and its slaves and lackeys are put on notice that a new world's in birth, a new world that we will build through our own efforts. A world free of hunger, exploitation and want. May Day is the day when the bourgeoisie learns



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MEMBERS OF THE APL: WHAT A REVOLUTIONARY PRIDE MEANS TO US



We asked members of the American Party of Labor from across the country to tell us what pride means to them, as Marxist-Leninists in the heart of US imperialism. We give their answers here, without revision.



Emalina M, Florida

I still remember just entering high school around the time that the debate over gay marriage was just beginning to take national precedence, and at a time before I had come to understand anything about my own sexuality or gender, recognizing that this was a momentous step forward for the country. Over the years my political development from a young, radically inclined teen to a class conscious adult has gone hand in hand with a deepening understanding of myself and the world around me, and the struggles which continue to be fought for and defended.

Being an open and proud

Non-Binary Marxist-Leninist, I've not only grown a deeper understanding and appreciation for the early fights of the modern LGBTQ+ struggle, but also for the fact that the fight is far from over; That with each victory gained, and with every new territory conquered for the rights and respect of fellow members in the community, we must continue to push forward for those whose recognition and respect lags behind those who've seen their battles being won. In that light, as both a communist and a queer person, I see Pride as a celebration and as a constant reminder to remain ever vigilant for attempts to reel back our freedoms, because the bigots and reactionaries who never wanted us to be open and a part of their society have never gone away, and to their eternal dismay, neither will we.

Evan N, Maryland

Many "left" critics of communism will be the first ones to throw all kinds of excuses at queer communists such as "x dictator banned homosexuality" and they have always been the first to criticize the communist countries and THEN the capitalist's homophobes because their vision is flawed, they do not see class society, and the LGBTQ community is nothing more than their political leverage, a primary ingredient in their anticommunist propaganda. It doesn't matter to them that the USSR's laws on homosexuality never targeted adults and

was praised for its progress at the time, they don't seem to know that Cuba legalized homosexuality in 1979 while the United States would not do the same until 2003. Where is their praise for the German Democratic Republic's enshrinement of rights for same-sex couples, up to and including adoption? Or the fact that the GDR, like Cuba, would include transition therapy and sexual reassignment surgery in their socialized healthcare networks? They are silent. I am a proud Marxist-Leninist AND a proud bisexual, non-binary person and my queer siblings and I are unphased by the lies of liberal hucksters and reformist prostitutes. Identity politics will not free the LGBTQ community, which has always been predominantly proletarian, only socialism will free us and all of humanity from prejudices and conflict, only we ourselves can break our chains and in that revolutionary heritage we must uphold the bravery of Stonewall. Remember the words of Enver Hoxha when he said, "The Marxist-Leninists are not conservative or fanatical, as the revisionists and bourgeoisie charge. On the contrary, they are the most progressive people, resolute fighters against everything outdated and backwards." Pride without action is an empty sound, and we can no longer tolerate the silence.



MEMBERS OF THE APL: WHAT A REVOLUTIONARY PRIDE MEANS TO US

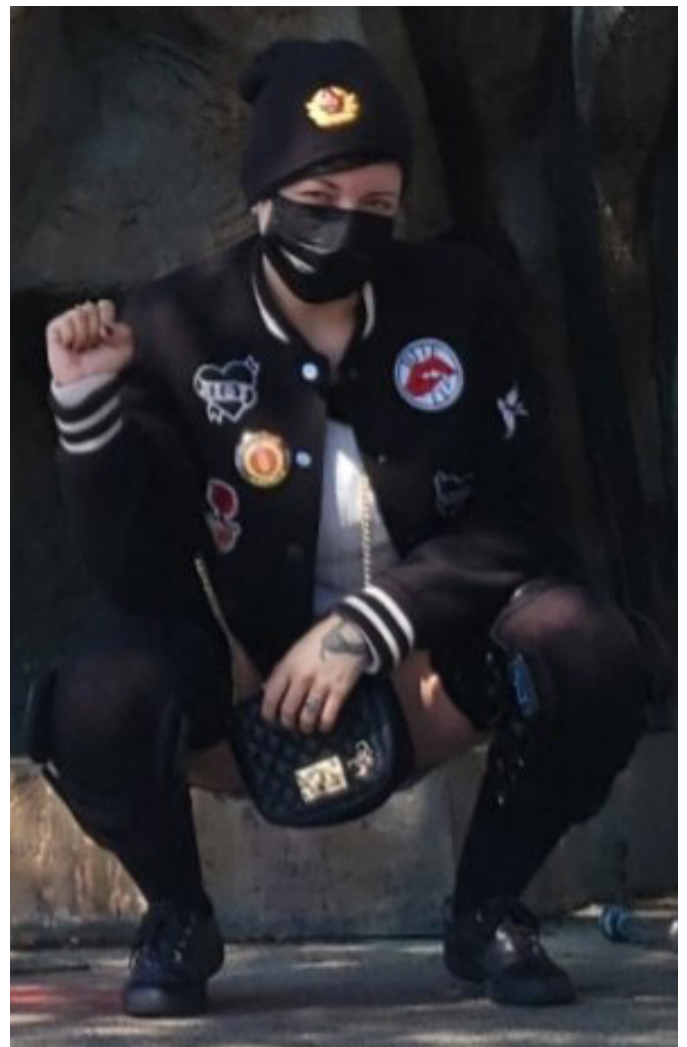


Andrew E, Massachusetts

Pride, to me, in essence is a show of resistance against prevailing power structures. As the month of June, the month of our Pride, is commoditized by the corporations that kill and exploit us – and the entirety of the proletariat – pride loses its meaning to me. Pride is resistance, and our ideas of resistance are antithetical to the capitalist class that co-opts our rainbows and our culture. They kill us all the same. Pride, in the year 2021, rings loudly in my mind as a need, a mission, to restore it's revolutionary essence. It has lost meaning, and we need to take it back from the ever-so-taking corporations and capitalist institutions.

June F, California

For me, Pride means righteous anger. My celebration for the incremental progress we have made is tainted by the ongoing social, legal, and economic injustices against our community. I devote this month to remembrance of those we have lost and commitment to building a truly egalitarian future for people of all genders and orientations.



Andrew D, Florida

Pride for me is about a right to be who I am, in public and private. It is about the right to be myself without fearing that I will come under harm for my gender expression or sexuality. It is about coming together as well, with my comrades, and fighting for the right to be ourselves. This is what pride represents to me.

WHAT FLORIDA BILL HB1 MEANS FOR PROTESTERS

By: Bryn Taylor, Red Phoenix Correspondent Florida, May 10, 2021

On April 19 of this year, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed House Bill 1 (HB1) into law. Make no mistake, HB1 is the most authoritarian and legitimately fascist law that has ever been passed in Florida legislature. The linear movement of this bill like clockwork through the state house, senate, and then the Governor's office removed completely the mask of Constitutional values and personal liberty from Florida Republicans, who currently dominate all branches of Florida state government. No longer can they strip away funding for social programs and infrastructure under the guise of "smaller government allows for more personal freedom," because they have now gone out of their way to oppress a freedom guaranteed by their sacrosanct document. The first amendment to the U.S. Constitution very clearly offers citizens the right to peacefully assemble, and Florida state legislature has decided to outline specifically what a "peaceful" protest looks like through HB1 to suit their agenda.

The whole goal of HB1 is to give cops a license to kill anyone deemed undesirable to the state. The bill is formally entitled "Combating Public Disorder," and is a direct response to the mass protests hosted by Black Lives Matter and allied organizations in Summer 2020 to protest police brutality, systemic racism in the judicial process, and prison slavery. HB1 includes the following clauses:

1. "Prohibiting a person from willfully participating in a specified violent public disturbance resulting in specified damage or injury." First and foremost, HB1 tells you it's automatically illegal for you to simply even participate in a protest determined to be a "specified violent public disturbance."
2. "Authorizing specified elected officials to file an appeal to the Administration Commission if the governing body of a municipality makes a specified reduction to the operating budget of the municipal law enforcement agency." This allows the Florida legislature to overturn decisions made by local government to decrease police funding, because people shouldn't be allowed to have control over their communities.
3. "Providing that a municipality has a duty to allow the municipal law enforcement agency to respond to a riot or unlawful assembly in a specified manner based on specified circumstances." This means local governments can be sued for civil liability damages by businesses or individuals who have their property damaged in a protest.
4. "Reclassifying the penalty for an assault committed in furtherance of a riot or an aggravated riot." This gives police discretion on who to charge with a third degree felony for simply participating in any protest police deem a "riot." Officially, a riot is defined as when someone "willfully participates in a violent public disturbance involving an assembly of three or more persons, acting with a common intent to assist each other in violent and disorderly conduct, resulting in Injury to another person; Damage to property; or Imminent danger of injury to another person or damage to property."
5. Creates a phenomenon called an "aggravated riot," which is a riot with more than 25 people or when protest participants cause "great bodily harm or more than \$5000 in damages," or when a protest involves a deadly weapon or blocks a roadway by force. If found in violation of this, police can charge protestors with a second degree felony.
6. Adds additional charges for smaller unlawful behaviors that may happen during a protest - including a second degree felony for demolition of historic property (read: Confederate statues).
7. "Prohibiting cyberintimidation by publication." Prevents doxing of cops.
8. "Creating an affirmative defense to a civil action where the plaintiff



participated in a riot, etc." This shields counter-protestors who kill protestors with their vehicles from civil liability.

9. Prevents people jailed for any unlawful behaviors related to protesting from posting bail.

"This feels like the first footfall of similar legislation yet to come in other states, and how broader America reacts to increased authoritarianism will play an important part in how the left organizes itself in the future."

Intellectually, I understand that if we're going down the right path, enemies will try to stop us. But it was still so jarring to have such bold legislation made into law. I followed this bill every step of the way, and after each signature, and every vote in favor, people would still assure us this bill was dead in the water. Last year was built on the strongest moments of class solidarity America has seen in a long time, and now those in power are responding. Our collective power is inherently threatening to the state, so of course they would illegalize our collective action.

Additionally, HB1 emphasizes the double standard that currently exists in our society where destruction of property is considered unacceptable, illegal violence, but withholding lifesaving services from people in need is not. Florida, along with six other states in the southeast[1], continue to deny funding offered to them by the federal government to expand Medicaid coverage to Florida residents. How many more children could have had medical appointments this year if Governor DeSantis had chosen to make healthcare expansion his legislative priority in the spring session instead of HB1?

There will almost certainly be legal challenges to every part of this bill[2], and parts of it may even be overturned by higher courts in a few years. But until then, these laws are extremely dangerous to those of us fighting for a better way of life, especially for BIPOC, neurodiverse, and queer people. Organizers in Florida must plan future actions with caution as we test these new boundaries. The safety and wellbeing of the comrades in our communities is the top priority. This feels like the first footfall of similar legislation yet to come in other states, and how broader America reacts to increased authoritarianism will play an important part in how the left organizes itself in the future.

[1]: <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/status-of-state-medicaid-expansion-decisions-interactive-map/>

[2]: <https://www.wptv.com/news/state/as-gov-ron-desantis-celebrates-signing-hb-1-opponents-terrified-of-its-impact>

ON THE RECENT MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

By Polina Brik on April 26, 2021

Russian president Vladimir Putin warns the West not to intervene in "internal affairs" of Russia and not to cross any "red lines", among escalating conflict between Russia, the EU, and the US. This came after the Biden administration proclaimed its military support for the Ukrainian government[1] and additional sanctions on Russian individuals and enterprises. While we cannot be certain of the highest level information known only to imperialist elites, our goal is to elucidate the words of the state propagandists on the matters of war and peace.

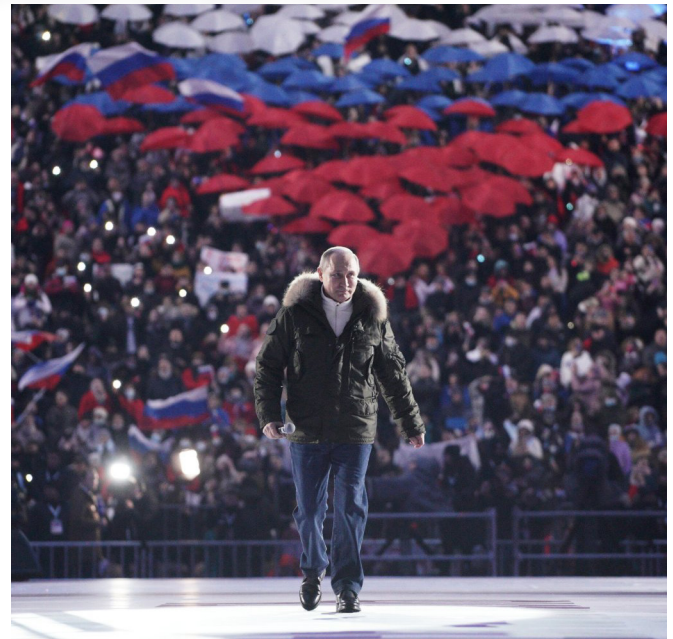
Nationalist idealism is being reinforced by the ruling classes in face of economic and political uncertainty, accompanied by the silencing of progressive voices such as criminalizing protests in Russia. Such nationalism was used by the Russian President Vladimir Putin and his team to manipulate the public opinion into thinking that the military operations on the border of Ukraine are done for the sake of protection of Russian sovereignty from the NATO instigators (it is partially true that there is an intra-imperialist conflict there with different interests represented). "The US will have to reckon with Russia, Putin said", reports RIA News, a major news outlet in Russia. President Putin said during a meeting with representatives of the public of Crimea and Sevastopol, "We, although they [the Westerners, Americans] think that we are the same as them, but we are different people. We have a different genetic and cultural-moral code. But we know how to defend our own interests. And we will work with them. But in those areas, in which we ourselves are interested. And on those conditions that we consider beneficial for ourselves." (March 12, 2021) Public opinion is being manipulated by the means of television, newspapers, all sorts of other media, professors of universities, and pundits. In his annual address to the people, president Vladimir Putin reassured that the Russian national interests will be protected, blamed the Bolshevik revolution for closing down the relations with other countries and continues to praise Russians as superior people: the Moscow Times reports that "Russia Is a 'Distinct Civilization,' Putin Says". Of course, when there is nothing more to rely on, when people don't see any economic improvements in their lives, relying on one's genetic superiority becomes a very useful tool for obscuring class relations and shifting everything on one's national and genetic identity and exceptionality of a nation.

While less ethnically oriented but certainly national and cultural exceptionalism is also echoed in the words of American politicians. The kind of nationalism that we see in the West is also supported by the liberal fetishization of the "freedom of speech" to support the imperialist popular idea of America as the international supervisor, "the keeper of peace" of all the political events. This also manifests in menacing fear toward "Russian and Chinese intruders". With no surprise, this practice of national chauvinism is being continued into the Biden administration, as we already see in the actions of the state to continue Obama-era imperialism in such unequivocal support for NATO ally Ukraine in face of the Russian danger in the regions of Donbass and Luhansk. Nationalist ideology is something that has been massively adopted in Ukraine and is popularized (far-right groups are viewed as protectors of the Ukrainian nation) since the Maidan (mass protests for the integration of Ukraine in the EU, followed by the war in Donbass and Luhansk and the annexation of the Crimean peninsula by Russia) events in 2014, and it allows the followers of such ideology to raise their material level at the expense of oppression of representatives of other nationalities and ethnic minorities!

Yet, national patriotism is also seen throughout Russia too, of course. Russian common political opinion is disseminated primarily from its media and leadership, more so than western countries, which maintain a popular illusion of "freedom of choice" with regard to political opinion. First, they scare the population about the "inevitable war" which would resolve all of Russia's problems. One famous Russian demagogue and the head of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, told the press that "Without

war, there is no way to get out of the dead end: from the economic crisis, the pandemic, the ecological crisis, everything is just escalated."

On April 15, 2021 news broke out about Russia's buildup of troops and materiel on the border of Ukraine and in Crimea, a peninsula that has been annexed by Russia (Crimean citizens joined Russia as a result of a popular vote, but there are talks about fraud- no major Western power has recognized the results of the referendum). Today on April 22, the news of thawing relations came in, as Russia pulled its soldiers and weapons from the Ukrainian border once they were done with their glorious military exercises and show of power. The military exercises came as a response to NATO's build-up on the Russian border. With militaristic and imperialistic agenda in mind, Russia continues to "protect its interests" in face of Western imperialism.



US imperialists, in turn, are interested in weakening their economic competitors as much as possible, primarily Russian interests in the territory of Ukraine. Therefore, US imperialism is interested in provoking hostility and forcing the EU and Russia to fight each other, primarily on the territory of Ukraine and in the regions bordering it. Russia's position is that it is "defending itself" against US aggression, which is partially true considering that US capitalism has been developing for decades and decades, while the Russian capitalist class started appearing in the 1970's with the rejection of socialism via the Khrushchev economic reforms. Therefore, it is partially true that the US is a strong competitor of Russia on the "global arena".

But the axiom -regular people have no say in what the ruling elite do or why they do it- still holds. It is not a national but a global bourgeoisie that exists, and the capital flows from one capitalist country such as Russia, to another one such as the US. The home market is still inevitably bound up with the global market in capitalism. Despite the military actions that the world witnessed this week, the economic factors which operate in modern society ensure the continuation of exploitation. This includes imperialist and national wars. Since war is waged by both imperialist camps for the sake of redivision of the economic spheres of influence, and not for defense or for the liberation of the people, the working class has no right to prefer one bandit to another.

[1]: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-ukraine-biden/biden-offers-ukraine-unwavering-support-in-faceoff-with-russia-idUSKBN2BP14C>

PCOF – ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY, LET US FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE COMMUNARDS!



150 years ago, the Communards “stormed heaven,” as beautifully penned by Marx, an event indelibly etched in the collective memory of the international workers’ movement.

In his book *The Civil War in France*, Marx drew lessons from this first socialist revolutionary experience, notably that “the working class cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made state machinery, and wield it for its own purposes”. The Commune managed to break up the old state organization and give way to a new, embryonic proletarian power. It was this lesson, as enriched by that of the Russian Revolution of 1905, and in particular that of the Soviets, which allowed Lenin to write *The State and Revolution*, a book that provided the Bolsheviks with a precious guide for the revolutionary struggle. The analysis, from a class perspective, of the failure of the Commune in France (which only lasted for a few weeks, from April 18 to May 28) and that of 1905 in Russia paved the way to the victory of the October 1917 revolution. It provided communists and revolutionaries all over the world with guidance on how to achieve their goal: the radical change of the current social order.

This is why the lessons from the Commune are still relevant and why our parties, those of the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations, cannot forget what they owe to the Communards.

This is also why we will not take part in the various demonstrations that are going to be organized in Paris to “celebrate the Commune” by reformists and revisionists of all kinds. What is there to celebrate for those who have abandoned the dictatorship of the proletariat, who abhor violence, especially that of the working classes, and whose only dream is to take the reins of the existing bourgeois state machine?

The way for us communists to celebrate this anniversary is to remain true to the lessons of the Commune, to keep drawing inspiration from it to lead the revolutionary struggle in our time, as did the young communists who founded our party on March 18, 1979 and named their founding congress the “Paris Commune”. Choosing this date of March 18, the anniversary of the Communards’ accession to power in 1871, was not only meant to summon a glorious moment in the history of the workers’ movement in our country; it was above all about showing a willingness to commit to following in the footsteps of the Communards; to affirm that the party was being established for the revolution and to take power, and for a radical change in society, for and through the working class and the popular masses.

The strategic objective of our party, enshrined in the program adopted at its founding congress, states: “Overthrow the bourgeoisie, destroy the bourgeois state apparatus, establish the dictatorship of the proletariat and build socialism.... To achieve this goal, the proletariat and the oppressed masses, led by the party, must make use of insurrectional violence”. These lines assert the role of the working class and the working masses and frame that of the party: the masses make the revolution; the communist party is only a tool, of course

an essential one, to guide the revolutionary process and help the working class find the right orientation by conveying the experience of the international workers’ movement.

Nurturing the revolutionary spirit

The revolutionary spirit underlying the communist organization must be “nurtured”. This notably involves strengthening the knowledge of Marxism-Leninism, the theory of the proletarian revolution, in our ranks. The study of Marx’s work, *The Civil War in France*, is essential in this respect, as is the knowledge of other fundamental works by Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin. Knowledge of Marxism-Leninism allows our parties to analyze the concrete environment in which they operate. It serves as an aid to develop their political course of action and tactics, to forge a concrete path towards establishing the conditions for the revolutionary break with the system.

As we know, however, both a good analysis and a sound revolutionary line can only be developed in close connection with the struggles of the working class and the popular masses. The close ties between the party and the working class, as well as with the masses of working people, are essential. Indeed, and once again, it is the masses who make the revolution. It was the people of Paris who massively rose up with the national guard against the government of Thiers, who wanted to disarm it; and the fact that the Commune, “a government of the people by the people” (in Marx’ own words), could initiate unprecedented social transformations in a period of two months, was possible because it was backed by the mass of workers and the “little people” of Paris. This support went as far as defending the Commune by taking up arms and erecting barricades involving men, women and children ready to die for it during the “bloody week”.

Nurturing the revolutionary spirit within the ranks of our parties is to ensure that the objective of the revolution is never lost of sight of, that it always remains the focus of our militant activity.

It is this spirit that helped our parties hold firm, in particular when revisionism and reformism dominated among the working class. It is also thanks to their firm ideological convictions that they managed to face the unprecedented attacks of the bourgeoisie when it declared “the end of history” at the end of the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s in the wake of the breakup of the USSR and the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The sharpening of the contradictions of the imperialist capitalist system

The situation has evolved a lot.

In France, neoliberal policies have exacerbated the contradiction between labor and capital – and indeed all contradictions within society – triggering successive waves of massive workers’ protests. Since the mobilizations for the repeal of the El Khomri law (or labor law) in 2016, this confrontation has become more direct and more violent. Every single year in our country has witnessed powerful popular protest movements, from teachers to railway workers, “yellow jackets” to caregivers, high-school and university students to retirees, nursing and home care givers to bicycle delivery workers, undocumented workers to the badly housed; millions of men and women, old and young have marched in the streets, denouncing the neoliberal reforms and their disastrous consequences for their living and working conditions. At the same time, the struggle against racism and police violence is mobilizing an increasing number of people, young and less young. It has increased awareness of the true nature of the state: a state for the bosses, a police state, an arms merchant’s state pursuing a policy of war.

(continued on page 10)

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(continued from page 9)

The health crisis of 2020 amplified the latent economic crisis and served as a magnifying glass exposing the evils of capitalist society; the responsibility of the economic, social and political system has become more evident to an increasing number of people. This growing awareness is the seeds of the revolutionary spirit that we must foster to help it progress further and transform into organized action. During its last congress (in January 2020), our party analyzed this situation and took the following aim as the basis for its work: "to increase the awareness of the need for, and possibility of a revolutionary break with, the imperialist capitalist system".¹ This means embodying and developing the revolutionary spirit of our militants, supporting and encouraging that which is already expressed in the ranks of the working class and the masses and in particular in certain sections of the youth.

Today, the revolutionary spirit which drove the Communards 150 years ago must materialize through offensive actions and initiatives aimed at finding ways and means to make the party's actions, program, analysis and slogans more widely known within the workers' and popular movement. It must prompt us to build contact with the sector of the youth that became politicized through the fights of the last decade and aspires to a radical change in the society, to revolution. The revolutionary spirit calls for initiatives resonating with the deep aspirations of the working class and the popular masses and enabling them to express those aspirations with us. The revolutionary spirit also requires us to take charge of the internationalist tasks towards the peoples dominated by French imperialism, the peoples of the French colonies. This is necessary to raise the awareness of the working class and the youth of our country of the need to link the fight for a revolutionary rupture at home with that aimed at getting rid of rule of French imperialism over the peoples of the colonies and neo-colonies.



It supports and expresses its solidarity with aspirations that resonate with its own. We remember how the revolutionary uprising of 2011 in Tunisia found an echo within our country's people and youth, putting the word Revolution back in the vocabulary.

In The Civil War in France, Marx wrote: "If the Commune was thus the true representative of all the healthy elements of French society, and therefore the truly national government, it was, at the same time, as a working men's government, as the bold champion of the emancipation of labor, emphatically international. Within sight of that Prussian army, that had annexed to Germany two French provinces, the Commune annexed to France the working people all over the world". The Commune's internationalist character needs no proof: not only did it include militants of different nationalities in its governing bodies (Polish, Hungarian, Russians, Italians, etc.), but moreover all the exploited and oppressed of the world could recognize themselves in it, as Marx pointed out.

This is why Marx, who was at the time a refugee in England and in close contact with leading members of the First International who were elected to the Commune (Eugène Varlin, Zéphyrin Camélinat, Benoit Malon, Leo Frankel), wrote dozens of letters to the different sections of the International, drawing their attention to the Paris Commune and to the importance of the events happening in the French capital, in order to seek their support.

As revolutionary processes are developing in several countries where member parties of the Conference are active, making known these processes and the work of our sister parties is an integral part of our task as revolutionaries and communists. This is how our party understands the practice of proletarian internationalism, following Marx's example.

The Central Committee of the PCOF, March 2021

1) The document of our congress, with the title "For a revolutionary rupture with the system" has been translated into English and Spanish



Bringing the internationalist character of the Commune to life

In the context of massive mobilizations abroad (in Latin America, Asia, Africa), we see a growing will for a profound and radical change. The popular youth of the imperialist European countries is very attentive to this development.



ICMLPO: SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE OF THE COLOMBIAN PEOPLE

A new social outburst against the anti-popular policies of the bourgeoisie has taken place, this time in Colombia.

Millions of workers, peasants, youth, women, unemployed, artists, retirees, and neighborhood residents have paralyzed the country with a combative protest that began last April 28, which is still continuing despite the dozens of fighters murdered by the forces of law and order, the hundreds wounded, tortured, beaten, and even sexually assaulted. The Army and the Police have responded with their usual warlike policy, to confront those they consider the internal enemy.

The forcefulness of the protest, which has even exceeded the forecasts of the organizations that called the strike on March 28, forced the right-wing government of Iván Duque to withdraw the tax reform bill, which, cynically, was called "Sustainable Solidarity". This was intended to increase and raise taxes on salaries and consumption, which mainly affect the popular and middle sectors of the population, while the Government has taken measures to lower taxes on the income of large companies.

The tax reform did not pass, the popular mobilization forced the resignation of the Minister of Finance, Alberto Carrasquilla -the gray brain of the project- and Duque has called for a "national dialogue" to overcome the crisis, but the struggle continues. The Colombian people are not giving truce, they are challenging an authoritarian State, openly repressive, in which it is public that the heads of the military, police and the entire security apparatus share fascist ideas, work under the tutelage of the US intelligence apparatus, are promoters of paramilitary groups and have links with drug trafficking. This struggle is a clear example that when the popular majorities unite and fight, they push back the fiercest enemy.

The massiveness, breadth and combativeness of the protest express the degree of dissatisfaction and frustration of the people with their living conditions: close



to 10% open unemployment, 50% of people working in informality; one of the countries with the highest rate of internally displaced people due to poverty, violence and insecurity generated by the State; a population hard hit by the pandemic and a government unable to articulate an adequate vaccination plan; the country with the second highest military budget in Latin America; a country in which in the first quarter of this year there were 23 massacres and during 2020 more than 250 peasants, population, union and community leaders were assassinated. In November 2019, the Colombian people already gave a clarion call with a massive and combative social protest; in general the claims, the mobilizations of different popular sectors are constant.

We express our solidarity with this struggle and call to continue to raise in different countries actions of solidarity with the people and condemn the government of Ivan for the criminal repression unleashed against the people. We join the demand for the resignation of President Ivan Duque.

We join the comrades and leaders of the Communist Party of Colombia (Marxist-Leninist) who are in the front line of the struggle.

We denounce that the most reactionary sectors of the Colombian State: Uribe, Duque, the heads of the military and police forces look at social protest and its actors as war actions, as events that seek to "destabilize power and put an end to democracy", under that logic they have responded with viciousness and hatred to the demands of the people. The forces of law and order are in a state of war against the people, which we repudiate and call for its condemnation throughout the world.

Coordinating Committee

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



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.



"We can only see a short distance ahead, but we can see plenty there that needs to be done."

- Alan Turing



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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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.