



THE RED PHOENIX

NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR

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HANDS OFF! VENEZUELA

WE NEED JOBS & HEALTHCARE!



NOT WAR!

Photo: Tomas de Bourgha

THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VENEZUELA (MARXIST-LENINIST) REGARDING THE COMPLEX SCENARIO IN VENEZUELA AND ITS CONSEQUENCES



From the Political Bureau of the Marxist-Leninist Party of Venezuela, Caracas, January 2019

As the leadership of our party has been stating in various national and international documents and places, the fundamental contradictions are becoming sharper. This has been seen with greater impudence in recent days by the actions of the US government and its lackeys. Every moment the imperialist policy becomes clearer, which makes it possible to remove any possible doubt about the effects of the interventionist, aggressive and anti-popular action against the peoples of the world, of the region, and now against the Venezuelan people. These politics have caused serious damage to the economy and the population, relying for its implementation on the native bourgeoisie, the local and regional instrument that affects, more than any other, the working majorities.

The administration of the ultra-reactionary Trump has counted on the support of some sell-out governments that act against the right to self-determination, endorse the condemnable action of the puppet Almagro in the OAS, as well as of all the instruments at the service of the monopolies. Meanwhile they apply anti-people measures designed by the IMF to increase the exploitation and repression against the majorities in their countries. This makes it clearer every day to all revolutionaries on which side we should be at this moment.

The main contradiction in this regional situation is, in general, between imperialist oppression and the struggle for liberation from this dependence. In particular this becomes a struggle between imperialism, mainly US imperialism, which has traditionally maintained its domination, and the interests of the exploited majorities. They sometimes support reformist, revisionist projects and other times support the revolutionary line. This depends in large part on the application of the correct tactics, which for true communists is the line of the Third International. At 100 years since its foundation, this remains in full force, with the tactic that promotes the unity of forces to confront the great imperialist capital and the embryos of fascism, unifying the proletarians in the march towards the total liberation of the oppressed of the world.

In Venezuela, the struggle against the US-EU imperialist bloc is progressing well, with ever increasing direct struggles involving different social classes. Mainly this is expressed in the

major media in the struggle between the traditional pro-Yankee bourgeoisie, which intends to retake control of the government at all costs, and a many-sided tendency, with manifestations of national demands. This has shown itself close to the China-Russia bloc, leaving the objective of the proletariat and the popular masses in second place. But we must state that we are on the street, in the main struggles, in the debate and mobilization. This opens up great possibilities to strengthen the popular line of struggle for national liberation and socialism. It poses an immense challenge to the forces revolutionary; we are working continuously to consolidate higher levels of organization and mobilization of the revolutionary popular movement.

We Marxist-Leninists have a duty to continue gaining the confidence of the people for the consolidation of the political current of class independence. This demands the accumulation of its own forces and in alliances to organize resistance against the US-EU imperialist bloc, as well as in the struggle to improve the living conditions of the popular majorities. This helps them to identify their enemies, capitalism and imperialism as its higher phase, as the cause of their hardship, as well as internal and foreign accomplices. The Venezuelan proletariat is advancing under various difficulties, being clear on the achievement of the strategic objectives of the working class, the peasants and the people, with a position of critical support together with demands on a government under attack by imperialism.

We are adjusting our tactics with the most objective view of the circumstances, and our party, from the very terrain of the struggle, has understood that we are not only living through a complex political situation, marked by the consequences of the economic crisis, an increasing imperialist aggression, but also by errors of past and present government policy, by weaknesses of the revolutionary movement. Despite this the revolutionary movement has grown over the past 20 years, but in addition to the present situation, there is a structural problem of the bourgeois state. This state has shown a process of decomposition, which can be seen in the inability of the contestants to subdue their opponent and emerge as a parallel power. This shows us that this conflict of the structural base will not be solved in the short term and that it opens the possibility for fundamental changes. That is why we must also work on the strategic perspective.

The events of these last days affirm our thesis on the decomposition of the State, as well as the role of the US-EU imperialist bloc and its lackeys. Even with contradictions, as a result of their internal struggles, they maintain a line of conduct to take advantage of the economic, political and social disturbances that Venezuela is experiencing, contributing to the process of decomposition of the State. This process is deepening every day, leading to a negotiation to distribute the country's wealth among the imperialist powers, to foreign aggression, a coup d'état or even a revolutionary situation. This is a consequence of the struggle among the different tendencies in conflict and the emergence of popular actors, as happened at other periods in the history of the country.

Faced with these scenarios, which are leading to situations of violence, we call on all revolutionaries, patriots and democrats, on the workers of the world, on the peasants and worthy people, to prepare the conditions of concrete solidarity, being certain that the Venezuelan people are resisting and struggling. They will continue resisting and fighting under any scenario; the working class, we Marxist-Leninists and especially our party are working to organize the defense, based on the legitimacy of the actions that the proletariat will take to safeguard their interests and those of the majorities, convinced that the contradictions present in the region are creating the conditions for a struggle that is expanding, and to work for the unity of the working class and peoples on the basis of tactics of a regional character in order to confront the main and common enemy of our peoples without dispersing the forces by attacking scarecrows.

Socialism Is Only Built with the Worker-Peasant Alliance in Power and the People in Arms!



"HANDS OFF VENEZUELA" SAY ORLANDO SOCIALISTS

By: B. RIZZO

All-day rain and unusually cold temperatures did not deter Central Florida socialists, including comrades from the American Party of Labor, from converging on Orlando City Hall on Sun., Jan. 27 for an emergency demonstration in support of the Venezuelan people and their Bolivarian Revolution. Recently, Venezuela has faced a new onslaught of imperialist attacks from the reactionary Trump administration. The most outrageous provocation was on Jan. 23 when Trump recognized social democrat Juan Guaido as Venezuela's "president" – almost two weeks after President Nicolas Maduro was sworn in for his second term. Trump's dubious move came despite the fact that much of the opposition (including Guaido's Popular Will party) boycotted the May 2018 presidential election, which Maduro won with 68 percent of the vote.

"We stand in solidarity with the people of Venezuela and the Bolivarian Revolution," said Sebastian Lemba, of the APL (Fidel Castro Division). "I especially want to point out the hypocrisy in the dialogue in the U.S. We talk about Russian interference all day, every day, and we're just doing the same damned thing [with Venezuela]. We see this over and over again throughout history. These kinds of U.S.-backed coups always lead to mass murder."

"The people of Venezuela had elections. The people who chose to boycott them—that's on them," said Lemba. "Those elections were not rigged. They were legitimate elections, and some random guy calling himself the president of Venezuela is not going to change that."

Of course, many observers have questioned whether the Trump regime even has any right to criticize the legitimacy of any other country's elections or electoral system. After all, in 2016 Trump became president although he received 2.8 million fewer votes than Hillary Clinton. This was because of the undemocratic Electoral College, part of the legacy in the Constitution of America's beginnings as a slave nation. And it underscores the hollowness of what passes for "democracy" in the U.S., dominated as it is by wealthy capitalists who purchase politicians of both major parties, along with other factors such as suppression of the voting rights of various groups, most notably African Americans.

Soon after the demonstration began, hundreds of people exited the performing arts center across from City Hall, following a performance of "Hamilton." They were greeted with signs telling them "Hands Off Venezuela" and "U.S. Respect Venezuela Sovereignty" along with enthusiastic chants, such as "U.S.A., C.I.A., Out of Venezuela." Undoubtedly, the theatre-goers did not expect to see members of the APL, the Party for Socialism and Liberation and the Orlando Workers League out on the street defending the Venezuelan people from U.S. imperialism.

The people involved in the protest understood why it was important to stand strong in the steady downpour and unrelenting chill to publicly express their support for Venezuela and the Bolivarian Revolution, and their fierce opposition to Trump's belligerent and clumsy attempts to force that nation back into the orbit of neoliberalism. That would destroy the social gains that Venezuela's poorest workers have made since the late President Hugo Chavez was first elected in 1999. It also would unleash a bloody white terror of repression against leftists that likely would be similar to what happened in Chile in 1973 after Salvador Allende's democratically elected government was overthrown in a U.S.-backed military coup.

"There's a long history of the CIA and the 'Washington consensus' overthrowing governments in Latin America, particularly when their governments nationalize their resources, as Venezuela has," said Jaco, of the PSL. "So we're here today to say that we, the many, in the United States stand in solidarity with the Venezuelan people against the aggression and imperialist overtures of the Trump regime."

"This is what resistance looks like," he added. "We're out here in the rain."

"The Orlando Workers League is out here because it's imperative for activists in the U.S. to fight U.S. imperialism at every turn," said Delilah Ruth. "We have a responsibility to Venezuela and the Bolivarian Revolution to defend their gains

and Maduro from CIA and U.S. intervention."

In another tightening of the screws on the Venezuelan people, Trump on Jan. 25 named neoconservative Elliot Abrams as the leader of an effort to undermine diplomatic and economic relations between Venezuela and other nations. This is all designed to bring down Maduro's democratically elected government, along with the Constituent Assembly (whose members were chosen in a 2017 election, which the opposition also boycotted), and the Bolivarian Revolution.

Abrams has a long history of hostility to socialist governments in Latin America and as a professional liar for U.S. imperialism. He was convicted in 1991 of withholding information from Congress about the Reagan administration's illegal support of right-wing paramilitary groups trying to overthrow Nicaragua's Sandinista government. (Abrams was subsequently pardoned by the recently deceased President George H.W. Bush.)

However, as the British newspaper the Independent noted: "For many Latin America watchers he will be associated with his denial of a 1982 massacre at El Mozote in El Salvador of hundreds of civilians by the military. Mr. Abrams told a Senate committee that the reports of hundreds of deaths at El Mozote 'were not credible.'"

"In 1993, after a UN truth commission which examined 22,000 atrocities that occurred during the twelve-year civil war in El Salvador, attributed 85 per cent of the abuses to the Reagan-assisted right-wing military and its death-squad allies, Mr. Abrams said: 'The administration's record on El Salvador is one of fabulous achievement.'"

The stakes for the future of the Bolivarian project and Venezuela's right to self-determination are enormous. It's not implausible that with war criminals such as Abrams involved that the Trump administration's latest flurry of activity against the country, besides seeking to undermine Maduro's legitimacy while distracting from problems caused by the government shutdown, could signify a campaign to justify even more ominous action. It's possible this could take the form of a U.S.-led Bay of Pigs or Panama-type invasion. This is why it's important for us as communists and proletarian internationalists to defend Venezuela and the Bolivarian Revolution even if we have criticisms of that movement from a Marxist perspective.



The Orlando Workers League, with elements of the American Party of Labor Florida/ Fidel Castro Division and the Party for Socialism and Liberation gathered to oppose american intervention in Venezuela on January 27th.

NOT A PEOPLE'S PARDON: APL PREPARES ACTION AGAINST ARPAIO

By: C. OCANA

"I already have a concentration camp. It's called Tent City," said Sheriff Joe Arpaio in 2008 in regards to his seven acre outdoor jail in Phoenix, Arizona. Tent city opened in 1993 and was intended to be temporary. The purpose was to assist with overflow issues in the surrounding facilities. A band-aid, a quick fix. Which possibly explains the almost hectic scrambling that the structure of Tent City reeks of. From the utilization of Korean-War era tents to the solely pink underwear issued to inmates to forcing inmates to watch cooking shows while eating their 2 meatless meals a day. This could only be a place holder, right? Yet it remained open for 23 years.

As if the inhumane and unusual treatment of inmates was not enough Arpaio refused to transfer people to I.C.E for up to 2 years. Maricopa County Sheriff Office lost the right to enforce immigration law but this did not stop Arpaio from organizing a right wing militia group to be the watch dogs of the border and round up those they believe looked "illegal" and take them to tent city to work in chain gangs. In June of 2017 Joe Arpaio was convicted of criminal contempt of court. He found himself in this position due to his refusal to obey a federal judge's order to stop racial profiling in detaining "individuals suspected of being in the U.S. illegally".

However, on August 25, 2017, only 2 months after his conviction, Donald Trump pardoned Arpaio of his crime. Now that the weight of those pesky crimes against humanity have been lifted off of his shoulders by Trump, Arpaio is a free man. The St. Louis G.O.P could think of no better representation of their values than Joe Arpaio, and they have thus invited him to be the keynote speaker at their annual Lincoln-Reagan dinner this year. The St. Louis branch of the APL plans to protest the event and show that Trump may pardon Arpaio, but the people do not.

JOE ARPAIO
BRAGS ABOUT RUNNING
A CONCENTRATION CAMP!
HELP US WELCOME HIM
TO ST. LOUIS!

SATURDAY, MARCH 23
ORLANDO GARDENS
BANQUET CENTER
5:30PM
WEAR A MASK!

AND JOIN US ON
SATURDAY, MAR 16
FOR A COMMUNITY
PREPARATION EVENT.
CONTACT APL FOR
DETAILS

"Even if it was a concentration camp, what difference does it make?" - Joe Arpaio

"I already have a concentration camp, it's called tent city." - Joe Arpaio

TRUMP PARDONED ARPAIO
THE PEOPLE WILL NOT!
AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR

JOIN US: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EVENTS/434067747129806/](https://www.facebook.com/events/434067747129806/)

A SURGE OF STRIKES SHAKES THE ELITE

By: L. ZORFASS

Over the past year, there have been more labor strikes and marches than in recent memory. Across the country, working-class people have been standing up against the capitalist elite and their state in increasing numbers and in diverse locations. From factory closings to Supreme Court rulings, labor issues have been on the news cycle more and more frequently as organized labor continues to mobilize. The reason for this mobilization is not merely to demand more money and equitable wages, but also to reveal that the contradictions of capitalism are becoming more and more exposed, and effecting more and more working people and families. The concept of a general strike, not heard in the US since the days of Eugene Debs, has returned to popular political discourse and once again puts the capitalist elite on edge.

The leading element of that class and all its bigotries, The Trump Administration, could be protested for just about everything it does. Its attack on the working class of America has been swift and significant. The Trump Administration attacked the working class directly by repealing pro-labor laws of the past, attacking public education, and attacking minority groups.

Teachers have been striking year-round all over the country due to the divestment of public education and the state investment into private education, creating an even more elitist and segmented education system. Just this week, on Feb. 13 2019, 37,000 Denver teachers walked out on strike for better wages and funding for their students. In Arizona, known for its social conservatism, registered Republicans went on strike demanding higher taxes to fund schools. These strikes that defy traditional political boundaries between "red" and "blue" states underlines the growing class consciousness in the United States. The labor struggle, long dormant, is now leading the charge in a reawakened class-conscious movement against inequality.

Despite these grassroots movements, labor unions continue to lose legal powers and have less political influence. Labor laws nearly a century old have been repealed. Collective bargaining rights continue to be trampled on. Despite a good economy, wages have fallen and factories have closed. Massive protests were seen in North America when GM closed half a dozen plants. United Steel Workers were ready to strike for higher wages. These same workers, in the millions, are also told how great the economy is doing. Trump's tax cuts, touted as a boon to workers, has instead punished them with higher taxes, and brought back only 6% of the money corporations keep abroad in tax-free bank accounts.

Alongside the attack on labor is the increasing threat of white supremacist and far right violence, aimed particularly at people of color and women. Physical attacks by police on minorities continue as their rights get stripped away, and a recent study found that 100% of terrorism in 2018 were committed by fascists. The fascists are succeeding in creating massive hostility towards those outside of America in order to empower the imperialist cause to divide workers, and subjugate them to capitalist interests at home and abroad, like in Venezuela.

This all culminated with the 2019 Government shutdown which happened as a result of disagreement between the Democratic House and President Trump over funding a wall between the United States and Mexico, a highly imperialist, xenophobic, and racist policy that has become nothing more than a dog whistle for fascist aggression against immigrants. The shutdown left over 800,000 government workers without pay for weeks. Following the reopening of the sectors of the government that were shut down, many of the lower paid and "unskilled" workers were refused back pay, such as contractors, which Trump has specifically denied back-pay to.

The reopening of Government and the end of the shutdown was the result of the Association of Flight Attendants threatening to go on strike and shut down many of America's airports. The fear not just of the massive loss of profit such a strike could cause, but also of the spreading of this strike struck a deep fear into the ruling elite and brought the weeks-long impasse to a hasty end.

When the government reopened, the head of AFA called for a general strike if the government went back into shut down. This terrifies the elite more than anything, and lead to an unfavorable compromise from Trump. The unification of the working class, which would be needed in order to carry out a general strike, would not just bring the market to a halt but would unite the working class in a way that both exercises and demonstrates their power.



Marisol Calder, a teacher at Farrell B. Howell ECE-8, holds her sign as she marches around Denver Central Library on the second day of the Denver teachers strike at Civic Center Park in downtown Denver on Feb. 12, 2019.

Because of this, it appears that the Democrats and Trump have reached a compromise in which part of the wall is funded. Both the Democrats and Republicans are upset, accusing their leaders of respectively caving to the other side. This is the wrong conclusion. Neither side caved, they did what was necessary to keep the working class from mobilizing, from experiencing its own power.

All human beings are unified through labor, the working class is unified by its place in the system, as the source of profit, the target of exploitation. Yet, the working class are subjected to all kinds of internal divisions stoked by far-right activists. But the conditions of the working class, across all industries, are diminishing greatly. Because of this, the veil held over the contradictions of capitalism is being lifted: soaring stocks but lowering wages, schools with minimal funding but textbooks that refer to slaves as interns, more imperialism, more spreading of democracy, more destruction and displacement.

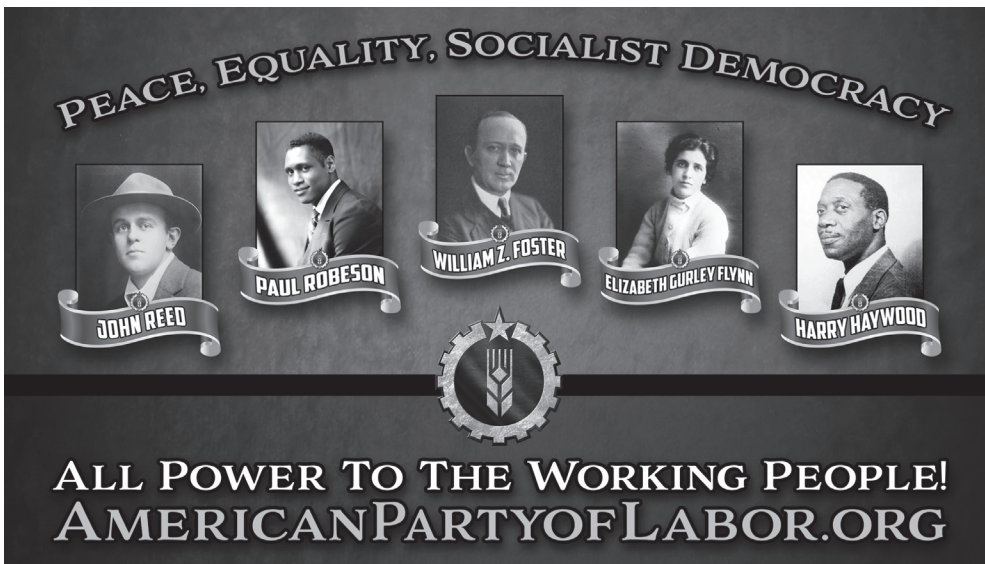
But these increasing contradictions have also been met with a growing labor movement that cuts across the political spectrum and fights bigotry with working class unity against greedy and indifferent bosses. As the contradictions lay bare before the working class the more its members are compelled to organize, first within each's industry, and then, with each other as a class. It is imperative that the American working class recognize itself as a class again.

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



AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR .ORG

THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR: TEN YEARS OF STRUGGLE



Its location in the very heart of imperialism and reaction gives the proletariat of the United States a vital role to play in the world revolutionary process. However, and perhaps for that very reason, efforts at creating a revolutionary vanguard party in the United States have been frustrated and derailed through the infections of Trotskyism, class collaborationist Social-Democracy, liberal/academic "theories," and that most "American" form of revisionism, Browderism, into the American left, working class, and popular movements. The APL represents an attempt to overcome the poisonous legacy of revisionism and to create a genuine Marxist-Leninist Communist Party, free of all revisionist trends and tendencies, in the United States.

History

The long-term origins of the American Party of Labor are in the struggles fought by the legendary American Marxist-Leninist **William Z. Foster** against Browderism. Comrade Foster's aid and personal secretary was the Spanish Civil War veteran and seasoned revolutionary militant, **Jack Shulman**. Sent by Comrade Foster on numerous missions, both within and without the United States, to investigate the damage done by Browderism, Comrade Shulman was able to report on the lingering infection of Browderism inside the Communist Party, USA (CPUSA) and in various Communist parties in Latin America.



Jack Shulman in Spain, prior to the Battle of Brunete.

With the rise of Khrushchev, the battle against revisionism intensified. Only this time, revisionist elements within the CPUSA had the support of the new Soviet leadership. The death of Comrade Foster in 1961 saw the final triumph of the Khrushchevite/Browderite faction in the CPUSA, led by Gus Hall. That same year, Comrade Shulman resigned from the CPUSA and travelled to China and Albania to assist the burgeoning world anti-revisionist Marxist-Leninist movement.

After spending some time in Albania, Comrade Shulman moved to China in 1968, working as an editor of English language publications during the Cultural Revolution.

Concluding that Maoism itself was a variant of revisionism, Comrade Shulman revisited Albania, and returned to the United States, where he published *Albania Report*, distributed political and cultural material from the People's Socialist Republic

of Albania, and was instrumental in organizing the USA-Albania Friendship Association. Towards the end of his life, (Comrade Jack passed in 1999) he was associated with the British Marxist-Leninist **William "Bill" Bland**, and he aided in the formation of Alliance Marxist-Leninist (North America). In 2008, former political associates of Comrade Shulman, and individuals influenced by his work and that of Alliance Marxist-Leninist, founded the APL.

From the time of its founding in 2008 to 2012, the APL underwent several internal struggles against revisionist and incompetent elements within the Party. The APL achieved its present form, both structurally and politically, in 2014. This restructuring was ratified at the 2016 Party Congress. In November of 2018, the APL was granted Observer status in the **International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO)**.

The Party's Ideological Development

The American Party of Labor upholds anti-revisionist Marxism-Leninism as its official ideology and world outlook. As a Marxist-Leninist party free of all revisionist trends, the Party's ideology includes rejection of

anti-Marxist ideologies such as Kautskyism, Titoism, Trotskyism, Browderism, Khrushchevism, Eurocommunism, Maoism, and "Socialism of the 21st Century." Our Party is based on scientific socialism as formulated by the classics of Marxism; **Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, Vladimir Lenin, and Joseph Stalin**, and enriched by figures such as **Enver Hoxha, Che Guevara, and Ho Chi Minh**, as well as countless other revolutionaries that have dedicated their lives to the defeat of capitalism and imperialism and the advancement of socialism. The APL is a revolutionary communist party that stands for socialist revolution, labor organization, social justice, women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and fights for the rights of the international working class.

The APL is an anti-imperialist party that opposes all imperialist wars. Our opposition to global imperialism takes on a special character in the belly of the leading imperialist power in the world, which is deeply entrenched in growing militarism and has begun its inevitable march towards fascism with the rise of the Trump regime. The current economic and national crisis has manifested in increasing exploitation of the working class, denial of social services, unions, and healthcare, increasing repression by the government, police murder and racism against African-Americans, xenophobic immigration policies, curtailing of women's rights and reproductive rights, murder and state-sanctioned discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals, and many more reactionary developments, all of which are linked to the rule of monopoly capital in the United States.

The conflict between Marxist-Leninists and revisionists, as well as rising fascism within US, imperialism, Russian imperialism and Chinese social-imperialism abroad, and their supporters within the revisionist left, are some of the most important questions of our era. The far-right in our country has been provoked by the victory of Trump, and soon they will control all three branches of government. Recent legislation against labor unions and the images of separation of immigrant families, which shocked the world, attest



May Day 2011 Chicago

to this. Amid mass protest and horror, the Trump regime passed an executive order claiming to stop the policy; but, in reality, only paved the way for families to be detained indefinitely together. U.S. aggression continues abroad with its wars in Afghanistan, Libya, and Syria, and its backing of the Saudi genocide in Yemen. Meanwhile at home fascist terror has begun, with the police

murdering without accountability, the military being given a \$700 billion budget while underemployment skyrockets, systemic racial discrimination goes unchecked, the gap widens between the rich and poor, and serious infringement of civil and voting rights have meant the curtailing of U.S.-style democracy. The American Party of Labor stands against fascism in all its forms, against the Trump regime, and upholds the line, "No Platform for Fascists!" We state our full commitment to the popular struggle against fascism, reaction, national oppression, police murder, and poverty, and stand with the working classes of other countries exploited by U.S. imperialism in this way.

Chinese social-imperialism is also on the march in Africa, Latin America, and Asia, opening its first foreign naval base in Djibouti last year and now annexing territory from Sri Lanka in order to secure payment of its debts. China has continued to ensnare other countries in Asia, Latin America, and Africa through debt-trap imperialism, plundering their natural resources, crushing workers' rights, and arming reactionary regimes, all the while posing as the "great liberator" of oppressed nations. The peoples of the world know that capitalism is being built in China, not socialism. The reforms initiated by Deng Xiaoping were never intended as temporary concessions but as a permanent shift back to capitalism, which has long since become fully re-established in all but name, as over a billion people continue to suffer in conditions comparable to those in other capitalist countries. In his new year's speech, Xi Jinping pledged his commitment to Deng's reforms, and as we speak, he is travelling through the Middle-East and Africa, signing new trade deals, and even signing a lucrative deal with Israel. Many "Marxist-Leninist" parties in the United States still maintain support for China and Russia as counter-measures to U.S. imperialism, but the American Party of Labor, given the information highlighted here, stands opposed to all imperialism, including Chinese social-imperialism and Russian imperialism.

Adding to the confusion among the North American revisionist left, Russia poses as an anti-imperialist power even as it practices imperialism itself, intervening in the conflicts in Syria and Ukraine. Backing the Assad regime against the heroic Kurdish struggle; acting in the false name of fighting ISIS. Waging a proxy war in eastern Ukraine, following their illegal military annexation of Crimea - mercilessly invading and acting as though they are a savior, inflating their own violent nationalism. Russia also extends its reach by backing far-right parties and candidates in European countries, like Marine Le Pen and her National Front Party in France, Jobbik in Hungary, Golden Dawn in Greece, the Freedom Party in Austria and others. All in hopes of destabilizing the countries to bring more autocratic right-wing regimes sympathetic to Moscow to power. The American Party of Labor stands in unflinching solidarity with the rights of those nations oppressed by American, European, Chinese, and Russian imperialism.



May Day 2017 (New Jersey)

The continuing working class unrest, corruption, unemployment and other social-economic crises in these countries are a testament to the failures of social-democracy. Penetration of U.S. and Chinese capital into these countries, and the reactionary offensives by the right, have made it painfully clear that "Socialism of the 21st Century" will never be able to fundamentally challenge the power of capital. The APL believes that only the socialist revolution by the proletariat and led by a Marxist-Leninist party can abolish capitalism and build communism.

An analysis of the way the revisionists succeeded in bringing about the collapse of socialism and the degeneration of the USSR and the international communist movement is essential to the task of building a Marxist-Leninist movement free of all revisionist trends. The APL, its comrades, and the international working masses reject the so-called "Socialism of the 21st Century" and "pink tide," manifested by the governments of Nicaragua, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Brazil, as another opportunist and revisionist trend on behalf of the bourgeoisie.

Activity and Actions of the Party

The American Party of Labor has taken on many political activities among the masses, created sustainable community programs, and continues to grow each Division. One major project which serves as an engine for our growth in working class circles is the **Red Aid: Service to the People program**, which seeks to provide the homeless and poor working class people with food, clothing, and assistance. This program has been established in multiple cities and has been able not only to provide basic needs but has helped some of the most exploited and targeted citizens secure jobs, apply for housing, and other state benefits. The Party has worked with and supported various labor unions in their fights against the capitalists, and when on strike. Various branches of the Party across the country have worked with teachers, transit workers, and heavy industry workers. Most recently, the Party worked to cultivate support for the **United Steelworkers**. The Party has also organized and helped organize various public demonstrations surrounding important national issues, such as the **Dakota Access Pipeline**, the growing threat of fascism, and American imperialism.

The Party has worked in coalitions against fascism in Illinois, Texas, Oregon, and Florida. The Party has also organized demonstrations around more general issues so as to

propagate the Marxist-Leninist line. Such activities have included anti-imperialist protests on Columbus Day, anti-capitalist marches, and organizing the largest celebration in the country of the October Revolution in New York City.

The APL has worked actively in and with coalitions around the country. The Party has successfully worked with **Community Control of Police**, a number of branches of **Students for a Democratic Society**, the **Green Party, NJ Coalition Against Endless War, Black Lives Matter, The Young**



Anti-Trump Rally (Ohio)

Lords, Orlando Workers League, Industrial Workers of the World, and dozens of trade unions such as the **American Federation of Teachers** and the **Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers**. In everything we participate in, from mass organizations to trade unions, our members have always worked as Marxists-Leninists and attempted to push the struggle forward by being disciplined Marxist-Leninists and Party members. The Party has also been leading an openly Marxist-Leninist student organization called **The All Marxist-Leninist Union**.

By working with all of these different sectors of the population, the American Party of Labor continues to grow its presence and legitimacy among the most oppressed in our society, amongst the various divisions of the working class, in the struggle for women's and LGBTQ+ rights, and with the youth. The Party has done so as dedicated Marxist-Leninists and has conducted itself against revisionist and reactionary tendencies alike. With every action the Party takes, qualitative and quantitative change takes place within our party and within the movements and working class communities we work within, which puts our development on track towards building the vanguard party in the United States.

The Future

These past ten years are only the beginning. The APL vows that it will continue to be a devoted and steadfast Marxist-Leninist party, a loyal member of the international Communist community, and that we will strive to rebuild our movement, and help lead it to victory and socialism.



TAX BREAKS FOR WHO?

U.S. STUDENTS CURRENTLY UNABLE TO DEDUCT TUITION IN 2018 RETURNS



By: J. PALAMEDA

Students preparing to file their taxes for 2018 should prepare for an unpleasant surprise in their return numbers. For the 2018 tax year, those taxes filed now in early 2019, all U.S. college students are currently (as of February 8th) unable to deduct the tuition they paid from their taxes. The deduction of tuition was meant to expire in 2016, but was extended for 2017 by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. This bill has not been extended into the 2018 tax year, and no student, of any standing or economic status, can currently write off tuition costs in their tax returns.

Mark Jaeger, director of tax development for Tax Act, a tax return software, warned in an interview with U.S. News that "it's not looking like it's going to be passed" in time. It is yet another setback for working class college students, who have seen the inflation-adjusted cost of college increase 213% since 1987, forcing 70% of students to take out student loans, for an average of nearly \$30,000. Now, those students who work while going to school, an exhausting and often economically unrewarding task given the nature of work available to those without a college degree, have to bear a more substantial tax burden. As a graduate student worker who makes less than \$30,000 a year, I had to pay \$500 to the federal government this tax season.

This burden is not experienced by the capitalist class. Netflix, after posting its most profitable year ever, received a \$22,000,000 return. The anti-union, hyper-exploitative

Amazon similarly paid no income tax in 2017. The Trump Tax cut saw an immediate surge in corporate profit, with no gain in full-time worker wages. It is very clear what the Trump presidency intends with this tax cut and inaction on student tuition deductions: to make the rich richer, and the working class poorer. In the recent debates surrounding the Social Democratic plan to re-institute a 70% marginal tax rate, we have heard the old Reagan myth, that if the rich are richer, their wealth will trickle down to us as workers. But the stats speak for themselves: the richest companies have "repatriated" only 164 billion dollars of the 2.5 trillion (6%) they have overseas in tax-free accounts.

The responses to tax-season injustices often come most vocally from arch-reactionary Libertarian and Anarcho-Capitalist circles that have made "taxation is theft" their motto, but as Marxists, we ask "theft from who, and for what?" While the very same capitalists that libertarians worship and wish to see totally unrestricted in their exploitation of working class people pay no taxes while recording soaring profits, hard working students trying to move up the social ladder are punished with a greater financial burden. Many other working class people, even Trump voters, have similarly ended up paying more than what they expected.

While the libertarians use taxation as a way to propagate the empowerment of the capitalist class and put more of our money and labor into their pockets, socialists, like Enver Hoxha in Socialist Albania, removed taxation all-together in 1969. It was an era that saw the electrification of all of Albania 15 years ahead of schedule, and produced a robust education system that saw 15.1 times as many women attend eight-year schools than in 1938 and 175.7 times as many women attended secondary schools (this information is taken from *The Family in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania*, Ksanthipi Begeja, 1984). If we want to fund education, rebuild our infrastructure, and prepare for climate change, taxing the rich in a still capitalist society, as the social democrats argue, will not be enough. A revolutionary society, in which workers control their workplaces, educations, production, and state is needed to address the problems we face.

Students have been on the front-lines of the bipartisan empowerment of the capitalist class in the United States for many decades. This added tax burden is just the most recent attack by capitalists on those striving to attain a better life for themselves and their families. But just as this latest injustice reinforces the fundamental truth of Marx's analysis of capitalist society as divided into two classes, it should also underline that the noble goals of the emerging socialist movement in the United States needn't proceed from a demand for increased taxation. We do not intend to have a piece of the rich's pie as they maintain exploitative control over our educations and work lives, we intend to control those things ourselves, democratically.

AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR . ORG



PEACE, EQUALITY, SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY ALL POWER TO THE WORKING PEOPLE!

SOUTH DAKOTA HOUSE ATTEMPTS TO ERASE TRANS IDENTITIES



By A. ZAFFIRO

On February 12, the South Dakota House passed HB 1108, a bill which, if enacted as law, would forbid the state's kindergarten-through-7th grade schools from discussing gender expression, dysphoria, transition, or anything other than the traditional, rigid gender binary. It is the latest in a series of bills aimed at the transgender and nonbinary communities, and its passage through the House demonstrates that the transphobic trend in South Dakota's state government remains strong, even in light of previous defeats. The bill, sponsored by Representatives Pischke, Frye-Mueller, Gosch, Greenfield, Llvormont, Marty, and Randolph, as well as State Senators Jensen, Blare, and DiSanto, now passes to the state Senate for consideration. If passed there, it will proceed to the desk of Republican governor Kristi Noem.

The rationale behind the bill is based on the discredited, pseudo-scientific notion of "rapid-onset gender dysphoria," a transphobic myth peddled primarily by bigoted parents who are unwilling to accept their children's transness, as well as politically-motivated TERFs and religious extremists. ROGD proponents claim that being trans or nonbinary is seen as "trendy," and that children are claiming to be trans or nonbinary in order to fit in. Representative Tom Pischke, the bill's primary sponsor, had this to say: "I'd submit to you this bill actually helps to save children from this dysphoria. This bill focuses on not instructing to this disease." It should go without saying that no credible evidence of such a trend has ever been presented, as all accounts of it come from cisgender parents, rather than from the children themselves. It should also be remembered that the trans and nonbinary communities remain subject to extensive social ostracism, exacerbated by the complete and deliberate failure of the federal government to enforce non-discrimination law on our behalf, making claims that transness is "trendy" all the more obviously ludicrous.

It should furthermore be noted that not a single one of the legislators who spoke up in support of this bill could identify a single instance of either themselves or their colleagues teaching students about gender expression, identity, etc. This puts the lie to any claim that the measure is intended to "protect" students from any kind of existing curriculum, as claimed by people such as Rep. Pischke. This bill, like so many other policies, is intended to keep the general public as ignorant as possible of the existence and experiences of trans people, to force the rigid gender binary on children, at least some of whom will turn out to be trans or nonbinary themselves, and to further ostracize and oppress transgender and nonbinary people.

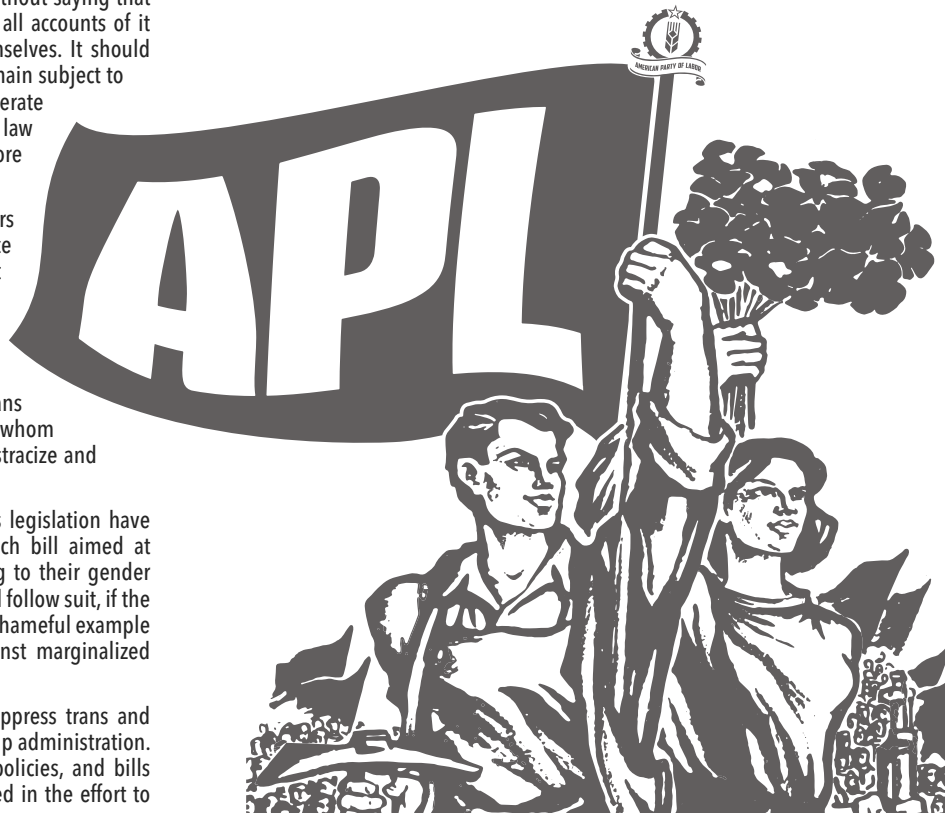
Earlier attempts by the South Dakota legislature to pass anti-trans legislation have failed, most recently after the previous governor vetoed one such bill aimed at preventing transgender people from using facilities corresponding to their gender identity. However, no such guarantee exists that Governor Noem will follow suit, if the bill should reach her desk. If passed, HB 1108 would be yet another shameful example of bigoted, oppressive policy enacted by American far-right against marginalized people.

There has been a considerable increase in right-wing efforts to oppress trans and nonbinary people in recent years, partially spearheaded by the Trump administration. In addition to the wide array of oppressive, bigoted state laws, policies, and bills such as HB 1108, the federal government has, unfortunately, joined in the effort to

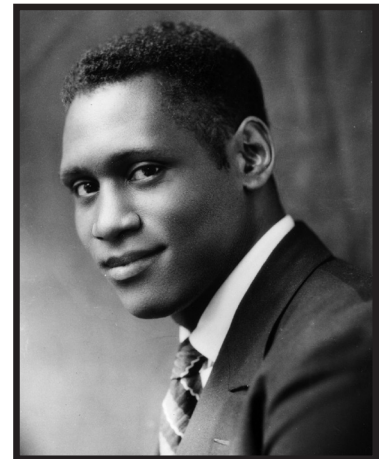
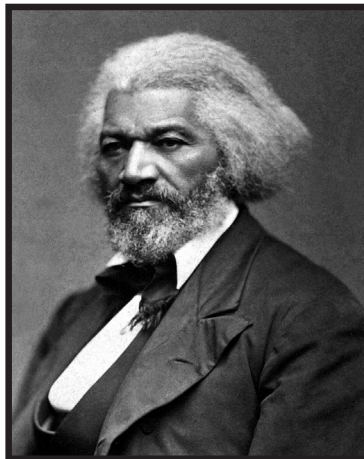
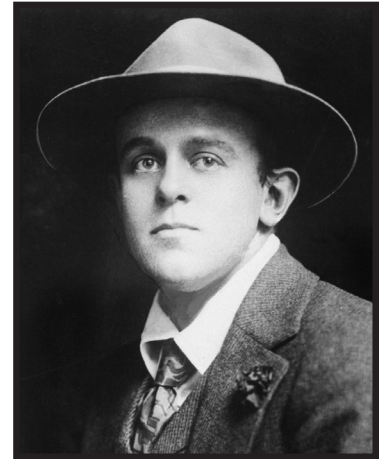
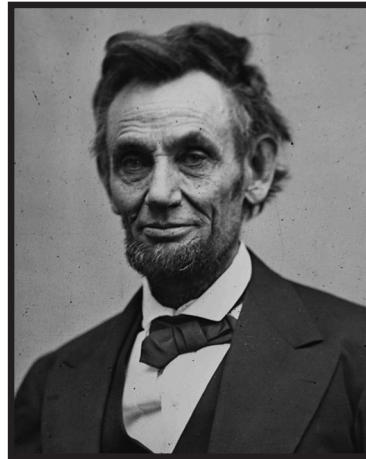
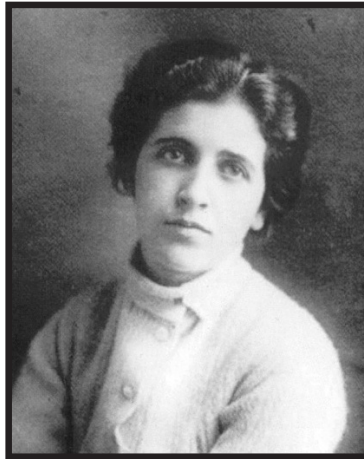
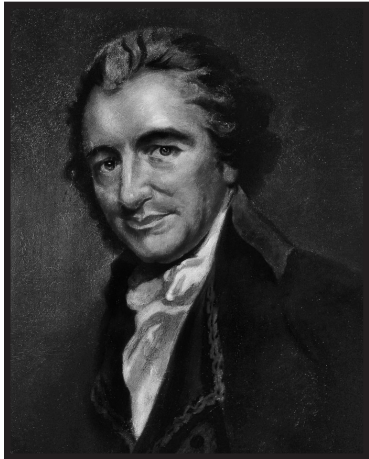
drive transgender and nonbinary people out of society. From the Dept. of Justice refusing to enforce anti-discrimination law, to the attempt to fire all 14,000+ transgender employees of the Dept. of Defense, to the as-yet uncertain proposal to change federal policy language to write trans and nonbinary people out of existence, this administration has shown itself to be a clear foe of our communities. It has, regrettably, been aided in these efforts by transphobic organizations and individuals claiming to represent the Left. These trans-exclusive "radical" people and groups are busily sticking a knife into our backs, even as the religious fanatics and fascists of the right plunge another into our chests. Behind all these efforts, though, is always the hand of capitalism, which benefits from keeping the working class divided against itself, and ignorant of its common class interests.

In situations such as this, it can be tempting to distrust all cisgender people, and to retreat into insular communities consisting only of ourselves. I would be lying if I said that I hadn't felt the same. But if we are to be successful in our struggle for recognition and equal rights, and more broadly in our effort to overthrow the systems that have enabled our oppression, we will need allies, and those allies must include cisgender people. As a part of a revolutionary, working class movement, we will be in a much stronger position to enact the changes we so desperately need. At the same time, though, we must always remain at the head of our own movement. We must remember that it is our place, and ours alone, to determine our future, and that it is never the place of cisgender people, even our own allies, to define the boundaries of transness, or decide the validity of trans and nonbinary people.

Despite efforts such as HB 1108, transgender and nonbinary people will endure. We have survived oppression and cruelty for as long as rigid notions of gender have existed, and we will survive this. Trump and his cronies, evil as they are, cannot last forever, and no matter what they do, we will still be here when they are gone. But we can also do more than survive. Together with our allies, we can effect vast, revolutionary change. We can destroy not only those forces that oppress us today, but the capitalist system that has enabled our oppression, and the oppression of so many others. We can ensure not only freedom, equality, and safety for ourselves, but for all the generations who will come after us. We can create a new and better world, one without bigotry and oppression, without exploitation and want, a world where we are free to be who we are, with pride, and without fear. This power is in our hands, and we have only to wield it.



AMERICA WILL BE A SOCIALIST NATION!



A country that invests in jobs, education, and healthcare

A country that celebrates diverse identities

A country that does not imprison children, separate them from their parents, and put them on trial

A country where our work is rewarding and enriching

A country where we work for peace, not to fund war

A country where every person has a home, job, and financial security

CITIES DON'T DIE

by Michael Petrucelli



They tell you that your city died
But they never tell you that
Your city was killed in retribution
Like 16 striking workers on Penn Street
Because they never want you to know
That your city wasn't impressive
Because of who stayed at the
Abraham Lincoln or the
Penn Werner hotel
Both run down and left for shit
By the same rich who so benevolently
Chose to give your city a name
They never tell you that
Your city was killed in
Retribution
Like a gangland execution
With a heroin and cocaine shaped
Bullet that they told you
"You did this to yourself"
"You bought the dope"
"You knew better"
They forget to tell you about
How your city flourished under
A mayor who loved workers
And under workers themselves
They forget to tell you about
The 16 dead
Or the 1902 coal strike
They always remember to call it a death
But they forget to tell you
That it was a retribution killing
That they loaded the gun
And set it to the back
Of the head of workers
Then made you say you're sorry
That it was your fault

SONG OF THE REVOLUTIONARY HOMELAND (SALVADOR)

Translated by A. Casal

Centuries of lives lost, hands broken in pain.
Hope defeated, love murdered.
Cries of a people prophesy - breaking dreams and boundaries.
The masks that have hidden the beasts are falling.
The blood of the brave, our land will flood.
Their faces always present, our people will weep.

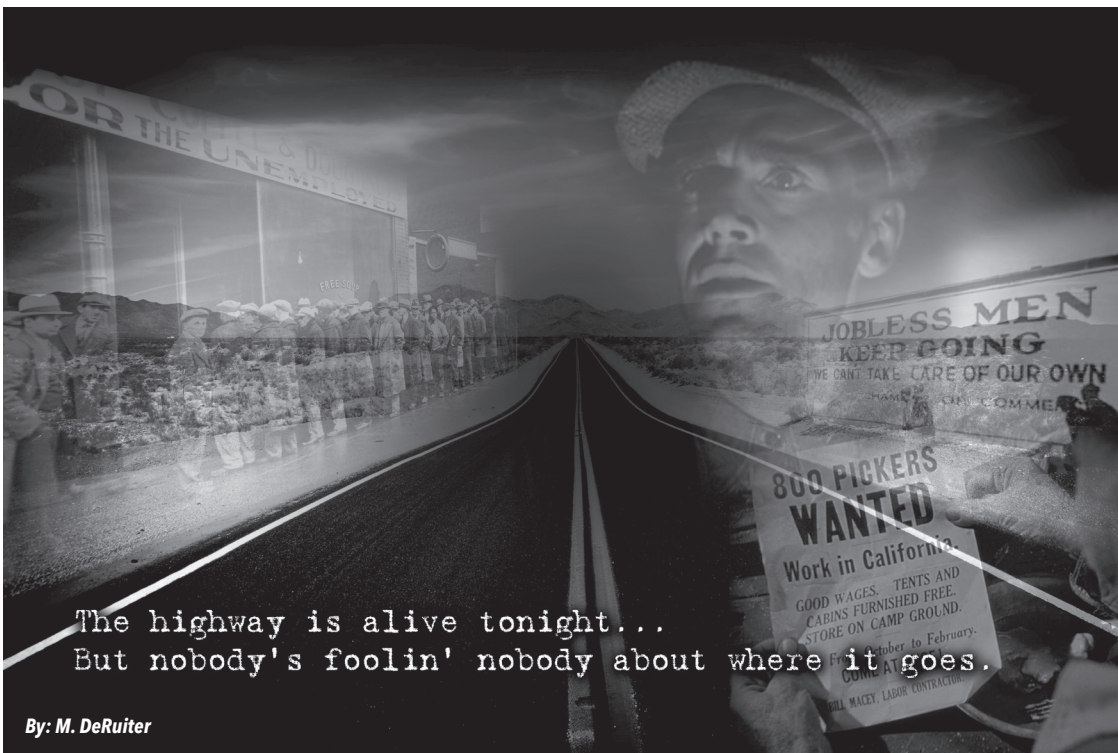
They will weep, they will weep; with their bodies bent and broken they will weep.
They will weep, they will weep; with their bodies bent and broken they will weep.

Centuries of anxious vengeance, in our land awaits.
Today hope is found in the barrel of a rifle.
The Indian Anastasio Aquino and Farabundo Marti
Have marked out the path we will now follow.
Rebel flags. The oppressors will fall.
And the foreign agony our people will destroy.

They will destroy, they will destroy; with combative fists they will destroy.
They will destroy, they will destroy; with combative fists they will destroy.

The day is dawning, a red sun of redemption.
Joy will be rebuilt. A new song will burst forth.
Tears for the fallen - the seeds they have sown.
Our forbidden ideals will flower, liberated.
The armory of freedom, our people will raise high.
A revolutionary homeland, our people will build.

They will build, they will build; with their arms of a New Man, they will build.
They will build, they will build; with their arms of a New Man, they will build.
They will build, they will build; with their arms of a New Man, they will build.
They will build, they will build; with their arms of a New Man, they will build.



The highway is alive tonight...
But nobody's foolin' nobody about where it goes.

By: M. DeRuiter

ARE YOU CREATIVE?

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR
CREATIVE PEOPLE TO SUBMIT
THEIR ORIGINAL WORKING
CLASS ART OR POETRY
FOR PUBLICATION IN THIS
NEWSPAPER AND ONLINE!**

**TWEET SUBMISSION TO
@APLREDPHOENIX**

The American Party of Labor is...

a revolutionary working class organization. Our aim is to abolish the capitalist system and all its horrors by replacing it with socialism, a system based on the principle laid out by Marx, "from each according to his ability, to each according to his work." This is the first phase toward the higher phase of communism, defined by the principle "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs."

Who Can Join? How Do I Get Involved?

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

We recommend that you check out our publications page to get a more in-depth look at the Party. Another good place to look is our online library. The cornerstones of our Party are the works of Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, and Enver Hoxha.

You can find everything that you should know about us here, and you can join online or 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.



**"Every departure from class struggle has fatal results for the destiny of socialism."
- Enver Hoxha**

Why is Marxism-Leninism the Best Answer? Can't We Regulate Capitalism or Try to Create Some Kind of Third System That Isn't Fully Communist or Capitalist?

One must understand 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 and start proposing an alternative system. 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, not ideas he dreamt up on his own. Solutions to the problems of capitalism can only be reached by understanding and observing the system itself, not by dreaming up some wonderful Utopian alternative. As for regulating or restraining capitalism, this has been done many times before.

Oftentimes the governments of capitalist states must restrict the private sector for various reasons. The problem is that political power is still stacked in favor of the ruling class, and if you slap regulations on big business, they have every avenue and all the resources necessary to see those regulations overturned in the long run. What truly led to the collapse of the old socialist bloc was not that these countries followed Marxism-Leninism, which was ultimately too radical, but rather quite the opposite- that these nations all came under the impression that they needed more and more market style reforms, until they had more or less become capitalist countries.

Nowadays, ideas such as "21st century socialism" would have us do basically the same thing, 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. This kind of idea can only lead to temporary gains for the workers.

How is the American Party of Labor Different than Other Socialist, Communist, or Left-Wing Parties or Organizations?

First of all, the main difference is that we see the solution to the problems of the working class in revolution and the seizure of state power by the working class and its political organizations. The methodology by which we strive for revolution is Marxism-Leninism—that is, the scientific methodology of social/economic revolution first devised by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, and contributed to by figures such as Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin and the late Albanian leader Enver Hoxha. This does not mean, however, that we look at these figures the way religions look at their own prophets, nor do we see their every written word as some kind of Holy Scripture or their every action as blameless and divine.

That being said, we critique their actions from the Marxist methodology of historical dialectical materialism, analyzing actions and events in their historical context, taking into account the benefit of hindsight and trying to avoid idle speculation about what could have been if certain events had or hadn't happened, etc. Because we uphold the general line of these figures, from Karl Marx to Enver Hoxha, we consider ourselves "anti-revisionist," and it is in this way that we differ from most communist parties or organizations in the United States.



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!

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 and the ending of neo-liberal policies in other countries, particularly 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.

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